

Financial vocabulary pronunciation the same or different

Without looking below, listen to two words or expressions related to finance and indicate if you think that the pronunciation is exactly the same (like “be” and “bee”) or is similar but different (like. “colleague” and “college”). You don’t need to think about the meaning, but you can ask for one or both to be put into context if you aren’t sure.

Mark the lines below with S for “the same pronunciation” and D for “different pron”.

Financial vocabulary homophones and minimal pairs to classify

- (savings) account/ a count (or a duke)
- asset (stripping)/ a set (of cutlery)
- (investment) bank/ bunk (bed)
- (Wall Street) banker/ (nuclear) bunker
- bear (market)/ bare (skin)
- bear (market)/ (pint of) beer
- bond (trader)/ (big) boned
- (winter) bonus/ (staff) bonuses
- boom (in demand)/ (went down like a) bomb
- bought (from a department store)/ (rowing) boat
- (bank) branch/ (Sunday) brunch
- budget (for)/ budge it (up to the end)
- business (meeting)/ busyness (at the weekend)
- (boom and) bust/ bussed (to the next town)
- buy (and sell)/ by (bus)
- cash (and carry)/ (secret) cache
- (traveller’s) cheque/ check (the information)
- (blue) chip (stocks)/ cheap (prices)
- (a steep) climb/ (a serious) crime
- (inflation) climbs/ (sunny) climes
- core (business)/ co-(owner)
- corporation (tax)/ cooperation (between teams)
- (market) crash/ crush (the can before recycling)
- credit (card)/ (leading) creditor
- (a debt) crisis/ (some debt) crises
- current (account)/ currant (bun)
- cut (costs)/ cat (or dog)
- de-(fault on a debt)/ D (class shares)
- (government) debt/ debit (card)
- dollar (trade)/ (baby) doll
- (over)draft/ draught (under the door)
- (fixed) fee/ he (or she)
- file (for bankruptcy)/ vile (character)
- financial advice (from him)/ (certified) financial advisor
- fraud (prevention)/ flawed (plan)
- (investment) fund/ fanned (with folded paper)
- (capital) gains/ (walking) canes

- (obtain a government) grant/ grunt (of effort)
- gross (profit)/ grows (exponentially)
- gross (profit)/ (rapid) growth
- heir (to the fortune)/ (hot) air
- heir (to the fortune)/ (blonde) hair
- hire (car)/ fire (wrongdoers)
- holding (company)/ folding (paper)
- leased (back)/ least (interesting)
- lends (to SMEs)/ (camera) lens
- (home) loan/ lone (wolf)
- (home) loan/ (green) lawn
- lose (half of your investment)/ loose (regulations)
- (all-time) low/ law (and order)
- merge (with a competitor)/ merger(s and acquisitions)
- pay (for)/ payee (and payer)
- (reach a) peak/ peek (into the room)
- pound (Sterling)/ pound (of weight, = lb)
- pre(-tax)/ pray (at a shrine)
- profit (and loss)/ prophet (of doom)
- (pay) raise/ (laser) rays
- (exchange) rate/ late (payment)
- (inflation) rate/ (police) raid
- re-(structuring)/ ray (of sunlight)
- rise (in value)/ (brown) rice
- (stock prices) rose/ rows (of figures)
- (fire) sale/ sail (across the sea)
- (tax) scam/ scum (on the pond)
- seed (funding)/ (comfortable) seat
- seller (and buyer)/ (wine) cellar
- slash (taxes)/ slush (on the street)
- (share price) soared/ (sharp) sword
- source (of income)/ (Worcestershire) sauce
- (take a) stake/ (rare) steak
- (real-time) stats/ (current) status
- stock (picking)/ (long) stalk
- surge (in interest)/ serge (suit)
- (government) support/ (aerobic) sport
- (corporation) tax/ tux (and bowtie)
- (financial) trouble/ (leisure) travel
- wind (up the bankrupt company)/ wind (and rain)
- wind (up the local subsidiary)/ wined (and dined)
- (Korean) Won/ won (the race)
- wound (up and ceased trading)/ (bleeding) wound

Cards to hold up

The same	Different
The same	Different
The same	Different
The same	Different
The same	Different
The same	Different
The same	Different
The same	Different

Check as a class, then test each other on the words:

- Play the same or different game in groups
- Say two which are different and see if your partner can explain the difference in pronunciation (and maybe meaning)
- Choose one of the D lines and either say both examples there or say the same one twice, and see if your partner can see if they are pronounced the same or different
- Spell one which is on an S line above and see if your partner can spell the homophone
- Show your partner one line above and challenge them to pronounce both correctly, checking that they pronounce them the same or differently
- Say both words on one line, say a context that only matches one of the words, and see if your partner can say the right one back

Financial vocabulary pronunciation and spelling error correction

Each line has a mistake due to the wrong homophone or a similar-sounding word. Correct the mistakes.

- savings a count
- a set stripping
- investment bunk
- Wall Street bunker
- bare market
- bank brunch
- busyness meeting
- boom and bussed
- by and sell
- cache and carry
- blue cheap stocks
- a steep clime
- cooperation tax
- market crush
- creditor card
- a debt crises
- currant account
- cat costs
- D-fault on a debt
- government debit
- overdraught
- vile for bankruptcy
- investment fanned
- capital canes tax
- obtain a government grunt
- grows profit
- air to the fortune
- fire car
- folding company
- he lens money to SMEs
- home lone
- loose half of your investment

- hit an all-time low
- mergers and acquisitions
- reach a peak
- a pre-tax loss
- profit and loss
- get a ten percent pay raise
- the official exchange rate yen dollar rate
- there will be re-structuring and some downsizing
- there has been a slight rise in value
- stock prices rose last year
- there will need to be a fire sale
- he was arrested for a tax scam
- where sellers and buyers can meet
- the new government have promised to slash taxes
- the share price soared to a new all-time high
- we need other sources of income
- we took a minority stake in the business and then increased it
- stock picking is a risky way of investing in shares
- there has been a surge in interest in the IPO
- they won't survive without government support
- corporation tax is low but VAT is high
- we are suffering from financial trouble
- we had to wind up our Chinese subsidiary

Check above.

Without looking above again, pronounce the corrected ones in the right way and classify the mistakes as due to homophones (H) or minimal pairs (M).