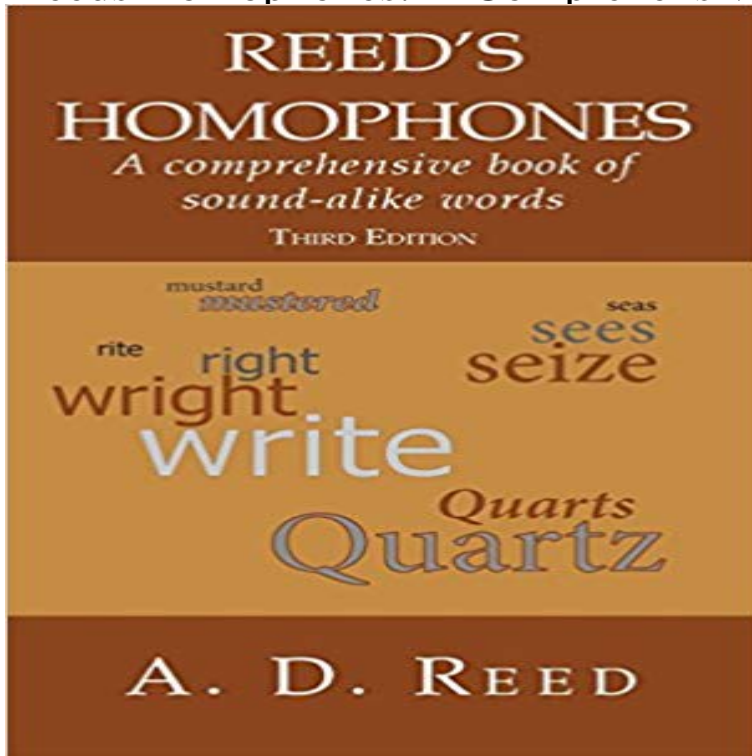


Reeds Homophones: A Comprehensive Book of Sound-Alike Words



Reeds Homophones: A comprehensive book of sound-alike words was born from the conjunction of two semi-related factors. Its mother was a series of mistakes in word use that seem to perennially crop up in local newspapers; its father was the authors useful but irritating editorial habit of correcting errors wherever and however they arise. That parentage engendered a short list of common homophones that seem to attract newspaper reporters as honey does flies: houses raised by fires; actors showing real flare on stage; people waiting with baited breath. Et cetera. When the original list had grown to several hundred word pairs, what would become this book began to take form. What are homophones? Homophones (also called homonyms, though theyre not quite the same) are words that sound alike but have different meanings and, usually, spellings. Some are near misses, like desperate and disparate the first begins with a rhyme for desk, the second with disk. But most Americans dont use the Queens English - we simply dont enunciate as clearly as we should - and regional accents can cause words to sound similar even when they shouldnt, so quite a few of these not-quite-homophones are included. Other words - such as disillusion and dissolution - arent close enough in pronunciation to be considered homophones, but do make it into the list of Easily misused, confused, and mistyped words. Still other sections comprise words that are frequently mispronounced and those that are frequently misspelled, neologisms good and bad, and cheat sheets describing how - and how not to - deconstruct Latin and Greek words and prefixes. Reeds Homophones is aimed at writers and editors--not just professionals, but business owners and marketing executives and website owners and bloggers and anyone who wants to write well enough that the words they use dont come back to haunt or

embarrass them. Its also for students and dedicated fans of the English language: in high school and college, adults working on advanced degrees, and anyone learning or teaching English as a Second Language (or even hoping to improve their Scrabble(R) game). Its not a complete list, nor will it ever be. Our language continues to evolve, and authors - including the author of Reeds Homophones - continue to commit oversights and solecisms. But it is as handy a homophone reference as anyone can find.

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