



ACADEMIC LESSON 05

HOMOPHONES - Here are two homophones which are sometimes confused.

lean and lien

Lean means to tilt like the Leaning Tower of Pisa. It also means to rest on like leaning against a wall or metaphorically to lean on someone for support. Another meaning of lean as an adjective is streamlined or less fat.

Lien is a legal claim that a person or company has against property that someone else owns. A lien can be placed on property until a debt is paid by the property owner, and then the lien is released.

counsel and council

Counsel is a noun and a verb. As a noun counsel (or counsellor) usually means a lawyer. As a verb it means to give advice.

Council is a noun and it is a group of people who assemble together like the city council. Be careful because there could also be a city counsel which would a lawyer for the city. If someone says, "We should refer this to the city counsel," it could also be "city council."

PUNCTUATION – THE SEMICOLON

A semicolon (;) is used to separate major sentence parts that don't have a conjunction like "and" or "but" and when the two parts are closely related.

My husband likes traveling; I like staying at home.

It can also be used to separate items in a list if some of the elements in the list have commas and just another comma would be confusing.

The council consisted of James Smith, the mayor; Mary Jones, the city manager; Jake Peterson, the treasurer; and Ellen Kale, the secretary.



YOUR TURN

lean or lien?

Feel free to _____ on me.

There is a _____ on my house.

He is a _____ and mean fighting machine.

Please do not file a _____ .

This hamburger meat is not very _____ .

counsel or council?

The _____ voted to fire the mayor.

Would _____ please join me in chambers.

Please _____ the student about which college would be best.

If we take this matter to the city _____ for a vote, should we ask our _____ to come with us?

Would a semicolon work instead of a comma or period in the following?

	YES	NO
I am so tired, and I really need a nap.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Peter will buy some eggs, milk, sugar and flour.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
We will go to Phoenix, Arizona, Paris, France and Sacramento, California.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
She is so beautiful. She is stunning.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
She is so beautiful. She likes to ride bikes.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mary has two childred. Leslie, two.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>