What is the Difference Between Homonyms, Homophones and Homographs? (Part 1)

Well, it's all Greek to me! No, I mean it. If you want to understand the difference between these three words in English, a good way to start is to look at their Greek roots.

**HOMONYM**

The "homo" bit of the word comes from the Greek word "homós", meaning "same". The "nym" bit comes from the Greek too, it means "word".

Put them together and we've got a word which means "same word".

So... The Greek meanings are telling us that homonyms are words which are the same in some way.

**HOMOPHONE**

The "homo" bit of the word comes from the Greek word "homós", meaning "same". The "phone" bit comes from the Greek word "phóné", meaning "sound".

Put them together and we've got a word which means "same sound".

So... The Greek meanings are telling us that homophones are words which have the same sound.

**HOMOGRAPH**

The "homo" bit of the word comes from the Greek word "homós" meaning "same". The "graph" bit comes from the Greek too, it means (something) "written".

Put them together and we've got a word which means "same written".

So... The Greek meanings are telling us that homographs are words which are written the same.