

misunderstand

mis (wrong)

Word Story

Mr. Wordly misunderstood what his daughter was saying. He thought she said he was a bore, when she really said she needed him to take her to the store!

If you *misunderstand* something, you understand it or hear it the wrong way.

In Other Words

mistake misspell misbehave misplace

Talk About It

- ✧ What mistake did Mr. Wordly make?
- ✧ Do you ever misbehave?
- ✧ Have you ever misplaced something?
- ✧ Can you spell the word *misspell*? If you don't spell it correctly, what have you done?

Write It

Write a spelling mistake. Then we'll figure out what you did wrong.

washable

able (can)

Word Story

When the little Wordly girl got her new tennis shoes muddy by mistake, she cried and cried. "Don't worry," her mother told her. "Those are washable. We'll have them clean in no time!"

If something is *washable*, it can be washed.

In Other Words

changeable readable rechargeable comfortable

Talk About It

- ✧ Can you think of anything that is not washable?
- ✧ Name some things that are rechargeable.
- ✧ What is the opposite of comfortable?

Write It

Write a sentence in your most readable handwriting. Now write that same sentence in printing that is hard to read.

octopus

oct (eight)

Word Story

During winter break, the Wordlys visited an aquarium where they saw a giant octopus. The octopus was slowly moving in the aquarium tank. It was fascinating to watch.

An *octopus* is a sea animal with eight arms.

In Other Words

octagon October

Talk About It

- ✧ Have you ever seen an octopus? How are eight arms helpful to the octopus?
- ✧ A pentagon has five sides. How many sides do you think an octagon has?
- ✧ In ancient times, October was the eighth month of the year. Now it is the tenth month. What are some things that happen in October?

Picture It

Draw an Octoman. It should have eight of something—eight eyes or legs, for example.

©Primary Concepts

pedestrian

ped (foot)

Word Story

The oldest Wordly boy is learning how to drive. It makes Mr. and Mrs. Wordly nervous to ride in the car with him. They are always saying things like, “Do you see the stop sign?” “Slow down!” “Watch out for that pedestrian!”

A *pedestrian* is someone who walks on foot.

In Other Words

pedal pedometer pedicure

Talk About It

- ✧ Where do you see pedestrians?
- ✧ What is a pedal? How does it relate to *ped*, meaning *foot*?
- ✧ What does a pedometer measure? Have you ever used one?
- ✧ Has anyone here ever had a manicure or a pedicure?

Act It Out

Materials: green and red paper

Be pedestrians. When I show the green paper, you can walk. If I’m holding up the red paper, you need to stop and wait for the green.

©Primary Concepts

selfish

 self (oneself)

Word Story

Sometimes the youngest Wordly boy thinks his sister is selfish when she wants their mother to read to her privately. She just wants a bit of time with her mother, but he thinks he should be included.

A person who is *selfish* thinks only about themselves and what they want.

In Other Words

self-confidence self-control self-service

Talk About It

- ✧ Do you think the Wordly girl is selfish for wanting alone-time with her mom?
- ✧ What is self-service gasoline?
- ✧ Who do you know who has lots of self-confidence?
- ✧ Have you ever lost your self-control? What happened?

Act It Out

Work with a partner. One of you acts selfish. The other acts unselfish. Have a conversation about who should be first to do something you both want to do.

©Primary Concepts

musician

 ician (one who)

Word Story

The Wordlys' friend is a professional musician. Her job is to practice and perform with her rock band, Crazy Cactus. They have a strange name, but they're all great musicians!

A *musician* is a person who plays music.

In Other Words

politician magician physician

Talk About It

- ✧ What is the job of a politician? a magician? a physician?
- ✧ Can you name any famous politicians? how about musicians?
- ✧ Have you ever seen a magician perform? What kinds of tricks did they do?
- ✧ There are many types of physicians. Is your physician a pediatrician?

Write It

Do you have a favorite musician? Write about that person—what instrument he or she plays, what type of music the musician performs.

©Primary Concepts

undercover

under (under)

Word Story

When Mrs. Wordly was young, she dreamed of being an undercover spy. She would appear to all her friends and neighbors to be an ordinary person, but all the while she would be carrying out top-secret spy missions.

Someone who is *undercover* is doing something secretly while trying to appear normal.

In Other Words

underground underwear underdog

Talk About It

- ✧ Name some things we might find underground.
- ✧ Why do we call underwear *underwear*? What is it under?
- ✧ What do we mean when we say a team is the *underdog* in a game? Do you usually root for the underdog?

Act It Out

Pretend you are a spy on an undercover mission. Move around the classroom as if you were a spy.

©Primary Concepts

population

pop (people)

Word Story

The population of the Wordlys' small town is 9,875. The largest nearby city has a population of 97,000. It's almost ten times bigger than the Wordlys' town.

Population is the number of all the people who live in a place.

In Other Words

populate popular

Talk About It

- ✧ Do you think the population of our city is getting bigger or smaller each year?
- ✧ How does the meaning of the word *popular* relate to people?
- ✧ Have you ever heard of pop music? What do you think *pop* is short for?

Act It Out

After school, see if you can find out the population of our city. How might you be able to find out? What resources could you use?

©Primary Concepts