

independent

(in•de•pend•ent)

Word Story

The youngest Wordly boy is learning to be independent. Most mornings, he gets ready for school all by himself. He picks out his clothes, gets dressed, and brushes his teeth all without help.

If you are *independent*, you don't need someone else's help. You can do it by yourself.

Talk About It

- ✧ In what ways are you independent?
- ✧ Who do you know who seems very independent?
- ✧ What is the opposite of independent? (dependent)

Make a List

Think of things that you can do independently. Make a list.

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headquarters

(head•quar•ters)

Word Story

The little Wordly boy and his three friends have a secret club. Their headquarters is behind the hedge in the Wordlys' yard. They picked this base of operations because it's hidden from view, yet they can still spy on everyone passing by.

A *headquarters* is the home base or main location for a group's activities.

Talk About It

- ✧ If you had a secret club, where would your headquarters be? Why would that be a good spot?
- ✧ Does our school have a headquarters? Where would you say our main base of operations is?
- ✧ Have you ever heard the expression HQ? What do you think HQ stands for?

Write It

Imagine you have a club with your friends. Describe where you would have your headquarters and why. Tell how you would set up the space.

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accidentally

(ac•ci•den•tal•ly)

Word Story

Mr. Wordly accidentally put the telephone receiver in the refrigerator. Just as he was finishing a phone call, he was also getting the milk out. By mistake he put the phone in the 'fridge! Later, Mrs. Wordly spent a half hour searching everywhere for it.

If you do something *accidentally*, you didn't mean to do it. It happened by mistake.

Talk About It

- ✧ Tell about something funny you've done accidentally.
- ✧ Do you ever accidentally call someone by the wrong name?
- ✧ Can you do something accidentally on purpose? Explain your thinking.

Act It Out

Pretend you accidentally stepped on a bee. Now pretend you accidentally sat in a puddle of superglue.

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deliberately

(de•lib•er•ate•ly)

Word Story

The youngest Wordly boy was mad at his sister. She wouldn't let him play a board game with her and her friend. He got so angry that he deliberately messed up their game. Mrs. Wordly made him apologize, and she found something else for him to do.

If you do something *deliberately*, it means you did it on purpose.

Talk About It

- ✧ Have you ever done anything deliberately bad? Why did you do it?
- ✧ What word means the opposite of *deliberately*? (accidentally)

Act It Out

Act out two scenes with a partner. In the first scene, your partner deliberately pushes you out of line. In the second scene, your partner bumps you out of line by mistake and says he's sorry. Describe how you felt in each situation.

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destination

(des•ti•na•tion)

Word Story

The littlest Wordlys do not like long car rides. If the family's destination is more than an hour away, there's sure to be whining and crying during the trip. Every five minutes or so, one of the kids asks, "Are we there yet?"

The place someone is traveling to is called their *destination*.

Talk About It

- ✧ What destinations are most common when you ride in the car each day?
- ✧ Have you ever ridden on an airplane? What was your destination?
- ✧ If you could travel to any destination on earth, where would you choose to go?

Picture It

Think about the places your family has been together on vacation. Draw a picture of your favorite destination.

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skyscrapers

(sky•scrap•ers)

Word Story

When the Wordlys visited New York City, the children couldn't get over all the skyscrapers. They walked around for days with their heads tilted back just staring at the tops of all the tall buildings.

Skyscrapers are very tall buildings.

Talk About It

- ✧ How do the two parts of the word *skyscraper* help us understand its meaning?
- ✧ Do we have any skyscrapers in our town? About how many stories tall are our tallest buildings?
- ✧ Let's make up some words that would mean the opposite of *skyscraper*.
(groundhugger, earthtoucher, dirtscratcher)

Picture It

Draw a picture of a skyscraper from the point of view of someone standing on the street nearby. Now draw a picture from a pilot's point of view.

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uncomfortable

(un•COM•fort•a•ble)

Word Story

It was extremely uncomfortable in the Wordlys' house. The outside temperature was 97 degrees, and the family's air conditioner was broken. Everyone felt hot and sweaty and sticky.

Something that is *uncomfortable* means it is not comfortable. It doesn't feel good.

Talk About It

- ✧ When are you likely to feel uncomfortable?
- ✧ *Uncomfortable* can describe your feelings as well as your body. Can you think of something that gives you an uncomfortable feeling?

Make a List

Suppose you wanted to read a book somewhere in your house. Make a list of the five most comfortable places to read. Now list five of the most uncomfortable spots to read.

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dumbfounded

(dumb•found•ed)

Word Story

The Wordly children and their mom planned a surprise party for Mr. Wordly's birthday at the bowling alley. They told all Mr. Wordly's friends and relatives to come early. When Mr. Wordly arrived, he was dumbfounded when everyone yelled, "Surprise!" He couldn't talk for several minutes.

When you are *dumbfounded*, you are so amazed that you can't speak.

Talk About It

- ✧ Have you ever felt dumbfounded? Why did you feel that way?
- ✧ In what types of situations might someone feel dumbfounded?
- ✧ What smaller words make up *dumbfounded*? How do they help you define the word *dumbfounded*?

Picture It

Draw a picture of a situation in which you might feel dumbfounded.

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