

Unit 2 - Kat and Mouse

access / companion / crave / document / escalate / hazy / mischief / oasis / suspend / visual

2A Introduction

Are you addicted to video games, or the Internet? Everyone likes to play games or go online, but when things get out of hand, sometimes you need someone to step in and help you out.

2B Song Lyrics

*It's the Web; it's a game of cat and mouse,
It's the Web; click-click goes Katherine's mouse.
It's the Web, and you better watch out,
'Cause the Web has you trapped in its madness now!*

I knew a girl named Katherine,
Who spent all her time alone, with no **companions**,
No one to hang with, but she seemed
Happy enough just with her computer screens.
All day every day she **craved** games,
Wanted them so bad, she needed to play.
She would feel the need, not the need to get away,
No, the need to play, the need to **escalate**,
And to increase the intensity every day.
So many games, so many roles to play,
For so many days that her vision was **hazy**,
She couldn't see straight, then she went a little crazy.
She figured anything that her eyes could see,
Any **visual** scene, must be reality.
Katherine wasn't living a second life,
She was living a 22nd life on 20 different sites!

Hook

Young Katherine didn't know exactly who she was
Until she got home and booted her computers up.
And then she knew just fine; she was on top of it,
She was written like a Web page or a **document**.
She was a profile, a dozen home pages,



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MySpace, Facebook was an **oasis**,
A place where she was safe to be herself,
But I wondered how good this could be for her health.
So I got it in my mind to do a little **mischief**,
To make a little trouble, yeah to be a little twisted.
So one day when she was gone, I logged on,
And changed her passwords, so now when she tries
To go online, it's like, "**Access** Denied."
She can't get inside like half of her sites,
So now she can have a life, and **suspend**
Her bad Web habit, which had to end.
And what about her games and her profile ?
I control them now, ha ha, no doubt.
So now when you're online thinking it's Katherine,
It's actually her little brother Ray that you chat with!
But now my sister Katherine comes outside,
We play wiffle ball, took our bikes for a ride.
Smiling with the wind in her hair, she was like,
"What's this game called?" I said, "Real life!"

Hook

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2C Words Defined

access / companion / crave / document / escalate / hazy / mischief / oasis / suspend / visual

access

(noun) 1. Freedom or permission to enter, speak with, or use. *Lee loved to read, but living alone in the woods meant he didn't have access to many books.* 2. A way of entering or using something. *The only access to the castle was a long, winding road.*

(verb) To gain access to something. *I got on my brother's computer, but I couldn't access the files I wanted to see.*

companion

(noun) One who does things with another or spends lots of time with another; a close friend.

My dog is a true companion: He keeps me company all day.

crave

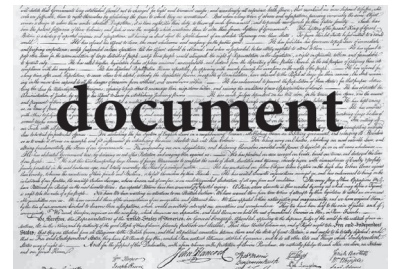
(verb) To have a strong desire for. *When Paula watches scary movies, she always craves popcorn for some reason.*

Other forms: *I'm having a craving (noun) for some reggae music.*

document

(noun) A written or printed record that gives information or proof. *The Declaration of Independence is one of America's most famous documents.*

(verb) To write down on record, or record in some way. *I'm not lying: Cases of dolphins saving each other have been documented by scientists.*



escalate

(verb) To go up or increase in size or scope. *What started as a little argument soon escalated into an all-out war.*

hazy

(adj) Unclear, misty; not readily seen or understandable.

My teacher last year wasn't very good, so I only have a hazy understanding of long division.

mischief

(noun) Playful activity that causes some annoyance. *Trey was such a jokester; you never knew what kind of mischief he was up to.*

oasis

(noun) 1. A place where there is water in an otherwise dry area. *When the camels reached the oasis, they drank heavily to fuel up for the long journey ahead.* 2. A place that is wonderful in the midst of somewhere that is not. *Franklin didn't like city life much, so Central Park was his oasis.*



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suspend

(verb) 1. To hang something from above. *The popular singer came into the show attached to wires that were **suspended** from the ceiling.* 2. To hold back or stop for a while before continuing. *Because some kids had thrown food during lunch, the principal **suspended** our right to have recess.* Other forms: *Because of his **suspension** (noun) from school, Arnie didn't get to go on the field trip to the world's biggest **suspension** (noun) bridge.*

visual

(adj) Having to do with sight or seeing. *I like comic books that teach science: I'm a very **visual** learner.*

(noun) The picture elements of something. *My report on Ben Franklin didn't include any **visuals**; it was just me talking.*

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2D Synonyms*Circle the word on the right that matches the meaning of the word or phrase on the left.*

access / companion / crave / document / escalate / hazy / mischief / oasis / suspend / visual

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|------------|--------|
| 1. having to do with sight | hazy | documented | visual |
| 2. a friend | companion | suspension | oasis |
| 3. a place with water in a dry area | document | oasis | access |
| 4. to increase in size or scope | escalate | suspend | crave |
| 5. permission | document | oasis | access |

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2E Fill in the Blank*Write the word in the blank so that the sentence makes sense.**access / companion / crave / document / escalate / hazy / mischief / oasis / suspend / visual*

1. I've had enough of your _____! Get back to work!

companion**mischief****oasis**

2. The secretary was asked to _____ the meeting in a report.

access**suspend****document**

2. Bertram knows a lot about computers, but his knowledge of TV is pretty _____.

escalated**hazy****visual**

3. The field trip was _____ because our school didn't have enough money to pay for it.

suspended**craved****escalated**

5. Jarrod has seven brothers and sisters, so he really _____ time alone.

craves**escalates****documents**

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2F Connections

Each sentence has a strong connection with one of the words from the unit. Write the correct word on the line below.

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1. This video game gets harder and harder on each level.

2. My dog is a lifelong friend.

3. While walking through the desert, we came across an area filled with lush plant life.

4. Use a string to hang these balloons from the ceiling.

5. Suzanne is always playing tricks on me; it's so annoying!

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2G Applying Meanings*Circle the letter that makes sense or answers the question.**access / companion / crave / document / escalate / hazy / mischief / oasis / suspend / visual*1. Which of these is **visual**?

- (A) perfume
- (B) a song
- (C) a photograph
- (D) a delicious taste

2. Which kind of weather would make it **hazy** outside?

- (A) fog
- (B) wind
- (C) sunshine
- (D) rain

3. Which of these things would you find in a **document**?

- (A) garbage
- (B) tomatoes
- (C) a dog
- (D) a paragraph

4. Who would **crave** a bone?

- (A) a doctor
- (B) a dog
- (C) someone who had been in an accident
- (D) someone who was slicing a turkey on Thanksgiving

5. How would you **access** a Web site?

- (A) by sending the Web site's link to a friend
- (B) by visiting the Web site online
- (C) by learning how to program
- (D) by turning off your computer

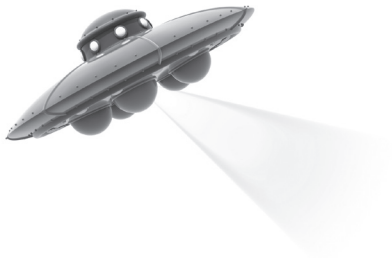
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2H Reading

Read the passage below and then answer the questions that follow.

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Desert Noir



I stood in the center of the **oasis** on the desert planet of Kurbul, surrounded by shops. My **companion** robot, K5, stood next to me. We were lucky to have found this place. After two days of walking through the desert, I was beginning to think it was curtains for us.

We had made the emergency landing a few days earlier after our spaceship was shot down. The details of the landing were **hazy**. I remembered getting shot at by space pirates.

The next thing I knew, I woke up surrounded by sand. My spaceship was nowhere to be found. Luckily, old K5 was there to help me. He took a **visual** reading of the planet and discovered this oasis. We set out across the desert, sticking to the shade during the day. Now that we were here, all I wanted was water.

K5 and I wandered into the nearest restaurant and sat down. Immediately, I had a funny feeling. A giant Martian sat behind the bar, giving me the evil eye. I didn't like this fellow or the way he was looking at me. I thought he might be up to some **mischief**. He came out from behind the bar and walked over to us.

"What do you boys want?" he asked suspiciously.

"I'm **craving** a glass of water," I said. "Think you could help me out?"

"Didn't you read the sign outside?" he asked. "We don't serve humans."

"Then give it to my robot," I joked.

I didn't like where this was headed. The last thing I needed was for tempers to **escalate**. This guy didn't know he was talking to the most famous swordfighter in the galaxy. And I've been known to do some stupid things when I'm thirsty.

1. What is the environment like on Kurbul?

2. Why did the narrator make an emergency landing?

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3. Why do the narrator and his robot go into the restaurant?

4. Why won't the bartender give the narrator water?

5. Why shouldn't the bartender make the narrator mad?

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2I Thinking Creatively

Answer each question below. Don't be afraid to think creatively.

access / companion / crave / document / escalate / hazy / mischief / oasis / suspend / visual

1. Who would you choose to be your **companion** on a trip around the world and why?

2. On a visit to the White House, you find a **document** on the ground that reads "Top Secret!" What might it be about?

3. What is one place you wish you had **access** to?

4. Is it okay to **crave** things?

5. Describe what someone known as "The **Mischief** Maker" would do for a living.

Word Breakdown

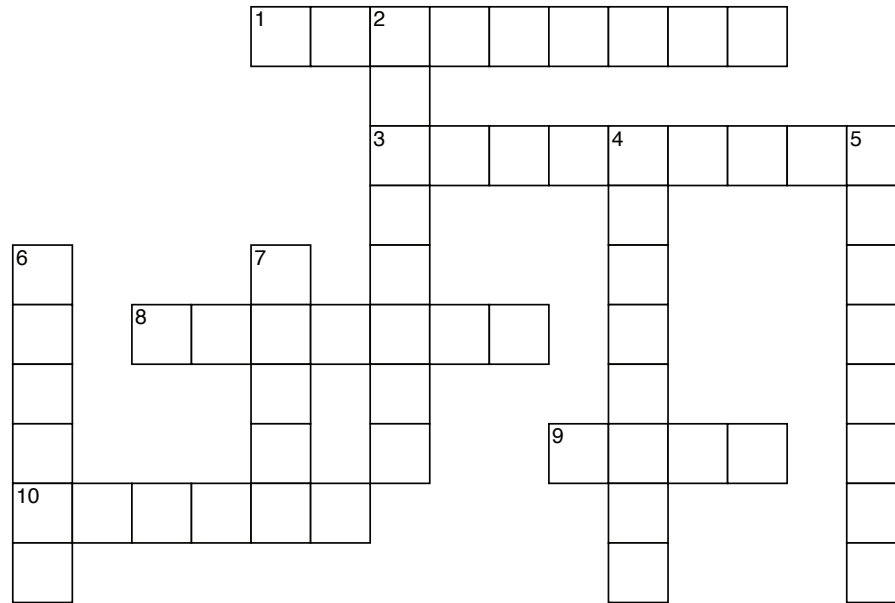
The word *mischief* has the same root as the word *achieve*. To *achieve* means "to accomplish." The prefix *mis-* means "not," so the original meaning of the word *mischief* was almost the same as "to not accomplish." Still, it's true that causing mischief usually does stop other people from accomplishing things.

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Bonus: Crossword Puzzle

Solve this crossword puzzle. Note: Some answers may be different forms of the vocab words from this unit.

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ACROSS

- 1 If I could have a _____ like Jenna for the rest of my life, I'd be happy.
- 3 I don't know why my brother _____ that plastic frog from the ceiling of his room; he's such a weirdo sometimes.
- 8 We've got to go to the House of Pies after school; I'm totally _____ a milkshake.
- 9 The wildfires made the air around the entire neighborhood _____.
- 10 I can't _____ the Internet! Is something wrong with our connection?

DOWN

- 2 Marcus is up to some kind of _____; he started giggling the minute you turned around.
- 4 To go up or increase in size or scope.
- 5 I brought a video camera so I could _____ the interview.
- 6 Having to do with sight or seeing.
- 7 My bedroom is the _____ I escape to when my family is fighting.