

# Unit 13 - The Kid Who Always Says the Wrong Thing

attempt / confuse / disaster / entertain / furious / host / inspire / mock / pointless / routine

## **13A Introduction**

Jimmy is different. It's not that he's really tall or really short. He's not a weird dancer or singer. He doesn't dress strange or eat odd foods. No, Jimmy is different in another way: He is the kid who always says the wrong thing.

## **13B Song Lyrics**

*Let me tell all of y'all the story, of a kid who's one in a million...*

*It's the kid who always says the wrong thing...*  
(x4)

So on the first day of school, Jimmy sees his teacher,  
She says, "Hi, Jimmy, it's really nice to meet you."  
She shakes Jimmy's hand quite tight,  
Jimmy says, "Good-bye, have a nice life!"  
This **confuses** his teacher; she doesn't understand,  
So she shakes her head and she tries again.  
She says, "Nice to meet you, Jimmy; I'm your teacher,"  
Jimmy says, "OK, see you later, Mister preacher."  
But that's just part of his **routine**,  
The things he does again and again like they don't change.  
Maybe he just does it 'cause he's sort of bored,  
He says four plus four equals 44.  
I tried to talk to him once; it was **pointless**,  
There was no point to it; it was hopeless.  
I told him I got in trouble at school,  
He said, "Congratulations, dude! You are so cool!"  
I mean, was he **mocking** me, making fun?  
We played Monopoly once, and it was crazy, son.



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He **attempted** and tried to buy the chair I was sitting on,  
 I said, “No, dude, you’re really wrong.”  
 He said, “OK, fine, but do you want a snack?  
 Out back in my yard we can chew on some grass.”  
 That was the weirdest thing I’d ever heard from a **host**,  
 Someone who has people over to his house—no doubt!

*It’s the kid who always says the wrong thing...*  
 (x8)

One time in class, a firefighter came to teach us  
 How to fight fires, and I was right by her.  
 She also came to **inspire** us,  
 Fill us with energy and hope, instead of being lazy and tired.  
 She asked the class, “Does anyone know what to do  
 If the room fills with smoke, and you see flames?”  
 Jimmy said, “I know what we’re supposed to do:  
 Put some ribs on the fire, make a barbecue.”  
 The firefighter got **furious**, so mad,  
 She said, “You’re joking, but I hope that you know that.  
 That could lead to a **disaster**, something terrible and so bad,  
 Get the picture, like Kodak.”  
 Later, Jimmy walked up to Sara Nash,  
 The girl he had a crush on since way back.  
 Sara said, “Hey, Jimmy, what’s on your mind?”  
 He said, “Think anyone’s ever made a sandwich of butterflies?”  
 Sara said, “Um, why?”  
 Jimmy said, “Well, it might be tasty! You don’t know ‘til you try!”  
 Sara said, “You’re kind of **entertaining**, you make kids laugh,  
 But it’s mostly annoying, the way that you act.”  
 Uh-huh, so Jimmy stopped and thought  
 That maybe what he was doing was not so hot.  
 Yeah, Jimmy stopped and thought  
 That maybe the way he was living was not so hot.

*It’s the kid who always says the wrong thing...*  
 (x8)

“What time is it, Jimmy?”  
 It’s Thursday.  
 “Did you do your homework, Jimmy?”  
 Yeah, I cleaned the chimney.  
 “Jimmy, do you like sports?”  
 Yes, especially bananas.

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## 13C Words Defined

attempt / confuse / disaster / entertain / furious / host / inspire / mock / pointless / routine

### attempt

**(verb)** To try; to make an effort. *Christina **attempted** to hang a spoon on her nose for a full minute.*

**(noun)** An effort. *I can't promise that I'll climb over the fence, but I'll make an **attempt**.*

### confuse

**(verb)** To make or become unclear or mixed up in the mind. *Sometimes I get **confused** when I try to think about two things at the same time.*

### disaster

**(noun)** A sudden terrible event that brings about great damage or suffering; a great failure. *One of the biggest natural **disasters** in American history was when Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans in 2005.*

### entertain

**(verb)** To amuse or make someone have fun. *Lots of kids are **entertained** by cartoons, but Tyrell always found them boring.*



**furious**

### furious

**(adj)** Very angry. *Our teacher was so **furious** that we hadn't done our homework, he threw an eraser out the window!*

### host

**(noun)** 1. A person who has people over, or who directs the entertainment. *I have no idea who the **host** of the Academy Awards will be this year, but it's usually someone funny.* 2. A large number of something. *Here are a whole **host** of reasons why you shouldn't eat fast food every day.*

**(verb)** 1. To have people over to your house for a party or event. *Jamie **hosted** a party where everyone had to dress up like animals.*

**host**



### inspire

**(verb)** To guide, excite, or encourage. *Latanya didn't like poetry, but she was **inspired** to write some after she climbed a mountain.*

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**mock**

**(verb)** To make fun of, especially by pretending to be someone. *Gabe frowned and made his voice low, which we all knew was **mocking** our teacher.*

**(adj)** Fake. *Every year, actors get dressed up like Civil War soldiers and have a **mock** battle to help Americans remember that war.*

**pointless**

**(adj)** Having no meaning or effect. *You can try to throw a rock at the moon if you want, but it's **pointless**.*

**routine**

**(noun)** 1. Something that is done the same way again and again. *My usual **routine** when I get home from school is to eat two cookies and then go say "hi" to my dog.* 2. An act or skit. *The funniest **routine** I ever saw at a comedy show was when this lady danced with a puppet.*

**(adj)** Normal; regular. *For me, brushing my teeth every day is **routine**, but taking a shower isn't.*

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## **13D Synonyms**

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

attempt / confuse / disaster / entertain / furious / host / inspire / mock / pointless / routine

- |                     |           |           |          |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|
| 1. ordinary         | pointless | invisible | routine  |
| 2. to throw a party | confused  | host      | attempt  |
| 3. very angry       | furious   | pointless | confused |
| 4. try              | attempt   | mock      | inspire  |
| 5. not worth doing  | routine   | pointless | furious  |

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **13E Fill in the Blank**

Write the word in the blank so that the sentence makes sense.

attempt / confuse / disaster / entertain / furious / host / inspire / mock / pointless / routine

1. My neighbor gets \_\_\_\_\_ when I walk on his lawn, but he's a nice person otherwise.

**entertained          furious          confused**

2. Mrs. Harmon scolded Randy for \_\_\_\_\_ other kids because it hurt their feelings.

**mocking          inspiring          hosting**

3. The art teacher \_\_\_\_\_ many students to become professional artists.

**inspired          mocked          entertained**

4. When the space shuttle exploded, it was the biggest \_\_\_\_\_ in the history of the space program.

**routine          disaster          host**

5. Sometimes I like to \_\_\_\_\_ people by saying things that make no sense.

**inspire          confuse          attempt**

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**13F Connections**

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

*attempt / confuse / disaster / entertain / furious / host / inspire / mock / pointless / routine*

1. Pedro thought the movie was very funny and would like to see it again.

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2. Janie is in charge of throwing the Halloween party this year.

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3. I know I'm a terrible singer, so there's no reason for me to try out for the school musical.

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4. Mikey has a hard time understanding math; he always mixes up subtraction and addition.

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5. Every morning, I wash my face before I get dressed.

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### **13G Applying Meanings**

Circle the letter that makes sense or answers the question.

attempt / confuse / disaster / entertain / furious / host / inspire / mock / pointless / routine

1. What is a way of **mocking** people?  
(A) buying them an ice cream cone  
(B) calling them bad names  
(C) going over to their house for dinner  
(D) helping them with their homework
  
2. Which of these is an airplane **disaster**?  
(A) a crash  
(B) a seatbelt  
(C) a flight attendant  
(D) a pilot
  
3. Which of these people acts **furious** for a living?  
(A) a wrestler  
(B) a doctor  
(C) a swimmer  
(D) a scientist
  
4. What is a good way to **inspire** laughter?  
(A) Tell people to be quiet.  
(B) Hold your breath and count to 10.  
(C) Share a sad story.  
(D) Tell a funny joke.
  
5. A talk show **host** would probably  
(A) talk to an interviewer  
(B) play in the band  
(C) interview people  
(D) sit in the audience

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## 13H Reading

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

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# The Great Impressionist

As long as I can remember, I've always liked making people laugh. When I heard that our school was doing a talent show, I knew this was my chance to **entertain** people. I decided I would **attempt** to do a comedy **routine**.

But what should my routine be about? The day before the talent show, I finally came up with an idea: I would do an impression of the school's principal, Mr. Iglesias. I put my name on the sign-up sheet and rushed home to practice for the show.

The first thing I did when I got home was put together my costume. I went into my dad's closet and pulled out an old rumpled shirt and tie, just like Mr. Iglesias always wore. I used some bristles from a hairbrush to make a bushy mustache, just like Mr. Iglesias's. I found an old pair of my mom's glasses in the bathroom cabinet that looked like Mr. Iglesias's glasses. I took the lenses out and looked at myself in the mirror. Perfect!

My brother was horrified when he saw me. "Oh, no!" he said. "He's going to be **furious**! Everyone knows that Mr. Iglesias hates to be **mocked**!"

But I couldn't back out now. This was my chance to perform in front of the whole school. I had to go on with the show. Still, I was nervous when the **host** called me up to the stage. What if my brother was right? What if this experience was a **disaster**?

As soon as I stepped onstage, the entire school started laughing. I looked at Mr. Iglesias. He had no expression on his face. I swallowed hard and walked up to the microphone.

"All right, people," I said, in my best Mr. Iglesias impression. "Settle down."

The audience laughed even harder. I looked at Mr. Iglesias—still no expression. Well, there was no stopping now!

For the next five minutes, I became Mr. Iglesias. I used every phrase I'd ever heard him say. I walked like him. I talked like him. At the end of my routine, the crowd stood and cheered. I looked back at Mr. Iglesias. Even he was laughing!

Well, guess what? I won first place! Afterward, Mr. Iglesias stopped me in the hall. I was nervous until he gave me a big smile.

"Good job, David," he said. "You were really funny! There's just one thing I couldn't figure out...who were you pretending to be?"

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1. Based on information in the passage, what is an impressionist?

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2. Why did David decide to do a comedy routine?

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3. Based on information in the passage, what did Mr. Iglesias look like?

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4. Why was David's brother horrified?

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5. What can you tell from Mr. Iglesias's final question?

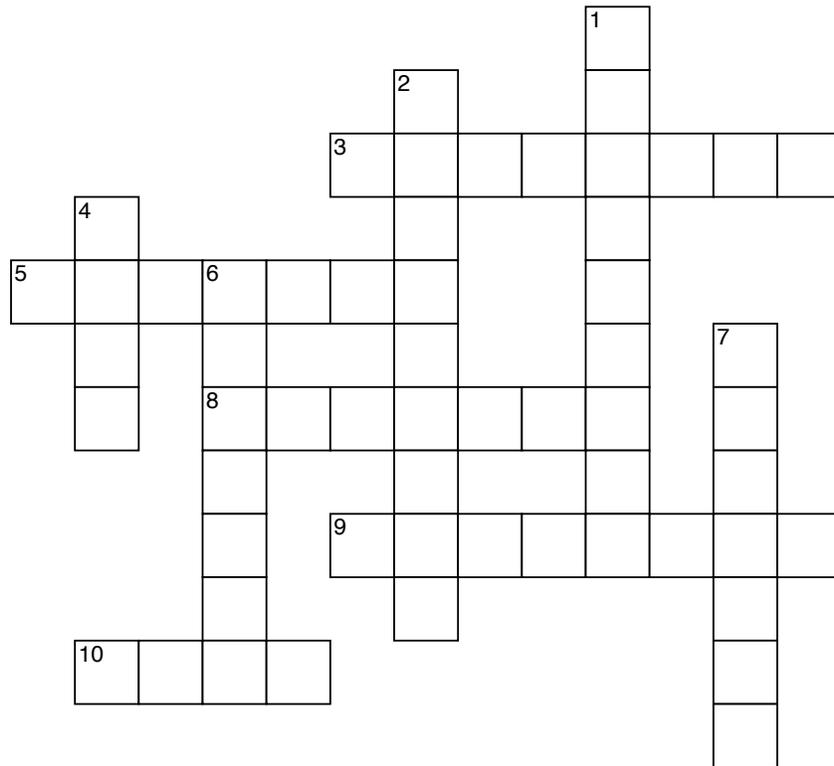
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## **Bonus: Crossword Puzzle**

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

attempt / confuse / disaster / entertain / furious / host / inspire / mock / pointless / routine



### **ACROSS**

- 3 MC Skat Kat said this song was \_\_\_\_\_ by his love for Paula Abdul.
- 5 Shoshona keeps telling me different directions just to \_\_\_\_\_ me.
- 8 Something that someone does regularly.
- 9 The party was a complete \_\_\_\_\_. The only person who showed up got sick.
- 10 The principal has to hand out awards as the \_\_\_\_\_ of the awards ceremony.

### **DOWN**

- 1 Philip told me a \_\_\_\_\_ story that seemed to go nowhere.
- 2 To amuse.
- 4 To make fun of.
- 6 The waiter was \_\_\_\_\_ when the couple left without paying.
- 7 The motorcycle rider will \_\_\_\_\_ to leap 10 cars at once. I hope he can do it!