

### Slip of the Tongue

#### CHARACTERS

Jasmine

Matt

Brittany

Kayla

Elena

Anthony

Parker

**SCENE 1:** *Before class at Cedar Grove Middle School.*

**Jasmine** (*excited*): Everything is set for Kayla's surprise party. All her friends are going to sneak over to Pizza Palace after Friday's volleyball game. Kayla has no idea. She thinks the team is getting together on Saturday!

2



**Matt:** How will we get her there on Friday?

**Jasmine:** Her parents are in on the plan. They told her they're taking her out for pizza that night. She'd never object to that—you know how she loves pizza!

**Matt:** I just hope nobody blows the surprise.

3



Homographs are words with the same spelling but different pronunciations and different meanings. To figure out the pronunciation and meaning of homograph, you need to look at its context—at the words and sentences around it. One of the words in this piece of dialogue is a homograph. What is its pronunciation and meaning? How do you know?

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## DESTINATION READING COURSE 3

### UNIT 15P: Slip of the Tongue

**SCENE 2:** *Later, at lunch. Jasmine and Matt are with Kayla and Elena. Brittany approaches.*

**Brittany:** Hey, guys!

**Matt:** Hi. We were just talking about the volleyball game this Friday.

**Jasmine** *(with enthusiasm)*: I don't think Washington Heights has a chance of beating you guys!

**Kayla** *(looking doubtful)*: I'm not so sure. Washington Heights has only lost one game this season. Last year they were city champs.

**Elena:** And they have that girl who's five-foot-ten. She's huge! We're all minute compared to her. Plus, she's a really strong player. She has a killer serve.

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A fact is a statement that is true and can be proven. An opinion is a statement of what somebody thinks or feels. It cannot be proven. Here Jasmine and Kayla are talking about the Washington Heights volleyball team. Which girl is stating a fact? Which girl is stating an opinion?"

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Words that start with “c-i,” “c-y,” or “c-e” take the “ess” sound at the beginning. “Celebrate” and “cycle” are two examples. Which word in this piece of dialogue starts with the letter “c” and the “ess” sound?

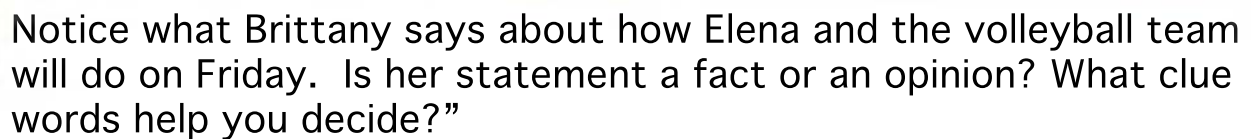
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**Matt:** Me either. So, what are you guys doing after school?

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## DESTINATION READING COURSE 3

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**Jasmine:** I have to read that novel for English. Mr. Carter asked me to present some discussion topics for our literature circle. I haven't even finished the book yet!

**Brittany** (*with enthusiasm*): That shouldn't be too hard. It's a great book. But I was so upset when Raven died at the end.

**Jasmine** (*exasperated*): Brittany! Why did you give away the ending? I just said I haven't finished the book!

**Brittany:** Me and my big mouth! I don't know what I was thinking.

**Jasmine** (*annoyed*): You WEREN'T thinking.

**Brittany** (*apologetic*): You're right. I'm sorry. Well, I need to go to math now. (*Brittany leaves.*)

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Suppose you had a friend like Brittany who gave things away. What could you do to help the friend stop doing this without hurting his or her feelings?

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11



**Jasmine:** Well, what about us?  
We're not much better, the way  
we're putting her down. Maybe  
we should look at her good side.



**Matt:** Yeah, we should try. My  
Uncle Will is always saying there  
are two ways to look at every  
situation. You know that thing  
about the glass of water. Like, if  
there's a glass partly filled with  
water, a cynical person says  
that it's half empty. A positive  
person looks at the glass and  
sees it as half full. Uncle Will  
says that he tries to see the  
glass as half full, no matter  
what.

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13



When you paraphrase a piece of text, you restate it in your own words. Often you use synonyms for difficult words. Here Matt is commenting on the way Brittany gave away the ending to a book. Paraphrase what he says. Be careful not to change the meaning.

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**Jasmine:** Well, what could possibly be positive about Brittany's big mouth?

**Matt (slowly):** We might be able to use it to help us surprise Kayla.

**Jasmine:** What do you mean?

**Matt:** Maybe Brittany can "let something slip" and make Kayla think that we're surprising her on Saturday. Then she'll never suspect a thing about Friday!

**Jasmine:** That's a great idea! I'll talk to Brittany. I'm sure she'll be a real natural.



14

**SCENE 3:** After school. Matt, Jasmine, and Brittany notice Kayla approaching.

**Jasmine (whispering):** Here she comes, Brittany. Remember, the object is to act natural.



15



Brittany is doing something positive with her annoying habit. What effect do you think this will have in the future?

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Will Brittany get rid of her bad habit for good?

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How easy is it to overcome bad habits?

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## UNIT 15P: Slip of the Tongue

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[illegible]



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