

STORY 47

words we know

wanted	caught	caused
suit	world	work
gather	impress	listen
ignore	outside	suggest
anyone	someone	everyone
balloon	smoke	smoking
guard	mudguard	admire
pause	because	autumn
parents	naturally	always
believe	special	trouble
nothing	actually	through

STORY 47

new sound

wor as in **work**

Look through the story.
Find some words with the “wor” sound,
and say them aloud.

special words

wandered Hobart

Michael tyres

audience suitable

Learn how to say each special word.
See if you can find each one in the story.
Then you are ready to read the story.

FITZROY READERS STORY NUMBER 47

The New Year Party



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Hamish and Michael lived in Hobart. On New Year's Day, the first of January, they went to a party. When they got there, they noticed a group of guests gathered around a very well dressed fellow called Alex.



Alex seemed to be drinking a lot of beer. He was talking about his Porsche sports car. "Take my word for it," Alex was saying, "I know a lot about cars. I've done a lot of work on my Porsche. It's worth at least sixty thousand dollars," he boasted.



Alex talked quite loudly and used a lot of words like “carburettor” and “manifold”. Hamish was impressed by Alex and listened to his every word. He tried to look as if he understood it all.



Hamish badly wanted Alex to like him. He did not want to appear stupid to Alex. At the same time, Hamish was completely ignoring Michael. Michael felt this and quietly moved to another room.



Alex was getting louder now - but running out of things to say. He urged everyone to come outside and watch him drive. The group followed, and soon saw Alex drive off at high speed - with a squeal of tyres. When they couldn't see him any more, some of them drifted back inside.



Alex saw that he was losing his audience. He decided not to drive away any more, but just to drive back and forth in front of the house. This looked a bit boring after a while, so Alex suggested they bring out some balloons for him to drive through.



Bang! Bang! Bang! The balloons popped and the crowd cheered. When there were no more balloons, Alex yelled through the car window, “Bring old boxes, branches, anything.” He didn't want the show to stop.



Soon they had used everything they could find. Then someone brought an old chair. Some guests gasped - this could dent or scratch the shiny Porsche. But Alex thought he had the best car in the world – and he wanted everyone to know it. He drove through the chair – crunch! Some guests clapped.



Then Alex got out of his Porsche and started yelling for more things to drive through. Nobody could find anything suitable. By this time, Alex was actually screaming. Things were getting worse.



Just then, three little children wandered down the street. They were carrying balloons. Alex asked for their balloons, but the little ones wanted to keep them. "They're only worth ten cents," said Alex in a mean voice, and snatched them.



The children started crying. The crowd went quiet. This wasn't fun any more, but everyone was too scared to disagree with Alex. Just then Michael appeared. He took the balloons from Alex' hand, and gave them back to the children.



The children skipped away and the crowd softly clapped. Alex glared at Michael, then said, "This is a stupid party anyway." He drove off with a roar, his wheels smoking on the road.



His shiny car scraped a pole on the way down the street. It made quite a dent in the mudguard, but Alex didn't stop. His car disappeared around a corner.



Hamish felt silly for admiring Alex. He turned to Michael and said, "I'm sorry. I've been spending my time with a silly show-off." Other guests came over too, and praised Michael for what he did. One called Alex a "worm".



On the way home, Hamish and Michael had a lot to talk about. They decided to walk some of the way. They both had so much to say, they forgot their bus and actually walked all the way home!

THE END

STORY 47

words we've used

Hobart	Michael	tyres
wandered	want	what
audience	caught	sauce
suitable	suit	juice
pause	caused	because
rough	enough	heat

some new words

worker	worthy	password
explain	complain	airmail
contain	exclaim	complaint

STORY 47

teacher's page

teacher, information from this page may be shared with students when you feel they are ready for it

How much of English consists of *special words*, that is, words whose letters represent neither their *basic sounds* nor regular *extra sounds*? There are two ways of answering this question.

One way of adding the special words makes it seem that there are an awful lot. Another, more realistic, way of adding up the special words shows that there are only a small fraction.

If you take a page of an English newspaper and list every instance of every word, then you would have to conclude that most words are special words. But this would be a very misleading thing to say.

The most common words in English, **a** and **the**, are both special words and together make up a significant fraction of the total! Indeed many of the most common words are special words, for example, **a, the, of, to, was, said, you, their, come, any...**

If, instead of adding every instance of every word, you simply listed how many *different* words there were on the page, you would find that there were far fewer special words than by the first count.