

The Private I's and the Case of the Mixed-Up Message

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Izzy, Inez, and Ivy were reading in the living room. The phone rang.

"I'll get it," said Izzy.

It was Mom, calling from work.

"I really need your help," she said.

"What's wrong?" asked Izzy.

"Grandma called," said Mom.

"She's having a hard time seeing after her eye operation. She wants to come stay with us until she can see better. She said she would catch the first flight out."

"Great!" said Izzy.

"We need to figure this out fast."

"There's only one problem," said Mom. "She said she would e-mail me what time her flight gets in. My computer is down at work. I tried to call her, but the line's busy. I'm afraid I'll miss her flight."

"How can we help?" asked Izzy.

"You can check our family e-mail account," said Mom. "Find

Grandma's message and call me."

"We're on it," said Izzy.

"What's up?" asked Inez.

"Grandma's coming!" said Izzy.

"Fantastic!" said Ivy. "When?"

"That's what we need to find out. Come on."

They went to the computer. Izzy clicked into the family's e-mail.

"There's Grandma's message!" said Ivy.

Izzy opened the message.

Hi, rbrtyonr,

My plsnr lsnfd sy gibr o'vlovk.

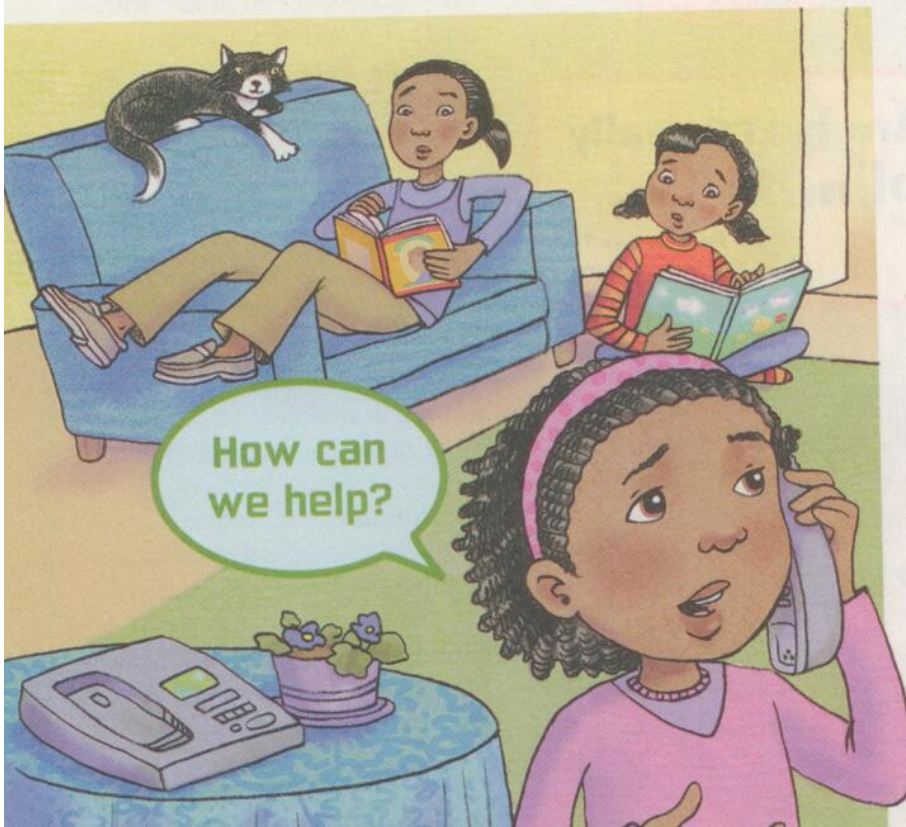
I vsn'y esiy yo drr you sll.

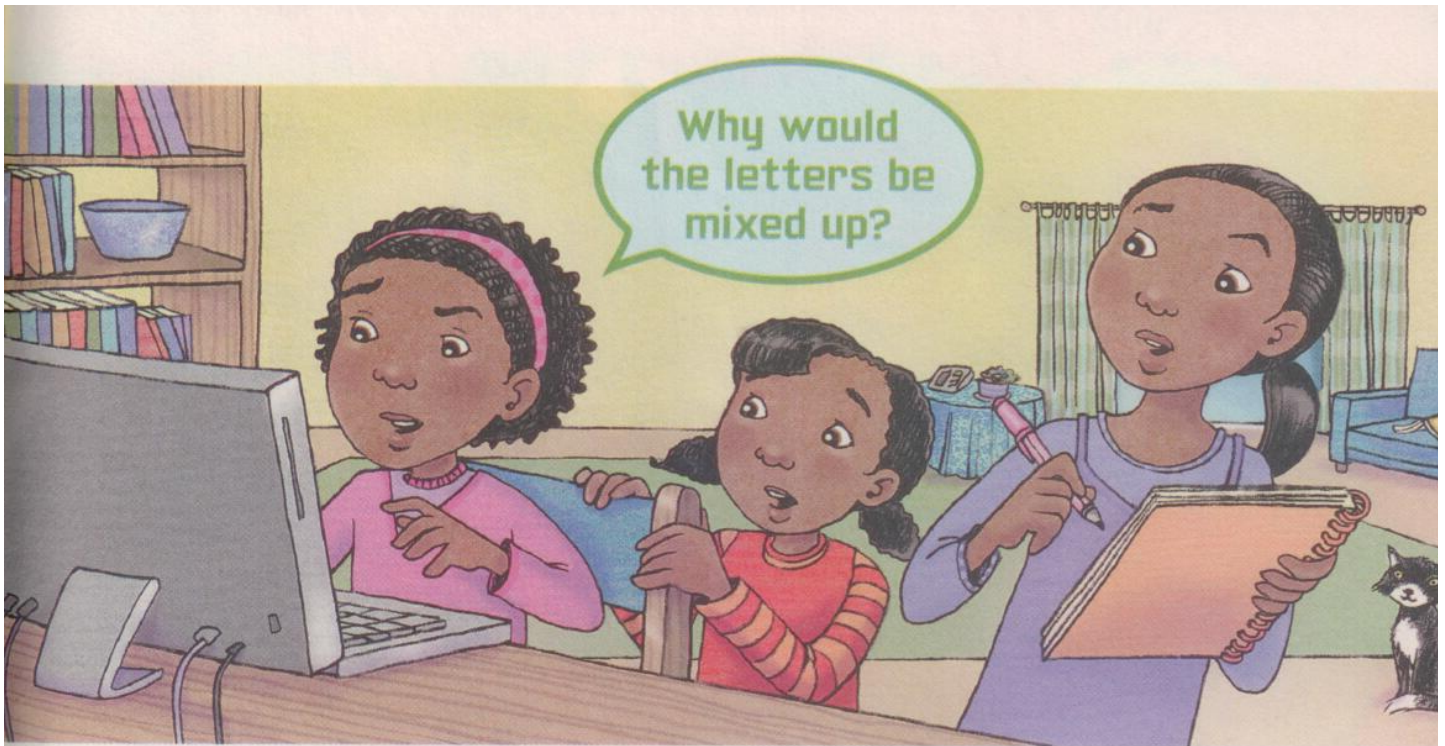
Lobr,

Htsnfms

"This message is all mixed up," said Inez. "I can't read it."

"We need to figure this out fast," said Izzy.





Why would the letters be mixed up?

“This looks like a case for the Private I’s,” said Inez. She got her notebook. She wrote: **The Case of the Mixed-Up Message.**

“Let’s think,” said Izzy. “Why would the letters be mixed up?”

“Grandma wrote in code?” said Ivy.

“I don’t think she would,” said Inez. “She can barely even see.”

“That’s an important clue,” said Izzy.

Inez wrote: **Grandma can barely see to write.**

“Maybe she couldn’t see to type very well,” said Ivy.

“That’s it!” said Izzy. “We need to look at the keyboard.”

Inez wrote: **Plan: Check the keyboard.**

Izzy looked at Grandma’s note. Then she looked at the keyboard. “We need to figure out *how* Grandma mixed up the letters.”

“I’m sure the end is supposed to say *Love, Grandma,*” said Inez.

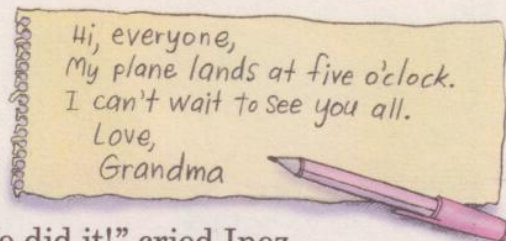
“I see what happened!”

“Brilliant!” said Izzy. She put her fingers on the keyboard. She looked at the last word of the message.

“If *H* should be *G* . . . and *t* should be *r* . . . I see what happened! Grandma’s left hand shifted over one key by mistake.”

“Try the rest of the note,” said Inez. “See if it makes real words.”

Izzy moved her fingers on the keyboard. Inez wrote down each letter in her notebook.



“We did it!” cried Inez.

“Way to go!” said Izzy. “I’ll call Mom.”

“And I’ll go find Grandma’s favorite blanket,” said Ivy.

Inez wrote: **The Case of the Mixed-Up Message: Solved.** 🍷