

## Mars Rover Model Celebration – Lesson Plan



**problematic:**  
difficult to deal with, fix, or solve

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### Introduction:

One of the new vocabulary words for this unit is “problematic”. Problematic means “difficult to deal with, fix or solve”. When we say that a thing or a situation is problematic, it means that it will be difficult for us to fix what is wrong. For a student who lives far from school, missing the bus in the morning is problematic as it might be very difficult for him to get to school on time. It might be problematic for the student’s parents to take him by car to school as this might make them late for work. It also might be problematic for the student to walk by himself to school—the school is probably very far away, so the walk is long. It would be dangerous for the student to walk to school alone and there may be dangerous roads to cross with lots of traffic.

### Example:

Let’s look at two pictures that will better help us to better understand meaning of problematic. In the first picture, Sandra is taking a test. She appears to be quite worried. Instead of studying for the test last night, Sandra was playing computer games. As a result, she doesn’t know the answers to the exam questions. Failing the test could be problematic for her as she might have to repeat the grade or be punished by her parents. In the second picture, the man’s car has broken down on a dirt road in the desert. This is problematic because there doesn’t appear to be any houses or stores anywhere near the man. Since the man is on a dirt road, it is probably not well travelled and he may not see another car pass by for a long time. If the man doesn’t have a cell phone or water with him, his predicament could be especially problematic as he could be stuck there a long time.

### Reflection:

I am going to tell you some stories. If the problem in the story is difficult to deal with, fix or solve, I want you to put your thumbs up and say PROBLEMATIC. If the problems are easy to solve, put your thumbs down and remain silent.

- Roberto was walking to school and his pencil fell out of his backpack. (thumbs down)
- Sandra let her pet dog off the leash in the back yard. When she came back a half hour later, the dog had dug up and damaged all her mother’s flowers (thumbs up)
- Eddie left his glasses at home this morning and his parents have left for work. Without glasses, he cannot read what his teacher writes on the board or read his books. (thumbs up)
- Mary Ann is about to come up to bat in a softball game. She looks down and sees that her shoelaces are untied. (thumbs down)

### Make it personal:

Think of something that happened in the last week or so that was problematic for you. Share what happened to you with your neighbor. Start your sentence by saying, “Something problematic that happened to me was\_\_\_\_\_”. Be sure you tell your neighbor why the situation was problematic and whether you were able to resolve it. I will ask some of you to share your experience with the class.