

The many meanings of *miss*

Name _____

Date _____

DIRECTIONS

The word *miss* is printed in bold in every sentence below. Read each group and notice how its meaning shifts — and how the sign changes along with it. Then write your own sentences on the blank lines.

1 FAIL TO CATCH OR GRASP

to not reach, catch, or take in something in time

- ♦ I **missed** the bus.
- ♦ Did you see it? I **missed** it.
- ♦ Please say that again. I **missed** what you said.
- ♦ You **missed** the point of my lecture.

2 OVERLOOK OR FAIL TO SEE

to look right at something and still not notice it

- ♦ Oh! There you are. I **missed** you!
- ♦ I looked at it three times, but still **missed** it.
- ♦ We **missed** her in the crowd.

3 MISSING OR GONE

absent from where it belongs

- ♦ My cat is **missing**.
 - ♦ My wallet is **missing** from my purse.
 - ♦ The boy is **missing**; I think he ran away.
 - ♦ You're **missing** your front teeth.
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4 FEEL THE LOSS OF SOMEONE

to be sad because a person or thing is not with you

- ♦ I **miss** my friend.
 - ♦ His wife died; he **misses** her.
 - ♦ If you leave, I will **miss** you.
 - ♦ I **miss** not taking sign language classes.
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5 SKIP OR STAY AWAY

to not attend something

- ♦ She **missed** class again.
 - ♦ You shouldn't **miss** work just because it is sunny outside.
 - ♦ Did you **miss** the meeting on purpose?
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6 MISS OUT ON SOMETHING

to lose a chance you would have enjoyed

- ♦ You **missed** a good movie.
- ♦ They were looking for an interpreter; you **missed** your chance.
- ♦ We had a great time at the party. You really **missed** it.
- ♦ It was a lovely concert; too bad you **missed** it.

CHALLENGE

Some of these meanings describe an accident and some describe a choice. Sort the six groups into *on purpose* and *by accident*, then write one sentence of your own for a group from each column.

THINK ABOUT IT

All six groups use the same English word, but they do not share the same meaning — and in ASL they do not share the same sign. Choose one of your own sentences from each group and be ready to sign it for the class.