

Word Study - Unit 8
Practice Sheet

Name _____
Date _____ Period _____

-mal- and -min-

malicious	miniature
malevolent	minority
malignant	mince
malodorous	minimum
malpractice	miniscule
malady	minor

PART I – Directions: Fill in the blanks with the correct word from your Unit 8 Word Study list. You may need to change the form of a word to make it fit in the sentence.

The Story of Little Tommy T. Piperson and the Stolen Pig

Yesterday in Small Claims Court, Little Tommy T. Piperson, who is a (1) _____, was charged with (2) _____ behavior for stealing one of Reverend Joe’s pigs. The minister told the court that in the morning he had used a sharp knife to (3) _____ up some (4) _____ marshmallows to feed his swine. Only a (5) _____ of the pigs did not like the meal, the minister mentioned. When he returned to the pigs two hours later, one of the pigs had been pignapped.

Tommy claimed that his actions had not been (6) _____. He said he’d been passing by the pigpen when he noticed that one of the pigs appeared to be suffering from an uncomfortable (7) _____, so he decided to take the pig to the veterinarian.

The animal doctor confirmed Tommy’s story. Because the vet wanted to avoid being accused of (8) _____, he made a careful inspection of the animal. The vet said that the pig’s breath had been (9) _____ and thoroughly examined him to make sure the little piggy didn’t have a (10) _____ tumor in his stomach. Apparently the marshmallows had given the pig indigestion. The minister apologized to Tommy T. Piperson and the pig, and the case was dismissed.

PART II –Directions: Fill in the blanks with the correct word from your Unit 8 Word Study list to complete these riddles. All of the words contain the root *-min-*.

11. Q: What kind of gas does a tiny car use?

A: _____ fuel.

12. Q: What do you call a kid's black eye?

A: A _____ shiner.

13. Q: What do you call a short mother?

A: A _____ (mini mom).

14. Q: What company does the Prince of _____ rule over?

A: The Looking Sharp Knife Company.

15. Q: What do you call a small but sloppy copy?

A: A _____ mess.

Part III – Directions: In each of the following sentences, a word is being misused. Cross out the incorrect word and write the correct Unit 8 word in the space provided. You may have to use a different form of the word so that it fits in the sentence. All of the words contain the root *-mal-*.

16. After several botched surgeries, Dr. Mordred Miles is on trial for medical expertise.

17. Sheila inhaled a deep breath of the fragrant air blowing in from the landfill.

18. The surgeon was extremely concerned about the benign tumor growing on the young man's arm.

19. While the teacher's back was turned, the class bully gave his neighbor a kindly kick on the shins.

20. Benevolence is the root of every war.
