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Vocabulary Builder Reference from...

Catherine Crump: The small and surprisingly dangerous detail the police track about you | TED Talk

https://www.ted.com/talks/catherine_crump_the_small_and_surprisingly_dangerous_detail_the_police_track_about_you

Advanced Words Only

IMPORTANT

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Session 1: Word List

crackdown

n. a severe or forceful attempt to suppress or control something, such as illegal or disruptive behavior

synonym: clampdown, sweep, repression

(1) a citywide **crackdown**, (2) strict **crackdown**

The government announced a **crackdown** on illegal activities in the city.

underscore

v. to give extra weight to communication; to draw a line or lines under a word, sentence, etc., to call attention to it

synonym: emphasize, underline, highlight

(1) **underscore** an important fact, (2) **underscore** the severity

That incident **underscored** the vulnerability of the national defense system.

rev

n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

synonym: revolution, RPM, speed

(1) low- **rev** engine, (2) **rev** up the crowd

He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud **rev**.

innocuous

adj. not harmful or dangerous; unlikely to cause injury or damage

synonym: harmless, innocent, benign

(1) **innocuous** joke, (2) **innocuous** substance

The spider in the corner of the room seemed **innocuous**, but it made her uneasy.

wrongdoing

n. an improper or illegal behavior or action

synonym: misconduct, crime, offense

(1) an accusation of **wrongdoing**, (2) willful **wrongdoing**

The CEO of the company denied any **wrongdoing** while admitting to mismanagement.

plummet

v. to fall or drop suddenly and steeply; to decline rapidly or sharply

synonym: drop, plunge, fall

(1) **plummeting** sales, (2) **plummet** against other major currencies

The stock prices have **plummeted** in the last hour, causing concern for investors.

mosque

n. a Muslim place of worship that usually has a minaret (= slender tower with balconies)

(1) domed **mosque**, (2) the sacred **mosque**

Jumeirah **Mosque** is one of the most beautiful buildings in the United Arab Emirates.

uncover

v. to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden

synonym: disclose, reveal, unveil

(1) **uncover** a potential problem, (2) **uncover** the truth

He continued his investigation and soon **uncovered** another crime.

stingray

n. a marine fish with a flattened diamond-shaped body, a long tail bearing venomous spines, and large pectoral fins that are used for swimming

synonym : sting fish

(1) **stingray** habitat, (2) blue-spotted **stingray**

The tour guide warned us not to step on a hidden **stingray** in the shallow water.

blackmail

n. the act of demanding money or something else in return for not revealing embarrassing or damaging information

synonym : extortion, shakedown, racket

(1) **blackmail** extortion, (2) **blackmail** scheme

He threatened to reveal the secret, using it as **blackmail**.

Session 2: Spelling

1. r_v up the crowd
n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute
2. in_____us substance
adj. not harmful or dangerous; unlikely to cause injury or damage
3. blue-spotted st_____ay
n. a marine fish with a flattened diamond-shaped body, a long tail bearing venomous spines, and large pectoral fins that are used for swimming
4. pl_____ting sales
v. to fall or drop suddenly and steeply; to decline rapidly or sharply
5. in_____us joke
adj. not harmful or dangerous; unlikely to cause injury or damage
6. un_____r the truth
v. to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden
7. a citywide cr_____wn
n. a severe or forceful attempt to suppress or control something, such as illegal or disruptive behavior
8. und_____re an important fact
v. to give extra weight to communication; to draw a line or lines under a word, sentence, etc., to call attention to it
9. bl_____il scheme
n. the act of demanding money or something else in return for not revealing embarrassing or damaging information

ANSWERS: 1. rev, 2. innocuous, 3. stingray, 4. plummet, 5. innocuous, 6. uncover, 7. crackdown, 8. underscore, 9. blackmail

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|---|-----------|---|
| 10. the sacred mo___e | <i>n.</i> | a Muslim place of worship that usually has a minaret (= slender tower with balconies) |
| 11. an accusation of wro_____ng | <i>n.</i> | an improper or illegal behavior or action |
| 12. un_____r a potential problem | <i>v.</i> | to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden |
| 13. st_____ay habitat | <i>n.</i> | a marine fish with a flattened diamond-shaped body, a long tail bearing venomous spines, and large pectoral fins that are used for swimming |
| 14. low-r_v engine | <i>n.</i> | a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute |
| 15. und_____re the severity | <i>v.</i> | to give extra weight to communication; to draw a line or lines under a word, sentence, etc., to call attention to it |
| 16. pl_____t against other major currencies | <i>v.</i> | to fall or drop suddenly and steeply; to decline rapidly or sharply |
| 17. strict cr_____wn | <i>n.</i> | a severe or forceful attempt to suppress or control something, such as illegal or disruptive behavior |
| 18. domed mo___e | <i>n.</i> | a Muslim place of worship that usually has a minaret (= slender tower with balconies) |
| 19. bl_____il extortion | <i>n.</i> | the act of demanding money or something else in return for not revealing embarrassing or damaging information |

ANSWERS: 10. mosque, 11. wrongdoing, 12. uncover, 13. stingray, 14. rev, 15. underscore, 16. plummet, 17. crackdown, 18. mosque, 19. blackmail

20. willful wro_____ng

n. an improper or illegal behavior or action

ANSWERS: 20. wrongdoing

Session 3: Fill in the Blanks

1. He continued his investigation and soon _____ another crime.
 - v. to remove the cover from something; to discover something previously unseen or hidden

2. He stepped on the gas pedal, and the engine released a loud _____.
 - n. a measure of the rate at which an engine or motor rotates, often expressed in revolutions per minute (RPM); (verb) to increase the number of rotations per minute

3. Jumeirah _____ is one of the most beautiful buildings in the United Arab Emirates.
 - n. a Muslim place of worship that usually has a minaret (= slender tower with balconies)

4. The stock prices have _____ in the last hour, causing concern for investors.
 - v. to fall or drop suddenly and steeply; to decline rapidly or sharply

5. That incident _____ the vulnerability of the national defense system.
 - v. to give extra weight to communication; to draw a line or lines under a word, sentence, etc., to call attention to it

6. The government announced a _____ on illegal activities in the city.
 - n. a severe or forceful attempt to suppress or control something, such as illegal or disruptive behavior

7. He threatened to reveal the secret, using it as _____.
 - n. the act of demanding money or something else in return for not revealing embarrassing or damaging information

ANSWERS: 1. uncovered, 2. rev, 3. Mosque, 4. plummeted, 5. underscored, 6. crackdown, 7. blackmail

8. The tour guide warned us not to step on a hidden _____ in the shallow water.

n. a marine fish with a flattened diamond-shaped body, a long tail bearing venomous spines, and large pectoral fins that are used for swimming

9. The CEO of the company denied any _____ while admitting to mismanagement.

n. an improper or illegal behavior or action

10. The spider in the corner of the room seemed _____ but it made her uneasy.

adj. not harmful or dangerous; unlikely to cause injury or damage

ANSWERS: 8. stingray, 9. wrongdoing, 10. innocuous,