

VOCABULARY

Instruction: Fill in each blank with a word from the box. Use each word **ONCE**.

TEXT 1

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|--------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| a. brevity | b. clemency | c. frivolous | d. helst | e. lampoon |
| f. querulous | g. reproach | h. respite | i. torpor | j. unscathed |

LOONY BUT TRUE

One reason why people watch TV and movies is to laugh at fictional characters and the goofy things they do. But guess what, folks — real people are every bit as silly, and just as easy to (1)_____. Here are some stories from the files of “Incredible but True . . .”

An insolvent^o homeless man walked into a bank in Michigan and asked a teller for fifty cents. She didn't understand what he'd said and thought he was trying to rob her. So she handed over all the cash in her drawer — about \$1,300. He thanked her and left. When the police caught up with the man, they didn't charge him with a crime. They had to show (2)_____, they said, because he hadn't done anything illegal or surreptitious^o — he had just openly asked for money.

A real bank robber was captured within a few minutes of his (3)_____. The (4)_____ of his freedom was easily explained. He had written his holdup note on the back of his own pay stub, complete with his name and address. When he got home, the cops were already there, waiting for him.

When police in Florida noticed a car weaving in and out of its lane, they pulled it over. Imagine their surprise when they found a three-and-a-half-foot-long iguana at the wheel. The large lizard was sitting on the lap of its sleeping owner, who was taking a short (5)_____ from driving. Fortunately, he and the lizard were both (6)_____; of the two, however, the lizard made out better. It got a nice new home, while the man went to jail for drunk driving. The judge didn't pay much attention to the man's (7)_____ complaint that it was the iguana who had actually been driving.

A fishing ship in the Sea of Japan sank, and its crew claimed it had been struck by a cow that fell out of the sky. Everyone assumed that the sailors had made up this (8)_____ story to escape (9)_____ for some mistake of their own. But then the crew of a Russian cargo plane admitted they had stolen a cow they'd found wandering on an airfield and put it aboard the plane. Now, cows are generally extremely calm animals. But cruising at 30,000 feet shook even a calm cow out of her usual (10)_____. The terrified animal panicked, dived out of the plane, and, well, there was the ship. . . .

- a. ambiguous b. dissident c. embellish d. fritter e. inadvertent
f. inane g. juxtapose h. lethargy i. sporadic j. subsidize

GRANDFATHER AT THE ART MUSEUM

Last Saturday, my grandfather and I spent some time in the modern section of an art museum. Our visit was completely (1)_____. We'd come to see a show of nature photographs and wandered into the wrong room. Instead of leaving, Grandfather just stood there, staring at the paintings. His idea of worthwhile art is the soft-focus photography on greeting cards, and here was an exhibit of angry paintings by political (2)_____s.

In one painting, an empty plate and a plate that was piled high with food had been (3)_____ (e)d on a table; the tablecloth was an American flag. Around this painting was a golden frame that had been (4)_____ (e)d with tiny plastic models of hot dogs, apple pies, and other typical American foods. There was nothing (5)_____ about the message—it was crystal-clear. The artist was saying that some people in this country don't have enough to eat. After a few moments of stunned silence, my grandfather jolted the sleepy-looking guard out of his (6)_____ by shouting, "Garbage! What is this garbage?"

When we learned that two major corporations had collaborated^o to (7)_____ this exhibit and even owned some of the art works, Grandfather was outraged. "How dare they (8)_____ away their money on one piece of unpatriotic trash after another while people are starving?" I tried to explain that the painting itself was a protest against starvation, but Grandfather just scoffed^o at me. "Don't be (9)_____, " he said. "Let's get out of here." So we did.

On the way home, Grandfather stared out the car window. He was silent except for (10)_____ sputterings of "Garbage!" and "Incredible!"