

LESSON

28

Investigating Crimes

Target Words

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. analyze | 6. inference |
| 2. assail | 7. objectively |
| 3. contrary | 8. suspicious |
| 4. hypothesize | 9. tolerate |
| 5. impair | 10. versus |

Definitions and Samples

1. **analyze** *v.* To examine something by looking at its parts

Chemists **analyzed** the white powder and found it to be only a mixture of sugar and salt.

Parts of speech analysis *n*, analyst *n*

2. **assail** *v.* To attack or criticize forcefully

With DNA evidence from the crime scene, the defense lawyer **assailed** the police for falsely arresting his client.

Parts of speech assault *n*, assailant *n*

3. **contrary** *adj.* Opposite

Contrary to most studies, Dr. Ito's work shows the world's climate is not getting warmer.

Usage tips Common phrases are *contrary to* and *on the contrary*.

4. **hypothesize** *v.* To make a guess, the correctness of which will eventually be investigated systematically.

Scientists **hypothesize** that planets capable of supporting life exist beyond our solar system, but they have not yet seen any.

Usage tips *Hypothesize* is often followed by a *that* clause.

Parts of speech hypothesis *n*, hypothetical *adj*

5. **impair** *v.* To make something less effective than usual

The snow **impaired** John's ability to hear anyone's footsteps.

Usage tips The object of *impair* is often [someone's] *ability to*.

Parts of speech impairment *n*

6. **inference** *n.* A conclusion drawn from evidence

Inspector Dowd's **inference** that Ms. Miller was South African was based on her accent.

Parts of speech infer *v*

7. **objectively** *adv.* Based on unbiased standards, not on personal opinion

I don't like Mr. Rowan, but looking **objectively** at his sales numbers, I saw that he was a very valuable employee.

Parts of speech objective *adj*

8. **suspicious** *adj.* Believing that something is wrong; acting in a way that makes people believe you have done something wrong

The neighbors became **suspicious** of Jim when he bought a big new car and some fancy clothes.

Jim's **suspicious** purchases made his neighbors think he might be getting money illegally.

Parts of speech suspicion *n*, suspiciously *adv*

9. **tolerate** *v.* To avoid getting upset about something

My math teacher **tolerates** a lot of talking in her class, but my history teacher tells us to be quiet.

Parts of speech toleration *n*, tolerance *n*, tolerant *adj*

10. **versus** *prep.* Against

In the debate, it was pro-war senators **versus** antiwar senators.

Usage tips *Versus* is often abbreviated as *vs.* in sports contexts, or simply *v.* in legal contexts.

TOEFL Prep I Find the word or phrase that is closest in meaning to each word in the left-hand column. Write the letter in the blank.

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|----------------------|---------------------------------------|
| _____ 1. assail | (a) against |
| _____ 2. contrary | (b) guess |
| _____ 3. hypothesize | (c) showing differences or opposition |
| _____ 4. impair | (d) vigorously attack |
| _____ 5. versus | (e) cause problems for |

TOEFL Prep II Circle the word that best completes each sentence.

- Most police departments have laboratories, where scientists (assail / analyze) evidence according to scientific procedures.
- The new police chief would not (tolerate / impair) any joking around in the police station.
- Everyone assumed Travis was innocent, despite evidence to the (contrary / suspicious).
- A judge who feels unable to think (versus / objectively) about a case should withdraw from it.
- The bomb squad was called after a (suspicious / contrary) package was delivered to the governor's office.

TOEFL Success Read the passage to review the vocabulary you have learned. Answer the questions that follow.

Bonus Structure—
This refers to the whole situation described in the previous sentence, not to any one noun phrase.

In 1979, two British farmers reported that, while sitting on a hill, they suddenly saw the crops below flattened in a perfect circle. They *inferred* that some great force must have come down directly from above to squash the corn and barley. This started a public hysteria about so-called crop circles. The patterns pressed into the crops (not all of them were circles) seemed to have no entry or exit points. Many people *hypothesized* that only alien spaceships could make such bizarre imprints. Others, including Britain's police, *assailed* such wild conclusions. They had a *contrary* theory: Someone was playing a big hoax. Teams of investigators took samples of the plants and the soil, trying to *objectively analyze* the crop circles as if they were a crime scene. Public curiosity often *impaired* the investigators, who had to

tolerate busloads of tourists flocking to the circles. The farmers in the area, long *suspicious* of the police, approached the case as an instance of police *versus* the people. If the local farmers knew the circles were a hoax, they wouldn't say so.

1. According to the article, why did many people think that crop circles were created by alien spaceships?
 - a. The circles looked like they had been made from above and had no way in or out.
 - b. The observers in 1979 reported seeing a UFO land and make a crop circle.
 - c. The plants and soil inside a crop circle contained chemicals not found on Earth.
 - d. They were in unusual shapes and contained alien symbols.
2. Why does the author mention "a hoax"?
 - a. because one of the locals admitted playing a trick on his neighbors
 - b. because most people think that crop circles are evil
 - c. because police investigators thought crop circles were made by humans as a joke
 - d. because crop circles are probably made by secret government aircraft

LESSON 29

Government Corruption

Target Words

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. bribery | 6. integrity |
| 2. cynically | 7. prevalent |
| 3. erode | 8. reform |
| 4. evade | 9. scandal |
| 5. grotesque | 10. unmask |

Definitions and Samples

1. **bribery** *n.* Giving money or other gifts to a government official or other person in authority in order to get special privileges

Bribery of police officers is common in countries where police salaries are very low.

Parts of speech bribe *v.*, bribe *n.*

2. **cynically** *adv.* Disrespectfully; emphasizing the weaknesses of otherwise respected things

Employees of the Roadways Department **cynically** referred to their boss as "the banker" because he took so many bribes.

Parts of speech cynic *n.*, cynicism *n.*, cynical *adj.*

3. **erode** *v.* To wear away and become smaller

People's respect for the government **eroded** as more officials were arrested for corruption.

Usage tips *Erode* can be intransitive (*the beach eroded*) or transitive (*the waves eroded the beach*).

Parts of speech erosion *n*, erosive *adj*

4. **evade** *v*. To get away from something that tries to catch you

The robbery suspects tried to **evade** the police by fleeing to Canada.

Parts of speech evasion *n*, evasive *adj*

5. **grotesque** *adj*. Extremely unattractive, in a way that catches a lot of attention.

Spending \$3.5 million to redecorate the governor's house is a **grotesque** misuse of public money.

6. **integrity** *n*. Personal honesty and good character

We don't have a problem with our employees stealing from the store because we hire only people with a lot of **integrity**.

7. **prevalent** *adj*. Common; easy to find because it exists in great amounts

Distrust of elected officials was **prevalent** in our county because many of them were friends with certain candidates.

Parts of speech prevail *v*, prevalence *n*

8. **reform** *v*. To make big improvements

The new law was an attempt to **reform** the system of giving money to political candidates.

Parts of speech reform *n*, reformer *n*

9. **scandal** *n*. A case of wrongdoing that hurts someone's reputation

In the Watergate **scandal**, some of the president's top advisors were revealed to be criminals.

Parts of speech scandalize *v*, scandalous *adj*

10. **unmask** *v*. Reveal; expose something that is hidden

The Forge Trucking Company was eventually **unmasked** as a front for organized crime.

TOEFL Prep I Find the word or phrase that is closest in meaning to the opposite of each word in the left-hand column. Write the letter in the blank.

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| _____ 1. cynically | (a) respectfully |
| _____ 2. evade | (b) corruption |
| _____ 3. integrity | (c) cover up |
| _____ 4. prevalent | (d) uncommon |
| _____ 5. unmask | (e) get caught |

TOEFL Prep II Circle the word that best completes each sentence.

- The president resigned because a (scandal / bribery) made it impossible for him to lead.
- Laws that let the police monitor criminals can (erode / evade) the privacy of innocent citizens too.
- After Downforth Castle was bought by apartment developers, it became a (prevalent / grotesque) jumble of poorly built additions.
- In some places, people who are pulled over for traffic offenses use (scandal / bribery) to avoid getting a ticket.
- President Carazza came to office promising (reform / integrity) of the prison system.

TOEFL Success Read the passage to review the vocabulary you have learned. Answer the questions that follow.

In many countries, few politicians have enough *integrity* to resist corruption and *bribery*. Because such practices are so *prevalent*, officials often *evade* any personal sense of guilt by pretending that everyone is just as corrupt as they are. Even in cases of really *grotesque* corruption, the kind that might cause a *scandal* in a less-corrupt government, the general

Bonus Structure—
In this
environment
means “under
these conditions.”

population may not be shocked. Instead, they may *cynically* conclude that government corruption is natural and unavoidable. **In this environment**, the efforts of an honest politician to *unmask* corruption may be *eroded* by the public’s lack of interest, causing any efforts at *reform* to fail.

1. Why do people in some countries not react negatively to corruption?
 - a. because they feel it cannot be avoided
 - b. because they want reform
 - c. because almost everyone in the government is corrupt
 - d. because they have paid money to gain influence
2. What effect might a small scandal have in a country where government corruption is not typical?
 - a. It could make someone very popular.
 - b. It could cause a politician to become cynical.
 - c. It could cost a lot of money.
 - d. It could cause a government official to lose his or her position.