LESSON 30

Crimes at Sea

Target Words

1. **abduction**
2. **coerce**
3. **detain**
4. **deviant**
5. **distort**
6. **intentionally**
7. **piracy**
8. **predicament**
9. **smuggle**
10. **villainy**

Definitions and Samples

1. **abduction** *n.* Kidnapping

Pirates got many crew members by **abduction,** snatching unlucky citizens from seaport towns.

Parts of speech abduct *v*

2. **coerce** *v.* To force; to put pressure on someone to do something

A criminal's confession is not usable in court if the police **coerce** him or her into giving it.

Parts of speech coercion *n,* coercive *adj*

3. **detain** *v.* To prevent someone, for a relatively short time, from going on their way

The police **detained** at least 20 men for questioning, but charged none of them with a crime.

Parts of speech detention *n,* detainee *n*

4. **deviant** *adj.* In a style that is not normal and is offensive to many

The artist based his reputation on creating **deviant** works of art that disgusted most of the public.

Usage tips *Deviant* always implies a bad opinion of someone or something.

Parts of speech deviant *n,* deviation *n,* deviate *v*

5. **distort** *v.* To twist or misrepresent; to make something seem different from what it really is

If you hold a pencil in a glass of water, the water **distorts** the appearance of the pencil.

Parts of speech distortion *n*

6. **intentionally** *adv.* On purpose, not by accident

Danny **intentionally** lost his last golf ball because he was tired of playing.

Parts of speech intent *n,* intention *n.* intend *v,* intentional *adj*

7. **piracy** *n.* Stealing a ship or taking the ship's cargo; the unlawful copying of books, CDs, etc.

Modern-day **piracy** occurs mostly near groups of small, uninhabited islands where pirates can hide.

The software company constantly battled **piracy.**

Parts of speech pirate *n,* pirate *v*

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8. **predicament** *n.* A difficult situation, one that is hard to get out of

College basketball stars face the **predicament** of wanting to graduate but being tempted by high professional salaries.

9. **smuggle** *v.* To illegally bring things into a country

The pirate Ben Dewar **smuggled** guns to British and Indian fighters in North America.

Parts of speech smuggler *n,* smuggling *n*

10. **villainy** *n.* Exceptional badness, as demonstrated by many serious evil deeds

Fred was not a natural criminal, but he learned all kinds of **villainy** while being jailed for a minor crime.

Parts of speech villain *n,* villainous *adj*

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. detain	(a) clarify
_____ 2. distort	(b) by accident
_____ 3. villainy	(c) let go
_____ 4. intentionally	(d) normal
_____ 5. deviant	(e) good deeds

TOEFL Prep II Choose the word from the list that is closest in meaning to the underlined part of each sentence. Write it in the blank.

abducted *coerced* *piracy* *predicament* *smuggled*

_____ 1. The police force's <u>difficult situation</u> involved a bank robber who threatened to shoot a bank employee if any police approached.

_____ 2. Despite laws restricting animal imports, thousands of monkeys and lemurs and other wild animals are <u>brought illegally</u> into the United States.

_____ 3. The enemy <u>captured and took away</u> the general's son.

_____ 4. Two men were convicted of <u>stealing a boat</u> near the Riau Islands.

_____ 5. By threatening to set fire to their ship, the governor of Bermuda <u>pressured</u> the pirate crew to give themselves up.

TOEFL Success Read the passage to review the vocabulary you have learned. Answer the question that follows.

The Spanish explorer Pizarro's *abduction* of the Inca King Atahualpa came in 1529. His men *detained* the king, *coerced* the Incas into paying a large ransom in gold and silver, and then *intentionally* killed the king anyway. Their conquest of Peru established the legendary Spanish Main—Spanish holdings on the mainland of Central and South America. The *predicament* for Spain's kings was how to get the riches of the New World to Spain. Pirates and privateers ruled the waves. To *distort* what was

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actually just robbery, the king of England issued "letters of marque," licenses that turned certain pirates into agents of the British government. Their *piracy* against Spanish ships and Spanish gold was considered service to the king or queen of England.

Most pirates with such letters were social *deviants* anyway, and **predictably,** they became embarrassments to the British crown. In 1603, Britain's King James I canceled all his government's letters of marque. The many dangerous, unemployed pirates became buccaneers, a terrifying mix of tough characters that operated from the island of Hispaniola. They conducted merciless raids on Spanish settlements and formed a brotherhood known for theft, torture, *smuggling,* and *villainy* of all sorts.

Bonus Structure—
Predictably *means that the information that follows is no surprise.*

An introductory sentence for a brief summary of the passage is provided below. Complete the summary by selecting three answer choices that express the most important ideas in the passage. In each blank, write the letter of one of your choices.

The establishment of the Spanish Main provided rich targets for pirates and privateers, often with government encouragement.
•
•
•

a. Pizarro's men abducted King Atahualpa in 1529.
b. By issuing letters of marque, the kings of England gave their approval of raids on Spanish ships.
c. Piracy in the South China Sea was also a problem at this time.
d. Pirates who worked for the English crown were known as buccaneers.
e. Sailing under a letter of marque, a privateer could steal property in the king's name.
f. Eventually, the English crown was embarrassed by the behavior of its privateers and canceled the letters of marque.

LESSON 31

The War on Drugs

Target Words

1. addictive
2. cartel
3. concentrated
4. interdict
5. juxtapose
6. misconception
7. modify
8. potent
9. residual
10. subtly

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Definitions and Samples

1. **addictive** *adj.* Making someone want it so much that the person feels ill without it

   Some drugs, like heroin or methamphetamines, are **addictive** to almost everyone who tries them.

   Parts of speech addict *v,* addict *n,* addiction *n*

2. **cartel** *n.* A small group controlling a certain area of business

   The world's major oil producers formed a **cartel** to control the price and supply of petroleum.

3. **concentrated** *adj.* Strong because large amounts are in a certain space

   Concentrated lemon juice is very sour, so I mix it with water when I make lemonade.

   Parts of speech concentrate *v,* concentration *n,* concentrate *n*

4. **interdict** *v.* To keep something from reaching a certain place

   With faster patrol boats, the Coast Guard can more easily **interdict** drugs being smuggled by sea.

   Parts of speech interdiction *n*

5. **juxtapose** *v.* Place next to one another

   If you **juxtapose** these two similar flowers, you can see clear differences between them.

   Parts of speech juxtaposition *n*

6. **misconception** *n.* A mistaken belief

   A common **misconception** about rabbits is that they are a kind of rodent.

7. **modify** *v.* Make small changes in order to get a certain result

   People who live in high mountains often **modify** their car engines to run well in the thinner air.

   Parts of speech modification *n,* modifier *n*

8. **potent** *adj.* Powerful

   A very **potent** type of marijuana with surprisingly strong effects became available in Burrytown.

   Parts of speech potency *n*

9. **residual** *adj.* Left behind after most of a thing has gone

   In the airplane, agents found **residual** traces of heroin.

   Usage tips *Residual* is often followed by *trace, amount,* or some other word referring to "quantity."

   Parts of speech residue *n*

10. **subtly** *adv.* In a quiet, hard-to-notice way

    By **subtly** changing the soft drink's formula, we improved its taste and made production cheaper.

    Parts of speech subtlety *n,* subtle *adj*

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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.

_____ 1. cartel	(a) stop
_____ 2. interdict	(b) remaining
_____ 3. juxtaposed	(c) next to
_____ 4. residual	(d) without drawing attention
_____ 5. subtle	(e) a kind of group

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

1. With a (subtle / residual) nod of his head, the inspector signaled his agents.
2. Sunlight is a (concentrated / potent) source of energy for electricity generation, but it can be expensive to collect and store.
3. Things other than drugs can be (addictive / subtle), such as gambling or even television.
4. A security official tries to (modify / interdict) foreign terrorists before they can enter the country.
5. Your advertisement created the (misconception / cartel) that everything was on sale for 50 percent off.

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

Illegal *addictive* drugs, like heroin or cocaine, come from plants grown and harvested mostly by poor farmers. Their small farmhouses *juxtaposed* with the mansions of billionaire drug lords illustrate the unequal payouts to various players in the drug trade. The farmers sell their product cheaply to a drug-distribution *cartel* that is owned by the drug lords. People working for the cartel **then** refine the drugs into a *concentrated* form, or even *modify* them chemically to make them more *potent* and therefore more valuable. Other cartel members **then** transport the drugs to distributors for sale, smuggling them over huge distances, including international borders. Governments try to *interdict* smugglers, using both new technology and old (like sniffer dogs) to find *residual* traces of drugs. Their occasional successes have led to a popular *misconception* that antidrug campaigns are close to stopping the flow of illegal drugs. On the contrary, as long as drug lords can make vast fortunes in their illegal trade, smugglers will come up with ever-more-*subtle* ways of concealing their goods, and the War on Drugs goes on.

Bonus Structure—Because this reading describes a system of operations, the word **then** *appears very often.*

1. Who makes the most money from the drug trade?
   a. rural farmers
   b. people who refine drugs
   c. drug lords
   d. antidrug officers

2. Schematic table: Write the letter of each phrase in either column A or column B, based on which one it relates to according to the reading.

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A. Drug producers and dealers	B. Antidrug forces

a. subtle ways of hiding drugs
b. sniffer dogs
c. high-tech detection
d. concentrate drugs to make them potent
e. pay farmers to grow plants that yield drugs

LIVEWORKSHEETS