

Unit 3 Reading

Finding the Facts: Techniques of Modern Crime-Scene Investigation

<Expository Essay>

Centuries ago, it was common for criminals to escape a **punitive** fate. If there were no witnesses to a crime and if the **craven** wrongdoer had run off and could not be found or could not be **coerced** into confessing, investigators had to rely on both careful reasoning and observation of the crime scene. Yet it was not enough for early investigators to examine a crime scene and then withdraw in order to **muse** on what they had seen: they needed to find actual evidence to convict the criminal. Following the **precedent** set by detectives in the past, today's crime-scene sleuths **perpetuate** law enforcement's reliance on reasoning and observation. But they also use powerful modern techniques made possible by the progress of science.

A well-known method of modern crime-scene investigation is the use of fingerprints to identify criminals. Fingerprints are left behind when a person's hands touch an object, but such fingerprints are usually invisible to the naked eye. To find such evidence at a crime scene, investigators rely on **artifice**. They use special powders to "dust for fingerprints" on walls, doorknobs, or other surfaces. They apply powder to the surface and brush it away. If a fingerprint is in the area, some of the powder will stick to it and reveal its unique pattern. The investigators "lift" the fingerprint with sticky tape and send the tape to a crime lab, along with other objects that may contain invisible fingerprints, such as articles of clothing, knives or other **culinary** tools, or handguns. At the lab, scientists use computers to compare the new fingerprints with others they have on file. When the scientists find a match, this evidence can help prove that a suspect was at the crime scene or that he or she handled a weapon used in the crime.

Another technique of modern crime detection is the use of chemicals like luminol to find blood at the scene. Even if a criminal has cleaned up the blood after the victim's **demise**, bloodstains are often left behind that are difficult to remove entirely. Because these bloodstains can be invisible to the naked eye, investigators use luminol to reveal their location. The

investigators mix luminol powder into a liquid solution and spray it evenly onto a surface. If there are traces of blood in the sprayed area, the liquid will glow bright blue. The pattern of the bloodstain can help investigators figure out how the crime was committed, and a sample of the blood that is found is sent to the crime lab for further testing.

A more recently developed practice is the use of DNA analysis. The victim of a crime may have scratched the attacker, leaving the skin of the **adversary** under his or her fingernails. Clothing, weapons, or other objects may carry traces of blood, even if they have been cleaned or left outdoors in **inclement** weather. Even minute samples of skin, hair, or blood that once would have been considered **negligible** are now removed from the crime scene and sent to the lab to be tested for DNA. Like fingerprints, DNA testing can provide evidence connecting a suspect to the crime.

While criminals may hope to get away with their crimes, investigators continue their important work. These detectives are **exhilarated** by every scientific development that advances their ability to solve crimes. The tools of modern crime-scene investigation make it harder for criminals to avoid punishment. These tools also make it more likely that the wrongs committed by those who unfairly **harass** or harm other people will be **redressed** in a court of law. Then it is up to the judge and jury to ensure the punishment fits the crime.

Unit 3 Examples

1. A best friend off the tennis court can also be a fierce **adversary** on it.
2. Gossiping and backbiting are bad habits that are bound to **alienate** friends.
3. Even the most renowned art experts were completely taken in by the forger's **artifice**.
4. Dictators try to **coerce** their subjects into obedience by threatening them or their families with punishment.
5. Those who urged Great Britain to make peace with Hitler were criticized for their **craven** attitude.
6. It is a mistake to assume that everyone who refuses to go to war is a **craven** who lacks patriotism.
7. Cooking shows on television have helped many people to master the secrets of the **culinary** arts.
8. Traditionally, the tolling of church bells has announced the **demise** of a monarch.
9. The first landing on the moon, in the summer of 1969, **exhilarated** the nation.
10. After a month without a date, I decided that my social life was definitely in a **fallow** period.
11. In the drought-stricken region, there were millions of acres of **fallow** land.
12. Farmers often **fallow** a third of their fields each year to restore the chemical balance of the soil.
13. The judge repeatedly cautioned the prosecuting attorney not to **harass** the witness.
14. Philosophers have always **mused** on the meaning of life.
15. During an **inclement** New England winter, heavy snowfalls may bring highway traffic to a standstill.
16. After a profitable year, the business was able to **liquidate** its loan.
17. After taxes are deducted, a small raise in salary may result in a **negligible** increase in take-home pay.
18. In most cultures, people try to **perpetuate** the customs of their ancestors.
19. We hope that students at other schools in our city will follow our **precedent** in volunteer work and charitable contributions.

20. The general led a **punitive** expedition against the rebel forces.
21. An apology can go a long way to **redress** the hurt feelings caused by an insensitive comment or a thoughtless act.
22. The accident victims will seek **redress** for the injuries they suffered in the train crash.
23. No matter how short your **sojourn** in Paris, you must take time to go to the Louvre.
24. Many American graduates **sojourn** abroad before they begin working full-time at home.
25. An **urbane** host puts guests at ease by appearing totally confident and unruffled no matter what happens.

Unit 3 Choosing the Right Word

1. When Washington refused to serve a third term as President, he set a(n) **precedent** that would last for 150 years.
2. Our history shows how the **demise** of one political party provides an opportunity for the formation of a new one.
3. We must reject the **craven** advice of those who feel we can solve social problems by abandoning our democratic freedoms.
4. The critics unanimously praised the actor for the **urbane** charm with which he played the well-bred English gentleman.
5. May I remind you that the **punitive** action we are authorized to take does not include physical force of any kind.
6. Our city government needs basic reforms; clever little **artifices** will not solve our problems.
7. Do you really expect me to believe that your friends **coerced** you into cutting class to go to the movies?
8. We need a supervisor who can maintain good discipline in the shop without **harassing** the workers.
9. The story takes place in a foreign country where a rogue government agent accepts a mission to **liquidate** an evil dictator.
10. Because of the severe sentences she often handed down, she gained the reputation of being an extremely **inclement** judge.
11. Only when the attempt to get the British government to **redress** injustices proved unsuccessful did the American colonists resort to arms.
12. It is all very well to **muse** on what might have been, but it is far better to take action to make good things happen.
13. I admit that we did some foolish things after the game, but you must remember how **exhilarated** we were by the victory.
14. Since we are making **negligible** progress in our fight against pollution, the time has come for us to adopt completely new methods.

15. After a long **fallow** period during which she scarcely touched her brushes, the painter suddenly produced a series of major canvases.
16. The highlight of my trip to Europe came when I **sojourned** in the birthplace of my ancestors.
17. When he blocked my jump shot, took the rebound, drove down the court, and scored, I realized that I was facing a worthy **adversary**.
18. And now I want you all to try my **culinary** masterpiece—a salami soufflé, garnished with sour cream.
19. The coach ran the risk of **alienating** influential graduates of the school when she suspended a star player who had broken training.
20. If we do not take steps now to clear their names, we will be **perpetuating** an injustice that has already lasted far too long.
21. Did the other journalists **alienate** the young writer after she expressed some political views with which they disagreed?
22. After several months of losing money, the furniture store held a huge sale, hoping to **liquidate** its entire inventory.
23. To rid your aquarium of parasites, allow the tank to remain **fallow** for several weeks, and keep your fish in a separate tank.
24. The artist took a **sojourn** to the mountains, hoping to relieve his stress and renew his creativity.
25. **Urbane** and sophisticated, the young princess charmed the diplomat.

Unit 3 Synonyms

1. **Pestered** by flies and mosquitoes: **harassed**
2. A **castigatory** campaign against a political rival: **punitive**
3. A relaxing **stopover** on a tropical island: **sojourn**
4. A **polished** manner that puts people at ease: **urbane**
5. An attempt to **rectify** past mistakes: **redress**
6. An **inert** phase in the artist's long career: **fallow**
7. To **sell off** poor stock investments: **liquidate**
8. A **pretense** used to fool unwary customers: **artifice**
9. A dangerous **rival** who will stop at nothing: **adversary**
10. **Isolated** from society.: **alienated**

Unit 3 Antonyms

1. Planned on a **permanent stay**: **sojourn**
2. Unexpectedly **boorish** behavior toward others: **urbane**
3. **Reconcile with** an estranged friend: **alienate**
4. A dialogue that is **fruitful** dialogue: **fallow**
5. **Accumulate** possessions after a shopping spree: **liquidate**

Unit 3 Completing the Sentence

1. Their **craven** behavior at the first sign of danger was a disgrace to the uniform they wore.
2. There are far more subtle ways of **coercing** a person into doing what you want than twisting his or her arm.
3. In 1858, Abraham Lincoln held a series of debates with Stephen Douglas, his **adversary** in the contest for U.S. Senator from Illinois.
4. The coach took me off the starting team as a(n) **punitive** measure for missing two days of practice.
5. At first we watched the game with relatively little emotion, but we became so **exhilarated** by our team's strong comeback that we began to cheer loudly.
6. As I lay under the old apple tree, I began to **muse** on the strange twists of fate that had led to the present situation.
7. When the snowstorm lasted into a second day, we listened attentively to the radio to find out if our school was among those closed because of the **inclement** weather.
8. When planning our trip to the Southwest, we made sure to set aside two days for a(n) **sojourn** at the Grand Canyon.
9. When Grandfather stubbornly refused to eat his vegetables, he set a(n) **precedent** that was immediately followed by the children.
10. The **demise** of an administration in the United States is never a crisis because a newly elected administration is waiting to take over.
11. If we continue to elect unworthy people to public office, we will simply **perpetuate** the evils that we have tried so hard to correct.
12. When citizens feel that something is wrong, they have a right under the First Amendment to ask their government for a(n) **redress** of grievances.
13. The coach emphasized that the way to stop our opponents' passing game was to **harass** their receivers and blitz their quarterback.
14. The deserted buildings and the land lying **fallow** hinted at the troubles the farmers in the area were experiencing.

15. Since both cars had virtually come to a halt by the time their bumpers met, the damage was **negligible**.
16. Magicians rely on sleight of hand and other forms of **artifice** to deceive their unsuspecting audiences.
17. I advise you to **liquidate** all of your assets and negotiate with creditors before declaring bankruptcy.
18. Their bad manners and insufferable conceit **alienated** even those who were most inclined to judge them favorably.
19. The full extent of my **culinary** skill is preparing scrambled eggs on toast.
20. His charmingly **urbane** manner and keen wit made him a much sought-after guest at social gatherings.

Unit 3 Vocabulary in Context (Literary Text)

1. "He cannot linger long. He suffers dreadfully, and so do those that wait upon him. But I will not **harass** you with further details: I have said enough, I think, to convince you that I did well to go to him."

If you **harass** someone about an illness, you

- a. **trouble her** b. comfort her c. bore her d. cure her

2. She could not now absent herself under the plea of dark evenings or **inclement** weather, and, greatly to my relief, the same.

Inclement weather is NOT

- a. turbulent b. ominous c. **temperate** d. unpredictable

3. ... but the moment I was out sight of my fair tormentor cutting away across the country, just as a bird might fly, over pasture-land, and fallow, and stubble, and lane, clearing hedges and ditches and hurdles, till I came to the young squire's gates.

Fallow is

- a. **uncultivated land** b. a wooded area c. a lush field d. a fast-moving stream

4. He has been in person to Staningley, seeking redress for his grievances—expecting to hear of his victims, if not to find them there—and has told so many lies, and with such unblushing coolness, that my uncle more than half believes him, and strongly advocates my going back to him and being friends again.

A person seeking **redress** expects a

- a. greeting **b. resolution** c. punishment d. repetition

5. I did not mention my suspicions to Rachel; but she, having **sojourned** for half a century in this land of sin and sorrow, has learned to be suspicious herself.

Someone who has **sojourned** for many years has

- a. changed drastically b. learned considerably **c. traveled frequently** d. suffered greatly

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A well-known method of modern crime-scene investigation is the use of fingerprints to identify criminals. Fingerprints are left behind when a person's hands touch an object, but such fingerprints are usually invisible to the naked eye. To find such evidence at a crime scene, investigators rely on _____. They use special powders to "dust for fingerprints" on walls, doorknobs, or other surfaces. They apply powder to the surface and brush it away. If a fingerprint is in the area, some of the powder will stick to it and reveal its unique pattern. The investigators "lift" the fingerprint with sticky tape and send the tape to a crime lab, along with other objects that may contain invisible fingerprints, such as articles of clothing, knives or other _____ tools, or handguns. At the lab, scientists use computers to compare the new fingerprints with others they have on file. When the scientists find a match, this evidence can help prove that a suspect was at the crime scene or that he or she handled a weapon used in the crime.

Another technique of modern crime detection is the use of chemicals like luminol to find blood at the scene. Even if a criminal has cleaned up the blood after the victim's _____, bloodstains are often left behind that are difficult to remove entirely. Because these bloodstains can be invisible to the naked eye, investigators use luminol to reveal their location. The

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12. Farmers often _____ a third of their fields each year to restore the chemical balance of the soil.
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18. In most cultures, people try to _____ the customs of their ancestors.
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Unit 3 Choosing the Right Word

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2. Our history shows how the _____ of one political party provides an opportunity for the formation of a new one.
3. We must reject the _____ advice of those who feel we can solve social problems by abandoning our democratic freedoms.
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5. May I remind you that the _____ action we are authorized to take does not include physical force of any kind.
6. Our city government needs basic reforms; clever little _____ will not solve our problems.
7. Do you really expect me to believe that your friends _____ you into cutting class to go to the movies?
8. We need a supervisor who can maintain good discipline in the shop without _____ the workers.
9. The story takes place in a foreign country where a rogue government agent accepts a mission to _____ an evil dictator.
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25. _____ and sophisticated, the young princess charmed the diplomat.

Unit 3 Synonyms

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20. **Isolated** from society.: _____

Unit 3 Antonyms

6. Planned on a **permanent stay**: _____
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Unit 3 Completing the Sentence

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12. When citizens feel that something is wrong, they have a right under the First Amendment to ask their government for a(n) _____ of grievances.
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15. Since both cars had virtually come to a halt by the time their bumpers met, the damage was _____ .
16. Magicians rely on sleight of hand and other forms of _____ to deceive their unsuspecting audiences.
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Unit 3 Vocabulary in Context (Literary Text)

26. "He cannot linger long. He suffers dreadfully, and so do those that wait upon him. But I will not **harass** you with further details: I have said enough, I think, to convince you that I did well to go to him."

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