

TEACHER'S NOTES

stuffocation

www.macmillandictionary.com

Overview: Suggestions for using the **Macmillan Dictionary BuzzWord** article on *stuffocation* and the associated worksheet.

Total time for worksheet activities: 35 minutes

Suggested level: Intermediate and above

1. If you intend to use the worksheets in class, go to the *BuzzWord* article at the web address given at the beginning of the worksheet and print off a copy of the article. Make a copy of the worksheet and the *BuzzWord* article for each student. You might find it helpful not to print a copy of the Key for each student but to check the answers as a class.
2. If the members of your class all have computer access, ask them to open the worksheet before they go to the *BuzzWord* article link. Make sure they do not scroll down to the Key until they have completed each exercise.
3. Encourage the students to read through the questions in Exercise 1 before they look at the article. When they have completed the exercise, ask them to compare their answers with a partner. Then check the answers as a class.
4. In Exercise 2, make sure that the students know that the words appear in the same order in which they appear in the text. Point out that *yuletide* was originally the pre-Christian celebration of the winter solstice, mainly practiced by the Germanic peoples of northern Europe. It is now a rather poetic word for the period around Christmas. Highlight the fact that the verb *overwhelm* is usually used in the passive. One can be overwhelmed by feelings of sadness, for example, or overwhelmed by a large amount of work. Point out that the adjectival form of *indifference* is *indifferent* and that if you feel *indifferent* towards something or someone, you do not care about them.
5. Ask your students to complete Exercise 3 without looking back at the text. If they have a good general idea of the sense of the text (and what *stuffocation* is in the context of this article), they should be able to answer most of the questions. Point out that the prefix *de-* in *de-stuffocate* is used to achieve the opposite meaning. There are many examples of this, e.g. *dehydrate*, *demotivate*, *detox*, *devalue*, etc.
6. In Exercises 4 and 5, ask the students to complete the exercise and then discuss their answers with a partner. Check the answers as a class.
7. In Exercise 6, point out that *mild panic* is a noun phrase in the exercise, but a verb phrase in the text (*mildly panicking*).
8. As a winding-up activity, ask the students if they have ever suffered from *stuffocation*. Ask if they have ever had an unwanted present or if they have been given something and not known where to put it or store it.

Go to the **Macmillan Dictionary BuzzWord** article at:

www.macmillandictionary.com/buzzword/entries/stuffocation.html

1 Find the information

Read the **BuzzWord** article on *stuffocation* and answer these questions.

1. Which two words combine to form the word *stuffocation*?
2. What does *stuffocation* mean?
3. Which two decades are mentioned as a time of 'heady consumerism'?
4. When did the term *stuffocation* probably first appear?
5. Which two words combine to form the related term *affluenza*?
6. With which author is the term *stuffocation* chiefly associated?

2 Find the word

Look in the text and find the following words. The first letters of the words are given. The words are in the order in which they appear in the text.

1. a noun meaning *the period of time around Christmas*. y_____
2. a verb meaning *to collect large amounts of things that may be needed*. s_____
3. a verb meaning *to exist in such great amounts that someone cannot deal with them*. o_____
4. a noun meaning *old things that you do not want or need*. j_____
5. a noun meaning *a sudden increase*. s_____
6. a noun meaning *a lack of interest or sympathy*. i_____
7. a noun meaning *a problem that is likely to happen in a particular situation*. p_____
8. a verb meaning *to put things into a space that is too small*. c_____

3 Comprehension check

Are these statements true or false according to the text? Correct the false statements.

1. Operating a one-in, one-out rule is a problem-free solution to *stuffocation*.
2. There are numerous options for selling unwanted stuff via the internet.
3. According to the author, July is the best time for people to review all their stuff.
4. These days people are defined more by what they own than by what they are doing.
5. Peak consumerism is the maximum level of interest in acquiring material things.
6. James Wallman has a website that encourages people to *stuffocate*.

WORKSHEET

stuffocation

www.macmillandictionary.com

4 Phrasal verbs

Match the verbs from the text with their meanings.

- | | |
|--------------------|--|
| 1. read around | a. to be very full of something |
| 2. peek out | b. to have as much of an enjoyable experience as you can |
| 3. weigh down | c. to appear slightly from behind or under something |
| 4. rummage through | d. to cause problems for someone |
| 5. brim with | e. to search for something among a lot of other things |
| 6. gorge on | f. to find written information in different places |

5 Word building

Look in the text and find the adjective forms of the following nouns.

Noun	Adjective
1. trauma	_____
2. impulse	_____
3. materialist	_____
4. intention	_____ (negative form)
5. precedent	_____ (negative form)
6. prosperity	_____

6 Two-word phrases

Match the words in the left-hand column with those in the right-hand column to make phrases from the text.

- | | |
|-------------|---------------|
| 1. material | a. revolution |
| 2. readily | b. panic |
| 3. digital | c. available |
| 4. breathe | d. example |
| 5. mild | e. things |
| 6. classic | f. deeply |



KEY

stuffocation

www.macmillandictionary.com

KEY

1 Find the information

1. *stuff* and *suffocation*
2. the feeling of being overwhelmed and weighed down by material things
3. the 80s and 90s
4. 2010
5. *affluent* and *influenza*
6. James Wallman

2 Find the word

1. yuletide
2. stockpile
3. overwhelm
4. junk
5. surge
6. indifference
7. pitfall
8. cram

3 Comprehension check

1. False. It is potentially traumatic (i.e. it can make you feel very upset).
2. True.
3. False. January is the best time.
4. False. They are defined more by what they are doing.
5. True.
6. False. He has a website that encourages people to *de-stuffocate*.

4 Phrasal verbs

1. f
2. c
3. d
4. e
5. a
6. b

5 Word building

1. traumatic
2. impulsive
3. materialistic
4. unintentional
5. unprecedented
6. prosperous

6 Two-word phrases

1. e
2. c
3. a
4. f
5. b
6. d