

In your groups, take turns pantomiming these action verbs:

- a)twirl like a ballerina
- b)vanish from the room
- c)force something open
- d)squint into the sun
- e)stuff something into your suitcase
- f)crack open the door
- g)drum your fingers on the table

If you *crack up*, you go crazy. What happens when you *crack down*? Is it the same as a *crackdown*? EX: Jim cracked up when he heard of the death of his son. The police cracked down on underage drinking. The parents felt the crackdown on tardiness was too severe. Another definition for *crack up*, is to break out laughing. EX: The audience cracked up at the comedian's jokes. Also, a plane can *crack up*, meaning break up, if it crashes into the mountain.

Other uses of "crack". Read the sentence, then choose a definition from the list below.

1. Finding that fingerprint cracked the case wide open.
2. He was arrested for selling crack cocaine.
3. The old farmer woke us up at the crack of dawn and told us it was time to move on.
4. Sally had to learn to study when she got to college. She got through high school without ever cracking a book.
5. Tim is always cracking jokes during class.
6. We teased the soldier as he stood guard, but he never cracked a smile.
7. Crack open that bottle of champagne and we'll celebrate your victory.
8. I'm not sure I can get into the car without a key, but I'll take a crack at it.
9. That calculus problem was a tough nut to crack.
10. That movie was not at all what it was cracked up to be.
11. You'd better get cracking if you intend to make it to the train station by 7 AM.
12. I've had about enough of your wisecracks.

Definitions:

- a)to get moving/ to get busy
- b)to open a book/ to study
- c)a sarcastic remark
- d)to give something a try
- e)to tell a joke
- f)to open a bottle
- g)to smile a little bit, reluctantly
- h)to expose/ to reveal wrongdoing
- i)a person or thing that is difficult to find the answer or solution
- j)sunrise
- k)not as good as it's reputation

Read this paragraph, all at once. What do you think this paragraph is describing? Now, go back and read it one sentence at a time, discussing the vocabulary.

He works quickly, forcing the window with his elbow. In the shop, he slips behind the counter and takes all the tobacco and whisky he can. He uses plastic bags. He cracks open the seal of a bottle and drinks as he works. He breaks into the till with a penknife—not a lot of money, but enough. He stuffs his pockets, lights a cigarette. He pauses for a second, sucking down the smoke. He's proud of his work.

1. Do you think this is an example of good writing?
2. Can you picture this scene in your mind?
3. Does it seem odd that he is proud of his work?
4. Do you think people that steal are often proud of getting away with it?
5. Have you ever had anything stolen? Was the person caught?

Discuss these questions in your group. Encourage people who don't often talk to give an answer.

1. What have you done that you are most proud of?
2. Describe a situation where you wished you could have vanished.
3. Do you stuff too much into your suitcase when you travel?
4. Do you wear sunglasses a lot, or just squint in the sunshine?
5. What do you do when you are impatiently waiting for someone? do you pace, do you drum your fingers, do you text on your phone?
6. Have you ever cracked up (started laughing) in a place where you were supposed to be very serious?
7. How often are you awake at the crack of dawn?
8. Were you a person who seldom cracked a book in school or did you study constantly?
9. Do you drink champagne to celebrate? If not, what do you do to celebrate a momentous occasion?
10. What is something the police really crack down on in your country?