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SHOULD SHOPPING MALLS BE ALLOWED TO INSTITUTE TEEN CURFEWS?

Word Generation - Unit 3.23

Focus Words

revenue | institute | incident | escort | invoke



WEEKLY PASSAGE

Gina and her friends just lost their social life. Their local mall **instituted** a 6:00 p.m. curfew for anyone under 16 years old. Before the new curfew, their parents used to drop Gina and her friends off at the mall every Friday night to meet up with classmates and hang out. Now, the teens have to bring an adult guardian. Forty-six of 1,200 U.S. malls have instituted parental-escort policies. More malls are likely to **invoke** parental responsibility to monitor teen behavior in malls.

Malls are a common place for teens to hang out after school. Teens like being in the malls because malls provide a fun place to get together with friends from school and to meet students from neighboring schools. Many believe the mall is a safe and well-monitored environment for young people.

Most malls value teens as consumers, because store owners know teens have buying power. One recent study found that on a typical visit, 68% of teens spent two or more hours in the mall, and more than half of teens surveyed spent \$50 or more during their last visit. Also, mall managers realize that teens are their future adult customers and, thus, do not want to discourage teens from coming to the mall.

However, malls were not designed to be babysitters for teenagers. Unfortunately, many malls

have been forced to take on this role. One mall reported that misbehaving teens would hang over the railings, sometimes dropping food or spitting on customers below. At the same mall, two fifteen-year-olds fought over a pair of shoes and one of them was almost pushed over the railing. On another night, two gangs had a scuffle; one gang member had a gun and aimed it at an innocent bystander. After instituting the parental-**escort** policy, the Mall of America, the largest mall in the country, reported a decrease from 300 to only 2 **incidents** involving bad behavior by teens.

Big groups of teens who yell and fight create discomfort in older customers. Therefore, many older customers began to avoid the mall on Friday and Saturday nights. Since older customers have more money than most teens, mall managers want to encourage them to come back to the mall. One mall reported a 29% increase in **revenue** on Friday and Saturday nights after the curfew was instituted. Thus, the curfew not only makes the mall safer and more comfortable for all of the mall's customers, but it also makes the mall more profitable as well.

Should malls be allowed to institute teen curfews? What do you think?

Should shopping malls be allowed to institute teen curfews?

FOCUS WORDS OF THE WEEK

instituted : (verb) set up

FORMS:

EXAMPLES OF USE:

NOTES:

escort : (verb) accompany

FORMS:

EXAMPLES OF USE:

NOTES:

revenue : (noun) income

FORMS:

EXAMPLES OF USE:

NOTES:

incident : (noun) event, usually occurring in connection with something else

FORMS:

EXAMPLES OF USE:

NOTES:

invoke : (verb) to call forth

FORMS:

EXAMPLES OF USE:

NOTES:

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PROBLEM OF THE WEEK

Option 1: On February 11, 2010, Hanes Mall in Winston-Salem, North Carolina **instituted** a youth **escort** policy. The policy requires teens to be accompanied by an adult on Fridays and Saturdays after 6 p.m. Mall officials said they were responding to **incidents** involving rowdy, unsupervised teens, and **invoked** their right to keep mall-goers safe. But some mall business owners rely on teens as a welcome source of **revenue** in tough economic times and worry that the new policy will discourage teen customers.

In March 2010, while many business reported losses, popular teen brand Abercrombie & Fitch had an 8% increase in sales. What fraction is equivalent to 8%?

- A) $1/8$
- B) $8/10$
- C) $2/20$
- D) $2/25$

Option 2: Mall business owners worry that teens will cause rowdy or violent **incidents** that will drive away other customers so some owners have **instituted** teen **escort** policies to protect sales. Though teens complain, mall officials **invoke** their right to protect their property. However, teens spending can be an important source of **revenue** for store owners because teens often receive a proportion of their parents' "discretionary income." Discretionary income is the income that is left over once a person pays taxes and buys necessities like food, shelter, clothing, and electricity.

If we let d = discretionary income, g = gross income, t = taxes, and n = necessities, write an equation that shows the relationship between the four variables.

Math Discussion Question: When malls **institute** teen **escort** policies, they often **invoke** their right to maximize **revenue** by protecting customers from rowdy teen behavior. However, teens spend money, too. Are teen escort policies really the best strategy for dealing with teen behaviors, or are adults overreacting to isolated **incidents**?



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THINKING SCIENTIFICALLY

“Ms. Kahn, did you hear about the new parental **escort** policy at the mall?” asked Anthony. “No teens without parents after 5:00 p.m. It’s totally unfair! I think it’s based on a stereotype of all teenagers as troublemakers.”

“Yeah, it stinks for kids who aren’t doing anything wrong,” said Jamal. “But actually, I kind of sympathize with shopkeepers who have to figure out how to protect their businesses and their **revenue**. If some teenagers really are making trouble, the shopkeepers need to **institute** some kind of change to lower the **incidence** of loitering, fights, rowdiness, and shoplifting, so they can stay in business.”

“But teens are customers, too,” said Eva. “Confronting teens and **invoking** rules about when they are and aren’t allowed to be in the mall without their parents sounds like a lousy way for businesses to relate to their younger customers.”

“I heard about a tricky way some people are trying to push teens away from their shops, without having to have that kind of confrontation,” said Tanya. “It’s kind of creepy and mean, but clever, too. They use a high-pitched sound that only people between the ages of about twelve and 25 are supposed to be able to hear. They call it Mosquito Teen Repellent, because it’s irritating the way a mosquito’s buzzing is, and people who can hear it tend to move away. Businesses can use it at certain scheduled times of day, or they can just switch it on if there’s a particular group of teens who are causing problems.”

→ The class couldn’t believe Mosquito Teen Repellent was real. They did an online search and, sure enough, they found a sound file for it. Most of the students could hear it, but Ms. Kahn and the principal, who had stopped by the classroom, could not. Can you?

Question: How many students in your class can hear the Mosquito Teen Repellent tone?

Hypothesis: Most of the students in this science class will be able to hear the Mosquito tone.

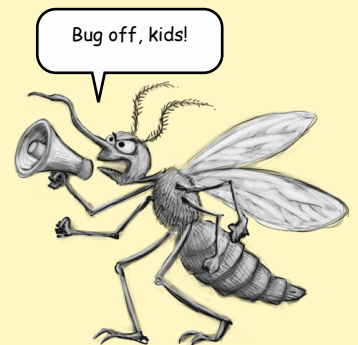
Materials:

- Internet access
- Computer speakers or other amplification
- The Mosquito tone: http://www.audiocheck.net/audiotests_mosquito.php
- Your class in a quiet room

Procedure:

1. Check your audio equipment. Make sure the volume is turned up to the maximum level.
2. Count the total number of students in your class and record this number in the first column of your data table.
3. All students close their eyes and put their heads down. Students should raise their hands silently if and when they hear a noise. (Your teacher will either count hands or choose a student to do so.)
4. Play Mosquito 1 from http://www.audiocheck.net/audiotests_mosquito.php
5. Count the number of students who heard the noise and record this number in the second column of the data table.
6. Repeat steps 3-5 with Mosquito 2 from http://www.audiocheck.net/audiotests_mosquito.php
7. Calculate the percentage of students who heard both Mosquito tones.

Name of tone	Total number of students	Number of students who hear the tone	Percent of students who hear the tone
Mosquito 1 tone			
Mosquito 2 tone			



Is the hypothesis supported by the data or not? What evidence supports your conclusion?

Is everyone in the classroom between the ages of 12 and 25 years old? If not, what was the experience of those outside that age range when the Mosquito tone was played?

Is the Mosquito tone annoying enough to make you want to leave the room? Do you think it would work in shopping malls and other businesses to keep teens away?

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DEBATING THE ISSUE



GO!

I. Get ready...

Pick one of these positions (or create your own).

A

Malls should be allowed to institute teen curfews and guardian policies. Malls are businesses, and mall owners should be able to set policies that will help them make more money.

B

Malls should be allowed to institute teen curfews and guardian policies if they have had an incident that makes their customers unsafe.

C

Malls should not be allowed to institute teen curfews because teens need a safe place to go. In many towns the mall is the only safe place to go.

D

Malls should not be allowed to institute teen curfews. Setting a curfew for all teens is punishing all teens for the bad deeds of a few.

E

Be a strong participant by using phrases like these.

I think it's more accurate to say...

That's interesting - can you tell why you think that?

I think the evidence is contrary to what you're saying because. . .

Let me share something from the reading that will help us...

2. Get set...

Be ready to provide evidence to back up your position during your class discussion or debate. Jot down a few quick notes:

