Dr. Crippen The Creep – Vocabulary

The pickpocket was a strange little creep.

creep - a detestable person.

The murderer was convicted and received a 30-year prison sentence.

to convict - to declare someone to be guilty of a criminal offence by the verdict of a jury or the decision of a judge in a court of law.

Crippen murdered Cora.

to murder - to kill someone illegally with premeditation.

The murder was gruesome and there was blood everywhere.

gruesome - causing horror.

The murderer was sentenced to life in prison.

to sentence - to declare the punishment decided for a convicted criminal.

While pictures can be "hung" on the wall, criminals are always "hanged" by the neck.

to hang - to kill someone with a rope which is put around their neck and attached to an object above them.

If a guilty criminal is caught, he may stand trial for his crime.

trial - a formal examination of evidence by a judge, typically before a jury, in order to decide guilt in a case of criminal or civil proceedings.

Some criminals love the attention they get from the press in newspapers.

the press - newspapers or journalists viewed collectively

She was sexually promiscuous and had many affairs while she was married.

promiscuous - having or characterized by many transient sexual relationships.

Before the scandal, Oscar Wilde was a popular socialite and was often seen in good company.

socialite - a person who is well known in fashionable society and is fond of social activities and entertainment.

He had a few close friends and a number of acquaintances.

acquaintance - a person one knows slightly, but who is not a close friend.

My wife has some suspicions about our affair, but the trip I'm taking for work will throw her off the trail.

to throw someone off the trail - to misdirect someone away from their point of pursuit; to steer someone's investigation or suspicions in the wrong direction.

He seemed so normal, but how was he able to kill his victims without arousing suspicion?

to arouse suspicions - to make people think that someone has done something wrong

Investigators turned up new evidence when they searched the crime scene.
to turn something up - to reveal or discover something.

The charges against him were **dropped** when the prosecutors failed to come up with any evidence against him.

to drop - to abandon or discontinue a course of action

The body in the swamp was so decayed that it was **unidentifiable**.

unidentifiable - inability to establish who or what someone or something is

There was a **dismembered** corpse at the scene of the crime.

to dismember - to cut off the arms, legs and head of a person or animal

The washing machines are downstairs in the **basement** laundromat.

basement - the floor of a building which is below ground level.

**Forensic** evidence in the form of the suspect's DNA placed the suspect at the scene of the crime.

forensic - relating to the application of scientific methods and techniques to the investigation of crime.

Students quickly **discern** what is acceptable to their teacher.

to discern – to recognize or find out.

**Scopolamine** is the most dangerous drug in the world because it can block your free will, wipe your memory and even kill you.

scopolamine - burundanga, hyoscine, a type of date-rape drug

It’s not a good idea to plant **poisonous** plants in areas where children might accidently consume them.

poisonous - (of a substance or plant) capable of causing death or illness if consumed.

Sherlock Holmes is the proverbial or stereotypical **sleuth**.

sleuth - detective

A common trope, or significant recurrent theme, in crime literature is to catch criminals by finding their **DNA** at the crime scene.

DNA - Deoxyribonucleic acid, a self-replicating genetic material which is present in nearly all living organisms

He went to jail, to death row, and was 10 days away from being executed before he was **exonerated**.

exonerate - to find that a suspect of a crime is innocent

The most **infamous** of criminals are usually mass murderers of some kind.

infamous - well known for some bad quality or deed.

Mary's dyslexia means she faces daily problems with her schoolwork, most **notably** her reading.

notably - in particular; especially.