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KEY WORDS



Vocabulary trainer

Use our Key Words list to learn vocabulary from the current *Business Spotlight*.

NOUNS	atrocious	a terrible, cruel and typically violent act, for example in a war	Gräueltat, Verbrechen
	bargaining chip	something a negotiating party can use to reach an agreement with the other party	Verhandlungsgegenstand
	cash handout	money given to people in need	Geldzuwendung
	heirloom	a valuable object that is passed from generation to generation within a family	Erbstück
	lifeline	a rope thrown to someone in danger of drowning (literally or in an abstract sense)	Rettungsleine, -anker
VERBS	defy sth.	to refuse to respect or obey something	etw. missachten, sich etw. widersetzen
	embark on sth.	to start something new or important	sich auf etw. einlassen
	safeguard against sth.	to protect oneself from loss, harm or damage	sich gegen etw. absichern
	swear at sb.	to use rude and offensive language when speaking to someone	jmdn. wüst beschimpfen
	unleash sth.	to cause something to happen suddenly	etw. auslösen
ADJECTIVES	asynchronous	happening at different times	asynchron, zeitversetzt
	bustling	full of people who are moving around busily	geschäftig, lebhaft
	enigmatic	difficult to understand, mysterious	rätselhaft, mysteriös
	gracious	kind and showing mercy to people in need	gütig, barmherzig
	nagging	persistently painful or worrying	quälend
EXPRESSIONS	be done and dusted <i>ifml.</i>	to be successfully completed	unter Dach und Fach
	be eligible for sth.	satisfying the conditions for something	für etw. infrage kommen
	be on the margins	to be at the periphery of a group or society and have little power or influence	am Rande (der Gesellschaft) leben
	bring value to the bottom line <i>ifml.</i>	to contribute to the success of a company	zum Unternehmenserfolg beitragen
	play the blame game <i>ifml.</i>	to blame each other for something and not take responsibility	sich gegenseitig die Schuld zuweisen

KEN'S CORNER

Play the blame game

MEDIUM

To “play the blame game” is to blame others for something, while they try to blame you. It is often easier to shift the blame on to others, rather than accept responsibility for a mistake. The word “blame” comes from Old French and vulgar Latin words meaning to “rebuke” or to “blaspheme”. It is first seen in written English around AD 1200, with the meaning “reproach” or “revile”.

We often play the blame game to protect ourselves by avoiding awareness of our own faults. But management expert Nathanael J. Fast says this strategy doesn't work. In an article

in the *Harvard Business Review* in 2010, he wrote: “...research shows that people who blame others for their mistakes lose status, learn less and perform worse relative to those who own up to their mistakes. Research also shows that the same is true for organizations.”

So, don't play the blame game. If you make a mistake, take responsibility for it and learn from it. Help to create a culture in which learning, innovation and risk-taking are top priorities, rather than creating a culture in which avoiding mistakes is the norm.



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blaspheme [blæs'fi:m]
• lästern, fluchen

own up to sth. • sich zu etw. bekennen, etw. eingestehen

rebuke (sb.) • (jmdn.) tadeln

reproach (sb.)
• (jmdn.) Vorwürfe machen

revile (sb.) [ri'vaɪl]
• (jmdn.) beschimpfen