

What Makes People Loot? 为什么会有人打劫呢?

英语学习点: *Rioting and Looting* 暴动和打劫

People in the UK are in shock after days of **brazen thefts** and **wanton damage** during riots in London and other cities in England. Across the media, there have been images of people walking into shops and **helping themselves** to flat-screen TVs, clothes and other items. But what is it that turns people into **looters**? **Criminologists** and **psychologists** have been considering what happens.



Many shops had their windows smashed before being looted for expensive goods.

Some politicians have been quick to describe the rioting as simply **thuggery**. But experts point out that only some of those involved will have committed such crimes before; and others are **swept along with the crowd**.

Psychologists say that people lose their moral identity in a large group and **empathy** and **guilt** - the human qualities which prevent us from behaving like criminals - are lost as we take on the **values** of the group.

For the looters there's a sense of **safety in numbers**. Because hundreds of people are taking part in the criminal activities, individuals feel they are likely to **get away with it**.

According to Dr Lance Workman, rioters and looters may develop a temporary **moral code** in their minds which justifies their actions: "there are rich people who have things I don't have so it's right that I take it." However, there is also evidence which suggests gang leaders have **psychopathic tendencies**, he says.

Academics also think that **socio-economic** factors must be taken into account. Most of the rioters are from poor estates and feel they have **nothing to lose**.

词汇表请参看答案与词汇部分

Quiz 测验

阅读短文并回答问题。

1. Did the looters try to hide their actions?
2. Do some politicians think the rioting was caused by people because they are violent people?
3. Do some psychologists think people behave differently in large groups than they do on their own?
4. What word is used to describe someone who doesn't feel bad about their destructive actions?
5. Are the rioters rich?

Exercise 练习

请你在不参考课文的情况下完成下列练习。从每个表格中选择一个意思合适的单词填入句子的空格处。

1. British people have found the riots _____.

shocked	shocking	in shock	shock
---------	----------	----------	-------

2. People who study crime are called _____.

criminologist	criminologists	criminalists	crimologists
---------------	----------------	--------------	--------------

3. Some people are swept _____ with the crowd.

up	in	off	along
----	----	-----	-------

4. If you 'get away with' something, you _____ punishment.

suffer	escape	make	do
--------	--------	------	----

5. The opposite of moral is _____.

amoral	inmoral	unmoral	immoral
--------	---------	---------	---------

Answers and Glossary 答案与词汇

Quiz 小测验

1. Did the looters try to hide their actions? No. Their actions were brazen.
2. Do some politicians think the rioting was caused by people because they are violent people? Yes. They describe the actions as simply thuggery.
3. Do some psychologists think people behave differently in large groups than they do on their own? Yes. They say people lose their moral identity and take on the values of the group.
4. What word is used to describe someone who doesn't feel bad about their destructive actions? Psychopathic.
5. Are the rioters rich? No. Most of the rioters are from poor estates.

Exercise 练习

1. British people have found the riots shocking.
2. People who study crime are called criminologists.
3. Some people are swept along with the crowd.
4. If you 'get away with something', you escape punishment.
5. The opposite of moral is immoral.

Glossary 词汇表

brazen thefts 厚颜无耻的偷窃	wanton damage 任意破坏
riots 社会骚乱	helping themselves 自己动手拿
looters 抢掠者	criminologists 犯罪学家
psychologists 心理学家	thuggery 抢劫
swept along with 顺波逐流、被拥着前行	empathy 同感，共鸣
guilt 歉意	values 价值观
safety in numbers 人多势众	to get away with it 做了坏事但不会受到惩罚
moral code 道德准则	psychopathic tendencies 有犯罪谋杀倾向
socio-economic 社会经济学	nothing to lose 没什么可以失去的，什么都不怕