

# corruption noun

## Save Word

cor·rup·tion | \ kə-ˈrəp-shən 🕥 \

## Definition of *corruption*

- 1 a : dishonest or illegal behavior especially by powerful people (such as government officials or police officers) : <u>DEPRAVITY</u>
  - b : inducement to wrong by improper or unlawful means (such as bribery) // the corruption of government officials
  - c : a departure from the original or from what is pure or <u>correct</u> // the *corruption* of a text
    - // the *corruption* of computer files
  - d : <u>DECAY</u>, <u>DECOMPOSITION</u> // the *corruption* of a carcass
- 2 chiefly dialectal : PUS
- 3 *archaic* : an agency or influence that <u>corrupts</u>
- **↓** Synonyms
- **Example Sentences**
- **Learn More about** *corruption*

## Synonyms for *corruption*

#### Synonyms

breakdown, decay, decomposition, festering, putrefaction, putrescence, rot, spoilage

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### **Examples of** *corruption* in a Sentence

// There are rumors of widespread corruption in the city government.
// The mafia's corruption of public officials



#### **Recent Examples on the Web**

// Leaders in the three countries face allegations of *corruption* or have taken antidemocratic actions that have fueled political instability.

- *Washington Post*, "Harris-led campaign to stem migration from Central America faces steep challenges," 1 May 2021

// By China Daily Before they were arrested, Parnas and Fruman assisted Giuliani in his quest to connect Biden, then a candidate for the Democratic presidential nomination, to alleged acts of *corruption* in Ukraine.

- Simon Shuster, *Time*, "Long Before Raiding Rudy Giuliani's Home, Investigators Sought

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'Everything' From His Associates," 29 Apr. 2021

These example sentences are selected automatically from various online news sources to reflect current usage of the word 'corruption.' Views expressed in the examples do not represent the opinion of Merriam-Webster or its editors. Send us feedback.

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## First Known Use of *corruption*

14th century, in the meaning defined at sense 1a

## History and Etymology for *corruption*

see CORRUPT entry 1

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# Dictionary Entries near *corruption*

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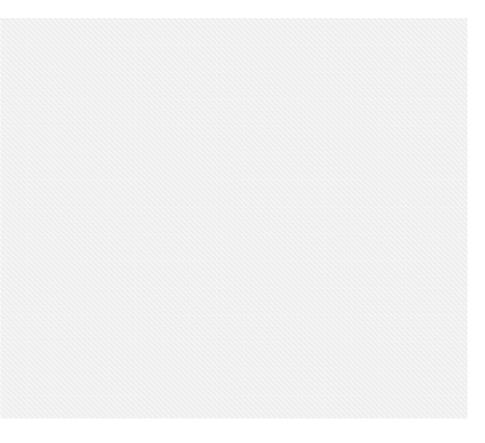
## Time Traveler for *corruption*

The first known use of corruption was in the 14th century See more words from the same century

## Statistics for *corruption*

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## More Definitions for corruption

# **corruption** noun

## **English Language Learners Definition of** *corruption*

: dishonest or illegal behavior especially by powerful people (such as government officials or police officers)

 $\checkmark$ 

: the act of corrupting someone or something

: something that has been changed from its original form

See the full definition for *corruption* in the English Language Learners Dictionary

## corruption noun

corvrupvtion | \kə-'rəp-shən 🕢 \

## Kids Definition of *corruption*

- 1 : dishonest or illegal behavior// corruption in politics
- 2 : the process of causing someone else to do something wrong
   // ... the little scene that I had overheard was the last act in the *corruption* of one of the honest hands ...
   Robert Louis Stevenson, *Treasure Island*
- 3 : the act of changing or damaging something
  // the *corruption* of an ancient text
  // the *corruption* of a computer file

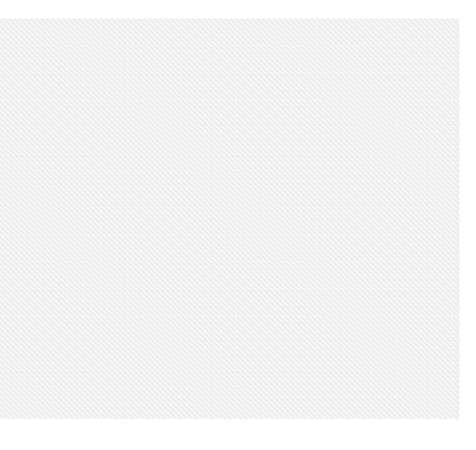
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