

pernicious



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Word of the Day - for Toastmasters everywhere
Saturday 23rd September 2023



pernicious

(adjective) per-NISH-us

Malicious, destructive, very harmful.

In the early 1970s, the group published their first report on torture, which showed that it was far more widespread and **pernicious** than once thought.

Kira Cochrane, *The Guardian*, 12 March 2008. Guardian

Silly prices are not confined to the US, although American wine drinkers appear to be suckers for that **pernicious** combination of hype, novelty and perceived scarcity.

Tim Atkin, *The Observer*, 27 July 2007. Observer

Mrs. Rosenfeld doesn't discuss the identities of her clients or the institutions in which they contract lice, but infestations are common in the city's public and private schools. A **pernicious** recent outbreak among fifth and sixth graders at one well-regarded Brooklyn school is thought to have been advanced during a pillow fight at a Cobble Hill sleepover last November.

Guy Martin, *The New Yorker*, 28 January 2002. The New Yorker

When scientists examine the varying width of tree rings, they indeed see a **pernicious** dry spell gripping the Southwest during the last quarter of the 13th century, around the height of the abandonment.

George Johnson, *The New York Times*, 8 April 2008. New York Times

The political class knows it is at risk of dying from **pernicious** anaemia. The search for new blood is growing desperate.

Kirsty Milne, *New Statesman*, 28 August 2000. New Statesman