

Catch Word #147 – She just swept it under the rug

Informal Contractions in this Episode

Informal contractions are unofficial short forms of other words, and they're usually only used in casual conversation. For example, when a native English speaker talks casually, they might say *gonna* instead of *going to*, or *whaddya* instead of *what do you*. Even though informal contractions are usually only used in spoken English, we include them in the Culips written transcripts to help you get used to how they're used and what they sound like.

These are the informal contractions used in today's episode, along with their meanings:

- **'cause**: because
- **'em**: them
- **gonna**: going to
- **wanna**: want to

Transcript

Maura: Hello everyone. It's your old pal Maura.

Harp: And Harp.

Maura: And we are back with another Culips episode for you.

Harp: Make sure you check out our website, Culips.com, C-U-L-I-P-S.com.

Maura: Because only on our website can you become a member. And when you're a member, you have access to the transcripts for all of our episodes, more detailed explanations of the expressions we use, and even a quiz to help test your comprehension when you're done listening.

Harp: Yes. So definitely go to the website, and sign up and become a member. And remember, if you have a question or a comment or even a suggestion for an upcoming episode, come say hi to us on Facebook or on Twitter. OK, so let's get started. Today we're gonna do a Catch Word episode for you, and that's where we look at some expressions, we break 'em down, and we give you examples.

Maura: That is right. And today we are going to do an episode about ignoring something unpleasant. So today's expressions all have to do with ignoring something or refusing to see something that's happening, and of course it's something negative.

- Harp: Yeah. Because why would you wanna ignore something positive?
- Maura: Exactly. It just makes sense. So today's expressions are about ignoring something negative. It could be a problem that you don't wanna deal with or you don't know how to fix.
- Harp: Or a situation you don't want to acknowledge.
- Maura: Right. Maybe you just don't wanna get involved in something negative. So it's something that you don't wanna talk about, don't want to deal with.
- Harp: OK. Well let's get started with our first expression today.
- Maura: Let's do it. The first expression is ***to sweep something under the rug***.
- Harp: Yeah. ***To sweep something under the rug***.
- Maura: Mmhmm. **To sweep something under the rug** is to hide something. So you pretend that something isn't happening because maybe you're embarrassed by it or you don't know how to solve the problem.
- Harp: Yeah, **to sweep something under the rug** is to conceal something and hope that other people don't notice it.
- Maura: Right. It's like trying to keep a problem a secret. So you're hiding that there's a problem because you don't want to deal with it.
- Harp: Yeah. And when I think of this expression, ***to sweep something under the rug***, I actually think of when I'm sweeping my house and I don't feel like picking up all the dirt, and I just put it under the rug instead of having to clean it up, pick it up, and throw it in the garbage.
- Maura: Do you actually do that, Harp?
- Harp: I may have done it when I was a kid.
- Maura: Oh, **busted!** Right. So, your house is dirty, you sweep it, and instead of making it clean, you put the dirt under the rug. So you're hiding the fact that your house is actually dirty; you're hiding the problem of having a dirty house.
- Harp: Yeah. You don't want to acknowledge that your house is dirty so you're just trying to hide it.
- Maura: And you hope that no one finds your pile of dirt under the rug because that would be quite embarrassing.

- Harp: Or if it was my mom who found it, I would have been in a lot of trouble.
- Maura: I'm sure. So, this expression makes sense if you think of it in that way. You're hiding something that's a problem and that might be embarrassing if people discovered.
- Harp: Exactly. Should we give an example with this expression?
- Maura: I'd say **it's about time**.
- Harp: Perfect.

Harp:	Hey, how was your brother's visit this weekend?
Maura:	Oh, it was good. Well, yeah, we spent a lot of time outside 'cause the weather was nice, and we went out to dinner a couple times. And, well, you know, we had a few arguments, as usual. But what can you do? That's how it is with siblings sometimes.
Harp:	Yeah. I know exactly what you mean. It's the same thing with my sisters.
Maura:	Yeah. By the end of the weekend, we just kind of forget what's happened, we sweep the problems under the rug , and we wait for next time, I guess.
Harp:	Again, I know exactly what you mean. With my sisters, we just pretend like we didn't have any problems or fights last time.
Maura:	Yeah. But they always resurface eventually.
Harp:	That's true.

- Maura: So in this example, we heard from someone whose brother was visiting, and they had some arguments while he was here. Now, instead of solving the problems and discussing the arguments and coming to some resolution, they just **swept the problems under the rug**. They pretended like everything was fine, they didn't resolve any of the problems, and, like the two people said who were talking, it will probably create problems again in the future.
- Harp: Yeah. Exactly. And this actually does really remind me of my sisters.
- Maura: I think it's true for a lot of families. It's hard to really resolve problems. You've been quarrelling for so many years that it's hard to break the habit sometimes.
- Harp: Yeah. It's just easier **to sweep it under the rug**.

Maura: Yeah. But family's not the only place where people try to **sweep things under the rug**, so let's give a different kind of example now.

Harp: OK.

Maura: How's it going? You look stressed. Is everything OK?

Harp: I don't know. I think I made a mistake with the quarterly report. There's one calculation that I'm just not sure if I did right.

Maura: Don't **sweep it under the rug**. I think it's best if you just talk to your boss about it.

Harp: I know, but remember what happened the last time I got in trouble for a mistake? He freaked out and wouldn't talk to me for 3 weeks.

Maura: Well, he might respect it more if it comes from you. You don't want him to find out somewhere **down the line**. That might upset him more.

Harp: Yeah. That's true. OK, I'm gonna go talk to him about it.

Maura: Yeah. I think that's the best thing to do.

Harp: So in this example, we heard two colleagues talking about a potential mistake in the quarterly report. And the person who had made the mistake was afraid to reveal that there was maybe a mistake, but her colleague counselled her to not **sweep it under the rug**, to face the problem and fix the mistake.

Maura: Right. And in this case, if the boss had noticed that there was a mistake, the person who made the mistake might have felt embarrassed about this mistake, or maybe embarrassed that they didn't mention it earlier. So it is actually good advice to not **sweep things under the rug**. I think it's actually very good advice. I'd rather resolve a problem.

Harp: One hundred percent, because then you're not gonna be stressed thinking *is my boss gonna find out about this problem or mistake that I made?*

Maura: Right. It could **come back to haunt you**.

Harp: It could.

Maura: OK. Let's look at the next expression in this episode.

Harp: The next expression is **to bury your head in the sand**.

- Maura: Yes. ***To bury your head in the sand.***
- Harp: What does this expression mean, Maura?
- Maura: This expression means to refuse to see something that's a problem; to ignore a problem.
- Harp: Yeah. It's to refuse to acknowledge a problem, or to refuse to acknowledge a mistake or something unpleasant.
- Maura: Right. You're hoping by ignoring this problem or situation that it will pass and you won't have to deal with it; that if you act like you don't see it, it's like it doesn't exist.
- Harp: Yeah. And someone else will fix it for you, or people won't notice it.
- Maura: Yeah. I guess sometimes this does work. But I would say, most of the time, it's not a good strategy if you have a problem.
- Harp: Exactly. I agree 100%.
- Maura: And this expression is connected to an ostrich. And when an ostrich is eating, his head is very close to the ground, and it was believed that when he saw danger, maybe a predator approaching, he would stick his head in the ground. And the theory was that he believed if he couldn't see the danger, then the danger couldn't see him and there was no problem.
- Harp: Hmm. That's funny. Yeah, so that's actually not true. Ostriches don't bury their heads in the sand if they feel danger or see danger, but people still think that it's still true because of this expression.
- Maura: That's right. And like I said, because their heads are down near the ground when they're eating, maybe that's why people thought they were hiding, but ostriches are not that dumb, and that's not how they hide from danger.
- Harp: OK. So ***to bury your head in the sand*** is, again, when you're refusing to acknowledge a problem or a mistake or a situation that's unpleasant.
- Maura: Right. So let's give you a couple examples with ***to bury your head in the sand.***

-Maura: Have you read **the papers** today?

Harp: No, I didn't have a chance. What's going on?

Maura:	Well, there was just a really interesting article about the state of the schools in our province and how the buildings themselves are falling apart. There's mould in a lot of the walls, which is just horrible for the students. But, of course, the government isn't doing anything to fix these problems.
Harp:	This doesn't surprise me. I feel like the government just buries its head in the sand and isn't dealing with any of these problems.
Maura:	I know, but it's so sad because it's the children who suffer.
Harp:	Yeah. The children and all the teachers, and then we're gonna lose the teachers because of health problems.
Maura:	Well, hopefully because of this article, maybe it will drum up support and the government will be forced to do something about it.
Harp:	Yeah. Maybe we should start a letter writing campaign to the city councillors.
Maura:	That's a good idea. I'm gonna send out an email trying to encourage people to do that.
Harp:	OK. Let's go do something right now about it.
Maura:	Yeah.

Maura: So in this example, the government was **burying its head in the sand**. It didn't want to deal with the problems in the schools.

Harp: Yeah. So the two people talking decided to try to take some action and get the government to realize the problem in the school system.

Maura: Right. The government was pretending that there was no problem. They were not acknowledging that there was a problem. They were ignoring the problem in the schools.

Harp: Yeah. Let's give one more example with this expression, ***to bury your head in the sand***.

Maura: OK.

Maura:	So I was just at the mall and I saw Julie's daughter there.
Harp:	Really? It's not even lunch time. She has school today.
Maura:	I know. I thought that was strange too.

Harp:	Well, I have been hearing rumours that she hasn't been going to school every day.
Maura:	Yeah. I hope that Julie's just not burying her head in the sand .
Harp:	Yeah. If there's a problem and Julie's daughter is misbehaving and not going to school, I hope she deals with it.
Maura:	Right. Because if the parents aren't there, then it's pretty hard for the teachers and school administration to get kids to go to school, so I hope that she is going to school and what we saw, what I saw, was just a rare case.
Harp:	I think you might want to call Julie and tell her you saw her daughter in the mall. What if she doesn't know she's not going to school?
Maura:	Yeah. I guess it wouldn't hurt .

Maura: In this case, we heard two friends talking about Julie's daughter. Now, Julie's daughter was possibly not attending school, and that's a problem. They thought that her mother was possibly **burying her head in the sand** and not dealing with the problem of her daughter's school attendance.

Harp: Yes. Exactly. They were worried that their friend was ignoring the problem.

Maura: That is right. Now, we're going to give you one more expression that means to ignore or refuse to acknowledge something.

Harp: Yes. Our last expression is **to turn a blind eye**.

Maura: That's right. **To turn a blind eye**.

Harp: Yes. And again, this means to ignore something and pretend you don't see it, especially if someone is doing something wrong or if there's a problem.

Maura: Right. So it's like you pretend that you don't see something. It could be a problem, it could be an unpleasant situation, it could be something that you just don't want to become involved with, and so you ignore it.

Harp: Yeah, exactly. And this expression, **to turn a blind eye**, is actually attributed to Admiral Nelson from England.

Maura: Right. The story goes that he was supposed to receive a signal and the signal would tell him how to proceed in the battle of Copenhagen. When he saw the signal, he didn't like what he was supposed to do, so he pretended that he didn't see it. He **turned a blind eye** and did what he wanted.

- Harp: Yes. So that's the origin, which is quite interesting. We'll talk more about it in the detailed explanation, if you're interested.
- Maura: Yeah. So, check that out. And if you're not a member, become one.
- Harp: Exactly. Let's give an example with this expression.
- Maura: OK. Here is your first example with **to turn a blind eye**.

- Maura: You know, I just got back from lunch, and that's the third time this week that someone has asked me for change.
- Harp: Yeah. Well, the problem of homelessness is become more and more rampant in this city. People are just ignoring it though.
- Maura: You know, you're right. I have noticed a lot more people on the streets lately.
- Harp: yeah. But most people just **turn a blind eye**, pretend that there are no homeless, and are doing nothing to help them.
- Maura: Well. I think a lot of people maybe don't know how to help.
- Harp: That's a good point. We could go volunteer at a homeless shelter.
- Maura: Yeah. That's probably a good idea.
- Harp: OK. I'll send you some information about it.
- Maura: OK.

- Harp: So in this example, we had two friends talking about how there are more and more homeless people in the city, and how most people are ignoring this. They're **turning a blind eye**. They're not recognizing that there's a problem of homelessness. And maybe it's because they don't know how to deal with it or help solve the problem.
- Maura: And you know, I think in a lot of cases in many big cities, this is true. People do **turn a blind eye**, because they're so busy with their own lives and they don't know how to help or what to do.
- Harp: Yeah. I agree with you.
- Maura: OK. Let's give you one more example with **to turn a blind eye**.
- Harp: OK. Let's do it.

Harp:	You know, I just saw Peter, and he was in the supply cabinet, and he had, like, three boxes of pens and four pads of paper. I don't know why he was taking so much stuff.
Maura:	That is weird. You really should only be taking just what you need.
Harp:	Yeah. I don't know whether to turn a blind eye or ask him if he's taking this for his personal use.
Maura:	Well, you never know. Maybe there was some special reason that he was taking it, related to work. So maybe you could just ask him about it. You never know, there might have been a special meeting.
Harp:	Yeah. I'll just ask him and not accuse him. That'll be better.
Maura:	That's a good idea.

Maura: In that example, we heard about a guy named Peter, who was taking a ton of supplies from his office and somebody saw him. She didn't know whether she should **turn a blind eye**, pretend that she didn't see it, or whether she should do something about it.

Harp: Yeah. So she decided to not **turn a blind eye**, to not ignore it, and to talk to him about it, to ask him.

Maura: Yeah. That's a much better idea than just going directly to the boss and saying, "I saw Peter take a bunch of supplies!"

Harp: Yeah. That wouldn't be a good idea.

Maura: There's also a very similar expression to this, which is **to turn a deaf ear**, and it has the same meaning, except this time we're not talking about things that you see, but things that you hear. And if you want to know more about **to turn about a deaf ear**, you'll have to become a Culips member, because in our detailed explanations for this episode, we'll be talking about that one.

Harp: OK. So let's do a quick recap of the expressions we explained today. We started with **to sweep it under the rug**.

Maura: And then we looked at the next expression, which was **to bury your head in the sand**.

Harp: Yes. And we finished with **to turn a blind eye**.

Maura: That's right. And all of these expressions have to do with ignoring some unpleasant situation.

Harp: And remember: checking out the Culips website is a very pleasant situation,

so don't ignore it and go check it out, Culips.com, C-U-L-I-P-S.com.

Maura: That's right. And you can also become a member. And when you become a member, you enhance your learning experience and your money goes to help support us, and we can keep making episodes for you.

Harp: Exactly. And remember: come say hi to us on Facebook and Twitter. We'll talk to you next time.

Maura: Good bye for now.

Detailed Explanation

To sweep something under the rug

To sweep something under the rug means to hide or ignore something instead of dealing with it. Some people say **to sweep something under the carpet** instead of **the rug**, but it means the same thing. This expression comes from housekeeping. If you sweep dirt under the rug instead of actually picking it up and getting rid of it, you're not really solving the problem or getting rid of the dirt, you're just hiding it.

Here's another example with **to sweep something under the rug**:

Hendy: Wanna catch a movie tonight?

Beatriz: How do you have time to see a movie? We have that essay due first thing tomorrow.

Hendy: Yeah, I know. I'll do it after the movie.

Beatriz: I know you really hate the topic we have to write about, but you can't just **sweep this under the rug**. You have to write that essay. It's worth so much of our final grade.

Hendy: I guess you're right. I'll skip the movie tonight.

Busted

In this episode, we hear Maura say **busted!** in response to Harp admitting that she used to sweep dirt under the rug instead of cleaning it up. When used this way, **busted** means caught or exposed. This phrase comes from an expression used when criminals get caught by the police. It was originally used to refer to gangs being broken up by police in the early 1900s. **Busted up** is another way to say **broken apart**, so when gangs were broken up, they were **busted**. Breaking something apart exposes what's inside. So, when someone is **busted**, they are exposed or something about them has been exposed.

Here's another example with **busted**:

Moisés: Are you going to run that marathon this weekend? You were really looking forward to it last week.

Dailin: I was going to go, but I think I'm going to go to that charity drive instead.

Moisés: Oh, you are so **busted!** Isn't Marcelina working there this weekend too?

Dailin: Maybe. But that's not the reason I'm doing it. It's for a good cause.

Moisés: OK. You should really just admit that you have a crush on her.

Dailin: Fine. I like her. But I'm also interested in the charity drive. I promise!

Moisés: I believe you. Have a fun weekend!

It's about time

It's about time is another way of saying finally. **It's about time** means something finally happened that should've happened a while ago. **It's about time** can mean that someone has been waiting for something for a while and it's finally happened. This expression is usually used when someone is annoyed or frustrated about something being delayed.

Here's another example with **it's about time**:

YounJung: Sorry I'm late.

Abdull: **It's about time**. I've been waiting here for 20 minutes!

YounJung: I'm really sorry. I was stuck in traffic.

Abdull: Well, maybe we can still make it to the movie in time if we hurry.

What can you do?

What can you do? means that it is useless to try to change something. **What can you do?** actually means there's nothing you can do. Even though it's a question, it is something called a rhetorical question, meaning that it's a question to which no answer is required or expected, and the question formation of the statement is only used for effect, to emphasize something. **What can you do?** is a rhetorical question used to emphasize that there's nothing you can do, and that this is so factual that there is no need to answer the question.

Here's another example with **what can you do?**:

Seven: Have you heard back from that company you interviewed with?

Rashmi: No, but I assume the position has been filled. It's been over 3 weeks.

Seven: Maybe, but they really should have called you either way.

Rashmi: Well, **what can you do?** I have another interview somewhere else next week.

Seven: Oh, great! Good luck.

To resurface

To resurface means to come up again. **To surface** is a verb that describes something that went underwater floating or swimming back to the surface of the water. **To surface** is used to talk about anything that comes out from hiding or concealment. When something **resurfaces**, it has surfaced or become apparent or visible before, and then it went into hiding again, and now it is apparent again. For example, problems that only get temporary fixes often **resurface**.

Here's another example with **to resurface**:

Manuel: Have you heard from Nashid lately?

Tatsuya: No, but that's not unusual. He goes into hiding sometimes. He just likes his alone time. He'll **resurface** again soon.

Manuel: I hope so! He's really fun to hang out with.

Down the line

Down the line means sometime in the future. Another way of saying **down the line** is *down the road*. The origin of this phrase comes from travelling along a road, where down the road means further ahead of where you are. Something that's further ahead will happen in the future, so the expression **down the line** means *in the future*.

Here's another example with **down the line**.

Doug: Are you going to the holiday pageant again this year?

Teena: I don't think so. I'm still so embarrassed from last year.

Doug: Nobody will remember you falling during the pageant! It was icy. There were lots of slips and falls.

Teena: I know you're right. Maybe **down the line** I'll go again, but not this year.

Doug: OK, well, let me know if you change your mind.

To come back to haunt you

When something **comes back to haunt you**, something from the past negatively affects your future. This expression is often used as part of a warning to someone that they are about to make a decision that may harm them or affect them badly in the future. This expression comes from the idea of ghosts, which are believed to be spirits of the dead that haunt, or revisit, the living. If a decision **haunts you**, it means that it comes back later on (like a ghost) to affect you or revisit you in a negative way.

Here is another example of **to come back to haunt you**:

Dina: I don't think I'll go to tonight's lecture. I'm too tired. I'll just read the textbook instead.

Aldi: Are you sure you want to do that? It might **come back to haunt you**.

Dina: How so?

Aldi: Professor Smithers always throws in a couple of questions on the final exam that have to do with the lectures; stuff that's not in the textbook.

Dina: Oh. I guess I'd better go then!

The pronunciation of *bury*

To **bury** something means to cover or conceal it underneath something else. But **bury** can be a tricky word to pronounce, because it's spelled differently than it's usually pronounced. Even though it looks as though it should be pronounced as *bur-y*, the most common pronunciation of this word is actually *bare-y*, as in the words *raspberry* or *blueberry*. Even though this is the most common pronunciation of the word, some native English speakers do pronounce it more like it's spelled: *bur-y*.

Here are a few more examples of words that are spelled differently than they're pronounced:

- *Busy* looks like it should be pronounced *buss-y*, but it's actually pronounced *bizzy*.
- *Island* looks like it should be pronounced *iz-land*, but it's actually pronounced *eye-land*.
- *Wednesday* looks like it should be pronounced *wed-ness-day*, but it is commonly pronounced *wenz-day*.
- *Victual*, which means food, is actually pronounced *vitt-el*.

To bury your head in the sand

To bury your head in the sand means to avoid or ignore a problem instead of dealing with it. This expression comes from an old belief that ostriches bury their heads in the sand when confronted with an enemy because they think that if they can't see their enemy, their enemy must not be able to see them. This is a widely held belief that is actually not true; ostriches don't stick their heads in the sand when confronted with an enemy. Ostriches eat with their heads very close to the ground, so it looks like they're always burying their heads, even though they're not. Even though this idea is not true, it was such a widely held belief that the act of ignoring a problem instead of dealing with it became synonymous with ostriches hiding their heads in the sand.

Here's another example with **to bury your head in the sand**:

Sameth: How are you going to get to the party tonight?

Cris: I'll probably drive.

Sameth: Don't you still have an unpaid speeding ticket?

Cris: Yeah, but I'll be fine.

Sameth: I wouldn't **bury your head in the sand** about this. There's police everywhere checking for drivers just like you.

Cris: I guess you're right. I'll go to the police station before the party to pay it.

The papers

The papers is a short form of *the newspapers*. Sometimes the singular is used (**the paper**) instead of the plural. When someone says **the papers**, they are usually referring to all or most of the current newspapers, whereas someone saying **the paper** may be referring to only a specific newspaper.

Here's another example with **the papers**:

Royyan: I wonder if it'll rain today. It looks pretty dark out.

Novida: The weather station is calling for snow today!

Royyan: **The papers** said there's a slight chance of rain, but nothing about snow.

Novida: Yeah, but the TV station is more up to date.

Royyan: You're right. I'd better bring my umbrella and wear my parka!

To drum up

To drum up means to conjure up by attracting attention to something. **To drum up** is often used to refer to people increase interest in their business by creating ways to attract people. This is called **drumming up** business. The exact origin of this expression is unclear, but it's possible that the expression comes from the percussion instruments known as drums. When someone bangs on a drum, they make a noise through a constant, persistent action. So, when someone **drums up** business, they produce or create interest in their business by constantly and persistently attracting customers.

Here's another example with **to drum up**:

Phúc: Are you going to run for student council again this year?

Alice: Yeah. Wanna help me campaign?

Phúc: Sure. I could **drum up** some support for you. I'll make some pamphlets.

Alice: That would be great! Thanks.

It wouldn't hurt

It wouldn't hurt is a common way of saying that you might as well do something because if you don't do it, it may have a negative outcome, so you should do it to be on the safe side. This is similar to another expression we discussed in a previous episode: *you might as well*. We used *might as well* in the episode *Harp's Big Trip* to talk about a situation when it is probably better to do something than not to do it. This expression implies that there is not much more effort or work to do something than not to do it, so you might as well do it; **it wouldn't hurt** to do it.

Here's another example with **it wouldn't hurt**:

Izzie: How's your arm? When will you get the cast taken off?

Ventas: I can get it taken off as of today, but I'd feel better leaving it on for another week. I know the fracture is all healed, but I'm just paranoid.

Izzie: Well, I'm sure **it wouldn't hurt** to leave it on. Is your doctor OK with that?

Ventas: Yeah, she said she'll see me in a week to remove it.

To turn a blind eye

To turn a blind eye means to intentionally ignore something instead of dealing with it. This is very similar to sticking your head in the sand. The phrase **to turn a blind eye** comes from an incident that occurred in 1801. Admiral Horatio Nelson, who was blind in one eye, chose to ignore a command from the British forces to withdraw. At that time, orders were transmitted using signal flags. When the order came in, Nelson, choosing to ignore the command, held the telescope up to his blind eye and said, "I really do not see the signal." Even though Nelson knew he couldn't see out of that eye, he chose to hold the telescope up to it so that he could ignore the command, while actually knowing that the command was there the whole time.

Here's another example with **to turn a blind eye**:

Penah: Hey, have you seen the side of Queen Street lately? It's full of garbage.

Antanas: Not really. I try to avoid looking.

Penah: You shouldn't **turn a blind eye** to it, though. I'm organizing a clean-up party this weekend. Would you like to join us?

Antanas: You're right. I shouldn't just ignore it. I'll help this weekend, for sure.

To turn a deaf ear

The expression **to turn a deaf ear** is very similar to *to turn a blind eye*, except that **turning a deaf ear** means ignoring something you've heard, rather than something you've seen.

It's thought that **to turn a deaf ear** has the same origin as *to turn a blind eye*. The expression *to turn a blind eye* came first, then inspired similar phrases that mean ignoring something.

Here's another example with **to turn a deaf ear**:

Ian: Did you hear the fire alarm yesterday? I left the office right before it started, but I heard it on the way out.

Griselda: Yeah, I heard it. But I stayed at my desk. I knew it was only a test.

Ian: You probably shouldn't **turn a deaf ear** to the alarm, though. Even though it was a test, there may have been a real fire. You never know.

Griselda: Yeah, you're right. Next time I'll leave the building.

Quiz

1. You shouldn't just _____ something under the rug; you should try to deal with it right away.

Fill in the blank:

- a) toss
 - b) move
 - c) sweep
 - d) hide
2. Which of the following is another word for caught or exposed that comes from a word used by police when breaking up a gang?
- a) busted
 - b) exploded
 - c) arrested
 - d) shown
3. If something resurfaces, what does it do?
- a) comes back after being hidden for awhile
 - b) goes into hiding after being out
 - c) becomes forgotten in someone's memory
 - d) creates a lot of attention by making loud noises
4. If you don't deal with something right away, it may come back to _____ you.

Fill in the blank:

- a) greet
- b) punish
- c) haunt
- d) entertain

5. If you're avoiding a situation, you could be said to be _____ your head in the sand.

Fill in the blank:

- a) hitting
 - b) rubbing
 - c) shaking
 - d) burying
6. When someone says that they saw something in the papers, what are they referring to?
- a) magazines
 - b) newspapers
 - c) the Internet
 - d) television
7. What does *to drum up* mean?
- a) to eliminate or finish
 - b) to cause or produce
 - c) to hesitate or procrastinate
 - d) to listen very intently
8. What do the sayings *to turn a blind eye* and *to turn a deaf ear* have in common?
- a) Neither is used anymore.
 - b) They both mean to intentionally ignore.
 - c) They're both about imagining something that's not there.
 - d) They're both used frequently by doctors who perform surgeries on eyes and ears.

Answers:

1.c 2.a 3.a 4.c 5.d 6.b 7.b 8.b