

Word of the Day – **Ostracize**

Transcript

Hi everyone. Today's word of the day is **ostracize**. **Ostracize** is a verb. It is more of a formal word rather than informal. This word has a very negative connotation and has a strong connection to punishment. The definition of **ostracize** is to exclude or expel someone from a particular group or society. This can describe when someone is forcibly banished or kicked out of a group. But it also doesn't have to be violent; a person who is ostracized can be shunned or ignored, therefore making them feel like an outcast.

You can see this type of behavior in schools when an unpopular student is being bullied. Sometimes unlucky students are **ostracized** because they are different or have a bad reputation. Therefore other kids choose to ignore him or her. They don't look at him, don't talk to him, or don't help him. The other children act like he or she is not even there, like an invisible ghost. If you are a parent of a student like this, you can tell your son or daughter's teacher,

"Ms. Thomas, I believe my son is being ostracized at school. He has been very upset lately and says he feels so lonely without any friends. I don't know why the other kids are going out of their way to shut him out. I'd like to ask for your help."

In this situation, your son is the victim without reason. However, other times a person may be **ostracized** is when they committed a crime or did something that offends the community. People can be **ostracized** out of fear or anger. Usually the majority **ostracizes** the minority. If you would like more information, or the full transcript, please visit our website. Thank you very much and take care.