

Selfie: A Life Threatening Hazard

VOCABULARY WORDS

1. ubiquitous /ju:'bɪk.wɪ.təs/ seeming to be everywhere
Example: The ubiquitous world of marketing is ever emerging and evolving.
2. intent /ɪn'tent/ to be determined to do or achieve something
Example: I've tried persuading her not to go but she's intent on it.
3. strike a pose /straɪk ə poʊz/ - hold one's body in a particular position to create an impression.
Example: Striking a dramatic pose, Antonia announced that she was leaving.
4. pout /paʊt/ to push the lower lip forward to show you are annoyed, or to push both lips forward in a sexually attractive way
Example: Vanessa always pouts if she doesn't get what she wants.
5. respectively /rɪ'spek.tɪv.li/ in a way that relates or belongs to each of the separate people or things you have just mentioned
Example: Steven and James are aged 10 and 13 respectively.



Travelers and phone-camera lovers need to be careful of a widespread danger. This life-threatening hazard is a **ubiquitous** part of life. Despite the risk, people still seem **intent** on taking extremely risky selfies. Yes – love 'em or hate 'em, the desire to take a photo of yourself in front of a world-famous site or to **strike a pose** and **pout** with a friend has resulted in even more deaths up to the present.

A 2018 study of news reports showed that there were 259 selfie deaths in 137 incidents reported globally between October 2011 and November 2017. The countries

with the highest numbers of selfie deaths include India, Russia, US, and Pakistan **respectively**. The average age was 23 year old with the number of men being way higher than the women.

Selfie-related accidents can happen in all manner of circumstances. The website Wikipedia.com has reported the deaths seen since 2011. They include two Russian men who were killed while taking a selfie with a hand grenade; three Indian students who were killed by an approaching train while taking selfies on train tracks; an American woman who fell to her death while taking a selfie with her boyfriend on a cliff in South Africa, and a Japanese tourist who died falling down the stairs while trying to get a shot of himself at the Taj Mahal in India.

And there are even more. The latest of which according to Wikipedia happened last January 24th of 2022 when a U.S. hiker in Arizona slipped and fell approximately 700 feet (213 meters) to his death while trying to take a photo in Lost Dutchman State Park near the Superstition Mountains.

DISCUSSION

1. What safety instructions should be on selfie sticks ?
2. Do you like photos of yourself?
3. Are there places you should never take selfies?
4. Are selfies better than taking photos of other people?
5. Why have some places banned selfie sticks?