Read the following statements and decide which are true (T) and which are false (F).

1. **F** Criminals in Kalantria will no longer face the death penalty.

2. **F** Zandora is allegedly responsible for a cyber attack on Nuvoria.

3. **T** The situation in Rivertown is still critical.

4. **T** Dark chocolate may act as a cognitive stimulant.

5. **F** Max collected 60 socks in just under 60 seconds.

* Kalantria, Zandora, Rivertown, and Max are fictional*

Fill in the gaps with vocabulary from the headlines (pay attention to the verb form!).

to abolish	alleged	to compromise	to cripple
to inundate	to grapple	skirmish	treason

After recent unrest that threatened **to cripple** the nation, there was growing pressure **to abolish** outdated laws. A **skirmish** between factions escalated, with both sides accusing the other of **treason** and **alleged** foreign ties. As the government struggled **to grapple** with the accusations, they were **inundated** by reports of government agents whose identities had been **compromised.**

to escalate	factions	to hail	landmark
reforms	staggering	standoffs	unprecedented

The election was a **landmark** event, with widespread support for major **reforms**. While many **hailed** it as a victory, tensions between opposing **factions** soon led to violent **standoffs,** which began **to escalate**. The unrest reached an **unprecedented** level, with a **staggering** number of arrests and casualties, making immediate intervention critical.
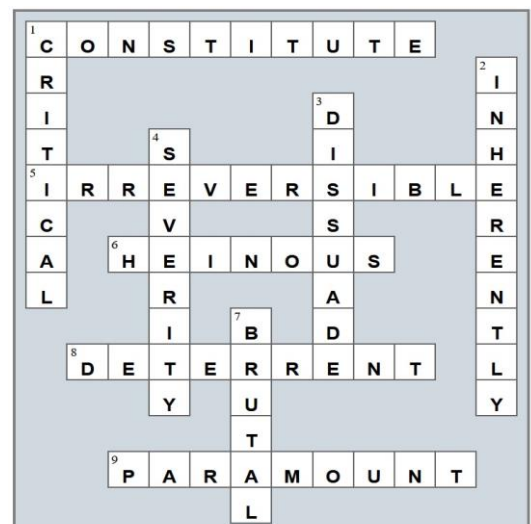
Complete the crossword puzzle with vocabulary from the discussion.

ACROSS
1 To form or make up something.
5 Impossible to undo or change.
6 Shockingly wicked or evil.
8 Something that discourages or prevents an action.
9 Of the highest importance.

DOWN
1 Extremely important or essential.
2 Naturally or essentially a part of something.
3 Convince someone not to do something.
4 The intensity or harshness of something.
7 Extremely cruel or violent.

Fill in the gaps with the correct article: a or an.

During **a** NASA conference, **an** unexpected announcement was made about **an** asteroid approaching Earth. It was **an** alarming discovery, but **an** ESA expert reassured the audience there was no immediate danger. After **a** detailed explanation, **an** MIT student asked **a** question about the asteroid's trajectory. **An** interactive model was used to show how **a** minor shift in orbit could cause significant changes. After **a** one-hour lunch break, **a** famous astronaut shared **a** unique and inspiring story about **an** ISS mission, which left **a** lasting impression. It was **an** amazing chance to learn from such **an** influential panel.

Circle every word that has two different spellings, check off which variant of English it is, and then provide the alternate spelling. One example is done for you.

After I burnt the toast this morning, I browsed through a catalog and an old encyclopedia, trying to enrol in a programme that could lighten my mood. Despite my gray surroundings, I found some humour in the situation. Later, I realised that the tire on my car had gone flat, likely from all the roads I had travelled recently, so I headed to the shop for a replacement.

Word	American English	British English	Alternate Spelling
1. burnt		X	burned
2. catalog	X		catalogue
3. encyclopedia	X		encyclopaedia
4. enrol		X	enroll
5. programme		X	program
6. gray	X		grey
7. humour		X	humor
8. realised		X	realized
9. tire	X		tyre
10. travelled		X	traveled

Answer the following questions about "The Speckled Band".

1. Where did Helen's stepfather move to after getting his medical license? **Calcutta**

2. What kind of sentence could her father have received? **capital sentence**

3. How much money did Dr. Roylott get each year while the two sisters lived with him? **£1,000**

4. Why did Dr. Roylott and his two step daughters move to Stoke Moran? **mother/wife died**

5. How did the doctor change after moving to Stoke Moran? **stayed inside, more violent**

Try and solve this riddle.

The more of this there is, the less you see. What is it? **Darkness**