

## Videos - Voice of America, News Words

Welcome to the Voice of America's *News Words*.

In November, the spacecraft *Insight* made a successful landing on the planet Mars.

### **Touchdown**

*Touchdown* confirmed! NASA scientists cheered as the spacecraft communicated it was safely on Mars. Its mission will examine the inside of the red planet.

The information will permit scientists to study how a rocky body forms and becomes a planet.

A *touchdown* is when an airplane or spacecraft touches the ground at the end of a flight.

In the games of rugby and American football it (a *touchdown*) is the act of scoring points by taking the ball across the opponent's goal line.

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The United Nations refugee agency reports there are now more than 68 million refugees around the world.

### **Dire**

Chris Boian is with the UN. He says the international refugee situation is *dire*.

"There's a person forcibly displaced now every two seconds. These are people that are fleeing not by choice but because they have no choice but to flee if they want to stay alive."

A situation that is *dire* requires immediate action because it is serious or extreme and difficult to solve.

A *dire* warning signals a very bad future that can cause worry or great fear.

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For centuries, Kayan women in Myanmar have worn a traditional symbol of beauty.

### **Shun**

83-year-old Maria Khaing has been wearing rings around her neck arms and legs since childhood.

All Kayan women were once expected to wear them, but now some have started to *shun* the practice.

"They're heavy and uncomfortable. Also I don't know much about them. That's why I don't wear them."

To *shun* is to ignore, avoid or reject a person, place or activity.

People are *shunned* when their behaviour or beliefs are not acceptable to others.