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tam·per¹ (tām'pər)

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v. **tam·pered**, **tam·per·ing**, **tam·pers**

v. *intr.*

1.

a. To interfere in a harmful or disruptive manner; meddle: *was worried the editor would tamper with her text.*

b. To make alterations or adjustments, especially secretly so as to subvert an intended purpose or function: *tamper with a lock; discovered that the brakes had been tampered with.*

c. To engage in improper or secret actions, as in an effort to influence an outcome: *tamper with evidence; tamper with a jury.*

2. To tinker rashly or foolishly: *The ability of chemists to create new drugs from natural compounds raises an old argument about whether human beings should tamper with nature (Andrew Weil).*

v. *tr.*

To alter improperly.

[Probably alteration of TEMPER.]

tam'per·er

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tamp·er² (tām'pər)

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n.

A neutron reflector in an atomic bomb that also delays the expansion of the exploding material, making possible a longer-lasting, more energetic, and more efficient explosion.

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cited in U.S. v. Lyle, No. 12-30389 archived on February 27, 2014