Raise vs. Raze

Just like other homophones or words that are similar in pronunciation but differ in spelling and meaning, the terms raise and raze sometimes cause confusion among writers. Although they have similar sounds, these two words are far from similar in terms of meaning. This post will help you differentiate between the two and enable you to use them correctly in your writing.

The word raise is more commonly used as a verb meaning "to lift or move to a higher position or level" or "to increase the amount, level, or strength of."

Prison break pensioners raise the bar for fundraising
The Courier

Time to raise eurozone interest rates, says Deutsche Bank chief The Guardian

Senate spending panel approves \$2 billion raise for NIH in 2018 Science Magazine

As a verb, it may also mean "to bring up for consideration or debate" or "to get together for a purpose."

Monsanto Emails Raise Issue of Influencing Research on Roundup Weed Killer New York Times

Music in Common hopes to raise funds to replace rescinded federal grant Berkshire Eagle

Olympic Village residents raise concerns about needles in parks, playgrounds MetroNews Canada

Raise may also be used as a noun referring to "an increase in salary" or "an increase in a stake."

Consultant recommends millions in raises for R.I. state workers

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The Providence Journal

Trump's shutdown threat raises stakes in looming funding battle

Press Herald

Aurora City Council considering pay raise for elected officials Aurora News Register

On the other hand, the term raze is used as a verb which means "to completely destroy a building, town, or other site."

Jefferson Avenue Business Owners Had Planned To Raze Fire-Ravaged Building in Moundsville

Wheeling Intelligencer

Affordable housing development to raze historic Tenderloin auto shop
San Francisco Examiner

State rep wants to raze Charlotte Dairy Queen, double its size Lansing State Journal

Now that you've determined the differences between raise and raze in use and meaning, hopefully, you would be able to use them correctly in your sentences.