

possum

1. ['pɒsəm] *n* **разг. см.** *opossum*
 ◇ to play possum - а) притворяться спящим, больным или мёртвым; б) прикидываться несведущим или непонимающим
2. ['pɒsəm] *v* **амер. разг.**
 1. охотиться на опоссума
 2. = to play possum [см. 1 ◇]
 all this time I was possuming sleep - всё это время я притворялся спящим

possum

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

pos·sum [possum possums] *BrE* ['pɒsəm] ^ˈ *NAme* ['pɑːsən] ^ˈ **noun**
 (AustralE, NZE or NAmE, informal)
 = ↑opossum
Idiom: ↑play possum

Word Origin:

early 17th cent.: shortening of ↑opossum.

possum

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

- I. **o·pos·sum** /ə'pɒsəm \$ -'pɑː-, 'pɑːsəm/ *BrE* ^ˈ *AmE* ^ˈ (also **possum**) *noun* [countable]
 [Date: 1600-1700; Language: Virginia Algonquian; Origin: opassom, from op 'white' + assom 'dog']
 one of various small animals from America and Australia that have fur and climb trees
- II. **pos·sum** /'pɒsəm \$ 'pɑː-/ *BrE* ^ˈ *AmE* ^ˈ (also **opossum**) *noun* [countable]
 [Date: 1600-1700; Origin: opossum]
 1. one of various types of small furry animals that climb trees and live in America or Australia
 2. **play possum** *informal* to pretend to be asleep or dead so that someone will not annoy or hurt you

possum

Freakuency Pack

12500 **12392**^{MCW}
 15000 **12108**^{COCA}
 RANGE: **14k** POSSUM ⁵²⁸
 possum ⁴⁵⁶
 possums ⁷²
 opossum ⁰
 opossums ⁰
 oppossum ⁰
 oppossums ⁰
 COCA 500k Unlemmatized
 187 **40745**³²⁵ *nn1*
 46 **66093**¹³¹ *np1*