

English 10A

American Literature

Vocabulary 5 – “It is not the same to talk of bulls as to be in the bullring.”

Spanish Proverb

Define the following words:

1. choleric - bad-tempered or irritable. (cholera ‘diarrhea’)
2. circuitous - (of a route or journey) longer than the most direct way : *the canal followed a circuitous route* | figurative *a circuitous line of reasoning.*
3. circumlocution - the use of many words where fewer would do, esp. in a deliberate attempt to be vague or evasive : *his admission came after years of circumlocution* | *he used a number of poetic circumlocutions.* (**circum ‘around’ + locutio(n-) from loqui ‘speak.’**)
4. circumscribe - restrict (something) within limits : *their movements were strictly monitored and circumscribed.* (**circum ‘around’ + scribere ‘write.’**)
5. circumspect - wary and unwilling to take risks : *the officials were very circumspect in their statements.* (**circum ‘around, about’ + specere ‘look.’**)
6. clemency - mercy; lenience : *an appeal for clemency.* (**clement - inclement**)
7. cliché - a phrase or opinion that is overused and betrays a lack of original thought : the old cliché “one man's meat is another man's poison.” (**clicher ‘to stereotype.’**)
8. coalesce - come together and form one mass or whole : *the puddles had coalesced into shallow streams* | *the separate details coalesce to form a single body of scientific thought.* (**alescere ‘grow up’**)
9. coerce - persuade (an unwilling person) to do something by using force or threats : *they were coerced into silence.* (**co- ‘jointly, together’ + arcere ‘restrain.’**)
10. cogent - (of an argument or case) clear, logical, and convincing.
11. colloquial - (of language) used in ordinary or familiar conversation; not formal or literary. (**colloquium ‘conversation’**)
12. collusion - secret or illegal cooperation or conspiracy, esp. in order to cheat or deceive others : *the armed forces were working in collusion with drug traffickers* | *collusion between media owners and political leaders.* (**‘have a secret agreement’**)
13. commensurate - corresponding in size or degree; in proportion : *salary will be commensurate with experience* | *such heavy responsibility must receive commensurate reward.* (**mensurare ‘to measure.’**)
14. compendium - a collection of concise but detailed information about a particular subject, esp. in a book or other publication.
15. complacent - showing smug or uncritical satisfaction with oneself or one's achievements : *you can't afford to be complacent about security.* (**pleasing**)
16. complicity - the state of being involved with others in an illegal activity or wrongdoing : *they were accused of complicity in the attempt to overthrow the government.* (**complex, complicate**)
17. conciliatory - intended or likely to placate or pacify : *a conciliatory approach.*
18. concord - agreement or harmony between people or groups : *a pact of peace and concord.* (**treaty**)(**con- ‘together’ + cor, cord- ‘heart.’**)
19. concurrent - existing, happening, or done at the same time : *there are three concurrent art fairs around the city.*
20. condescend - show feelings of superiority; patronize : *take care not to condescend to your reader.* (**con- ‘together’ + descendere ‘descend.’**)