

Lesson Five

1. **circumspect** (sûr' kəm spēkt) *adj.* careful, watchful; attentive to all points
The teacher tried to be *circumspect* in his judgment; he wished to discipline the students effectively, but not too severely.
syn: wary, judicious, prudent *ant:* rash, foolhardy

2. **circumvent** (sûr kəm vēnt') *verb* to get around; to beat or defeat by trickery; to prevent an occurrence
Although he did not tell a lie, he did *circumvent* my question by claiming that he could not remember the night before.
syn: thwart, balk, outwit *ant:* abet, facilitate, promote

3. **clandestine** (klăn dēs' tīn) *adj.* secret
Romeo and Juliet were forced to hold *clandestine* meetings because of their parents' feuding.
syn: covert, furtive, underhanded *ant:* forthright, open, aboveboard

4. **clement** (klēm' ənt) *adj.* 1. merciful; lenient 2. mild, as weather
1. Despite the abhorrent nature of the crime, the judge handed down a surprisingly *clement* sentence.
2. For his vacation, he chose the *clement* climate of the tropics.
syn: 1. forbearing, benign
2. temperate

5. **cliché** (klē shā') *noun* a worn-out idea or overused expression
While the candidate had promised new ideas, he soon began to mouth the same old *clichés*.
syn: platitude, trite phrase

6. **coerce** (kō ūrs') *verb* to compel by force; to force a person to do something against his or her will
Because of peer pressure, students sometimes feel *coerced* to take an action with which they feel uncomfortable.
syn: compel, constrain, force

7. **collaborate** (kə lăb' ə rāt') *verb* 1. to work with another toward a goal
2. to cooperate with an enemy invader
1. The lyricist and composer *collaborated* on the stage musical.
2. Although he did not have the courage to actively oppose the Nazis, he did not *collaborate* with them.
syn: 1. cooperate 2. abet

8. **comely** (kŭm' lē) *adj.* attractive or handsome; pleasing to the sight
The writer would often refer to his beautiful sister as a "*comely* lass."
syn: becoming, attractive, handsome *ant:* homely, repulsive, plain