



abolitionist: one dedicated to abolishing (doing away with) slavery

banality: commonplace, overly simple, trite

cosmopolitan: worldly in outlook, as opposed to provincial (confined to a regional or town) outlook

farce: a light dramatic composition of satirical or humorous content; broad humor, often mockery

five-and-dime store: a type of store prevalent in America in the 1920s, 30s, and early 40s, where many featured articles sold for a nickel or dime; sheet music was displayed in the five-and-dime and a pianist sang the latest hit songs from Tin Pan Alley to promote the sale of sheet music (which usually sold for 10 cents)

idiom: the structural form peculiar to a language or genre; a form of expression characteristic of a genre

interlocutor: the lead comedian, who initiates the dialogue and drives the structural pattern of the minstrel show presentation; he sits in the middle of a semi-circle, and questions the "end" men

libretto: the text or "book" of an extended choral composition.

melodrama: a highly sentimental dramatic form, often with instrumental music and song interspersed, and typically having a happy ending

metropolitan: a large city; pertaining to an outlook shaped by the manners and/or attitudes of big city life

minstrel show: type of performance characterized by a troupe of comedians, typically blacked in imitation of African-Americans; the troupe performs melodies, exchanges jokes, and incorporates dances within a defined presentation pattern

mode: a manner or method of performance; a particular form

sound bite: a segment of a larger composition