Prudent; thinking carefully about possible risks before saying or doing something.

If you are circumspect, you think carefully before doing or saying anything. A good quality in someone entrusted with responsibility, though sometimes boring in a friend.

The word *circumspect* was borrowed from Latin *circumspectus*, from *circumspicere* "to be cautious." The basic meaning of Latin *circumspicere* is "to look around." Near synonyms are *prudent* and *cautious*, though *circumspect* implies a careful consideration of all circumstances and a desire to avoid mistakes and bad consequences.

**DEFINITIONS AND USAGE EXAMPLES**

**Pronunciation:** \( /ˈsərkəmˌspekt/ \)

- Heedful of circumstances and potential consequences; prudent.
- Careful to consider all related circumstances before acting, judging, or deciding
  - “Circumspect actions”
  - “Physicians are now more circumspect about recommending its use.”
  - “They were circumspect, typically viewing the dog from a distance.”
  - “Officials were very circumspect about possible causes of the accident.”

**Other Forms:** circumspectly; circumspectness

**Directions:** Discuss the meaning of the word with your students, with special emphasis on any variations or nuances of the word specific to your discipline. Consider taking it a step further by using one or all of the following ideas as you involve students with the new vocabulary. Remember to preview all content you intend to share with students. Not all items on the lists provided below are appropriate for all classes or age levels.
In the penguin exhibit at the London Zoo, there is a small V.I.P. section, cordoned off with low boulders, where paying guests can meet the birds and pose for selfies. . . .

The plan was for Zuzana Matyasova, the penguins’ keeper, to usher her colony of seventy Humboldts (plus a lone rockhopper) through the corridor before the zoo opened to visitors, an hour later. As the birds walked along the platform, the two small plates would record the force from each foot and the bigger one would register each penguin in toto. Two tripod-mounted cameras would film everything. Together, the readings and recordings would provide a complete biomechanical picture of a walking penguin—how its bones, ligaments, and muscles coöperate to produce its distinctive, off-kilter gait. “Their body is very weird for a bird,” Proffitt said. But, he noted, during the Antarctic winter emperor penguins can walk some fifty miles to their nest sites; they scramble over cliffs, jump over obstacles, and scale sheer surfaces: “They’re clearly doing something right.” Hutchinson and Proffitt hoped that observing the zoo colony would help them learn how penguins evolved from ancient seabirds, which had more typically avian bodies and strides. . . .

They persuaded five emperor penguins to walk over a force plate and found, to their surprise, that the birds are not wastrels but, rather, relative paragons of economy. As a penguin rocks to one side, it stores the kinetic energy of its swing as potential energy, which it then uses to power its next step. In this way, it recovers eighty per cent of the energy that it expends on each stride, one of the highest values reported for any animal. . . .

The first penguin approached. With an agility that belied its bumbling demeanor, it leaped straight over the smaller force plates. The second penguin seemed more circumspect, pausing at length to examine the unfamiliar terrain.
“Dolphins’ Stoic Joe Philbin Says He Knows How to Lighten Up.”

By STEVEN WINE - Associated Press - Monday, August 10, 2015

DAVIE, Fla. (AP) - When Joe Philbin says he has a sense of humor, he’s not joking.

The Miami Dolphins coach has been described as a staid, stoic straight arrow. He’s also meticulous and circumspect, known to pick up the stray piece of trash or read his postgame victory speech from note cards.

Why neglecting your teeth could be seriously bad for your health

It’s no secret that a lackadaisical approach to dental care leads to fillings and gum disease, but the latest evidence suggests it could also cause diabetes, heart disease and cancer.

The idea that bacteria or inflammatory chemicals released by immune cells in the gums can enter the bloodstream and influence the behaviour of other tissues or organs is known as the mouth-body connection. “The mouth is not disconnected from the rest of the body,” says Francesco D’Aiuto, senior lecturer at the Eastman Dental Institute in London. Although it’s too early to say for sure that gum disease directly causes other more serious illnesses, “people should not underestimate what the body senses when the mouth is neglected”.

The links between gum disease and cancer are more circumspect. “It’s plausible, but it’s not at all clear what the precise mechanism might be,” says Hughes. Chronic inflammation is one possibility; it makes cancer-causing mutations more likely to occur, and it may also fuel cell-division. But a study published in Immunity earlier this year also hinted that a bacterium implicated in gum disease, Fusobacterium nucleatum, can reduce the ability of the immune system to recognize and destroy cancer cells.
“Could Autonomous Ships Make the Open Seas Safer?”

Advocates say the technology is in place, but large-scale deployment is still years away

By Amar Toor on October 12, 2015

Earlier this month, the El Faro cargo ship mysteriously disappeared as it approached the Bahamas, where it collided with the 125-mph winds and 50-foot seas of Hurricane Joaquin. The US Coast Guard believes the ship sank after taking on water and seeing its engines fail, though a clearer picture likely won’t emerge until authorities recover its voyage recorder. On Wednesday, six days after losing contact with El Faro, authorities called off the search for the 33 people that were aboard.

It’s not unheard of for cargo ships to sink — 49 sank or were submerged in 2014 — but as The Atlantic reports, it’s very rare for a ship of El Faro’s size to simply disappear, without sufficient warning to evacuate crew members. And in cases where accidents do occur at sea, human error is usually to blame.

That has spurred some groups to develop more autonomous technologies that would all but remove humans from the equation. Such "drone ships" would be remotely piloted by onshore captains, but all the onboard operations that crew members currently carry out, like navigation and power management, would be handled by computer systems.

Not surprisingly, the proposals have been met with opposition from some shipping unions. "It cannot and will never replace the eyes, ears, and thought processes of professional seafarers," Dave Heindel, of the 600,000-member International Transport Workers’ Federation, told Bloomberg in February 2014.

But others have adopted a more circumspect stance. "We’re not, and shouldn’t be thought of as Luddites," says Andrew Linington, director of campaigns and communications for Nautilus International, a trade union representing more than 22,000 maritime professionals in the Netherlands, Switzerland, and the UK. "Seafarers have always been very good at adapting to technological change."
Be very circumspect in the choice of thy company. In the society of thine equals thou shalt enjoy more pleasure; in the society of thy superiors thou shalt find more profit. To be the best in the company is the way to grow worse; the best means to grow better is to be the worst there.

(Francis Quarles)

Always changing genres, making very different films is a good idea. It's a way of making yourself feel vulnerable again, getting back to that innocence. As is working within a circumspect budget.

(Danny Boyle)