

Vocabulary in Context

Read the following passage, in which some of the words you have studied in this unit appear in **boldface** type. Then complete each statement given below the passage by circling the letter of the item that is **the same** or **almost the same** in meaning as the highlighted word.

A Dynamic and Creative Duo

(Line)

Have you ever heard a musical **excerpt** from *H.M.S. Pinafore* or *The Pirates of Penzance*? If so, you've had a taste of the work of one of England's most famous creative teams. Playwright William S. Gilbert (1836–1911) and composer Arthur S. Sullivan (1842–1900) teamed up to write fourteen popular musical plays in the late nineteenth century.

(5)

It may seem curious that these two men came to **collaborate** on some of the most enduring and tuneful works in the history of the musical theater. They had very different personalities. Gilbert was a difficult man who was known to be remote and arrogant. Sullivan was a gifted musician with a sociable and easygoing manner.

(10)

You may know famous American musicals such as *The King and I*, *West Side Story*, or *Rent*. The style of works such as these **evolved** over time to blend music, dance, and theater into

(15)

a seamless whole. Previously, popular musicals (called *comic operas* or *operettas*) were less unified. They were excuses to string together an amusing assortment of songs, dance numbers, and stage spectacles.

(20)

Then along came Gilbert and Sullivan. Sullivan's sweet melodies and lush orchestrations balanced Gilbert's witty plays and lyrics. Their twenty-five-year partnership earned them **plaudits** from audiences, critics, and fellow artists the world over.

(25)

Eventually, their working relationship began to decline. Each man was jealous of the other's success. Each was annoyed by the other's temperament. They **wrangled** over artistic and personal issues. A short time after the first performance of *The Gondoliers*, they reached the breaking point. Their final split came after an awful fight over—of all things—the purchase of a carpet for the theater in which their works were performed.

(30)



Scene from *The Pirates of Penzance*

1. The meaning of **excerpt** (line 1) is

4. The meaning of **plaudits** (line 25) is