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Hi everybody Two words that I do not understand in the Eagles' "Hotel California" are "Colitas" and "tiffany". I searched for the meaning of Colitas, but I cannot find it. I guessed that "her mind is tiffany twisted" means that she is mentally unstable, is that correct? If my memory serves me right is that she was extremely influenced by Tiffany's, the jewelry store in New York. Seemed more like an obsession. "her mind is tiffany twisted" - I think means she is obsessed with that Jewellery shop. I agree with Mariaguadalupe on the Tiffany's part. As far as colitas, I found this on Wikipedia. I had heard that it had to do with marijuana, but I wanted to find something in writing (not that Wikipedia is perfect). Hope this helps. According to Don Henley [citation needed], the line "warm smell of colitas" refers to colitas, which are a desert flower with a warm, heady smell. However, the plant with the nearest spelling is coleus, which has no distinct aroma. According to Irving Azoff (Eagles management), during the writing of the song "Hotel California," by Don Henley and Glenn Frey, the word "colitas" was translated for them by their Mexican-American road manager as "little buds." Colitas is little tails, but here the author is referring to "colas," the tip of a marijuana branch, where it is more potent and with more sap — said to be the best part of the leaves. [2] Source: song I love that song, I can sing the whole damn thing (unfortunately for everyone else "And the smell of colitas, rising up through the ai-ai-air...." Colitas here is marijuana, the smell of a burning joint. The tiffany-twisted probably does make reference to Tiffany's jewelry shop, although I had never thought of it that way before. But since it is "Her mind is Tiffany Twisted, she drives a Mercedes Benz, she's got a lot of pretty, pretty boys she calls friends...", it would be accurate to assume he is referring to a wealthy, bejeweled, and glamourous woman. But still those voices are calling from far away... The tiffany-twisted probably does make reference to Tiffany's jewelry shop, although I had never thought of it that way before. I never thought about it that way either. Thank you all guys. Each post was very helpful. Just a little piece of additional information- "colita" means tail in Spanish, well, it's actually the diminutive form of "cola," which is tail. In some Spanish speaking countries, the butt of a joint is called "colita" = the tail of the joint. I never thought about what "colita" refers to in the song, but now that you guys mention it, makes perfect sense...! I think 'colitas' would be simply the rest of a cigarette, in Spanish common called 'colillas', and probably due to an mexican influence. It's near to the marihuana mean. In the other hand, the glamourous and tiffany-twisted girl would be the great Janis Joplin, because her song 'oh lord won't you buy me a Mercedes Benz, My friends all drives Porches, ...' All the song refers to mad and maybe to drougs matters, and some people has established this connection between this girl and the mean of the song. The reference to a Mercedes here is in the form of a pun. The actual words are "Mercedes bends" referring to a medical condition experienced by skin divers who surface too quickly. Nitrogen narcosis ("the bends") is a drowsy state caused by breathing air at higher than atmospheric pressure. In the loosest sense, the writers were probably just referring to an abnormal condition with reference to the girl's materialism, underscored by her apparent obsession with Tiffany's, the high-end jewelry store. I think this song talks about a brothel. I love that song, I can sing the whole damn thing (unfortunately for everyone else "And the smell of colitas, rising up through the ai-ai-air...." Colitas here is marijuana, the smell of a burning joint. The tiffany-twisted probably does make reference to Tiffany's jewelry shop, although I had never thought of it that way before. But since it is "Her mind is Tiffany Twisted, she drives a Mercedes Benz, she's got a lot of pretty, pretty boys she calls friends...", it would be accurate to assume he is referring to a wealthy, bejeweled, and glamourous woman. But still those voices are calling from far away...! I Badgrammar If you can sing along the whole song please correct the following: "And the smell of colitas" should be "warm smell of colitas" and she doesn't drive the Mercedes Benz, she's got the car! Maybe she doesn't even have a drivers license! The spoiled girl is probably driven around by one of her pretty, pretty boys! God luck singing along... I only sing along when I'm home alone. The reference to a Mercedes here is in the form of a pun. The actual words are "Mercedes bends" referring to a medical condition experienced by skin divers who surface too quickly. There is a simpler explanation. There are a lot of words in English that rhyme with bends like "friends" which Henley uses in HC. Not many words rhyme with Benz. A lot of song writers chose words because they rhyme. Another pun of Mercedes bends would be bend as in fender bender. Maybe "Tiffany" got loaded in the past and crumpled a fender or two. Personally, I like the following interpretations: "Colitas" - The sweet smell of Spanish Marijuana. "Her mind is Tiffany Twisted" - That she is so high on drugs that everything resembles Tiffany's store (i.e many, many pretty colours from all the fancy lights. "Mercedes Benz" - I think this is a pun on "the bends" - the euphoric feeling that one gets when returning to the surface too quickly (when diving). In this case, I believe it to mean that she has had to come around too quickly from her trip to answer the door when the traveler arrives. I do like the theory that the Mercedes Benz reference is somehow linked to Janis Joplin (because of her famous "Mercedes Benz" song). I also think that the reference may be to the "Tiffany Shade" album in 1967 and some of the record label issues that she experienced. Look on 'tiffanyshade.com/album.html' for more info on this subject. So "Tiffany Twisted" could mean that Janis is bitter about the deal. "We haven't had that spirit here since 1969" - Everyone knows that Wine is not a spirit (which is defined by the manufacturing process), so the "spirit" in this case is that of the drive/ emotion, i.e. "Please bring me my wine" which the Captain seems surprised that the traveler is even asking him to go and fetch him the drink. In addition to all the theories about whether the song's about a Brothel or Cannibals or a Drugs Den, etc - I personally think about the "Titty Twister" bar from the movie "From Dusk 'Til Dawn", especially the parts about "gathering for the feast" in the "Master's Chamber" and "they stab it with their steely knives, but they just can't kill the beast". However, I think realistically that the song is comparing L.A / California to a place where you can go and chill out / get stoned / "check out", etc and that you can go there any time of year, etc. I also think the reference to "you can never leave" is a reference to addiction, to either drugs or to the whole way of life in that state (drug induced or the literal meaning of "state"). Anyway, hope this prompts some further discussion. Irrespective of what the translation or hidden meaning is - I have loved the song for like forever! I had always assumed that 'colita' referred to the butt of a joint but apparently, the band members have explicitly stated that "colitas" refers to a type of desert flower. Since they have also explicitly stated that the song is about excess and the dark side of the American dream, I imagine they would have no qualms about admitting it referred to marijuana if this were the case. I think the desert flower interpretation makes more sense. "Her mind is Tiffany-twisted, she's got the Mercedes bends" is a clear reference to an obsession with wealth and status symbols. To me the use of "twisted" and "the bends" implies a degree of suffering caused by this obsession. This is consistent with the claim that the song is criticizing materialism. I like the idea that there may be some sort of tribute to Janis Joplin involved though. The reference to a Mercedes here is in the form of a pun. The actual words are "Mercedes bends" referring to a medical condition experienced by skin divers who surface too quickly. Nitrogen narcosis ("the bends") is a drowsy state caused by breathing air at higher than atmospheric pressure. In the loosest sense, the writers were probably just referring to an abnormal condition with reference to the girl's materialism, underscored by her apparent obsession with Tiffany's, the high-end jewelry store. The pun certainly refers to "the bends" or decompression sickness, however, nitrogen narcosis is not the same as "the bends". Nitrogen narcosis is caused by nitrogen dissolving in the nervous tissue and causing a narcotic effect whilst diving. Its effects are completely reversed by simply ascending. "The bends" on the other hand is almost the opposite - it's caused by the precipitation of gas bubbles from dissolved gas in the body when divers ascend too quickly. Its effects can be extremely severe and potentially fatal. Rather than "drowsy" the sufferer would be in agony if not unconscious. I love that song, I can sing the whole damn thing (unfortunately for everyone else Badgrammar, you get the words wrong. That should be "warm smell of colitas..." Last edited: Mar 13, 2010 Hi everybody Two words that I do not understand in the Eagles' "Hotel California" are "Colitas" and "tiffany". I searched for the meaning of Colitas, but I cannot find it. I guessed that "her mind is tiffany twisted" means that she is mentally unstable, is that correct? Colitas... will be like a plant, North American plant Tiffany... tiffany, thin gauze muslin, lightweight cotton cloth in a plain weave Meaning in the song... check my quote at the end of this forum Tiffany twisted means a mind twisted or intertwined with materialism and status. And colitas refers to the bud in cannabis. i.e. marijuana. What's the difference between 'factory' and 'plant'? As far as I understand, factories make consumer goods and plants produce goods other than consumer ones which then go to factories to be used in consumer goods production. That's why we say "shoe factory" but 'steel / pipe / power plant' Am I right? Thanks in advance. In most cases, the words are interchangeable. As you say, it's more common to use plant when the products are raw materials or power, whereas factories can be more specific. "Factory" has nothing to do with consumer goods, but simply implies "manufacturing" rather than "processing." "Plant is a more inclusive term that can include "factories." Tanks, howitzers, and mines and grenade launchers are all produced in 'factories', for example, but they are scarcely consumer goods. The Ford Rouge assembly plant in Dearborn, Michigan is usually called the Rouge Plant but certainly doesn't deal with raw materials and the pickup trucks it produces are indeed consumer goods. Moreover, it is part of the Ford factory complex. It's a tough one to pin down, actually. It seems to be like English prepositions in that you just have to deal with it on a case-by-case basis. Hola, ¿Puede alguien indicarme cuál sería el equivalente en inglés a las siglas E.R.E.? Expediente Regulador de Empleo, por el que una empresa despedía a un número de trabajadores. Muchas gracias de antemano. Correct me if I'm wrong, but I'd say "Dismissal Program". It's an idea that doesn't really exist outside Spain... Redundancies maybe? Yes, I definitely can assure it is Dismissal Program. I read it in the news: ... [A car company] announces new voluntary dismissal program. [The car company] will launch in February a new voluntary dismissal program for the employees of the plant based in XXXX, XXXXX. Last month, 1,756 people adhered to the program. In November 2003, the company launched the program in the plant based in ... Abraham Monedero Ruiz, VLC Spain I wonder if the workers think it's voluntary... Voluntary dismissal seems like a contradiction in terms. Thanks for the post though! Redundancy Plan or Layoff Plan is often used... "Redundancy plan finalised in Opel-GM restructuring" "Unions Oppose Nissan Layoff Plans In Spain" Yes, totally agree: layoff plan or suchlike... EREs don't really exist outside Spain. The labour market here is so different and tends to favour the worker. Where else would a company ask for permission to fire staff en masse? Would that Spain was the only place with huge lay offs or redundancies. In the press you will come across employers axeing (not sure how to spell this) or getting rid of jobs. It's different from firing in that although the workers concerned lose their jobs they do get some sort of compensation. Hi there! I do not know if that's still useful, but I'm pretty sure you mean: "Plant short work", at least that's the expression we Spaniards use to define that concept. Voluntary redundancy as opposed to compulsory redundancy is something unions fight for. What it means is that presuming sufficient volunteers - often older people who stand to get the most redundancy payments- come forwards the employer is forced to leave. As for retrenchment, there are any amount of "elegant" terms for getting rid of staff. This is by no means an exhaustive list - downsizing, rightsizing, pay roll reduction, delayering, staff reconfiguration/ reorganisation. The result is broadly the same, and they all sound like management school buzzwords and are very words by anyone who is faced with losing their job. Last edited: Jul 31, 2012 Retrenchment: reducción, receso. Too general. An "expediente regulador de empleo" is more or less a layoff plan (AmE) or redundancy scheme (BrE), as has been said. Living in Spain and dealing with several ERE proceedings, I think one of the key things missing in this thread is the fact that we're talking about an "expediente", which you can consider a "case file". The focus of the ERE has as part of it the plan to dismiss employees, sure, but only by creating an official petition which goes to the government. Specific concessions are granted during ERE proceedings allowing companies to ignore or postpone compliance with standard termination regulations, but the company must apply for the right to bypass standard employment termination proceedings. The plans are regulated and may, in fact, be turned down. I'll refrain from commenting on what I think of that or the effect this is having. When I translate a document, I refer to an ERE as one of the following, depending on context, spin, and focus: "application for planned dismissals" "written petition for planned dismissals" "regulated planned dismissal proceedings" "planned dismissal case file" what is the meaning of the word "grasshalms"? This word is included in the novel "Ulysses" of James Joyce, in the following sentence: "A dead grasshopper, apportioned, masked with Matthew Arnold's face, pushes his mower on the sombre lawn watching narrowly the dancing motes of grasshalms". They are the stalks of cut grass. Usually grass halms (pron: harmz) See also It is possible that the bower spotted by us in 2007 was in its first year of use. It was made primarily out of grasshalms, without a stalk base of twigs (see first photo below). Note also the scarcity of trinkets to adorn the alley. haulm or halm - stems of beans and peas and potatoes and grasses collectively as used for thatching and bedding stalk, stem - a slender or elongated structure that supports a plant or fungus or a plant part or plant organ.