

# Nota Bene: D

## D

**dasein:** being there

**dalliance:** a lighthearted undertaking; carefree spending of time

**dank:** damp and chilly

**de novo:** anew

**debacle:** utter collapse or rout

**debauchery:** licentiousness; overindulgent sexual expression

**debilitating:** weakening; sapping the strength of

**debonair:** suave; sophisticated and charming

**deduction:** inferring with necessity a particular conclusion from general premises

**decadence:** characterized by declining moral standards

**Decalogue:** The Ten Commandments of God

**decan:** a group of three divisions (houses) in the twelve signs of the zodiac

**decelerate:** to slow down

**decimation:** almost complete destruction

**decision theory:** the theory of how to make decisions under conditions of uncertain information

**decorum:** social propriety; dignified conduct

**decrepit:** enfeebled, as by old age

**decry:** to criticize or condemn

**deductive validity:** an inference is deductively valid when the premises cannot be true without the conclusion also being true

**deduction:** to logically derive a conclusion or conclusions from some starting point or assumption

**deescalate:** to diminish in size, intensity, or extent

**defamation:** act of harming someone by libel or slander

**defer:** to graciously submit to another's will; to delegate

**degenerate:** having regressed or descended to a lower state; a person without any standards of morality

**deja vu:** already seen; the experience of seeming to have seen or experienced a present event at some time in the past

**deify:** to elevate to the level of divinity or godhood

**deign:** to consider (an action) appropriate or suitable to one's station or reputation; to assent or condescend to something

**delectable:** highly pleasing; enjoyable (especially of a food)

**deleterious:** harmful or injurious

**deliberate:** to think about an issue before reaching a decision

**delineate:** to outline; to describe the primary features thereof

**delusion:** an accepted (but undetected) falsehood

**demagogue:** a leader who plays dishonestly on the prejudices and emotions of his followers

**demarcate:** to establish the limits of

**dementia:** a mental illness characterized by loss of reason

**democracy:** rule of the people; modern democracies are often exercises in pragmatism

**demographic:** relating to the statistical study of population

**demure:** modest; reserved and shy in appearance

**denote:** to indicate or make clear

**dénouement:** the final resolution of the intricacies of a plot

**denunciation:** the act or example of denouncing; accusing another person of a specific misdeed

**denying the antecedent:** a formal logical fallacy, so named so because the categorical premise in the argument,  $\sim p$ , denies the antecedent rather than the consequent of the conditional premise. Symbolized as:

# Nota Bene: D

given  $p \Rightarrow q$ , then  $\sim p \Rightarrow \sim q$

**deplorable:** extremely reproachful; worthy of censure

**depravity:** corruption, moral reprehensibility

**deprecate:** to belittle or make known one's disapproval of

**dereliction:** willful neglect; shirking of responsibility

**derisive:** expressing ridicule or scorn

**derivative:** imitating or borrowed from a particular source; in mathematics, the measure of velocity (or any type of change) at an instant

**desecrate:** to abuse the sacred character of a thing

**desiccate:** to dry out, to wither; to drain of vitality

**desideratum:** a thing to be desired

**despondency:** dejection, depression

**despotic:** oppressive and tyrannical

**desultory:** lacking in consistency, constancy, or visible order

**determinism:** the view that there is no contingency, for every event is necessary (according to some laws); thus the view that every event is the theoretically predictable consequence of antecedent causes

**deus ex machina:** an improbable solution, artificially introduced to resolve a difficulty or untangle a dramatic plot

**deviate:** to depart from a standard

**dexterous:** skillful

**diabolical:** devilish, evil

**diagnostic:** to evaluate the condition of a person or thing

**dialectic:** to arrive at a truthful conclusion by means of a logical argument

**diatribe:** abusive or bitter speech or writing

**dichotomy:** division into two halves, pairs, or sets

**didactic:** teaching; instruction with the purpose of establishing moral clarity

**dies:** day (**daily**)

**diffident:** hesitant, reserved, shy

**digress:** to wander from the main path or the main topic

**dilapidated:** to fall into disrepair

**dilatory:** likely to cause delay

**dilettante:** a dabbler, something who takes up an art, an activity, or a subject merely for amusement or in a desultory or superficial way

**diminution:** reduction or decrease due to outside influence

**ding-en-sich:** essence of a thing

**diplomacy:** the conduct of relations among nations

**dirge:** song or hymn of grief

**disabuse:** to correct a fallacy, to clarify

**disburse:** to pay out or distribute

**discern:** to detect, notice, or observe

**discombobulate:** to confuse or throw into an awkward predicament

**discomfort:** to cause to come into disorder

**disconcerting:** ruffled, upset

**discordant:** characterized by conflict

**discourse:** formal and orderly exchange of ideas, a discussion

**discredit:** to cause disbelief in the accuracy of some statement or the reliability of a person

**discreet:** showing good judgment in speech and behavior

**discrete:** separate, unconnected

# Nota Bene: D

- discursive:** proceeding by reasoning or argument rather than intuition
- disdain:** to treat with contempt
- disgruntle:** to cause to become cross or discontented
- disingenuous:** lacking in frankness, candor, or sincerity
- disjunction:** a truth-functional connective meaning “or” and symbolized by a wedge
- disjuncts:** the two logical sentences involved in a disjunction
- disparage:** to speak or write debasingly of
- disparity:** difference in quality or kind
- dissemble:** to pretend, to simulate
- disseminate:** to scatter across a broad spectrum; to spread far and wide
- dissipate:** to spread out or scatter
- dissolution:** the act of dissolving into fragments or parts
- dissonance:** lack of musical harmony; lack of agreement between ideas
- dissuade:** to convince to take alternate action
- disport:** to play or frolic
- distillation:** an essence or extract
- diu:** by day (**diurnal**)
- diverge:** to move in different directions; in mathematics, when an infinite series does not sum to a finite number
- divide et impera:** divide and rule
- division:** in logic, an informal fallacy in which a mistaken inference is drawn from the attributes of a whole to the attributes of the parts of the whole; the reverse of the fallacy of composition
- docile:** easily taught
- dogmatic:** holding firmly to a particular set of beliefs with little or no basis
- dolt:** a stupid or foolish person
- domesticate:** to make accustomed to home life
- domicile:** a residence
- dominus illuminatio mea:** may the Lord guide me
- dormant:** temporarily inactive; as if asleep
- dossier:** a collection of documents offering detailed information
- droll:** wryly amusing
- dröss:** something that is trivial or inferior; an impurity
- dualism:** the general perspective that reality or man’s experience is properly interpreted by two different kinds of explanation, the one religious and the other non-religious; thus the endorsement of a sacred/secular distinction (this should be distinguished from the specific metaphysical doctrine given the same name that means the view that there are two ultimate and irreducible principles for explaining reality: mind and matter [body])
- dubious:** doubtful, uncertain
- dum licet utere:** while time is given, use it
- dupe:** someone who is easily cheated
- dyslexia:** unusual trouble with spelling or reading caused by a brain condition
- dysphoria:** an unwell feeling (opposite of **euphoria**)