

# Nota Bene: E

## E

**e pluribus unum:** from many, one

**ebullience:** the quality of being optimistic in speech or writing

**ecce homo:** behold the man!

**eccentricity:** odd or whimsical behavior

**ecclesiastical:** pertaining to church

**echelon:** a level of command; military organizational structure

**eclectic:** choosing from a variety of sources or origins; something that offers a diverse selection of items, styles, or approaches

**eclipse:** any obscuration of light

**ecumenical:** universal

**edification:** to instruct or enlighten in an encouraging way

**educe:** to draw out (**education**)

**effeminate:** more reminiscent of women than men

**effete:** lacking robust vitality; sterile; without force

**efficacious:** having the power to produce a desired effect

**efflorescent:** blossoming

**effrontery:** shameful boldness

**effulgent:** radiant; brilliantly shining

**egalitarian:** arising from a belief in the equality of all persons

**egocentric:** selfish

**egregious:** flagrantly incorrect or bad

**eke:** to supplement through adversity; to survive or subsist by means of hard labor or strenuous effort

**elaborate:** to expand upon something

**elegy:** a song or poem expressing sorrow

**elicit:** to bring out

**elitism:** adherence to the belief that leadership is best managed by an the best or brightest

**ellipsis:** to make less than; to omit (an **ellipsis** is abbreviated as ...)

**elocution:** an individual's style of public speech

**eloquent:** fluent and persuasive in speech or expression

**elucidate:** to make clear

**elusive:** difficult to perceive, comprehend, or describe

**emanate:** to issue forth as from a source

**emancipate:** to free or liberate

**embellish:** to enhance or exaggerate; to decorate

**embezzle:** to steal money or property that has been entrusted into your care

**embodiment:** the incarnation (of a given thing or idea)

**emeritus:** honorary; by reason of merit

**eminence:** superiority or outstanding nobility

**emissary:** an agent acting in the interests of another party

**emollient:** something that softens or soothes

**emotivism:** the view that moral utterances are mere expressions of feeling (and are thus non-informative in function)

**empathize:** to share another's emotions

**emphatic:** highlighted; extremely expressive

**empiricism:** the view that all knowledge is *a posteriori*

**emulate:** to imitate or copy

# Nota Bene: E

**en masse:** together; in one group  
**encomium:** a formal expression of high praise  
**endemic:** native, indigenous, natural to a specific place or people  
**enervate:** to reduce the energy or strength of someone or something  
**engender:** to produce; to cause  
**enhance:** to improve in value or quality  
**enigmatic:** puzzling, mysterious  
**enmesh:** to involve, entangle, or implicate  
**enmity:** hatred, hostility, ill will  
**ennul:** listlessness, dissatisfaction, or boredom  
**ens necessarium:** necessary being  
**enshrine:** to cherish as though sacred  
**ensure:** to make certain; to guarantee  
**enthrall:** to hold spellbound  
**entity:** something that exists separately  
**enunciate:** to articulate or pronounce  
**envisage:** to picture or conceive of  
**ephemeral:** short-lived  
**epicure:** someone who appreciates fine wine and fine food; a gourmand (from the Greek philosopher Epicurus)  
**epiphenomenon:** any secondary phenomenon  
**epistemology:** the study of the nature and limits of human knowledge  
**epithet:** term or words used to characterize a person or thing, often in a disparaging way  
**epitome:** a person or thing that is typical of or possesses to a high degree the features of a whole class  
**eponymous:** giving one's name to a tribe or place  
**equable:** steady, uniform  
**equanimity:** even-temperedness; calmness  
**equivocation:** an informal logical fallacy of using of ambiguous expressions in order to mislead or hedge  
**eradicate:** to destroy completely  
**errare humanum est:** to err is human  
**erratic:** inconsistent  
**ersatz:** an unconvincing substitute; not the "real thing"  
**erudite:** characterized by great knowledge, learned or scholarly  
**esse est percipi:** to be is to be perceived  
**esoterica:** items of interest to a select group  
**espouse:** to take up as a cause; to adopt  
**essence:** what is "about a thing" that makes it "what it is"  
**estimable:** worthy of esteem and admiration  
**estrangle:** to alienate or remove from a position or relationship  
**et cetera:** and so forth (abbreviated etc.)  
**ethics:** the study of right and wrong actions and attitudes  
**ethos:** the fundamental character or spirit of a person or culture  
**etymology:** the study of the development and history of words  
**eulogy:** a formal tribute usually delivered at a funeral  
**euphemism:** an agreeable expression that is substituted for an offensive one  
**euphony:** harmonious language or sounds  
**evanescent:** vanishing, fading away, fleeting  
**evasive:** prone to hiding

# Nota Bene: E

**evince:** to prove conclusively or demonstrate

**eviscerate:** to disembowel; to remove the entrails of

**evoke:** to call forth or summon

**evolution:** from *evolvere* meaning to eject *something* with a rolling or coiling motion or to cause *something* to flow out or roll out from somewhere, or to unwind *something*, or to unwrap or uncover *something*; in terms of a scientific theory, evolution is precisely the make-believe that *something*, and often *something* very big, can ultimately come out from somewhere where it had not been beforehand, provided the steps of that process are very numerous and practically undetectable

**ex libris:** from the books of or from the library of

**ex nihilo:** out of nothing

**ex nihilo nihil fit:** out of nothing, nothing comes

**ex post facto:** after the fact

**exacerbate:** to aggravate, to make an issue or problem worse

**excelsior:** ever upward!

**excluded middle:** a traditional law of logic that states that any statement is either true or false

**excommunicate:** to banish; to revoke formally one's status as member of a group

**excoriation:** the act of condemning someone with harsh words

**exculpate:** to free from blame or guilt

**executor:** the person appointed to execute someone's will

**exempli gratia:** for example (abbreviated e.g.)

**exigent:** urgent, requiring immediate attention

**existence:** the actuality of a thing: *that it is*

**existere:** to stand out of; to exist

**existentialism:** the view that "existence precedes essence," so that man is radically free to choose what he will be; the ethical view that does away with all norms, all restrictions, and also with all continuity by claiming that *only the actual moment (i.e., the atomistic units of time) count*

**exonerate:** exculpate

**expectation:** in probability, the result of taking each possible outcome, multiplying its value by its probability, and adding all the results together

**expedient:** providing an immediate advantage or serving one's immediate self-interest

**expeditious:** speedy and efficient

**expletive:** an exclamation, interjection, or profane oath

**extant:** in existence

**extenuate:** to make less serious

**extol:** to greatly praise

**extraneous:** irrelevant, nonessential

**extrapolate:** to deduce from something known, to infer

**extricate:** to free from a difficult or complicated situation