

# Nota Bene: L

## L

**labyrinthine:** extremely intricate or involved; circuitous

**laconic:** concise to the point of terseness; taciturn

**lacuna:** missing part

**laggard:** one who lags behind or loiters

**lambaste:** to attack someone verbally; to give someone a 'dressing down'

**lamentation:** an expression of mourning

**languid:** listless; lacking vitality

**largess:** generously bestowed gifts

**lascivious:** wanton or lustful (in a sexual context)

**lapsus linguae:** a slip of the tongue

**lapsus memoriae:** a slip of the memory

**latent:** potential

**laudable:** commendable, praiseworthy

**laureate:** honored as a result of achievements

**law:** a principle or standard that is objectively true

**laws of thought:** three tautologies that are fundamental principles of all reasoning - (1) the principle of identity, (2) the principle of contradiction, and (3) the principle of excluded middle

**Leibniz's law:** if two objects are identical, any property of one is the property of the other

**legal:** from *legalis* meaning 'pertaining to law'

**lethargic:** lacking energy; sluggish

**levity:** lightness; insubstantiality

**levy:** to demand payment or collection of a tax or fee

**lex talionis:** the law of retaliation; an eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth

**lexicon:** a dictionary composed for a specific, narrowly defined (i.e., professional) audience

**liaison:** a communication channel; a person who acts as a go-between or formal representative

**liar paradox:** 'This sentence is false'

**libation:** an alcoholic beverage offered or accepted in celebration

**liberal arts:** the arts of freedom

**lien:** a claim against a property for the satisfaction of a debt

**limn:** to outline in distinct detail; to delineate

**linguistic analysis:** the view that conceptual confusions should be resolved by clarifying our use of words and getting back to ordinary usage

**lissome:** supple

**litany:** something related incessantly in an unwavering manner; characterized by much repetition

**literatim:** letter for letter

**litigious:** overly inclined to engage in lawsuits

**liturgy:** a form (or ritual) of worship

**livid:** extremely angry; infuriated

**locum tenens:** a substitute

**locus:** place

**locution:** style of speaking

**logic:** from *logos* meaning 'word'; the study of principles for distinguishing correct reasoning from incorrect reasoning

**logical equivalence:** in dealing with truth-functional compound propositions, the relationship that holds between two propositions when the statement of their material equivalence is a tautology

**logista:** (Greek) the art of computation

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**logistics:** the essential details of how something is to be accomplished; in military usage, the disciplined order of supply and procurement

**logos:** word or logic; ratio of two integers; rational inquiry into the general causes of things in the universe (Greek philosophy); the Word (communication) of God in the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ (Christianity)

**logical positivism:** the view that all meaningful sentences are verifiable scientifically or logically (scientism)

**loquacity:** talkativeness, wordiness

**Lothario:** a seducer (from the 1703 play *The Fair Penitent* by Nicholas Rowe)

**lucid:** clear and understandable

**lucullan:** from Lucullus, wealthy Roman general and gourmet

**ludicrous:** absurd to the point of being laughable

**lugubrious:** mournful in the extreme

**luna:** the moon (**lunar**)

**lurid:** gruesome or sensationalistic

**lustrous:** radiant; shining