

Nota Bene: N

N

nabob: originally, a person who returned to Europe from India with great riches; a wealthy person who is accustomed to luxury

nadir: the point on the imaginary celestial sphere directly beneath a given position or observer (opposite of zenith); lowest point or point of greatest adversity or despair

name: grammatical category for a word that refers to or identifies an object

nanosecond: one billionth of a second; used to indicate the shortest conceivable period of time

napalm: a type of burning plastic used as a weapon in war

narcissistic: possessed by self-love

narcolepsy: the disorder of suddenly and unpredictably falling asleep

narcoma: a hazy state between sleep and wakefulness reminiscent of or signaling use of narcotics

nascence: beginning to exist or develop

naturu abhorret a vacuo: nature abhors a vacuum

ne plus ultra: do not go beyond this point; the highest possible embodiment (of something)

nebula: a cloud of interstellar gas or dust; means “fuzzy”

nebulous: vague, cloudy or hazy

nebulochastic: hazy and confused

necessary and sufficient conditions: in causal reasoning, the meaning of “cause” where inferences are made both from cause to effect and from effect to cause; in deductive reasoning, two statements that are materially equivalent are necessary and sufficient conditions for one another, since they imply one another; i.e., p “if and only if” q

necessity: it *must* be the case that ...

necrology: a list of people who have recently died

necromancy: witchcraft; the supposed practice of gaining insight by means of communication with the dead

negation: denial; it is *not* the case that ...; symbolized by the tilde (\sim); $\sim p$ means “it is not the case that p ”

nefarious: evil

nemesis: an opponent motivated by revenge

neolithic: latter part of the so-called “Stone Age”; something so unsophisticated as to belong to a much earlier era

neophyte: a recent convert

nepotism: favoritism toward relatives in professional matters

nether: lower; removed

neurology: the study of the nervous system and its diseases

nexus: a linkage or connection

niggardly: stingy

nirvana: a point or state of spiritual perfection where one's physical existence is beyond concern (a tenet of Buddhism)

noblesse oblige: nobility obligates; the moral obligation of those few who are leaders to lead

nocturnal: occurring during the night

noisome: putrid, fetid, noxious

nolens volens: whether willing or not (willy-nilly)

nom de guerre: wartime name; a name taken or bestowed during wartime

nomenclature: a system of names for purposes of organization

nomina: names

nominalism: the view that only particulars are real; universals are only a name given to an observable similarity

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non compos mentis: of unsound mind

non sequitur: a statement that does not follow logically from what preceded it

nonchalance: the quality of being unconcerned with worldly cares

nonentity: something that does not exist

nonfeasance: failure to perform (a given duty)

nonpareil: a person without parallel or equal

nota bene: take careful note (abbreviated N.B.)

notorious: famous, especially for evil actions or qualities

noumena: things apprehended by thought, independent of the senses

nouveau riche: someone recently wealthy; a description of someone who has recently gained an enormous amount of wealth, a wealth that brings with it a tactless or overbearing attitude

nox: night (**nocturnal**)

noxious: harmful; injurious

nubile: sexually mature (i.e., prepared for marriage); used almost exclusively in reference to young women

nugatory: worthless or in vain

nullibiety: a state of being nowhere

numerology: the supposed practice of divining the future through analyzing the occult significance of numbers

numismatic: pertaining to coins, medals, paper money

nunc aut nunquam: now or never