

# Nota Bene: O

## O

**obdurate:** unwilling to change; stubborn, inflexible  
**obfuscate:** to muddy or confuse an issue  
**objective:** the quality of having a public nature, independent of our thoughts  
**obligatory:** required as an obligation or duty  
**oblique:** angled; indirect  
**oblivious:** unaware, unconscious  
**obsequious:** compliant and servile to superiors  
**obscurant:** a person who tries to prevent the increase and spread of knowledge  
**obscure:** little known; hard to understand  
**obsolete:** no longer current; old-fashioned  
**obstinate:** stubborn, unyielding  
**obtuse:** dull-witted, insensitive; incomprehensible, unclear, or imprecise  
**obviate:** preclude, make unnecessary  
**occlude:** to obstruct  
**octogenarian:** a person in his or her eighties  
**odium:** intense feeling of hatred, abhorrence  
**odyssey:** a long journey that entails danger or adventure  
**officious:** prone to offering one's services and/or insight, even when they are not requested or appropriate  
**ominous:** foreboding or menacing  
**omnia vincit amor:** love conquers all  
**omnipotent:** all powerful  
**omnipresent:** everywhere present  
**omniscient:** absolute knowledge of all things  
**omnivorous:** eating everything; voracious; accustomed to eating both animal and vegetable food items  
**onerous:** troublesome and burdensome  
**onomatopoeia:** the development of a word whose pronunciation imitates its main reference (e.g., splat, buzz)  
**ontology:** the study of existence or being  
**onus:** the burden of performing a task or duty  
**opaque:** impenetrable to light  
**opere citato:** in the work cited (abbreviated op. cit.)  
**opine:** to make one's opinion known  
**opprobrium:** dishonor, disapproval  
**optimal:** best, favored  
**opulent:** rich  
**opus:** a major work  
**oracle:** a means by which prophetic wisdom is imparted; someone who is seen to offer dependable advice or counsel  
**ordinal:** of or pertaining to order, a number that expresses position in a series  
**organon:** instrument  
**ornate:** overwrought or decorated elaborately  
**orthodox:** straight talk or true glory; conforming to a certain standard or dogma  
**oscillate:** to waver between two (or more) points  
**osmosis:** the process of attaining something (e.g., knowledge) by gradual exposure to it; in chemistry, the process by which fluids are dispersed and equalized in concentration through membranes  
**ossified:** to turn into bone; to become rigidly conventional and opposed to change

# Nota Bene: O

**ostensibly:** seemingly; as represented

**ostentatious:** characterized by or given to pretentious or conspicuous show in an attempt to impress others

**ostracize:** to exclude from a group