

# Nota Bene: C

## C

**cacophony:** discordant sounds; dissonance

**cadge:** to beg for or to sponge

**calibrate:** to determine or mark graduations (of a measuring instrument)

**canard:** a fabrication or unfounded story

**candor:** open, honest

**canon:** rule or law

**capacious:** capable of holding a great deal of something

**cap-à-pie** (French): from head to foot

**capitulate:** to agree to a demand to surrender

**caput mortuum:** the dead head; worthless remains

**capricious:** a whimsical, impulsive, or unpredictable attitude

**captious:** extremely critical

**cardinal:** of prime importance; in mathematics, (1) a number that expresses an amount or magnitude or (2) a symbol analogous to the number of elements in a finite set, being identical for two sets that can be placed into one-to-one correspondence

**caricature:** a grotesquely or absurdly exaggerated representation

**carpe diem:** seize the day; i.e., make the most of the opportunity

**carte blanche:** blank document; unrestricted power, access, or privilege—free to “write one’s own ticket”

**cartel:** a group assembled with the objective of establishing mutual control over prices, production, and marketing of good

**caste:** a social class marked by strong hereditary and cultural ties

**cashier:** (1) someone who collects money or (2) to dismiss (a military officer) from service with disgrace

**castigate:** to chastise or punish severely

**catalytic:** bringing about, causing, or producing some result

**catch-22:** an impossible situation in which one is presented with logically contradictory options

**catharsis:** an emotional purging

**causa sui:** cause of oneself

**causal:** inductive reasoning in which some effect is inferred from what is assumed to be its cause or some cause is inferred from what is assumed to be its effect

**cause célèbre:** celebrated cause

**caustic:** burning, corrosive

**cavalcade:** a procession, especially one involving people on horses or in vehicles

**cavalier:** unconcerned with what is considered important

**caveat emptor:** let the buyer beware

**cavil:** to find fault in trivial matters; to raise petty objections

**celerity:** speed; swiftness of action or motion

**celibacy:** the quality of being chaste; the act of abstaining from sexual activity

**ensorious:** from the Roman office of Censor of Public Morals

**centesimus:** the hundredth (**centennial**)

**certainty:** the property of a proposition that it cannot fail to be true

**ceteris paribus:** other things being equal

**chagrin:** the emotion of humiliation or embarrassment arising from disheartening experience

**chaos:** disorder, confusion, chance

**charismatic:** gifted (by God); dynamic charm or appeal

**charlatan:** a fake or humbug

**chary:** slow to accept or cautious

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**chef d'œuvre** (French): a master piece  
**chimerical**: fanciful, imaginary, or unreal  
**chivalrous**: honorable; in keeping with a code of behavior reminiscent of that followed by medieval knights  
**christos anesti**: Messiah is risen. The Greek assertion of early Christians on Easter, the day of Christ's resurrection. The response: alithos anesti (He has risen indeed)  
**christus vincit, christus regnat, christus imperat**: Christ (the Messiah) is conquering, Christ is reigning, Christ rules over all  
**chronology**: an arrangement of events by order of occurrence; a list of dates, the science of time  
**churlish**: coarse and ill-mannered  
**circa**: about, approximately (abbreviated c. or ca.)  
**circular argument**: see **begging the question**  
**circumlocution**: a roundabout expression  
**circumspect**: prudent, cautious  
**circumvent**: to evade by means of artful contrivance  
**citadel**: a stronghold, fortress  
**clairvoyance**: supernatural or perceptive skills  
**clamorous**: loud; expressively vehement  
**clandestine**: hidden or secret  
**cleave**: (1) to stick closely together or (2) to split apart  
**clemency**: forbearance or mercy toward a wrongdoer or opponent  
**coagulant**: any material that causes another to thicken or clot  
**coalesce**: to fuse or unite  
**codify**: to reduce to the form of a code  
**coerce**: to force someone either to do something or to refrain from doing something  
**cogent**: forceful and convincing  
**cogitate**: to ponder, think; to meditate or ruminate  
**cogito ergo sum**: I think, therefore I am (Rene Descartes)  
**cohort**: as associate or companion with whom one is united through common experience  
**colloquial**: in common conversational use  
**collusion**: a conspiratorial or secret understanding entered into for an illicit or fraudulent end  
**comme il faut** (French): as it should be  
**commensurate**: proportional (Ancient Greek mathematics); aligned with  
**commingle**: to blend or to mix  
**commiserate**: to share in another's sorrow or disappointment  
**compendious**: comprised of all necessary or essential components while being concise  
**complaisant**: tending to bow to someone else's wishes; amiable  
**complement**: in set theory, the complement of a set is the collection of all things that do not belong to that set  
**comport**: to behave in a particular fashion; to stand in harmonious relation  
**composition**: in logic, an informal fallacy in which an inference is mistakenly drawn from the attributes of the parts of a whole to the attributes of the whole itself  
**compos mentis**: of sound mind  
**compound**: (verb) to intensify; to exacerbate; in logic, a proposition (or statement) comprising two or more component propositions  
**compunction**: unrest or self-dissatisfaction arising out of a feeling of guiltiness  
**conceptualism**: the view that universals are neither independently existing, nor mere names, but rather concepts abstracted from the particulars by the mind

# Nota Bene: C

**concerted:** mutually devised or planned

**conclusion:** in an argument, the proposition to which the other propositions in the argument are claimed to give support; the part of an inference for which reasons are given

**concomitant:** to exist or occur with something else; accompanying

**concourse:** an assembly of a large number of people

**concur:** to agree or approve

**condensation:** a reduction to a denser form (e.g., from steam to water); an abridgment of a literary work

**condescending:** having an attitude of superiority toward another; patronizing

**conditional:** in logic, a hypothetical proposition; i.e., p and q are statements, then a “if p, then q” is a conditional statement

**conditional probability:** the probability of some statement, given some other information

**condone:** to overlook, to permit to happen

**confabulate:** to chat or talk informally

**confer:** compare (abbreviated cf.)

**confidence:** the psychological property of feeling assurance that a proposition is true

**confluence:** a point of meeting or flowing together

**congenial:** having similar habits or tastes

**congenital:** existing from birth

**congruent:** coinciding; harmonious; equal (Euclidean Geometry)

**conjecture:** speculation based on inconclusive data or on incomplete evidence

**conjunction:** the occurrence of two or more events together in time or space; the point at which two celestial bodies have the least separation; in logic a truth-functional connective meaning “and” (symbolized by a dot)

**conjuncts:** the two sentences involved in a logical conjunction

**conjure:** to summon or bring about (as if by supernatural means)

**connotation:** an implication beyond literal meaning; an unspoken suggestion

**consanguineous:** related by blood; or common lineage

**consequent:** in a hypothetical proposition (“if ... then ...”), the component that immediately follows the “then.”

**consequi** to follow along

**consortium:** a union, partnership, or alliance, especially one among financial or business entities

**conspicuous:** easily seen or noticed

**consternation:** shock, amazement, dismay

**consubstantial:** of one and the same substance, essence, or nature; e.g., Jesus is consubstantial with God the Father

**consummate:** to complete or finalize

**contingent:** (1) the quality of not being necessarily determined - whatever may or may not be the case or (2) dependent upon

**contra:** against (abbreviated con.)

**contradiction:** a statement that is necessarily false; the principle of contradiction (law of logic) presupposes that no statement can be both true and false

**contrapositive:** the conclusion of an inference

**contraria sunt complementaria** opposites are complementary (Niels Bohr)

**contravene:** to go against or deny

**contrition:** sadness or remorse over past wrong actions

**contrivance:** a device or artful means of acquiring or performing something

**contumely:** a rude display in speech or deed; contemptuous behavior

**conundrum:** a puzzle

# Nota Bene: C

**convalescence:** a process by which one's health is regained after an illness

**convergence:** the act of coming together in unity or similarity; (in mathematics) an infinite series that has a finite sum

**conversational implicature:** an inference, not from what is said, but from the fact that it is said

**converse:** the conclusion of an immediate inference

**conviviality:** fond of good company and eating and drinking

**convocation:** an assembly of people gathered in response to a summons

**convoluted:** complicated, intricately involved

**copious:** abundant

**coquettish:** given to flirting

**cordon:** to form a protective or restrictive barrier

**corral:** to enclose, to collect, to gather

**corroborating:** supporting with evidence; confirming

**corrosive:** eating away, gnawing or destroying

**cosi la vita:** such is life

**cosmogony:** the study of the origin of the universe

**cosmology:** the study of the structure of the universe

**cosmopolitanism:** international sophistication; worldliness

**cosmos:** harmoniously ordered whole that speaks of beauty or adornment

**counterpoint:** the art of combining melodies; any element that is juxtaposed and contrasted with another

**coup de main** (French): sudden enterprise or effort

**covenant:** a binding agreement entered into by two or more parties or entities; in Scripture God makes such a covenant with His creation and with His people

**covert:** secret, hidden, clandestine

**covetous:** envious, particularly of another's possession, the heart attitude that the 10th commandment of God forbids

**credulous:** ready to believe; gullible

**creed:** belief

**cryptic:** puzzling, ambiguous

**culmination:** the climax

**culinary:** pertaining to cookery or the preparation of food

**culminate:** to climax or reach a high point

**culpable:** deserving blame, guilty

**cum grano salis:** with a grain of salt

**cuneiform:** wedge shaped

**cupidity:** greed; extreme desire for wealth

**curative:** curing; serving to provide a remedy

**curl:** the symbol for negation; the tilde (~)

**curmudgeon:** a crusty, ill-tempered person

**curriculum:** running; course of action

**cursory:** hasty and superficial