

# 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**obsolete:** no longer current; old-fashioned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

# Nota Bene: O

**ossified:** to turn into bone; to become rigidly conventional and opposed to change

**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