

Nota Bene: S

S

sacred: to consecrate or be devoted to

sage: a person of great wisdom

salutary: restorative, healthful

sanction: to support or authorize

sanctify: to set apart; to make holy; reference to people or things in the Bible

sanctum sanctorum: the holy of holies in the tabernacle/temple complex as revealed in the Old Testament

sang froid (French): in cold blood; indifference

sanguine: possessing a positive attitude

sans souci (French): free and easy; without care

sap: to exhaust, to deplete

sapere aude: dare to be wise

sardonic: bitter or sarcastic

saros: a period of approximately 18 years after which eclipses repeat but are shifted 120 degrees

satiare: to fulfill to or beyond capacity

saturate: to drench or suffuse with liquid or anything that permeates or invades

saturnine: from Saturn, the gloomy Roman god of agriculture

savoir faire: an evident sense of confidence and proficiency

scapegoat: a person considered responsible for a fiasco or mishap who was not in fact totally responsible for it (cf. Leviticus 16)

scathing: violently critical

schematic: having to do with a diagram or scheme

scientific method: a set of techniques for solving problems involving the construction of preliminary hypotheses, the formulation of explanatory hypotheses, the deduction of consequences from hypotheses, the testing of the consequences deduced, and the application of the theory thus confirmed to further problems

scientism: the scientific philosophy that embraces radical materialism and positivism; the proposition that only scientifically measurable parameters are worthy of consideration

scintilla: spark or trace

scrutinize: to study closely

scurvy: shabby, low

secular: of this temporal world, time or age (to be secular is to be completely time bound, a child of this age, a creature of history, with no vision of eternity)

sedulous: diligent, industrious

seethe: to boil

sein: being

self-reference: a sentence about a situation which reflects back on itself

semantics: the science of the way meaning is communicated through language

semper fidelis: always faithful

semper paratus: always prepared

secundum artem: according to art

sensus divinitatis: awareness (or sense) of God

sentence: a unit of language that expresses a complete thought

sententious: tending to use many clichés or maxims in order to enlighten others

septuagenarian: a person in his or her seventies

Septuagint: seventy translators; the Greek translation of the Hebrew Scriptures by seventy Jewish scholars

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in Alexandria, Egypt (3rd century BC)

sequi: to follow

sequential: arranged in an order or series

sequester: to set apart (from outside influence)

serendipity: the quality of coming upon important insights or discoveries by accident

serpentine: snakelike

shalom: peace

Shangri-La: a paradise or utopia; from a fictional land of eternal youth encountered in the James Hilton novel *The Lost Horizon*

shibboleth: a special term not widely known that, when used, identifies the user as a member of a group; the peculiarity of fashion or lifestyle common to a single group

sic: so thus, written this way intentionally

sic semper tyrannis: thus always to tyrants

sic transit gloria mundi: so passes away the glory of the world

sic transit hora: so passes the hour

sidereal: relating to the stars of the constellations

signatory: someone who signs an official document or petition along with others

simile: a comparison in speech or writing

similitude: likeness or similarity

simulacrum: a minor, unreal or eerie similarity

sine die: without a day specified

sine qua non: without which not (an absolutely indispensable or essential thing)

sinecure: an office or position that requires little or no work; especially one yielding profitable returns

sinuous: winding, circuitous, serpentine

situation: a state of affairs, maybe hypothetical, in which premises and conclusions may be true or false

skepticism: the view that denies the possibility of knowledge or certainty (sometimes limited to certain areas)

skittish: nervous and lacking confidence

smattering: a little bit

snafu: a badly confused or ridiculously muddled situation; total disorder; created in World War II by soldiers to stand for **s**(ituation) **n**(ormal) **a**(ll) **f**(ouled —euphemistically construed) **u**(p)

sobriety: clear-headedness

sobriquet: nickname

sociometry: measurable distinctions accountable to social distinctions

soi disant (French): self-styled

sol: the sun (solar)

sola Christus: Christ only

sola fide: faith only

sola gratia: grace only

sola Scriptura: Scripture only

solace: consolation

solecism: an act that breaks formal rules

soldier: from solidus—a gold coin

solī deo gloria: for the glory of God only

solicitous: openly concerned or worried (about the condition of another)

soliloquy: in drama, a speech given by a character when no one else is present on stage

solipsism: the view that everything other than one's self is a state of one's self; the belief that one's own perceptions are the only meaningful reality

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sophistry: a seemingly convincing argument that is logically flawed by some form of ambiguity
sophomore: wise fool
sordid: tawdry
sorites paradox: a kind of paradox involving repeated applications of a vague predicate
sound: in logic, a deductive argument that is valid and has true premises
sovereignty: supreme and absolute ruler, the self-determination and right to exist as an independent entity
specious: deceptively plausible or attractive
spinster: a single woman, especially a middle-aged one
splice: to unite by interweaving separate strands or parts
sporadic: irregular
spurious: false, fake
squander: to use up carelessly, to waste
subject: for the grammatically simplest kind of sentence, the part which tells you what the sentence is about
stalemate: a deadlocked political or military situation; in chess, a position where neither player can make a legal move
stalwart: firm or purpose; steadfast
stanch: to stop the flow
statement: a proposition
stereotype: a commonly accepted notion that presents an oversimplified or inaccurate viewpoint
stigma: a sign of disgrace or low status
stint: to limit, to restrain
stipulation: a condition; an essential point that must be satisfied
stolid: impassive, unemotional
sullen: from solus - alone
status quo: the existing state of affairs
stellar: from stella meaning “star”
stoic: above succumbing to sensations of pain or pleasure; a philosophy that advocates putting aside unjust thoughts and indulgences and attending first and foremost to the duties of life
strident: harsh
stringent: extremely strict
stultify: to render foolish or unable to act intelligently
stymie: to stand in the way of or to hinder
suaviter in modo: agreeable in manner
subcontrary: one of two propositions that can both be true but cannot both be false
sub judice: under consideration
sub rosa: under the rose; privately
subjective: originating in one’s personal observation
subjugate: to cause to become subservient
sublimate: to transfer the force of an unacceptable inclination or impulse to a pursuit considered proper
sublime: grand or lofty
subordination: the state of being subservient or treated as less valuable
subpoena: an order of a court, legislation or grand jury that compels a witness to be present at a trial or hearing
subservient: bending to the will of another
subsidization: the state of being financed by a grant from a government or other agency
substance: (1) whatever is real; (2) something’s essence; (3) whatever exists in its own right and depends on nothing else; (4) that which underlies (or has) the properties of a thing

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substantiated: verified or supported by evidence

subsume: to encompass or engulf within something larger

subterranean: under the surface of the earth

subvention: a grant of money (by a government or some authority) to aid or support a person or institution

sully: to besmear or make foul

summarily: quickly and concisely

summum bonum: the supreme good

sumptuous: extravagant

sundry: various

supercilious: disdainful or haughty

superficial: on the surface only; without depth or substance

superfluous: unnecessary

superimpose: to place or lay over or above something

superlative: to the highest possible degree

supersede: to displace, to substitute or supplant

supine: prone; laying down with the back to the floor

supposition: assumption, conjecture

surcease: end, cessation

surfeit: excess

surge: a gush; a swelling or sweeping forward

surrealistic: unreal

surreptitious: undertaken in stealth

surrogate: one who acts in the place of another

swastika: well-being

sycophant: an ambitious flatterer

sylvan: from *sylva* meaning "woods"

syllogism: a form of logical argument that features three propositions and finishes with a conclusion; also called categorical *syllogism*

symbiotic: the quality of two dissimilar organisms in the same place in a mutually beneficial relationship

symmetry: the quality of showing complementary forms or aesthetically pleasing proportions

synergism: the interaction of elements that when combined produce a total effect that is greater than the sum of the individual elements, contributions, etc.; in theology, the doctrine that the human will cooperates with the Holy Spirit in the outworking of salvation

synonym: a word equivalent in meaning to another word

synopsis: a summary

synthesis: a way of thinking that begins with constituent properties (particulars) and proceeds to establish general conclusions (induction)