

## Glossary

Language changes, and the vocabulary used today differs from that used a few years ago. This glossary contains words likely to be unfamiliar to present-day, or future, students. The short definitions may at times appear too general, or even homophrosic. However, their purpose is to recall a meaning to the student's memory. For precise definitions, please consult a good dictionary.

acceptation : a generally accepted meaning of a word.

agnate : a royal kin.

allegory : a symbolic narration or description.

analogy : partial resemblance.

antanaclasis : see distinctio.

anthropology : the part of metaphysics which deals with the definition of man.

anthroponym : a personal name usual for human beings.

antinomy : a type of contradiction.

antonomasia : the use of a common noun in place of a proper name, or vice-versa.

antonym : a word with the contrary meaning.

apodosis : the closing part of a sentence (antonym: protasis).

apophthegm : a saying (of a sage).

apotropic : which averts (evil).

asyndeton : a list in which the items are not linked with "and".

axiom : a statement universally accepted as true.

binome : a unit composed of two words.

caesura : in prosody, the pause in the middle of a line.

catena : a method of logical argumentation in which each step is linked to the preceding one (= sorites).

collate : to establish a text by comparing a number of witnesses.

copula : the verb "to be", or an equivalent, that links the subject to its predicate.

- couplet : a verse composed of two lines.
- distich : a couplet.
- distinctio : this consists in using a word repeatedly, while endowing it with a different meaning each time .
- ductus : the shape, the form of something written.
- elucubration : a complicated explication.
- emblem : a visible sign that stands for something else.
- emphasis : special stress given to a statement.
- eponymous : a characteristic feature which acts as a designation.
- esoteric : to be understood only by a chosen few (contrary: exoteric).
- et passim : Lat. “and elsewhere”.
- etymology : the origin and development of a word (a kanji).
- euphemism : a milder word substituted for one considered distasteful.
- exegesis : an in-depth explication and interpretation of a text.
- exoteric : to be understood by everybody (contrary: esoteric).
- factitive mood : in grammar, expresses that someone or something is made to do something.
- falso : Lat. “erroneous” (contrary: recte)
- force majeure : Fr., an overpowering necessity.
- hapax legomenon : Gr., a word or a meaning which occurs only once.
- hemistich : a half line of a verse.
- heterodox : the (wrong) beliefs held by other people.
- hexeneinmaleins : Ger. “the witches’ multiplication table”, a series of unrelated pseudo-logical reasonings which invariably obtain the same result.
- homophony : having the same sound.
- homophrosis : an explanation which is as obscure as (or obscurer than) that which it intends to explain.
- hyperbole : an exaggeration not meant to be taken literally.
- i.e. : id est, Lat. “that is” or “that means” = viz.
- iamb : a metrical foot of two syllables, the second of which being stressed.
- infra : Lat. “below”.
- inter alia : Lat. “among others”.

- irrealis : in grammar, a verbal mood expressing the unreal character of the statement.
- lemma : an entry in a dictionary.
- litotes : a positive statement obtained by means of two negatives.
- loc. cit.: Lat. locus citatus “the passage quoted (above)”.
- locus classicus (pl. loci classici) : Lat., the occurrence in the Classics.
- logion : Gr. “the word (of a sage)”.
- metaphor : a figure of speech in which the proper word for a thing is replaced by a word for a similar thing.
- onomatopoeia : a word formed in imitation of a natural sound.
- ontology : the part of metaphysics that deals with the fact of being.
- ornatus : Lat. an ornament of speech, of style.
- orthodoxy : the correct belief.
- orthopraxy : the correct way of doing things.
- panegyric : a formal praise of a person.
- paradigm : a model.
- paraphrase : saying a thing in many words.
- pars pro toto : Lat. “the part” stands “for the whole” thing.
- pericope : of a longer text, a portion that forms a logical unit; a sub-chapter; a paragraph.
- pleonasm : a redundancy.
- polysemy : the fact of having several meanings.
- précis : Fr. “precise”, a handbook.
- prosody : the formal rules of poetry.
- protasis : the first part of a sentence (followed by the apodosis).
- rhetorical question : a question which does not call for an answer.
- simile : a figure of speech by which a thing is likened explicitly to something else.
- sub vocabulo : Lat. [to be found in the dictionary] “at that word”.
- syndeton : a linking word such as “and”.
- synecdoche : a figure of speech in which a part is used for the whole, or vice-versa.

syntagm : a sequence of nouns which, in absence of a verb, come to equal a sentence.

syntax : the structure of a sentence.

tautology : a redundancy.

univocal : which has but one meaning (contrary: ambiguous).

utopia : a visionary state of ideal perfection.

weltanschauung : Ger., one's philosophy or conception of the universe and of life.