

**CAMERA LUCIDA**  
**SELECT TERMS DEFINED**

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**Ontological** 3, 21 - (ontology) The branch of philosophy that studies the nature of being, the area of metaphysics relating to the being or essence of things, or to being in the abstract.

**Antiphon** 5 - A verse or song to be chanted or sung in response.

**Deictic** 5 - Specifying identity or spatial or temporal location from the perspective of one or more of the participants in an act of speech or writing, in the context of either an external situation or the surrounding discourse, as *we, you, here, there, now, then, this, that, the former, or the latter*.

**Importunate** 7 - Urgent or persistent in solicitation, sometimes annoyingly so.

**Reductive** 8 - Of, pertaining to, characterized by, or producing reduction or abridgment: an urgent need for reductive measures.

**Heuristic** 8 - Encouraging a person to learn, discover, understand, or solve problems on his or her own, as by experimenting, evaluating possible answers or solutions, or by trial and error: a heuristic teaching method.

**Simulacrum** 9 - A slight, unreal, or superficial likeness or semblance.

**Eidolon** 9 - A phantom; apparition. An ideal.

**Filiation** 11 - The fact of being the child of a certain parent. Descent as if from a parent; derivation. The relation of one thing to another from which it is derived.

**Antipathetic** 11 - Opposed, averse, or contrary; having or showing antipathy: They were antipathetic to many of the proposed changes

**Heautoscopy** 12 - not in the dictionary. Defined in medical journals as the doppelgänger experience.

**Eidos** 15, 60 - The formal content of a culture, encompassing its system of ideas, criteria for interpreting experience, etc.

**Hebetude** 19 - Dullness of mind; mental lethargy.

**Advenience** 19 - Not in the dictionary. Used in essay on the web as follows: "When the darkroom business is finished, what I'm hoping to realize is a certain 'other' perspective that will exert in me a sensation that Barthes has aptly described as *advenience*; the adventuresome adding of a new perspective to the whole."

**Phenomenology** 20, 70 - A philosophy or method of inquiry based on the premise that reality consists of objects and events as they are perceived or understood in human consciousness and not of anything independent of human consciousness. Based on the writings circa 1905 of Edmund Husserl.

**Eidetic** 20, 31 - Of, relating to, or marked by extraordinarily detailed and vivid recall of visual images.

**Greuze** 25 - French painter of moralistic genre works, such as *The Paralytic Tended by His Children* (1763).

**Ethnological** 28 - The science that analyzes and compares human cultures, as in social structure, language, religion, and technology; cultural anthropology.  
The branch of anthropology that deals with the origin, distribution, and characteristics of human racial groups.

**Semiology** 38 - The study of signs and symbols; semiotics.

**Oneiric** 40, 117 - Of or pertaining to dreams.

**Unary** 40 - adj : Consisting of or involving a single element or component; "in a unary operation in a mathematical system one element is used to yield a single result."

**Metonymic** 45, 98 - A figure of speech in which one word or phrase is substituted for another with which it is closely associated, as in the use of *Washington* for *the United States government* or of the *sword* for *military power*.

**Fulguration** 49 - To flash or dart like lightning; (medical) to destroy (especially an abnormal growth) by electricity.

**Satori** 49 - Sudden enlightenment.

**Praxis** 59 - Practice, as distinguished from theory; application or use, as of knowledge or skills; convention, practice or custom.

**Kairos** 59 - Not in dictionary. Wikipedia defines it as “an ancient Greek word meaning the "right or opportune moment".

**Palinode** 60 - A recantation.

**Anamnesis** 65 - The recollection or remembrance of the past; reminiscence. Platonism. recollection of the Ideas, which the soul had known in a previous existence, esp. by means of reasoning. The medical history of a patient.

**Supererogatory** 70 - Going beyond the requirements of duty. Greater than that required or needed; superfluous.

**Ariadne** 73 - The daughter of Minos and Pasiphaë who gave Theseus the thread with which he found his way out of the Minotaur's labyrinth.

**Socius** 74 - not in dictionary. Defined in Wikipedia as "an associate, ally, companion, business partner or comrade" and in the adjectival form *socialis* refers to "a bond between people" (such as marriage) or to their collective or connected existence.”

**Metaphysics** 85 - The branch of philosophy that treats of first principles, includes ontology and cosmology, and is intimately connected with epistemology.

**Physis** 88 - The principle of growth or change in nature.

**Analogon** 88 - Analogue. Something having analogy to another.

**Protensity** 90 - Not in dictionary. Defined in Irish medical dictionary as “the time attribute of a mental process; the attribute of a mental process characterised by its temporality or movement forward in time.”

**Finitude** 90 - A finite state or quality.

**Aorist** 91, 96 - A verb tense in some languages (classical Greek and Sanskrit) expressing action (especially past action) without indicating its completion or continuation.

**Initiatic** 109 - not in dictionary. Defined on the web as the age-old function of ritual as initiation.

**Eliding** 113 - To omit or slur over (a syllable, for example) in pronunciation. To strike out (something written).

**Ecmnesic** 117 - Not in dictionary. Defined on the web as an “adjective designating a delirium during the course of which the patient imagines himself to be returned to a period preceding his existence.”

Page numbers are to Barthes, Roland, *Camera Lucida: Reflections on Photography*. Trans. Richard Howard. New York: Hill and Wang 1982 (Second American printing).

All definitions from Dictionary.com, WordNet 2.0 (Princeton University), or American Heritage Dictionary.

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