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accepts the use of both *of* and *to* with *oblivious*: *The party appeared oblivious to (or of) the mounting pressures for political reform.*

**ob•long** (ɒb'lɒŋg', -lɒŋg') *adj.* **1.a.** Deviating from a square, circular, or spherical form by being elongated in one direction. **b.** Rectangular or elliptical. **2. Bot.** Elongated. [*< Lat. oblongus.*] — **ob'long' n.**

**ob•lo•quy** (ɒb'lə-kwē) *n., pl. -quies.* **1.** Abusively detractive language. **2.** Disgrace; ill repute. [*< Lat. obloqui, speak against.*]

**ob•nox•ious** (ɒb-nɒk'shəs, ɒb-) *adj.* Very objectionable; odious. [*< Lat. obnoxius, punishable.*] — **ob•nox'ious•ly adv.** — **ob•nox'ious•ness n.**

**ob•boe** (ɒ'bō) *n.* A woodwind instrument with a conical bore and a double reed mouthpiece. [*< Fr. hautbois.*] — **ob'bo•ist n.**

**ob•scene** (ɒb-sēn', ɒb-) *adj.* **1.** Offensive to accepted standards of decency. See *Syns* at *coarse*. **2.** Inciting lust; lewd. **3.** Offensive to the senses. [*< Lat. obscēnus.*] — **ob•scene'ly adv.** — **ob•scen'i•ty** (-sēn'i-tē) *n.*

**ob•scur•ant•ism** (ɒb-skyʊd'r'ən-tīz'əm, ɒb-, ɒb'skyʊd-rən't-) *n.* **1.** The practice of deliberate abstruseness. **2.** A policy of withholding information from the public. — **ob•scur'ant'ist n.**

**ob•scure** (ɒb-skyʊd'r', ɒb-) *adj.* -**scur•er**, -**scur•est**. **1.** Dim; dark. **2.** Indistinctly heard or perceived. **3.** Out of sight; hidden. **4.** Of undistinguished station or reputation. **5.** Ambiguous or vague; unclear. —*v.* -**scured**, -**scuring**. **1.** To make dim or unclear. See *Syns* at *block*. **2.** To conceal or cover. [*< Lat. obscurus.*] — **ob•scure'ly adv.** — **ob•scure'ness**, **ob•scu'ri•ty n.**

**ob•se•qui•ous** (ɒb-sē'kwē-əs, ɒb-) *adj.* Full of or exhibiting servile compliance. [*< Lat. obsequi, comply.*] — **ob•se'qui•ous•ly adv.** — **ob•se'qui•ous•ness n.**

**ob•se•quy** (ɒb'si-kwē) *n., pl. -quies.* A funeral rite or ceremony. [*< Lat. obsequium, compliance.*]

**ob•ser•vance** (ɒb-zûr'vəns) *n.* **1.** The act or practice of complying with a law, custom, command, or rule. **2.** The custom of celebrating a holiday or other ritual occasion. **3.** A customary rite or ceremony.

**ob•ser•vant** (ɒb-zûr'vənt) *adj.* **1.** Quick to perceive or apprehend; alert. See *Syns* at *careful*. **2.** Diligent in observing a law, custom, or principle. — **ob•ser'vant•ly adv.**

**ob•ser•va•tion** (ɒb'zər-və'shən) *n.* **1.** The act of observing or the fact of being observed. **2.** The act of noting and recording something with instruments. **3.** A comment or remark. See *Syns* at *comment*. — **ob•ser'va'tion•al adj.** — **ob•ser'va'tion•al•ly adv.**

**ob•ser•va•to•ry** (ɒb-zûr'və-tôr'ē, -tôr'ē) *n., pl. -ries.* A place designed for making observations of astronomical, meteorological, or other natural phenomena.

**ob•serve** (ɒb-zûrv') *v.* -**served**, -**serv•ing**. **1.** To be or become aware of, esp. through careful attention; notice. **2.** To watch attentively. **3.** To make a systematic or scientific observation of. **4.** To say casually; remark.

**ob•sess** (ɒb-sēs', ɒb-) *v.* To preoccupy the mind of excessively. [*< Lat. obsidere, obsess-; ob-, on + sedere, sit; see sed-.*]

**ob•ses•sion** (ɒb-sēs'hən, ɒb-) *n.* **1.** Compulsive preoccupation with a fixed idea or unwanted emotion. **2.** A compulsive, often unreasonable idea or emotion. — **ob•ses'sion•al adj.** — **ob•ses'sive adj.** — **ob•ses'sive•ly adv.** — **ob•ses'sive•ness n.**

**ob•sid•i•an** (ɒb-sīd'ē-ən) *n.* A hard, usually black or banded volcanic glass. [*< Lat. obsidiānus.*]

**ob•so•les•cent** (ɒb'sə-lēs'ənt) *adj.* Becoming obsolete. [*< Lat. obsolēscere, go out of use.*] — **ob'so•les'cence n.** — **ob'so•les'cent•ly adv.**

**ob•so•lete** (ɒb'sə-lēt', ɒb'sə-lēt') *adj.* **1.** No longer in use or in effect. **2.** Outmoded in style or construction. [*< Lat. obsolētus, p.part. of obsolēscere, fall into disuse.*] — **ob'so•lete'ly adv.** — **ob'so•lete'ness n.** — **ob'so•let'ism n.**

**ob•sta•cle** (ɒb'stəkəl) *n.* One that opposes, stands in the way of, or holds up progress. [*< Lat. obstaculum < obstāre, impede; ob-, against + stāre, stand; see stā-.*]

**ob•ste•tri•cian** (ɒb'stī-trīsh'ən) *n.* A physician who specializes in obstetrics.

**ob•stet•rics** (ɒb-stēt'rīks, ɒb-) *n.* (*takes sing. or pl. v.*) The branch of medicine that deals with the care of women during and after pregnancy and childbirth. [*< Lat. obstetrix, midwife; ob-, opposite + stāre, stand; see stā-.*] — **ob•stet'ric**, **ob•stet'ri•cal adj.**

**ob•sti•nate** (ɒb'stə-nīt) *adj.* **1.** Stubbornly adhering to an attitude, opinion, or course of action. **2.** Difficult to manage, control, or subdue. [*< Lat. obstināre, persist. See stā-.*] — **ob'sti•na•cy** (-nə-sē) *n.* — **ob'sti•nate•ly adv.**

**ob•strep•er•ous** (ɒb-strēp'ər-əs, ɒb-) *adj.* Noisily and stubbornly defiant. [*< Lat. obstrepere, make a noise against.*] — **ob•strep'er•ous•ly adv.** — **ob•strep'er•ous•ness n.**

**ob•struct** (ɒb-strukt', ɒb-) *v.* **1.** To block (a passage) with obstacles. See *Syns* at *block*. **2.** To impede; retard. **3.** To get in the way of; hide from sight. [*< Lat. obstruere, obstrūct-, pile up against.*] — **ob•struc'ter**, **ob•struc'tor n.** — **ob•struc'tive adj.** — **ob•struc'tive•ly adv.** — **ob•struc'tive•ness n.**

**ob•struc•tion** (ɒb-strūk'shən, ɒb-) *n.* **1.** An obstacle. **2.** The act or an instance of obstructing. **3.** The causing of a delay.

**ob•struc•tion•ist** (ɒb-strūk'shə-nīst, ɒb-) *n.* One who systematically blocks or delays a process. — **ob•struc'tion•ism n.** — **ob•struc'tion•is'tic adj.**

**ob•tain** (ɒb-tān', ɒb-) *v.* **1.** To succeed in gaining possession of; acquire. **2.** To be accepted or customary. [*< Lat. obtinēre.*] — **ob•tain'a•ble adj.** — **ob•tain'er n.**

**ob•trude** (ɒb-trōd', ɒb-) *v.* -**trud•ed**, -**trud•ing**. **1.** To impose (oneself or one's ideas) on others. **2.** To thrust out; push forward. [*< Lat. obtrudere.*] — **ob•trud'er n.** — **ob•tru'sion** (-trōd'zhən) *n.* — **ob•tru'sive** (-trōd'siv, -zīv) *adj.* — **ob•tru'sive•ly adv.**