

1. Vis-a-vis adv.

in relation to; face to face

He needed to review his budget regarding income vis-a-vis expenditures.

2. tour de force n.

A feat requiring great virtuosity or strength, often deliberately undertaken for its difficulty: In an extraordinary structural tour de force the novel maintains a dual focus.

3. esprit de corps n.

A spirit of comradeship, enthusiasm, and devotion to a cause among the members of a group. The coach inspired esprit de corps among the teammates during halftime.

4. double entendre n

A word or phrase having a double meaning, especially when the second meaning is risqué. Many rock groups in the sixties employed double entendre to convey ribald messages.

5. en masse adv.

In one group or body; all together:

The peace activists marched en masse to the capitol.

6. coup de grace n.

A death blow. A finishing or decisive stroke.

The presentation of the fingerprints on the murder weapon was the coup de grace for the prosecution.

7. noblese oblige n.

Benevolent, honorable behavior considered to be the responsibility of persons of high birth or rank.

The Scarlet Pimpernal's sense of noblesse oblige caused him to hazard his life to save the prince.

8. piece d'resistence

An outstanding accomplishment

Michaelangelo's *Pieta* is considered to be his piece d'resistance.

9. detente n.

A relaxation of international tensions.

During the Eighties Gorbachev deceptively used detente to try to weaken American resolve.

10.<u>denouement</u>n.

The outcome of a sequence of events; the end result.

The return of Christ at the end of the Tribulation will be the grand denoument of the ages.