

MACMILLAN
English
DICTIONARY

FOR ADVANCED LEARNERS

麦克米伦高阶英语词典
(英语版)

外语教学与研究出版社

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典同语英阶高外米克麦
(册番英)

麦克米伦高阶英语词典

(英语版)

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序 言

自从词典编纂的先哲英国的约翰逊博士历经七载艰辛终于编成《英语大词典》(1755),其后美国的N·韦伯斯特于1828年出版《美国英语大词典》至今,二百余年过去了。其间,在英语国家与非英语国家编辑出版的英语辞书可谓汗牛充栋、不计其数。然而时至今日,世界各地的出版家仍在不断编辑发行各类英语词典,其势头在今后也大概不会见其衰。而读者们在书架上已经有了不少英语词典的情况下,仍不惜高价继续购置新册。究其原因,不外如下数则:

首先,正如其他主要语言一样,英语在发展,词汇在扩大。新词新义层出不穷,外来词因全球化而比例日高,必须用新的辞书来反映这些新情况。随着近半个世纪的科学进步、尤其是信息工程的飞速发展,以及新时代人们对词典的内容、形式、作用之要求的变化,都要求新词典的编写出版和老辞书的增补更新。正如约翰逊博士在他的大词典的序言中开宗明义所说,他想使英国语言能“福寿绵延”,但又知道其本质决定它不可能“永恒不变”(giving longevity to that which its own nature forbids to be immortal),所以潜心编纂了那本词典。

其次,随着信息化手段的推陈出新,词典的形式、编排体例也在花样翻新。尤其是自语料库(corpus)开始运作以来,各新版辞书竞相以各自的语料库为依据,按使用频率决定选词,并以不同标志显示其频率之高低。同时,插图的运用也日新月异。近来,新版辞书纷纷附有光盘,大大方便了信息时代的读者。

也正是在这一新形势下,外语教学与研究出版社与英国麦克伦出版公司携手合作,在我国大陆出版发行最新版的《麦克伦高阶英语词典》。我个人作为此词典的顾问,参与了一定的编审工作,并在近一年中较经常地使用了它,因而能对此词典的特色略道一二:

一、它是去年(2002年)方才编写完成出版的,因而可以说是当前坊间最新的一本英语词典。它不仅反映了词汇的更新,而且在释义中也体现了词在文体、修辞、句法、语义和语用诸方面的最新发展变化。例如收入了netizen(网民),netspeak(网络语言),GR8(great,用于电子邮件或手机短信中)等新词。此外,百科词汇也得到一定的补充,例如出现了Nineteen Eighty Four(a society in which the government controls everything, even people's behaviour)这样的词条。

二、它是一本供英语学习者使用的词典,因而释义准确、简明、实用。尤其是,它的释义词汇严格地限于2500个常用词之内。这就大大便利了学习者,避免了释义中又有生词而需反复查找之累。

三、此词典的选词以语料库为依据,在正文中以红色标出核心词汇,再借用一、二、三个不等的红色星号来标示其使用频率的高低。对于三星级的最常用词汇,凡其词义较多、释义较长者,首先以表格方式用精炼的语言列出其最常用的词义。以三星级词close为例,在其动词项下列出11个常用词义;在其形容词项下列出17个常用词义,每条不超过6个词。一目了然,便捷快速。

四、此词典的插图,除两组彩色插页(共16页)外,另有一千多个单词附图解。尤其不同一般的是,除一般名词(物件等)的示意图外,对一些不易用文字表述的动词特别设计了包括动作的插画。如prop(v.)就画了一个人把自行车“靠”在墙上。词典还利用生动形象的动作图来表示某些不易说明的同义词。如第116页的bend, bend down, bow和hunch的四幅图,使人一目了然。

五、此词典在释义中特别以不同的标志来指明各词在文体上的特征，如口语或书面语、委婉或粗鲁、幽默或严肃、旧用法或新用法；尤其是十分明确地区分出正式、十分正式、非正式和十分非正式之别。这就使学习者能正确理解词义及语境，并不致误用。

六、还有一条与众不同是此词典中用红色标出的Metaphor一栏。它用生动形象的比喻和贴近生活的例句来使读者更确切、鲜明地理解词义。例如三星级词 guilty (p634-635)，通过与 dirty, clean, squalid 等词的联比，读者就可以了解到这个极抽象词的深层含义。

七、最后，特别值得一提的是此词典的“语言提示 (Language Awareness)”插页。它简明扼要地解说了21世纪初英语的惯用法，涉及到话语、语用、修辞、文体、构词法和英式英语与美式英语的比较；又及计算机英语、商务英语的特点等诸多方面。可以说，这短短的22页材料本身，就有其单行成册的价值。

一个英语爱好者见到一本好词典，总是爱不释手的。但我愿将《麦克米伦高阶英语词典》公诸同好。

陈琳

北京外国语大学教授

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FOREWORD

PROFESSOR MICHAEL HOEY
Chief Adviser

WHEN I WAS ABOUT 12, I decided to write my own dictionary. I found a loose-leaf binder and patiently wrote dictionary entries on obscure words, which I stored in the binder. My dictionary never became very large and after a while I turned to making a football scrapbook like most other children of my age, but for a few months I put some effort in my attempt to outdo the *Oxford English*. You might imagine from this that I was showing a precocious interest in dictionary-making and an early aptitude for lexicography. Perhaps it was indeed an early sign of my interest in language, but it certainly did not reveal any early aptitude. Indeed almost every strategy I adopted for the creation of that dictionary was the wrong one for the job.

In the first place, I started with the most obscure words; early entries I remember writing were for *widdershins*, *gyre*, and *perne*. What I did not realize was that it is often possible to guess the meaning of rare words from their context and that they have in any case little impact on the overall intelligibility of what one is reading (and they will almost always occur in writing). It is, oddly, more likely to be the common words that cause the greater problems and over which a good dictionary has to take special care. The reason is that common words are often affected by the situation in which they are used, and they shift in meaning in subtle and unpredictable ways depending on the words they accompany. They are the words that you need to look up when they do not seem to have their normal meaning.

Take a word like *conventional*, for example. If you knew the word *conventional* in its social sense of 'usual', 'normal', or 'customary', and you saw or heard the words *conventional oven* in connection with a recipe, you would have a rough idea of what is meant but you would be likely to suspect that the writer or speaker meant something more precise than 'a usual oven'. You might therefore want to look the word up in order to find out how it is being used in this context. The dictionary you are looking at (unlike my childhood effort) has taken great care over the definition (or more accurately, the definitions) of words like *conventional*. If you

look *conventional* up in this dictionary, you will find that the first example tells us that a *conventional oven* is an oven that operates in the traditional way as opposed to a *microwave oven*, which does not use an external heat source. Notice that the information is actually contained in the example, not in the definition. Examples are drawn or adapted from real usage but they are carefully chosen to give extra information about the way a word is used. That way the dictionary can pack in more information about the commoner words.

Sometimes a word combines with another word to make a phrase that has a distinct meaning of its own. So *conventional*, for example, combines with *medicine* and *war* to create new and quite specific meanings: *conventional medicine* is science-based Western medicine as opposed to Chinese medicine or so-called alternative medicines, and *conventional war* makes no use of nuclear weapons or biological weapons (nor interestingly, I suspect, swords and bows and arrows). When a word occurs in such phrases, they are either indicated in the dictionary entry or they have entries to themselves.

Words like *conventional* are a great deal more useful to the advanced learner of English than words like *widdershins*, not least because if they are used they will be immediately understood. They are however a great deal more difficult to learn (and they are a great deal more difficult to define). Because of the multiplicity of uses that many common words have, the *Macmillan English Dictionary* provides simple indexes, or 'menus', to the longer entries, which will help you to get more quickly to the sense of the word you need; indexes like these are an innovation in dictionary making and we believe that they will make using the dictionary a great deal easier.

It will be apparent from everything that I have said that the *Macmillan English Dictionary* is a rich resource of information about words such as *conventional*. It will help you find the right word for your purpose and should reduce the number of occasions when you accidentally use the wrong expression. But, just because it has a

lot to say about the common words, this does not mean that it neglects the rarer words. From time to time you are bound to encounter uncommon words that you need to look up; this dictionary will not normally let you down, although it does not provide definitions of words as rare (and as useless) as *widdershins*, *gyre*, and *perne*. The vocabulary is therefore divided into two groups – common words that you may need to use yourself and that you are bound to encounter in a range of rather different contexts, and rarer words that you are not likely to need to use yourself but that need a brief definition when they are met in books or talk.

Concentrating on the rare words was not my only childhood mistake when I attempted to create my own dictionary. A more serious one was that I arrived at my definitions by looking at the definitions of other dictionaries. I reworded them of course – even at the tender age of 12, I was intuitively aware of the dangers of plagiarism – but I saw my role as one of collating the wisdom of previous lexicographers. Of course that way there is room for little new wisdom. Perhaps shockingly, until 20 years ago my practice would not have been out of place in many dictionary teams. Lexicographers would draw on a mixture of previous practice, intuitions, and half-remembered examples, supported by chance encounters with the word in print. With the advent of large corpora and the development of powerful computer software capable of exploring those corpora, dictionary-making has changed beyond all recognition. The lexicographers who worked on the *Macmillan English Dictionary* had the opportunity of examining hundreds and in some cases thousands of instances of a word in use. From these instances they could work out what a word really meant in contemporary English, rather than what it was supposed to mean. Take the example I gave above of the use of *conventional* in the phrase *conventional oven*. It may seem obvious that a *conventional oven* is one that is not a microwave oven, but only once it has been pointed out. If the lexicographers who worked on this dictionary had relied on intuition, they might easily have forgotten this use of the word, and of course if they had relied on previous dictionaries they could easily have missed it because many of those dictionaries were prepared before the microwave oven came into popular use.

As a 12-year-old, I could not have known that computers would one day revolutionize the way dictionaries were made. Even so, I showed no great prescience in the way I decided which words went into my dictionary. Apart from rarity, the other factor that dictated whether a word entered my dictionary was where it was found. Only words that appeared in literary texts qualified. The words *gyre* and *perne*, for example, came from Yeats. (I was a dreadful child.) Again, the *Macmillan English Dictionary* is very differently constituted. Insofar as it is possible, this volume aims to reflect accurately the state of the contemporary language. That means that the words in it are described as they are used in journalism, popular fiction, letters, business manuals, and of course, most importantly of all, speech. My dictionary was like every other dictionary that I had ever seen at the age of 12, a dictionary of *written* English. This dictionary on the other hand is a dictionary of spoken as well as written English. If you use it well, you should end up speaking like a native speaker, not a native writer!

My juvenile dictionary was limited in yet another way. All the books that supplied me with the words I was trying to define were from the British Isles. Indeed, apart from being grateful that westerners were in English, I suspect I felt that it was a matter of no importance that the United States spoke English. The *Macmillan English Dictionary* makes no such mistake. More than any Advanced Learners' dictionary before, it seeks to represent the English of the world and treats American and British English as being of equal importance. Depending where you are reading this, you may be looking at an American edition where words used only in the UK are defined more briefly or, if they are unlikely to be encountered outside the UK, not at all. Alternatively you may be looking at the British edition where the same principle operates in reverse. Either way, you will find far more coverage of English words spoken in other countries than is usually the case, with Australian English, for example, well represented in the word list.

There can be no doubting the correctness of this decision. English is no longer any country's property but has become a true *lingua franca*, and it is appropriate that the first major English dictionary of the 21st century is a dictionary of world English. If you work with this dictionary, it will help you become a citizen of the world.

INTRODUCTION

MICHAEL RUNDELL

Editor-in-Chief

AT THE BEGINNING OF 2001, there was a lot of discussion of Stanley Kubrick's famous movie: how close had we come to the world portrayed in *2001: A Space Odyssey*? In particular, would computers soon be able to understand human language and hold conversations with us? Though we have not reached that point yet, advances in language technology have been rapid and impressive, and this has transformed the process of creating dictionaries.

There has never been a more exciting time to produce a new dictionary. Everything is changing and expanding: the English language itself, the technology that helps us to describe it, and the needs and goals of people learning and teaching English.

The 1980s saw the development of the first large corpora of English text. Twenty years on, the use of the corpus as the primary data source for dictionaries has become standard practice, and the quality, range, and sheer volume of available corpus resources has increased dramatically. This means we are in a better position than ever before to provide a description of English that reliably corresponds to the way that people speak and write the language.

Along with all these benefits come fresh challenges. The amount of data at our disposal continues to grow, yet the physical size of printed dictionaries remains constant. So it is more important than ever that we have a clear idea of what dictionary-users really need. And the advantage of creating a completely new dictionary is that it gives us the opportunity to ask fundamental questions (why do learners consult dictionaries, and what can we do to meet their needs more effectively?) and to adapt our methods accordingly.

What, then, are the requirements of a good learners' dictionary? Briefly, it should include the right information, the information should be easy to find, and – once found – it should be easy to understand and easy to use. Ensuring that we cover the 'right' information calls, first, for careful analysis of all the available linguistic data. A large and diverse corpus is an essential basis for this operation, but it is only the starting point. Intelligent data-extraction software enables us to get maximum value from the corpus, and we have benefited from a collaboration with the University of Brighton's Information Technology Research Institute. The resulting 'Word Sketches', which provide a rich account of the collocational and syntactic behaviour of the core vocabulary of English, have enabled us to describe these features in greater depth than ever before.

The next challenge is to make the most appropriate selection from all this data. We have been guided here by research into dictionary-users' needs and skills, taking special account of the differences between the *receptive* and *productive* needs of advanced learners. One of the major innovations of the *Macmillan English Dictionary* is to make a clear distinction between the core vocabulary of English – which many

users will need to 'encode' as well as 'decode' – and the tens of thousands of less frequent words that many users will never even encounter, and few will ever need to use productively. Drawing on reliable word-frequency information, we have identified a central core of around 7,500 words that are most likely to be needed by students working in both receptive and productive modes. These headwords – words such as *absorb*, *barrier*, *credit*, *decision*, and *exclusive* – appear in red type with a 'star rating' to show their frequency, and the explanations are broken up into easy-to-read paragraphs. For 'productive' vocabulary of this type, advanced learners need a wide range of information: not only about meaning, but also about how words combine (their collocational and syntactic behaviour), what registers they usually appear in, and what they tell us about the speaker's attitude. Conversely, for very infrequent (or 'receptive') words – such as *amplitude*, *balustrade*, *canonize*, *deleterious*, and *emanate* – the primary need is for a simple and clear explanation of meaning. Consequently most of these entries are very short. This 'dual-track' approach has great benefits for the user: productive vocabulary is described in depth, while the brevity of the 'receptive' entries enables us to include much more vocabulary of this type.

Another of the *Macmillan English Dictionary's* innovations is that two similar but separate editions have been created from the same database: one for learners whose main target variety is American English, the other for learners of British English. The differences are small but significant: the vocabulary and contexts of example sentences sometimes differ between the two versions, while styles of spelling, punctuation, and phraseology reflect the conventions of one variety or the other. The result is that a user of either edition will know that the dictionary was specially written for her or him.

There is a great deal more that is new and special about the *Macmillan English Dictionary*: a fresh approach to describing the meanings of complex words, using broad 'meaning-clusters', each with sub-senses; innovative usage notes on topics such as metaphor and academic-writing skills; and a section of special features on issues such as pragmatics, managing conversation, and the avoidance of offence. And much more.

The *Macmillan English Dictionary* is the product of good linguistic data, leading-edge software, and a coherent, learner-based philosophy. Above all, however, it is the product of high-quality people. While technology plays a major part, dictionaries are not written by computers, but by highly skilled editors. It has been a privilege to work with such a talented and creative team of lexicographers, and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking them all for producing such an excellent book. I hope you enjoy the results of their hard work and find our dictionary a pleasure to use.

USING YOUR DICTIONARY

Finding a word

Some words have more than one entry because they belong to a different word class although they are spelt the same. The small number at the end of the headword tells you that there is more than one entry for this word.

acid¹ /'æ:sɪd/ noun ★★

1 [C/U] a chemical substance with a pH value (=a measure used in chemistry) of less than 7: *hydrochloric acid* — compare ALKALI

2 [U] *informal* the illegal drug LSD

acid² /'æ:sɪd/ adj **1** very sour: *ACIDIC: Add more sugar if it tastes too acid.* **2** containing acid or consisting of an acid: *ACIDIC: These plants prefer an acid soil.* **3** an acid remark or acid humour shows criticism in a way that is clever but cruel: ACERBIC

Compound words are separate entries in the alphabetical list.

acid house noun [U] a style of HOUSE music that developed in the US in the mid-1980s and became very popular in the UK in the late 1980s where it was played at RAVE parties

acidic /ə'sɪdɪk/ adj **1** containing acid: *acidic soil* **2** very sour: *a rather unpleasant acidic taste*

acidify /ə'sɪdɪfaɪ/ verb [I/T] to become an acid, or cause a substance to become an acid — **acidification** /ə'sɪdɪfɪ'keɪʃn/ noun [U]

Some words are shown at the end of the entry for the word from which they are derived. These words can be understood by reading the definition for the main entry.

There is a list of word classes on the inside front cover.

bat² /bæt/ verb **1** [I/T] to hit the ball with a bat in a game such as baseball or CRICKET **1a.** [I] in baseball or cricket, the team that is batting is trying to score points by hitting the ball **2** [T] to hit something small that is flying through the air in order to stop it landing on you: *He was trying to bat the flies away with his newspaper.*

Some words are often used in idioms or other fixed expressions. These expressions are shown at the end of the main entry. Look for fixed expressions at the entry for the first main word in the expression.

bat your eyes/eyelashes to open and close your eyes very quickly several times, intending to be attractive to someone

go to bat for sb *mainly Am E informal* to give someone your support and help

not bat an eyelid to not be shocked, worried, or upset by something

Phrasal verbs are shown after the entry for the main verb.

bat a round phrasal vb [T] to discuss ideas or plans in an informal way

Finding the meaning of a word

Many words have more than one meaning.

dolly /'dɒli/ noun [C] **1** *informal* a DOLL **2** a flat structure with wheels for moving heavy loads or for supporting a film camera → CORN DOLLY

When meanings are very different, they are shown as separate senses with numbers.

addicted /ə'dɪktɪd/ adj unable to stop taking an illegal or harmful drug: *She says she's unable to give up smoking; she's completely addicted.* ♦ +to He admitted he was addicted to cocaine. **a.** enjoying a particular activity very much and spending as much time as you can doing it: +to I don't want the kids getting addicted to stupid TV programmes.

When meanings are closely related, they are shown as subsenses with letters.

bleed /bli:d/ (past tense and past participle **bled** /bled/) verb ★

Some words have many different meanings, and so the entries can be long. Entries with five or more meanings have a 'menu' at the top to make it easier to find the specific meaning you are looking for.

1 when blood flows out	4 take liquid/gas from sth
2 make sb pay money	5 take blood from sb
3 when colour spreads	

1 [I] to have blood flowing from your body, for example from a cut: *I scraped my knee and it's bleeding.* ♦ +from He was bleeding from a wound in his shoulder. ♦ **bleed heavily/profusely** The victim was dumped by a roadside, bleeding profusely. ♦ **bleed to death** (=die from losing blood) *She would have bled to death if we hadn't found her.*

2 [T] to make someone pay a lot of money, especially regularly over a long period of time: *He'll try to bleed*

All the definitions are written using a carefully selected 'defining vocabulary' of 2,500 words so that it is easy to understand the definitions. There is a list of these words at the end of the dictionary.

Any word in a definition that is not from this list, and that is not the entry immediately before or after the one you are looking at, is shown in CAPITAL LETTERS. You can find its meaning elsewhere in the dictionary.

Finding out more about a word

The International Phonetic Alphabet shows you how a word is pronounced. A list of the symbols used is given at the end of the dictionary.

When British and American pronunciations are very different, both are given.

You can find the pronunciations for compound entries at the main entry for each of the words in the compound.

Stress marks tell you which part of a compound to stress when you are saying it.

Irregular inflections are shown.

Some words are printed in red with a star rating to show their frequency. For example, a word with one star is fairly common and a word with three stars is one of the most basic words in English. This helps you to identify the words that you are most likely to need to use.

Italic words (called 'labels') show which part of the English-speaking world a word is used in, or tell you whether it is used in informal contexts, specialized contexts etc. Lists of these labels are given at the end of the dictionary.

Sometimes a word that is used only in British English has an exact equivalent in American English. These equivalents are shown at the end of a definition.

Example sentences in *italic* show you how a word is used in context.

Information about collocation – how words combine and which structures can be used with a word – is shown in **bold** and is followed by an example sentence.

When a word has many collocations, these are shown in a box at the end of the entry with the sense number that they refer to.

corporate raider noun [C] *business* a person or organization that tries to take control of a company by buying a large number of its **SHARES**

commerce /'kɒmɜːs/ noun [U] ★★ the activity of buying and selling goods and services: *TRADE: the needs of industry and commerce*

basil /'bæzəl; Am E 'beɪzəl/ noun [U] a plant whose sweet leaves are used in salads and cooking, especially in dishes containing tomato. Basil is a **herb**.

'cabin crew noun [C] the people on a plane whose job is to look after the passengers

do¹ /duː/ (3rd person singular **does** /weək dəz; strɒŋ dəz/; past tense **did** /dɪd/; past participle **done** /dʌn/) verb ★★

convince /kən'vɪns/ verb [T] ★★
1 to make someone believe that something is true:

blank¹ /blæŋk/ adj ★★
1 blank paper or a blank space is empty and contains

embarrass /ɪm'bærəs/ verb [T] ★
1 to make someone feel nervous, ashamed, or stupid

bus¹ /bʌs/ noun [C] ★★
1 a large road vehicle with a lot of seats that you pay to travel on, especially one that takes you fairly short distances and stops frequently: *by bus* *The children go to school by bus.* ♦ **take/catch a bus** *We took a bus into the centre of town.* ♦ **miss the bus** (=not reach it before it leaves) *If we don't leave soon, we'll miss the last bus.* — *picture* → C1 **1a.** mainly Am E a COACH
2 computing a set of wires that send information from one part of a computer system to another

aubergine /'əʊbɜːʒɪn/ noun [C/U] Br E a vegetable with a smooth dark purple skin and white flesh. Am E **eggplant** — *picture* → C11

basis /'beɪsɪs/ (plural **bases** /'beɪsɪz/) noun [C] ★★
1 a particular method or system used for doing or organizing something: *on a...basis* *workers who are employed on a seasonal or temporary basis* ♦ *Tickets will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis.* **1a.** used for giving the reason why something is done: *He declined to say on what basis bail was refused.* ♦ **on the basis of sth** *Don't make your decision on the basis of cost alone.* ♦ **on the basis that** *Most councillors supported the proposal on the basis that the city needed new jobs.* **1b.** used for saying how often something happens: *on a daily/monthly/annual etc basis* *Safety equipment was checked on a daily basis.* ♦ *It's a violent city, with murders occurring on a regular basis.*
2 the important ideas, facts, or actions from which something can develop: ♦ *of* *Bernard's work forms the basis of all modern physiology.* ♦ ♦ **for** *The agreement between the parties will provide the basis for future negotiations.*

Words frequently used with **basis**

verbs	constitute, create, establish, form, lay, provide, serve as	2
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Information is provided to help you to learn more about how a word is used.

Both **above** and **over** can be used to mean 'at a higher level than something': *the light above/over the door.*

Use **above** when something is not directly over something else: *on the hillside above the river.*

Use **over** when something moves or stretches across the space above something: *flying over London* ♦ *the bridge over the river.*

Use **over** when something covers something else: *She put a scarf over her hair.*

Do not confuse **see above** (=look at something mentioned earlier) with **see over** (=look at the next page).

Hints are given to help you to avoid common errors.

If you take something that someone offers you or if you allow something to happen, you **accept** it: *We accepted her offer of help.* ♦ *They accepted the court's decision.*

If you say that you are willing to do something, you **agree** to do it: *She agreed to work at the weekend.* ♦ *We agreed to help.*

You **accept** something, but you **agree** to do something.

There are notes that tell you about the origin of a word.

Cinderella /sɪndə'relə/ noun [C usually singular] **1** someone or something that has good qualities but is treated badly or ignored: *Primary education has long been the Cinderella of the education service.* **2** [only before noun] relating to someone who suddenly becomes rich, famous, or successful

Cinderella is the main character in a famous children's story. She is a poor girl, badly treated by her stepisters but, in the end, thanks to the power of magic, she is able to marry the rich attractive Prince Charming.

Expanding your vocabulary

There are many ways that you can use this dictionary to expand your vocabulary.

address /ə'dres/ noun [C] ★★★

1 the name of the place where you live or work, including the house or office number and the name of the street, area, and town. It may also include a set of numbers and letters, called a **postcode** in British English and a **zip code** in American English: *I'll need*

Some definitions introduce you to related words.

obedient /ə'bi:diənt/ adj ★ **doing what a person, law, or rule says you must do:** *The children stood in a little group, disciplined and obedient.* — opposite **DISOBEDIENT**

Sometimes the opposite of a word is shown.

booking /'bʊkɪŋ/ noun [C] ★★

1 an arrangement to buy a travel ticket, stay in a hotel room etc at a later date: **RESERVATION:** *Holiday bookings are up 20% on last year.* ♦ **make a booking** *You can make a booking by phone with a credit card.*

Some definitions give you synonyms.

hardback /'hɑ:d.bæk/ noun [C/U] a book that has a hard cover: *Her first novel sold over 40,000 copies in hardback.* — compare **PAPERBACK**, **SOFTBACK**

Sometimes you are told to look at another word in the dictionary to compare it with the entry.

XXIX	XXIX
XXVIII	XXVIII
XXVII	XXVII
XXVI	XXVI
XXV	XXV
XXIV	XXIV
XXIII	XXIII
XXII	XXII
XXI	XXI
XX	XX
XIX	XIX
XVIII	XVIII
XVII	XVII
XVI	XVI
XV	XV
XIV	XIV
XIII	XIII
XII	XII
XI	XI
X	X
IX	IX
VIII	VIII
VII	VII
VI	VI
V	V
IV	IV
III	III
II	II
I	I

NUMBERS THAT ARE ENTRIES

000 /ˈtrɪpl'əʊ/ in Australia, the telephone number that you use in an emergency to call the police, the FIRE BRIGADE, or an AMBULANCE

0800 number /əʊ eɪt 'hʌndrəd nʌmbə/ noun [C] in the UK, a telephone number beginning with 0800 that is free to use and is usually for calling business services. The company you are calling pays for the call.

0898 number /əʊ eɪt 'naɪn eɪt nʌmbə/ noun [C] in the UK, a telephone number beginning with 0898 that is expensive to use and is usually for calling adult entertainment services such as CHAT LINES

1 /wʌn/ abbrev used in emails and TEXT MESSAGES to replace 'one': *NE1* (=anyone)

1099 /ˌten nɑːnti 'nʌn/ noun [C] in the US, a document people send to the IRS (=the US tax department) that gives details of the money that they have earned during the year other than their salary

12 /twelv/ in the UK, a number given to a film or video that should only be watched by children who are at least 12 years old

1471 /ˌwʌn fɔː sevn 'wʌn/ in the UK, a telephone number that you can call to find out which was the last telephone number to call you

15 /fɪf'tɪn/ in the UK, a number given to a film or video that should only be watched by children who are at least 15 years old

18 /eɪ'tiːn/ in the UK, a number given to a film or video that should only be watched by people who are at least 18 years old

1800 number /ˌwʌn eɪt 'hʌndrəd nʌmbə/ in Australia, a telephone number beginning with 1800 that is free to use and is usually for calling business services. The company you are calling pays for the call.

18-wheeler /eɪ'tiːn 'wiːlə/ noun [C] *Am E* a large truck that has 18 wheels

190 number /ˌwʌn naɪn 'əʊ nʌmbə/ noun [C] in Australia, a telephone number beginning with 190 that is expensive to use and is usually for calling adult entertainment services such as CHAT LINES

1922 Committee, the /ˌnɑːntiː 'twenti 'tuː kə'mɪti/ the Conservative members of the British parliament who are BACKBENCHERS (=not ministers)

2 /tuː/ abbrev or *to* or *too*: used in emails and TEXT MESSAGES: *it's up 2 U* (=it's up to you) ♦ *me 2* (=me too) **a.** used for replacing 'to-' in other words: *2day* (=today)

20/20 vision /ˌtwenti 'twenti 'vɪʒn/ noun [U] the ability to see normally without wearing glasses

2.1 /tuː'wʌn/ noun [C] in the UK and Australia, the second-highest mark for an UNDERGRADUATE degree from a university, lower than a **first** but higher than a **2.2**

2.2 /tuː'tuː/ noun [C] in the UK and Australia, the third-highest mark for an UNDERGRADUATE degree from a university, lower than a **2.1** but higher than a **third**

.22 /ˌpɔɪntuː'tuː/ noun [C] a type of gun that shoots small bullets

24/7 /ˌtwenti fɔː 'sevn/ adv *informal* all the time: *He thinks about her 24/7.*

3-D /θriː'diː/ adj a 3-D film, picture etc looks as if it has length, depth, and width

4 abbrev for: used in emails and TEXT MESSAGES: *4 U* (=for you) **a.** used for replacing 'fore-' in other words: *B4* (=before)

401(k) /fɔː əʊ wʌn 'keɪ/ noun [C] in the US, a special account in which people can save some of the money they earn for their RETIREMENT without paying taxes on it

404 /fɔː əʊ 'fɔː/ adj *very informal* if someone is 404 they are completely confused and have no idea about what to do

From the number of the error message on a Web browser when a website cannot be found.

411 /fɔː wʌn 'wʌn/ **1** in the US, the telephone number that you use to call DIRECTORY ASSISTANCE **2 the 411** *Am E* *very informal* information about a particular situation: *What's the 411 on Sue's new boyfriend?*

4x4 /fɔː baɪ 'fɔː/ noun [C] a FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE vehicle

45 /fɔːti'faɪv/ noun [C] an old type of record, usually with only one song on each side

.45 /fɔːti'faɪv/ noun [C] a PISTOL (=small gun)

4-F /fɔːr 'ef/ adj if someone is **listed 4-F**, they are not allowed to serve in the US armed forces

4-H /fɔː 'eɪtʃ/ a US organization that teaches practical skills to young people, especially skills relating to farming

4WD abbrev a FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE vehicle

\$64,000 question, the /sɪksti'fɔːθuʊznd dɒlə 'kwɛstj(ə)n/ noun a question that is the most important and most difficult to answer concerning a particular problem or situation

From a popular US TV game show in the 1950s called *The \$64,000 Question* on which people could win up to \$64,000 by answering more and more difficult questions correctly.

8 /eɪt/ abbrev used in emails and TEXT MESSAGES to replace 'ate' or 'eat': *GR8* (=great) ♦ *C U L8R* (=see you later)

800 number /eɪt 'hʌndrəd nʌmbə/ noun [C] in the US, a telephone number beginning with 1-800 that is free to use and is usually for calling business services. The company you are calling pays for the call.

86 /eɪtɪ 'sɪks/ verb [T] *Am E informal* to quickly get rid of someone or something that is not wanted

900 number /naɪn 'hʌndrəd nʌmbə/ noun [C] in the US, a telephone number beginning with 1-900 that is expensive to use and is usually for adult entertainment services such as CHAT LINES

911 /naɪn wʌn 'wʌn/ in the US, the telephone number that you use in an emergency to call the police, the FIRE BRIGADE, or an AMBULANCE

999 /naɪn naɪn 'naɪn/ in the UK, the telephone number that you use in an emergency to call the police, the FIRE BRIGADE, or an AMBULANCE

Roman numerals

Roman numerals were used in ancient Rome to represent numbers. They are still sometimes used today, for example on clocks and watches and in official documents.

I	one	XVII	seventeen
II	two	XVIII	eighteen
III	three	XIX	nineteen
IV	four	XX	twenty
V	five	XXI	twenty-one
VI	six	XXX	thirty
VII	seven	XL	forty
VIII	eight	L	fifty
IX	nine	LX	sixty
X	ten	LXX	seventy
XI	eleven	LXXX	eighty
XII	twelve	XC	ninety
XIII	thirteen	C	one hundred
XIV	fourteen	CC	two hundred
XV	fifteen	D	five hundred
XVI	sixteen	M	one thousand

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Aa

a¹ /eɪ/ (plural **a's**) Or **A** (plural **As**) noun **1** [C/U] the first letter of the English alphabet. A is a vowel. **2** **A** [C/U] the sixth note in the musical SCALE of C major **3** **A** [C/U] a mark that a teacher gives to a student's work to show that it is excellent **4** **A** [U] a common BLOOD GROUP

from **A** to **B** from one place to another: *What's the cheapest way of getting our products from A to B?* → A-BOMB, A-LINE, A-LIST, A-ROAD, A TO Z

a² /weɪk ə; strong eɪ/ Or **an** /weɪk ən; strong æn/ determiner ★★★

A or **an** is used as an **indefinite article**, usually followed by a singular countable noun.

A is used when the next word begins with a consonant.

An is used when the next word begins with a vowel sound.

When a word begins with the letter 'u' that is pronounced /ju:/, the word is treated as starting with a consonant: *a university*.

When a word begins with a silent 'h', it is treated as starting with a vowel: *an hour*.

The names of the letters f, h, l, m, n, r, s, and x begin with vowel sounds, so abbreviations that begin with one of these letters are treated as starting with a vowel: *an MP* ♦ *an HGV*.

1 used when you are mentioning a person or a thing for the first time, or when the person listening to you does not already know about them: *I have an idea.* ♦ *There's a concert on Sunday night.*

2 used when you mean any person or thing of a particular type, but you are not referring to one specifically: *You need a dictionary.* ♦ *I haven't got an umbrella.* ♦ *Children must be accompanied by an adult.*

3 used when you say what class, type, or group someone or something belongs to, or what job someone has: *Ruth's father was a lawyer.* ♦ *He's a liar and a cheat.* ♦ *Greece has been a republic since 1973.*

4 used before a singular noun that represents every person or thing of a particular type: *A dog needs regular exercise.* ♦ *A molecule consists of two or more atoms.*

5 used when you are referring to a person or thing as one of several: *I want you to meet a friend of mine.* ♦ *He's a member of the team.*

6 used in expressions of quantity such as 'a lot', 'a few', or 'a great deal': *a lot of money* ♦ *a bit of luck* ♦ *We all appreciate a little encouragement.*

7 used in numbers and measurements to mean 'one', as in 'a thousand' or 'an hour': *a million dollars* ♦ *a hundred years ago* ♦ *a minute or two*

8 used in phrases showing how much something costs, how often it happens, how fast it goes etc: *Meetings are held four times a year* (=four times every year). ♦ *tomatoes at £1.20 a kilo* (=each kilo costs £1.20) ♦ *The car was travelling at 90 miles an hour.*

9 used before a noun that means a substance, product, food etc when referring to a particular type of it: *Brie is a soft creamy cheese.* ♦ *Plants won't grow in a soil that contains too much lime.*

10 used before the name of some drinks to mean a cup or glass of that drink: *I'll just have a beer, thanks.* ♦ *Have you got time for a coffee?*

11 used before a noun that means a particular quality or feeling when the quality or feeling is described in some way: *Sales staff must have a good working knowledge of French.* ♦ *They fought back with a fierce determination that surprised the invaders.*

12 used before a noun that is formed from a verb and means a single action of that verb: *Can I have a try?* ♦ *Let's take a walk round the garden.*

13 used before a noun that expresses your feelings about a situation: *It's a relief to know they're safe.* ♦ *What a shame he couldn't be there to receive the prize!*

14 used before the name of a particular day, season, or holiday to mean one particular Tuesday, summer, Christmas etc: *It was a bitterly cold winter.* ♦ *She was born at six o'clock on a Sunday morning.*

15 used before a person's name when you do not know

anything about them: *There's a Mr Alex Murray asking to see you.* **15a.** used before the name of a famous artist to mean a picture by that artist: *The gallery has recently acquired a Picasso.* **15b.** used before a family name to mean a member of that family: *Remember you're an Osborne - it's a name to be proud of.* **15c.** used before the name of a famous person to mean someone else with similar abilities, a similar appearance, or a similar character: *Already he is being hailed as a young Albert Einstein.*

A abbrev amp

a- /ə, eɪ/ prefix without or not: used with some adjectives and adverbs: *asexual* (=not sexual) ♦ *atypically* (=not typically)

A&E /eɪ and 'i:/ noun [C/U] **BrE** the accident and emergency department of a hospital

AA /eɪ 'eɪ/ **ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**

AA, the /eɪ 'eɪ/ the Automobile Association: a British organization for drivers that gives its members information on travelling by road and helps them if their car BREAKS DOWN (=stops working)

AAA, the /θri: 'eɪz/ the Amateur Athletics Association: a British organization for ATHLETES (=runners etc) that organizes sports competitions

ah /ɑ:/ interjection used for showing that you are happy, satisfied, or surprised: *Aah, the food smells wonderful!*

aardvark /'ɑ:d,vɑ:k/ noun [C] a southern African animal with a long nose and a long sticky tongue that eats ANTS

aargh /ɑ:/ interjection used, often in a joking way, for showing that you are very annoyed or shocked by something: *Aargh! Not this again!*

aback /ə'bæk/ adv **be taken aback** to be shocked or surprised, especially by something someone says or does to you: *Bill was taken aback by the girl's directness.*

abacus /'æbəkəs/ noun [C] an object used for counting or doing simple calculations, consisting of a frame with small balls in a row

abandon¹ /ə'bændən/ verb [T] ★★

- | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------------|
| 1 leave sb | 4 stop doing/planning sth |
| 2 leave a place | 5 stop supporting an idea |
| 3 leave sth somewhere | + PHRASES |

1 to leave someone when you should stay with them and look after them: *His mother abandoned him when he was five days old.* **1a.** to stop supporting or helping someone: *Hardy felt that he had been abandoned by all his followers.* **1b.** informal to suddenly leave someone that you are with: *I'm sorry I abandoned you like that.*

2 to leave a place, especially because it is difficult or dangerous to stay there: *Most of the villagers have abandoned their homes and fled.* ♦ *The coastal settlements were abandoned in the 19th century.*

3 to leave something in a place, especially because you are in a hurry or are trying to escape: *The stolen car was abandoned only five miles away.* ♦ *a heap of abandoned rifles*

4 to stop something that you are doing or planning to do, especially because it is too difficult to continue: *After 20 lessons I finally abandoned my attempt to learn to drive.* ♦ *The game had to be abandoned because of rain.* ♦ *George almost persuaded me to abandon my studies and join him.* **4a.** to stop behaving or talking in a particular way, because it does not help you to achieve what you want: *She abandoned caution and began scrambling down the cliff.* ♦ **abandon all/any pretence** (=stop trying to pretend something) *By 1978, they had abandoned all pretence of democratic principles.*

5 to stop believing or supporting an idea: *Despite current problems, they have not abandoned their commitment to the peace process.* ♦ *By this time, the steady state theory of the universe had been largely abandoned.*

abandon (all) hope to stop believing or hoping that something will happen: *The family had abandoned all hope of finding him alive.*

abandon ship **1** to leave a ship or boat because it is

dangerous to stay **2** to leave an organization because you think it will fail

abandon yourself to sth *literary* to feel an emotion so strongly that you do not think about anything else — **abandonment** noun [U]

Words frequently used with abandon

nouns	belief, claim, commitment, concept, idea, policy, principle	5
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abandoned /ə'bændənd/ noun with **abandon** in an uncontrolled way, as if you do not care what the result will be: *The kids were splashing on paint with abandon.* ♦ **with gay/reckless abandon** *This year holiday shoppers are spending money with reckless abandon.*

abandoned /ə'bændənd/ adj **1** left empty or no longer used: *an abandoned farm* **2** left alone by someone who should stay with you and look after you: *an abandoned child*

abase /ə'beɪs/ verb *formal* **abase yourself** to behave in a way that makes other people respect you less — **abasement** noun [U]

abashed /ə'bæʃt/ adj embarrassed or ashamed about something you have done

abate /ə'beɪt/ verb [I] *formal* to gradually become less serious or extreme: *The fighting shows no sign of abating.*

abatement /ə'beɪtmənt/ noun [U] *formal* a reduction in something harmful or unpleasant: *noise/pollution abatement*

abattoir /'æbətwaɪ/ noun [C] *BrE* a place where animals are killed for meat

abbess /'æbes/ noun [C] a woman who is in charge of a CONVENT (= a religious community of women)

abbey /'æbi/ noun [C] a large church with buildings connected to it where a group of MONKS or NUNS live or used to live

abbot /'æbət/ noun [C] a man who is in charge of an abbey

abbreviated /ə'brɪvi'eɪtɪd/ adj shorter because some parts have been removed: *an abbreviated version of the text* — **abbreviate** verb [T]

abbreviation /ə'brɪvi'eɪʃn/ noun [C] ★ a short form of a word or phrase: *MIA is an abbreviation for 'Missing in Action'.*

ABC /eɪ bi: 'si:/ noun [singular] the letters of the English alphabet or basic reading skills, especially when learned by young children

the **ABC of sth** the basic or most important facts about a subject

ABC /eɪ bi: 'si:/ **1** American Broadcasting Corporation: one of the major television broadcasting companies in the US **2** Australian Broadcasting Corporation: one of the major television companies in Australia

abdicate /'æbdɪkeɪt/ verb [I/T] if a king or queen abdicates, he or she formally gives up power **2** [T] *formal* to stop accepting a particular responsibility or obligation that you have: **abdicate (your) responsibility** *The government cannot abdicate responsibility for national security.* — **abdication** /'æbdɪkeɪʃn/ noun [C/U]

abdomen /'æbdəmən/ noun [C] **1** *formal* the front part of your body below your waist **2** *technical* the back part of the three parts into which an insect's body is divided

abdominal /'æbdəmɪnl/ adj in, or happening in, the abdomen: *abdominal muscles* ♦ *abdominal pain*

abduct /'æb'dʌkt/ verb [T] to take someone away from their home, family etc using force: *KIDNAP: He was abducted at gunpoint.* — **abduction** /'æb'dʌkʃn/ noun [C/U]

abductor /'æb'dʌktə/ noun [C] **1** someone who abducts someone: *Her abductors are demanding a £1 million ransom.* **2** *technical* a muscle that pulls a part of your body away from its normal position, for example one that raises your arm

aberrant /'æberənt/ adj *formal* not normal or not what you usually expect: *ABNORMAL*

aberration /'æbə'reɪʃn/ noun [C/U] something that is not normal or not what you would usually expect: *a genetic aberration* **a** a short time when someone behaves in a very strange or careless way: *He dismissed the defeat as a temporary aberration.*

abet /ə'bet/ verb [T] *formal* to help or encourage someone to do something immoral or illegal → **AD**²

abeyance /ə'beɪəns/ noun *formal* in **abeyance** not happening until later or not being used at the present time

abhor /ə'hɔ:/ verb [T] *formal* to dislike something very much, especially when you think it is immoral: *She abhors violence.*

abhorrence /ə'bɒrəns/ noun [U] *formal* the feeling that you have when something offends you a lot or you think it is immoral

abhorrent /ə'bɒrənt/ adj *formal* if something is abhorrent to you, you dislike it very much, usually because you think it is immoral: ♦ **to** *Racism is abhorrent to the majority of people.*

abide /ə'baɪd/ verb [I] an old word meaning 'to stay or live somewhere'

can't abide sth to dislike something very much. It is more usual to say that you **can't stand** something: *I can't abide their chatter.*

abide by phrasal vb [T] [**abide by sth**] to follow a rule, decision, or instruction: *They promised to abide by the rules of the contest.*

abiding /ə'baɪdɪŋ/ adj [only before noun] *formal* used for describing a feeling, interest, or belief that you have had for a long time and that is not likely to change

ability /ə'bilɪti/ noun [C/U] ★★

1 something you are capable of doing: **ability to do sth** *Tiredness can seriously impair your ability to drive.*

1a. skill you have at a particular type of work, educational subject etc: *Managers have different talents and abilities.* ♦ ♦ **in** *The tests were designed to assess the students' ability in oral comprehension.*

2 the quality of being able to do a particular job or activity well: *Gladstone was a politician of great ability.*

♦ *Our courses cater for different levels of ability.* → **MIXED ABILITY**

to the best of your ability as well as you are able: *Just try to do the job to the best of your ability.*

-ability /ə'bilɪti/ suffix used with adjectives ending in '-able' to make nouns meaning a particular quality: *suitability* ♦ *dependability*

abject /'æbdʒekt/ adj *formal* complete; used for emphasizing how bad, unpleasant, or severe a situation or condition is: *abject poverty* — **abjectly** adv

abjure /'æbdʒʊə/ verb [T] *very formal* to make a public promise to give up something such as a belief or activity — **abjuration** /'æbdʒʊə'reɪʃn/ noun [U]

ablaze /ə'bleɪz/ adj [never before noun] **1** burning with a lot of flames: **set sth ablaze** (=start something burning) *Within minutes, the whole building had been set ablaze.*

2 *literary* bright and full of light or colour **3** *literary* showing strong emotion, especially excitement or anger

able /'eɪbl/ adj ★★★ intelligent or good at doing something: *She is a very able driver.* ♦ *an academically able child*

be able to do sth **1** used for saying that it is possible for someone to do something. Forms such as **have been able to** and **will be able to** are sometimes considered as tenses of the verb **can**. **2** to have a particular physical or mental skill: *I'd love to be able to sing like you.* ♦ *She's barely able to read or write.* **3** to succeed in doing something on a particular occasion: *As far as I have been able to find out, he has no criminal convictions.* ♦ *Barely able to stand, John staggered into the room.* **4** to have enough money, time, or freedom to do something: *They're able to buy whatever they want.* ♦ *I don't know if I'll be able to come.*

-able /ə'bl/ suffix **1** used with many verbs to make adjectives describing something that can be done: *enjoyable* (=that people can enjoy) ♦ *breakable* (=that is easy to break) **2** used with some nouns to make adjectives describing a quality something or someone has: *knowledgeable* ♦ *comfortable*

able-bodied /'eɪbl'bɒdɪd/ adj physically strong and healthy

able seaman noun [C] a person of low rank in the British Royal Navy

ablutions /ə'blu:ʃnz/ noun [plural] *humorous* washing yourself, cleaning your teeth etc