

9th Edition

第9版

牛津高阶 英语词典

Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary



商务印书馆
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牛津高阶英语词典
Oxford Advanced
Learner's Dictionary
of Current English

第9版 Ninth edition

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Abbreviations used in the dictionary

<i>abbr.</i>	abbreviation
<i>adj.</i>	adjective
<i>adv.</i>	adverb
C	countable noun
<i>conj.</i>	conjunction
<i>det.</i>	determiner
I	intransitive verb
<i>n.</i>	noun
<i>pl.</i>	plural
<i>pp</i>	past participle
<i>prep.</i>	preposition
<i>pron.</i>	pronoun
<i>pt</i>	past tense
<i>sb</i>	somebody
<i>sing.</i>	singular
<i>sth</i>	something
<i>symp.</i>	symbol
T	transitive verb
U	uncountable noun
<i>v.</i>	verb

<i>AustralE</i>	Australian English
<i>BrE</i>	British English
<i>CanE</i>	Canadian English
<i>E AfrE</i>	East African English
<i>IndE</i>	Indian English
<i>IrishE</i>	Irish English
<i>NAmE</i>	North American English
<i>NEngE</i>	English from Northern England
<i>NZE</i>	New Zealand English
<i>SAfrE</i>	South African English
<i>ScotE</i>	Scottish English
<i>SEAsianE</i>	South-East Asian English
US	English from the United States
<i>WAfrE</i>	West African English
<i>WelshE</i>	Welsh English

→ To see how the abbreviations are used to show how different types of verbs and nouns are used, look at pages **R 4–7** and **R 10–11**.

Symbols used in the dictionary

- ~ replaces the headword of an entry
- shows new part of speech in an entry
- ▶ derivative(s) section of an entry
- in headword (*affect*), shows where a word can be broken
- ↔ in phrasal verbs, shows that the object may come either before or after the particle

- OPP** shows an opposite
- SYN** shows a synonym
- IDM** idiom(s) section of an entry
- PHR V** phrasal verb(s) section of an entry
- I** shows a word from the *Oxford 3000* (see page **x**)
- AWL** shows word is from the *Academic Word List* (see page **xi**)

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Key to dictionary entries

Finding the word

Information in the dictionary is given in **entries**, arranged in alphabetical order of **headwords**. **Compound words** are in separate entries, also arranged alphabetically.

headwords

book-binder /'bukbaɪndə(r)/ *noun* a person whose job is fastening the pages of books together and putting covers on them ▶ **book-binding** *noun* [U]

book-case /'bukkeɪs/ *noun* a piece of furniture with shelves for keeping books on ◀ VISUAL VOCAB PAGE V18

book club *noun* **1** an organization that sells books cheaply to its members **2** = BOOK GROUP

entry

Some headwords can have more than one part of speech.

Squares show where the information on each part of speech begins.

blind-fold /'blaɪndfəʊld; NAmE -foʊld/ *noun, verb, adj., adv.*

■ **noun** something that is put over sb's eyes so they cannot see

■ **verb** ~sb to cover sb's eyes with a piece of cloth or other covering so that they cannot see: *The hostages were tied up and blindfolded.*

■ **adj., adv.** (BrE) (also **blind-fold-ed** BrE, NAmE) with the eyes covered: *The reporter was taken blindfold to a secret location.* ◊ *I knew the way home blindfold* (= because it was so)

headword and all possible parts of speech

There are some words in English that have the same spelling as each other but different pronunciations.

The small **homonym number** shows that this is the first of two headwords spelled *gill*.

Different pronunciation is given at each headword.

gill¹ /gɪl/ *noun* [usually pl.] one of the openings on the side of a fish's head that it breathes through ◀ VISUAL VOCAB PAGE V10

▶ to the **'gills** (informal) completely full: *I was stuffed to the gills with chocolate cake.*

gill² /dʒɪl/ *noun* a unit for measuring liquids. There are four gills in a pint.

There are also some words in English that have more than one possible spelling, and both spellings are acceptable. Information about these words is given at the most frequent spelling.

The variant spelling is given in brackets.

ban-is-ter (also **ban-nis-ter**) /'bæɪnɪstə(r)/ *noun* (BrE also **ban-isters** [pl.]) the posts and rail which you can hold for support when going up or down stairs: *to hold on to the banister/banisters* ▶ PICTURE AT STAIRCASE

At the entry for the less frequent spelling a cross-reference directs you to the main entry.

ban-nis-ter = BANISTER

Irregular forms of verbs are treated in the same way.

Some words that are **derivatives** of other words do not have their own entry in the dictionary because they can be easily understood from the meaning of the word from which they are derived (the root word). They are given in the same entry as the root word, in a specially marked section.

be-lated /bɪ'leɪtɪd/ *adj.* coming or happening late: *a belated birthday present* ▶ **be-lated-ly** *adv.*

The blue triangle shows where the derivative section starts.

You can find **idioms** and **phrasal verbs** in separate sections, marked with special symbols.

fetch **🔍** /fetʃ/ *verb* **1** **🇬🇧** (especially BrE) to go to where sb/sth is and bring them/it back: ~sb/sth to fetch help/a doctor ◊ The inhabitants have to walk a mile to fetch water. ◊ She's gone to fetch the kids from school. ◊ ~sb sth Could you fetch me my bag? **2** ~sth to be sold for a particular price **🇨🇦** sell: The painting is expected to fetch \$10 000 at auction.

IDM fetch and carry (for sb) to do a lot of little jobs for sb as if you were their servant

PHRV fetch up (informal, especially BrE) to arrive somewhere without planning to: And then, a few years later, he somehow fetched up in Rome.

idioms section with symbol **IDM** (see page R13)

phrasal verbs section with symbol **PHRV** (see pages R8–9)

Wordfinder notes help you to find words that you don't know, or have forgotten. They suggest entries that you can look up to find vocabulary related to the headword. If those entries contain their own Wordfinder note or Collocations note, the word is shown in **bold**.

WORDFINDER accommodation, deed, **house**, lease, let, **location**, mortgage, squat, tenant

For example, at the entry for **home**, the list of words includes **house**, where there is a Collocations note, and **location**, where there is another Wordfinder note with more words to do with describing an area.

Finding the meaning

Some words have very long entries. It is not usually necessary to read the whole entry from the beginning, if you already know something about the general meaning that you are looking for.

spin **🔍** /spɪn/ *verb, noun*

verb (spin-ning, spun, spun /spʌn/)

• **TURN ROUND QUICKLY** **1** **🇬🇧** [I, T] to turn round and round quickly; to make sth do this: (+ **adv./prep.**) The plane was spinning out of control. ◊ a spinning ice skater ◊ My head is spinning (= I feel as if my head is going around and I can't balance). ◊ ~ (round/around) The dancers spun round and round. ◊ ~sth (round/around) to spin a ball/coin/wheel **2** **🇬🇧** [I, T] ~ (sb) round/around | + **adv./prep.** to turn round quickly once; to make sb do this: He spun around to face her.

• **MAKE THREAD** **3** [I, T] to make thread from wool, cotton, silk, etc. by twisting it: She sat by the window spinning. ◊ ~sth to spin and knit wool ◊ ~A into B spinning silk into thread ◊ ~B from A spinning thread from silk

Meanings that are closely related share the same short cut.

Short cuts show the context or general meaning.

Understanding and using the word

abandoned **🔍** **AWL** /ə'bændənd/ *adj.* **1** **🇬🇧** left and no longer wanted, used or needed: an abandoned car/house ◊ The child was found abandoned but unharmed. **2** (of people or their behaviour) wild; not following accepted standards

Words from the Academic Word List are marked with **AWL** (see page xi).

Words printed in larger type and with a **🔍** symbol are part of the Oxford 3000 list of important words (see page x). Small keys indicate which parts of the entry are most important.

aardvark /'ɑ:dvaɪk; NAmE 'ɑ:rdvɑ:k/ *noun* an animal from southern Africa that has a long nose and tongue and that eats insects

pronunciation, with American pronunciation where it is different (see pages R30–31)

Stress marks show stress on compounds.

baby grand *noun* a small GRAND PIANO

Irregular forms of verbs, with their pronunciations. Irregular plurals of nouns are also shown.

cling /kɪŋ/ *verb* (clung, clung /kɪŋ/) **1** [I] to hold on tightly to sb/sth: ~to sb/sth survivors clinging to a raft ◊ ~on to sb/sth She *clung on to her baby*. ◊ ~on Cling on tight! ◊ ~together They *clung together*, shivering with cold. ◊ SYNONYMS AT HOLD **2** [I] to stick to sth: a dress that *clings* (= fits closely and shows the shape of your body) ◊ ~to sth The wet shirt *clung to his chest*. ◊ The smell of smoke still *clung to her clothes*. **3** [I] ~ (to sb) (usually disapproving) to stay close to sb, especially because you need them emotionally: After her mother's death, Sara *clung to her aunt more than ever*.

prepositions, adverbs and structures that can be used with this word

examples of use in *italic type*

label giving information about usage (see inside front cover)

Comparatives and superlatives of adjectives

hearty /'hɑ:ti/; NAmE 'hɑ:ti/ *adj., noun*

■ **adj.** (heartier, heartiest) **1** [usually before noun] showing friendly feelings for sb: a *hearty welcome* **2** (sometimes disapproving) loud, cheerful and full of energy: a *hearty and boisterous fellow* ◊ a *hearty voice* **3** [only before noun]

information on use of adjectives (see page R11)

Information on different types of noun (see pages R10–11)

dock /dɒk/; NAmE daɪk/ *noun, verb*

■ **noun** **1** [C] a part of a port where ships are repaired, or where goods are put onto or taken off them: *dock workers* ◊ The ship was *in dock*. ◊ SEE ALSO DRY DOCK **2** *docks* [pl.] a group of docks in a port and the buildings around them that are used for repairing ships, storing goods, etc. **3** [C] (NAmE) = JETTY **4** [C] (NAmE) a raised platform for loading vehicles or trains **5** [C] the part of a court where the person who has been accused of a crime stands or sits during a trial: He's been *in the dock* (= on trial for a crime) several times already. ◊ COLLOCATIONS AT JUSTICE **6** [U] a wild plant of northern Europe with large thick leaves that can be rubbed on skin that has been stung by NETTLES to make it less painful: *dock leaves* **7** = DOCKING STATION
■ **verb** **1** [I, T] ~ (sth) if a ship *docks* or you *dock* a ship, it sails into a HARBOUR and stays there: The ferry is *expected to dock at 6*. **2** [I, T] ~ (sth) if two SPACECRAFT *dock*, or are *docked*, they are joined together in space: Next year, a

fixed form of noun

common phrase in **bold type** in example (see page R12)

verb codes and frames (see pages R4–7)

Word used in definition that is not in the Oxford 3000

Build your vocabulary

The dictionary also contains a lot of information that will help you increase your vocabulary and use the language productively. Language banks, Synonyms and Collocations notes give useful vocabulary, especially for writing, and Express yourself notes help you find the right words in everyday situations.

▼ EXPRESS YOURSELF

Offering somebody something

Particularly when you are the host, you may want to make polite offers to your guests:

- **Would you like a magazine to read?**
- **Can I get you a coffee?**
- **Can I offer you something to drink?**

Special symbols show synonyms and opposites.


solemn /'sɒləm/; NAmE 'sɑ:ləm/ *adj.* **1** (of a person) not happy or smiling **SYN** serious: Her face grew *solemn*. ◊ a *solemn expression* **OPP** cheerful **2** done, said, etc. in a very serious and sincere way: a *solemn oath/undertaking/vow*, etc. **3** (of a religious ceremony or formal occasion) performed in a serious way: a *solemn ritual* ◊ MORE LIKE THIS 20, page R15 ► **solemnly** *adv.* He *nodded solemnly*.

Cross references refer you to information in other parts of the dictionary, for example the MORE LIKE THIS pages that show you other words that behave in a similar way.

The Oxford 3000™

The keywords of the **Oxford 3000** have been carefully selected by a group of language experts and experienced teachers as the words which should receive priority in vocabulary study because of their importance and usefulness. The selection is based on three criteria.

The words which occur most frequently in English are included, based on the information in the British National Corpus and the Oxford Corpus Collection. (A corpus is an electronically held collection of written or spoken texts, often consisting of hundreds of millions of words – for more information, visit the OALD website.) However, being frequent in the corpus alone is not enough for a word to qualify as a keyword: it may be that the word is used very frequently, but only in a narrowly defined area, such as newspapers or scientific articles. In order to avoid including these restricted words, we include as keywords only those words which are frequent across a range of different types of text. In other words, keywords are both frequent and used in a variety of contexts. In addition, the list includes some very important words which happen not to be used frequently, even though they are very familiar to most users of English. These include, for example, words for parts of the body, words used in travel, and words which are useful for explaining what you mean when you do not know the exact word for something. These words were identified by consulting a panel of over seventy experts in the fields of teaching and language study.

The words of the **Oxford 3000** are shown in the main section of the dictionary in larger print, and with a key symbol  immediately following. The

most useful parts of the entries (particular parts of speech, meanings, phrasal verbs and idioms) are marked with a small key symbol. The entries for keywords often have extra information in the form of more examples of use, special notes explaining synonyms or related words, or helpful illustrations. This means that the keywords make an excellent starting point for expanding your vocabulary. With most keywords, there is far more to learn about them than the first meaning in the entry: often these words have many meanings, have a large family of words derived from them, or are used in a variety of patterns.

The list covers British and American English. Some basic phrases are also included. Proper names (names of people, places, etc. beginning with a capital letter) are not included in the list.

In order to make the definitions in this dictionary easy to understand, we have written them using the keywords of the **Oxford 3000**. All words used in normal definition text are keywords, or are on the list of language study terms, shown below. Numbers and proper names are also used in definitions. When it has been necessary to use a specialist term which is not in the **Oxford 3000**, the word is shown in SMALL CAPITALS. If you do not know the meaning of this word, look it up in the dictionary: it will help you to understand the definition that you are interested in, and will probably be a useful word to learn because it will be related to the original word you looked up.

For more information on the **Oxford 3000**, and to see the full list, visit the OALD website at www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com

Language study terms

Knowing these words will be useful in your study of English and will also help you to use the **Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary** more effectively. It includes words to do with grammar, pronunciation and punctuation.

abbreviation *n.*
active *adj., n.*
adjective *n.*
adverb *n.*
apostrophe *n.*
article *n.*
auxiliary (also auxiliary verb) *n.*
bracket *n.*
clause *n.*

colon *n.*
comma *n.*
comparative *adj., n.*
compound *n., adj.*
conditional *adj., n.*
conjunction *n.*
consonant *n.*
contraction *n.*
countable *adj.*
continuous
➔ progressive
derivative *n.*
determiner *n.*
dialect *n.*
entry *n.*
exclamation *n.*

exclamation mark
(especially BrE) (NAMe usually
exclamation point) *n.*
figurative *adj.*
full stop *n.* (BrE)
gerund *n.*
hyphen *n.*
idiom *n.*
imperative *adj., n.*
indirect speech
➔ reported speech
infinitive *n.*
inverted commas
➔ quotation marks
ironic *adj.*
irregular *adj.*
literal *adj.*

literary *adj.*
 modal *n.*
 noun *n.*
 object *n.*
 ordinal *n.*
 paragraph *n.*
 parenthesis *n.*
 part of speech
 (also word class) *n.*
 participle *n.*
 particle *n.*
 passive *adj., n.*
 perfect *adj.*
 period *n.* (NAMÉ)
 phrasal verb *n.*
 plural *n., adj.*
 possessive *adj., n.*
 prefix *n.*

preposition *n.*
 progressive (also continuous) *adj.*
 pronoun *n.*
 punctuation *n.*
 question mark *n.*
 question tag
 (also tag question) *n.*
 quotation marks
 (BrE also inverted commas) *n.*
 reflexive *adj.*
 register *n.*
 regular *adj.*
 relative *adj.*
 reported speech
 (also indirect speech) *n.*
 saying *n.*
 semicolon *n.*
 simple *adj.*

singular *n., adj.*
 slang *n.*
 slash *n.*
 subject *n.*
 suffix *n.*
 superlative *adj., n.*
 syllable *n.*
 taboo *adj.*
 tag question
 → question tag
 tense *n.*
 uncountable *adj.*
 verb *n.*
 vowel *n.*
 word class
 → part of speech

The Academic Word List:

A tool for vocabulary learning

Averil Coxhead

Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand

You are holding a dictionary which contains many thousands of words. As a learner of English as a second or even third language, how can you decide which words you need to spend your valuable time on? One way you can do this is by looking at the frequency of words. That is, how often these words occur in your reading and listening material in English. What you read and listen to might depend on your purposes for learning English. If, for example, you want to study in an English-medium university, it will be important to focus on words that you will meet often at university.

How can this dictionary help you decide which words to learn for your studies? This dictionary includes words from the Academic Word List (AWL). The list was developed by analysing a corpus or body of academic written texts to find out which words occurred across a range of 28 subject areas (such as Biology, History, Marketing, and International Law) in four academic disciplines (Arts, Commerce, Law, and Science). These words were selected because of their range and frequency of occurrence. They are outside the first 2000 words of English. The AWL contains 570 word families and covers roughly 10% of a written academic text, which means that ten words in every 100 can be found in the list.

In this dictionary, you will find that words from the AWL are labelled **AWL**. Words in the Oxford 3000 word list of general English are also highlighted. The AWL and the Oxford 3000 lists have some words in common because the AWL excludes the first 2000 words while the Oxford 3000 includes the first 2000 words and 1000 words more. Examples of some words that are shared include *abandon* and *academic*.

What are some other challenges for learners when it comes to academic vocabulary? First and foremost, it is important to know the meaning of a word and to recognise its meaning when the word is presented in context. Some words, such as 'require', carry roughly the same meaning in most contexts. Other words have developed very specific meanings depending on an area of study. An example is the word 'significant' which carries a particular meaning in statistical studies. You can use this dictionary to help you find out more about the meanings of words in context.

Another challenge is using tools such as this dictionary to enhance your understanding. The dictionary includes words that commonly occur with a target word, its pronunciation, and examples or sentences with the target word in it. All of this information can help you develop a fuller understanding of a word.

There is a saying which goes, 'If you don't use it, you'll lose it'. Make sure you try to use words, from the AWL for example, in your writing and speaking. That way you can get feedback and further develop your knowledge of these words. You also need useful strategies to cement your learning. If you find yourself looking up the same word more than once or you find specialised words for your studies, you may need to develop word cards or design a vocabulary notebook to help you learn.

If we think of language as a toolbox for life, this dictionary contains many useful tools for your learning. The AWL is a vocabulary tool that might help you prepare for your future studies.

You can find out more about the AWL on this website: www.victoria.ac.nz/lals/staff/averil-coxhead.aspx.

Numbers

- 10 000-foot view** /,ten 'θauznd 'fʊt 'vjuː/ *noun* (business) a broad general view or description of a problem **SYD** HELICOPTER VIEW, OVERVIEW: *Let me give you the 10000-foot view.*
- 1040 form** /,ten 'fɔːti fɔːm; NAmE 'fɔːrti fɔːrɪm/ *noun* (in the US) an official document in which you give details of the amount of money that you have earned so that the government can calculate how much tax you have to pay
- 12** /twelv/ *noun* (in Britain) a label that is given to a film/movie to show that it can be watched legally only by people who are at least twelve years old; a film/movie that has this label: *I can take the kids too – it's a 12.*
- 1471** /'wʌn fɔː sevn wʌn; NAmE fɔːr/ (in Britain) the telephone number you can use to find out the telephone number of the person who called you most recently, and the time the call was made
- 15** /'fɪf'tiːn/ *noun* (in Britain) a label that is given to a film/movie to show that it can be watched legally only by people who are at least fifteen years old; a film/movie that has this label
- 18** /eɪ'tiːn/ *noun* (in Britain) a label that is given to a film/movie to show that it can be watched legally only by people who are at least eighteen years old; a film/movie that has this label
- 18-wheeler** /,eɪtɪːn 'wiːlə(r)/ *noun* (NAmE) a very large truck with nine wheels on each side
- 20/20 vision** /,twenti twenti 'vɪʒn/ *noun* the ability to see perfectly without using glasses or CONTACT LENSES
- 2.1** /,tuː 'wʌn/ *noun* the upper level of the second highest standard of degree given by a British or an Australian university: *I got a 2.1*
- 2.2** /,tuː / *noun* the lower level of the second highest standard of degree given by a British or an Australian university
- 24-hour clock** /,twenti fɔːr aʊə 'klɒk; NAmE aʊər 'klɒk/ *noun* the system of using twenty four numbers to talk about the hours of the day, instead of dividing it into two units of twelve hours
- 24/7** /,twenti fɔː 'sevn; NAmE fɔːr/ *adv.* (informal) twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week (used to mean 'all the time'): *She's with me all the time—24/7.*
- 3-D** (also **three-D**) /θriː 'diː/ *noun* [U] the quality of having, or appearing to have, length, width and depth: *These glasses allow you to see the film in 3-D.*
- 3G** /θriː 'dʒiː/ *abbr.* third generation (used to describe a level of performance for mobile/cell phones that makes it possible to move data to and from the Internet): *3G technology*
- 3PS** /θriː piː 'es/ = THIRD-PERSON SHOOTER GAME
- 35mm** /θɜːtɪfəv 'mɪlɪmɪtə(r); NAmE θɜːrti-/ *noun* the size of film that is usually used in cameras for taking photographs and making films/movies
- 360-degree feedback** /θriː hʌndrəd ən sɪksti dɪ'ɡriː 'fiːdbæk/ (also **360-degree appraisal**) *noun* [U] (business) information provided by all the people that an employee deals with, used as a way of deciding how well the employee does their job: *360-degree feedback assessments*
- 4G** /,fɔː 'dʒiː; NAmE fɔːr/ *abbr.* fourth generation (used to describe a level of performance for mobile/cell phones that makes it possible to move data to and from the Internet at high speed): *a 4G phone; 4G technology*
- 4×4** /,fɔː baɪ 'fɔː; NAmE fɔːr baɪ 'fɔːr/ *noun* a vehicle with a system in which power is applied to all four wheels, making it easier to control
- 411** /,fɔː wʌn 'wʌn; NAmE fɔːr/ *noun* 1 [U] the telephone number of the service that you use in the US to find out a person's telephone number: *Call 411.*
2 **the 411** [sing.] (NAmE, informal) the true facts about a situation or the information you need: *He'll give us the 411 on what to expect.*
- 7/7** /,sevn 'sevn/ *noun* (BrE) the abbreviation for the date 7 July, 2005, when several bomb attacks took place in London
- the \$64,000 question** /,sɪksti fɔː θəʊznd 'dɒlə 'kwɛstʃən; NAmE fɔːr, 'dɑːlə(r)/ *noun* (informal) the thing that people most want to know, or that is most important: *It's a clever plan, but the sixty-four thousand dollar question is: will it work?*
- 9/11** /,naɪn rɪ'levn/ *noun* the abbreviation for the date September 11, 2001, when terrorists flew planes into the Twin Towers in New York, the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., and a field in Pennsylvania, killing thousands of people
- 911** /,naɪn wʌn 'wʌn/ the telephone number used in the US to call the police, fire or ambulance services in an emergency: (NAmE) *Call 911.*
- 99** /,nɑːntɪ'naɪn/ *noun* (BrE) an ice cream in a cone with a stick of chocolate in the top
- 999** /,naɪn naɪn 'naɪn/ the telephone number used in Britain to call the police, fire or ambulance services in an emergency: (BrE) *Dial 999.*

A /eɪ/ noun, symbol, abbr.

noun (also **a**) (pl. **As**, **A's**, **a's** /eɪz/) **1** [C, U] the first letter of the English alphabet: 'Apple' begins with (an) A/'A'. **2** **A** [C, U] (music) the 6th note in the SCALE OF C MAJOR **3** [C, U] the highest mark/grade that a student can get for a piece of work or course of study: She got (an) A in/for Biology. **4** **A** [U] used to represent the first of two or more possibilities: Shall we go for plan A or plan B? **5** **A** [U] used to represent a person, for example in an imagined situation or to hide their identity: Assume A knows B is guilty. **6** SEE ALSO A-FRAME, A LEVEL, A-ROAD

IDIOM **from A to B** from one place to another: For me a car is just a means of getting from A to B. **from A to Z** including everything there is to know about sth: He knew his subject from A to Z.

symbol 1 used in Britain before a number to refer to a particular important road: the A34 to Newbury **2** used (but not in the US) before numbers which show standard METRIC sizes of paper: a sheet of A4 paper (= 297×210mm) **3** A3 (= 420×297mm) **4** A5 (= 210×148mm)

abbr. (in writing) AMP

a /ə/; strong form eɪ (also an /ən/; strong form æn/) indefinite article **HELPS** The form **a** is used before consonant sounds and the form **an** before vowel sounds. When saying abbreviations like 'FM' or 'UN', use **a** or **an** according to how the first letter is said. For example, **F** is a consonant, but begins with the sound /e/ and so you say: an FM radio. **U** is a vowel but begins with /j/ and so you say: a UN declaration.

1 **1** used before countable or singular nouns referring to people or things that have not already been mentioned: a man/horse/unit **2** an aunt/egg/hour/X-ray **3** I can only carry two at a time. **4** There's a visitor for you. **5** She's a friend of my father's (= one of my father's friends).

2 **2** used before uncountable nouns when these have an adjective in front of them, or phrase following them: a good knowledge of French **3** a sadness that won't go away **4** any; every: A lion is a dangerous animal. **5** **5** used to show that sb/sth is a member of a group or profession:

Their new car's a BMW. **6** She's a Buddhist. **7** He's a teacher. **8** Is that a Monet (= a painting by Monet)? **9** used in front of two nouns that are seen as a single unit: a knife and fork **10** used instead of one before some numbers: A thousand people were there. **11** used when talking about prices, quantities and rates **SYD** per: They cost 50p a kilo. **12** I can type 50 words a minute. **13** He was driving at 50 miles an hour. **14** a person like sb: She's a little Hitler.

15 used before sb's name to show that the speaker does not know the person: There's a Mrs Green to see you. **16** used before the names of days of the week to talk about one particular day: She died on a Tuesday.

17 used before the names of days of the week to talk about one particular day: She died on a Tuesday.

18 used before the names of days of the week to talk about one particular day: She died on a Tuesday.

a- /eɪ-/ prefix (in nouns, adjectives and adverbs) not; without: atheist **2** atypical **3** asexually **4** MORE LIKE THIS 6, page R14

A1 /eɪ 'wʌn/ adj. (informal) very good: The car was in A1 condition.

A2 (level) /eɪ 'tuː levl/ noun [C, U] (until 2015) a British exam usually taken in Year 13 of school or college (= the final year) when students were aged 18. Students first studied a subject at AS level before taking an A2 exam. Together AS and A2 level exams formed the A-level qualification, which is needed for entrance to universities: A2 exams

AA /eɪ 'eɪ/ abbr. **1** (usually the AA) Automobile Association (a British organization which provides services for car owners) **2** ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

AAA /eɪ 'eɪ 'eɪ/ abbr. **1** (especially NAMe) tripl 'eɪ/ American Automobile Association (an American organization which provides services for car owners) **2** (in the UK) Amateur Athletic Association

A & E /eɪ ənd 'iː/ abbr. ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY **3** WORD-FINDER NOTE AT HOSPITAL

A & R /eɪ ənd 'ɑː(r)/ abbr. artists and repertoire (the department in a record company that is responsible for finding new singers and bands and getting them to sign a contract with the company)

aardvark /'ɑːdvɑːk; NAMe 'ɑːrdvɑːk/ noun an animal from southern Africa that has a long nose and tongue and that eats insects

aargh /ɑː; NAMe ɑːr/ exclamation used to express fear, anger, or some other strong emotion: Aargh—get that cat off the table! **4** MORE LIKE THIS 2, page R14

aback /ə'bæk/ adv.

IDIOM **be taken aback (by sb/sth)** to be shocked or surprised by sb/sth: She was completely taken aback by his anger. **5** SEE ALSO TAKE SB ABACK AT TAKE **6** SYNONYMS AT SURPRISE

aba-cus /'æbəkəs/ noun (pl. **aba-cuses** /-kəsɪz/) a frame with small balls which slide along wires. It is used as a tool or for counting.

abalone /'æbə'ləʊni; NAMe 'lɒ- / noun [C, U] a SHELLFISH that can be eaten and whose shell contains MOTHER-OF-PEARL

abandon **1** **AWL** /ə'bændən/ verb, noun

verb 1 **1** to leave sb, especially sb you are responsible for, with no intention of returning: ~sb The baby had been abandoned by its mother. **2** ~sb to sth The study showed a deep fear among the elderly of being abandoned to the care of strangers. **2** **2** to leave a thing or place, especially because it is impossible or dangerous to stay **SYD** leave: ~sth Snow forced many drivers to abandon their vehicles. **3** He gave the order to abandon ship (= to leave the ship because it was sinking). **4** ~sth to sb/sth They had to abandon their lands to the invading forces. **3** **3** ~sth to stop doing sth, especially before it is finished; to stop having sth: They abandoned the match because of rain. **4** She abandoned hope of any reconciliation. **5** to stop supporting or helping sb; to stop believing in sth: ~sb The country abandoned its political leaders after the war. **6** ~sth Critics accused him of abandoning his principles. **7** ~yourself to sth (literary) to feel an emotion so strongly that you can feel nothing else: He abandoned himself to despair.

noun [U] (formal) an uncontrolled way of behaving that shows that sb does not care what other people think: He signed cheques with careless abandon. **IDIOM** SEE GAY adj.

abandoned **1** **AWL** /ə'bændənd/ adj. **1** **1** left and no longer wanted, used or needed: an abandoned car/house **2** The child was found abandoned but unharmed. **2** (of people or their behaviour) wild; not following accepted standards

abandonment **AWL** /ə'bændənmənt/ noun [U] (formal) **1** the act of leaving a person, thing or place with no intention of returning **2** the act of giving up an idea or stopping an activity with no intention of returning to it: the government's abandonment of its new economic policy

abase /ə'beɪs/ verb ~yourself (formal) to act in a way that shows that you accept sb's power over you **▶** **abatement** noun [U]

abashed /ə'bæʃt/ adj. [not before noun] embarrassed and ashamed because of sth that you have done **OPP** unabashed

abate /ə'beɪt/ verb [I, T] (formal) to become less strong; to make sth less strong: The storm showed no signs of abating. **3** ~sth Steps are to be taken to abate pollution. **▶** **abatement** noun [U]

ab-at-toir /'æbətwaɪ(r)/ noun (BrE) = SLAUGHTERHOUSE

abaya /ə'beɪjə; NAMe ə'baɪjə/ noun a full-length piece of clothing worn over other clothes by Arab men or women

abba /'ɒbɑː/ (also **appa**) noun (IndE) (especially as a form of address) a father

ab-bess /'æbəs/ noun a woman who is the head of a CONVENT

abbey /æbi/ *noun* a large church together with a group of buildings in which MONKS or NUNS live or lived in the past: Westminster Abbey \diamond a ruined abbey

abbot /æbət/ *noun* a man who is the head of a MONASTERY or an ABBEY

ab-bre-viate /ə'brɪvi:ənt/ *verb* [usually passive] ~sth (to sth) to make a word, phrase or name shorter by leaving out letters or using only the first letter of each word **SYN** shorten: *The Jet Propulsion Laboratory (usually abbreviated to JPL) > ab-bre-viated adj*: Where appropriate, abbreviated forms are used.

ab-bre-viation /ə'brɪvi:'eɪʃn/ *noun* 1 [C] ~ (of/ for sth) a short form of a word, etc: What's the abbreviation for 'Saint'? 2 [U] the process of abbreviating sth

ABC /eɪ bi: 'si:/ *noun, abbr.*

noun [sing.] (BrE) (NAmE also ABCs [pl.], ABC's [pl.]) 1 all the letters of the alphabet, especially as they are learnt by children: Do you know your ABC? 2 the basic facts about a subject: the ABC of gardening **IDM** SEE EASY adj.

abbr. 1 American Broadcasting Company (a large national American television company) 2 Australian Broadcasting Corporation (the Australian national public broadcasting company)

ABD /eɪ bi: 'di:/ *abbr.* (NAmE) all but dissertation (having completed all the work for a higher degree except the DISSERTATION): ABD students may apply.

ab-di-cate /æbdɪkeɪt/ *verb* 1 [I, T] to give up the position of being king or queen: He abdicated in favour of his son. \diamond ~sth She was forced to abdicate the throne of Spain. \diamond WORDFINDER NOTE AT KING 2 [T] ~responsibility/your responsibilities to fail or refuse to perform a duty > **ab-di-ca-tion** /æbdɪ'keɪʃn/ *noun* [U, C]

ab-do-men /æbdəmən/ *noun* 1 the part of the body below the chest that contains the stomach, BOWELS, etc. 2 the end part of an insect's body that is attached to its THORAX \diamond VISUAL VOCAB PAGE V11

ab-dom-in-al /æbdəmɪnəl/ (NAmE -dəm-ɪnəl) *adj., noun* **adj.** [only before noun] (anatomy) relating to or connected with the abdomen: abdominal pains **noun** abdominals (also informal abs) [pl.] the muscles of the abdomen

ab-duct /æb'dʌkt/ *verb* ~sb to take sb away illegally, especially using force **SYN** kidnap > **ab-duc-tion** /æb'dʌkʃn/ *noun* [U, C]

ab-duct-ee /æbdʌk'ti:/ *noun* a person who has been abducted

ab-duct-or /æb'dʌktə(r)/ *noun* 1 a person who abducts sb 2 (also **ab'ductor muscle**) (anatomy) a muscle that moves a body part away from the middle of the body or from another part \diamond COMPARE ADDUCTOR

abed /ə'bed/ *adv.* (old use) in bed

Aber-do-nian /æbədəʊniən/ (NAmE æbər'dou-ɪnəl) *noun* a person from Aberdeen in Scotland > **Aber-do-nian** *adj.*

ab-er-rant /æ'berənt/ *adj.* (formal) not usual or not socially acceptable: aberrant behaviour

ab-er-ra-tion /æbər'reɪʃn/ *noun* [C, U] (formal) a fact, an action or a way of behaving that is not usual, and that may be unacceptable

abet /ə'bet/ *verb* (tt-) ~sb to help or encourage sb to do sth wrong: He was abetted in the deception by his wife. **IDM** SEE AID V.

abey-ance /ə'beɪəns/ *noun* [U] **IDM** **in abeyance** (formal) not being used, or being stopped for a period of time

ABH /eɪ bi: 'ertʃ/ *abbr.* (BrE, law) ACTUAL BODILY HARM **abhor** /əb'hɔ:(r)/ *verb* (rr-) (not used in the progressive tenses) ~sth (formal) to hate sth, for example a way of behaving or thinking, especially for moral reasons **SYN** detest, loathe

ab-hor-rence /əb'hɔ:(r)əns; (NAmE -hɔ:(r); -hɑ:(r)-) *noun* [U, sing.] (formal) a feeling of strong hatred, especially for moral reasons

ab-hor-rent /əb'hɔ:(r)ənt; (NAmE -hɔ:(r); -hɑ:(r)-) *adj.* ~ (to sb) (formal) causing hatred, especially for moral reasons **SYN** repugnant: Racism is abhorrent to a civilized society.

abide /ə'baɪd/ *verb* (abided, abided) **REEP** In sense 2 **abode** is also used for the past tense and past participle. 1 [T] **cannot/could not abide sb/sth** to dislike sb/sth so much that you hate having to be with or deal with them **SYN** bear, stand: I can't abide people with no sense of humour. \diamond He couldn't abide the thought of being cooped up in an office. 2 [I] + **adv./prep.** (old use or formal) to stay or live in a place: May joy and peace abide in us all.

PHRY **'a'bide by sth** (formal) to accept and act according to a law, an agreement, etc: You'll have to abide by the rules of the club. \diamond We will abide by their decision. \diamond WORDFINDER NOTE AT LAW

abiding /ə'baɪdɪŋ/ *adj.* (formal) (of a feeling or belief) lasting for a long time and not changing

ability /ə'biləti/ *noun* (pl. -ies) 1 \uparrow [sing.] ~to do sth the fact that sb/sth is able to do sth: The system has the ability to run more than one program at the same time. \diamond Everyone has the right to good medical care regardless of their ability to pay. \diamond A gentle form of exercise will increase your ability to relax. **OPP** inability 2 \uparrow [C, U] a level of skill or intelligence: Almost everyone has some musical ability. \diamond He was a man of extraordinary abilities. \diamond students of mixed abilities \diamond A woman of her ability will easily find a job. \diamond I try to do my job to the best of my ability (= as well as I can).

abi-otic /eɪbaɪ'ɒtɪk; (NAmE -'ɑ:tɪk) *adj.* (specialist) not involving biology or living things: abiotic processes

ab-ject /æbdʒekt/ *adj.* [usually before noun] (formal) 1 terrible and without hope: abject poverty/misery/failure 2 without any pride or respect for yourself: an abject apology > **ab-jectly** *adv.*

ab-jure /əb'dʒʊə(r); (NAmE əb'dʒʊr) *verb* ~sth (formal) to promise publicly that you will give up or reject a belief or a way of behaving **SYN** renounce

ab-la-tion /ə'blæɪʃn/ *noun* [U] (geology) the loss of material from a large mass of ice, snow or rock as a result of the action of the sun, wind or rain

ab-la-tive /æblə'tɪv/ *noun* (grammar) (in some languages) the form that a noun, a pronoun or an adjective can take to show, for example, who or what sth is done by or where sth comes from \diamond COMPARE ACCUSATIVE, DATIVE, GENITIVE, NOMINATIVE, VOCATIVE > **ab-la-tive** *adj.*

ablaze /ə'bleɪz/ *adj.* [not before noun] 1 burning quickly and strongly: The whole building was soon ablaze. \diamond Cars and buses were set ablaze during the riot. 2 full of bright light or colours: There were lights still ablaze as they drove up to the house. \diamond ~with sth The trees were ablaze with the colours of autumn. 3 ~ (with sth) full of strong emotion or excitement: He turned to her, his eyes ablaze with anger.

able /eɪbl/ *adj.* 1 \uparrow ~to do sth (used as a modal verb) to have the skill, intelligence, opportunity, etc. needed to do sth: You must be able to speak French for this job. \diamond A viral illness left her barely able to walk. \diamond I didn't feel able to disagree with him. \diamond Will you be able to come? **OPP** unable \diamond NOTE AT CAN' 2 **abler** /eɪblə(r)/, **ablest** /eɪblɪst/ intelligent; good at sth: the ablest student in the class \diamond We aim to help the less able in society to lead an independent life. \diamond SEE ALSO ABLY

WORD FAMILY

able *adj.* (= unable)

ability *adv.*

ab-ly *adverb* (= inability)

disabled *adj.*

disability *noun*

-able, -ible *suffix* (in adjectives) 1 that can or must be: calculable \diamond taxable 2 having the quality of: fashionable \diamond comfortable \diamond changeable > **-ability, -ibility** (in nouns): capability \diamond responsibility **-ably, -ibly** (in adverbs): noticeably \diamond incredibly \diamond MORE LIKE THIS 7, page R14

able-bodied *adj.* physically healthy, fit and strong in contrast to sb who is weak or disabled

able-seaman *noun* a sailor of lower rank in the British navy

ab-lu-tions /ə'blu:ʃnz/ *noun* [pl.] (*formal or humorous*) the act of washing yourself

ably /'æbli/ *adv.* skilfully and well: *We were ably assisted by a team of volunteers.* ➔ SEE ALSO ABLE (2)

ABM /,ei bi: 'em/ *abbr.* (*CanE*) automated banking machine ➔ CASH MACHINE

ab-neg-ation /,æbn'geɪʃn/ *noun* [U] (*formal*) the act of not allowing yourself to have sth that you want; the act of rejecting sth

ab-nor-mal **AWB** /æb'nɔ:ml; *NAmE* -'nɔ:rm/ *adj.* different from what is usual or expected, especially in a way that is worrying, harmful or not wanted: *abnormal levels of sugar in the blood* ◊ *They thought his behaviour was abnormal.*
QPP normal ▶ ab-nor-mal-ly **AWL** /æb'nɔ:ml; *NAmE* -'nɔ:rm/ *adv.*: *abnormally high blood pressure*

ab-nor-mal-ity /,æbnɔ:'mæləti; *NAmE* -'nɔ:rm-i/ *noun* [pl. -ies] [C, U] a feature or characteristic in a person's body or behaviour that is not usual and may be harmful, worrying or cause illness: *abnormalities of the heart* ◊ *congenital/foetal abnormality*

Ab /'æbɔ; *NAmE* 'æbɔʊ/ *noun* [pl. -os] (*AustralE, taboo, informal*) an extremely offensive word for an Aborigine

aboard /ə'bɔ:d; *NAmE* ə'bɔ:rd/ *adv., prep.* on or onto a ship, plane, bus or train **SYN** on board: *We went aboard.* ◊ *He was already aboard the plane.* ◊ *The plane crashed, killing all 157 passengers aboard.* ◊ **All aboard!** (= the bus, boat, etc. is leaving soon) ◊ **Welcome aboard!** (= used to welcome passengers or a person joining a new organization, etc.)

abode /ə'bɔ:d; *NAmE* ə'bɔ:ʊ/ *noun* [usually sing.] (*formal or humorous*) the place where sb lives: *homeless people of no fixed abode* (= with no permanent home) ◊ *You are most welcome to my humble abode.* ➔ SEE ALSO ABIDE, RIGHT OF ABODE

abol-ish /ə'bɒlɪʃ; *NAmE* ə'bɔ:l-ɪ/ *verb* ~sth to officially end a law, a system or an institution: *This tax should be abolished.*

abol-ition /,æbəlɪʃn/ *noun* [U] the ending of a law, a system or an institution: *the abolition of slavery*

abol-ition-ist /,æbəlɪʃnɪst/ *noun* a person who is in favour of the abolition of sth

A-bomb *noun* = ATOM BOMB

abomin-able /ə'bɒmɪnəbl; *NAmE* ə'bɑ:m-ɪ/ *adj.* extremely unpleasant and causing disgust **SYN** appalling, disgusting: *The judge described the attack as an abominable crime.* ◊ *We were served the most abominable coffee.*
▶ abom-in-ably /ə'bɒmɪnəbli; *NAmE* ə'bɑ:m-ɪ/ *adv.*: *She treated him abominably.*

A.bominable 'Snowman *noun* = YETI

abom-in-ate /ə'bɒmɪneɪt; *NAmE* ə'bɑ:m-ɪ/ *verb* (not used in the progressive tenses) ~sth/sb (*formal*) to feel hatred or disgust for sth/sb

abom-in-ation /ə'bɒmɪneɪʃn; *NAmE* ə'bɑ:m-ɪ/ *noun* (*formal*) a thing that causes disgust and hatred, or is considered extremely offensive

abo-ri-ginal /,æbərɪ'dʒɪnəl/ *adj., noun*

adj. 1 (usually **Aboriginal**) relating to the original people living in Australia: *the issue of Aboriginal land rights* 2 relating to the original people, animals, etc. of a place and to a period of time before Europeans arrived: *the aboriginal peoples of Canada* ◊ *aboriginal art/culture*

noun (usually **Aboriginal**) a member of a race of people who were the original people living in a country, especially Australia ➔ SEE ALSO KOORI

abo-ri-gine /,æbərɪ'dʒɪni/ *noun* 1 a member of a race of people who were the original people living in a country 2 **Aborigine** a member of the race of people who were the original people of Australia ➔ SEE ALSO KOORI

abort /ə'bɔ:t; *NAmE* ə'bɔ:rt/ *verb* 1 [T] ~sth to end a PREGNANCY early in order to prevent a baby from developing and being born alive: *to abort a child/pregnancy/foetus* 2 [I] (*specialist*) to give birth to a child or young animal too early for it to survive: *The virus can cause pregnant animals to abort.* ➔ SEE ALSO MISCARRY 3 [I, T, often passive] to

end or cause sth to end before it has been completed, especially because it is likely to fail: (*computing*) *If the wrong password is given the program aborts.* ◊ ~sth *We had no option but to abort the mission.* ◊ *The plan was aborted at the last minute.*

abortion /ə'bɔ:ʃn; *NAmE* ə'bɔ:ʃn/ *noun* 1 [U] the deliberate ending of a PREGNANCY at an early stage: *to support/oppose abortion* ◊ *a woman's right to abortion* ◊ *abortion laws* ◊ *I've always been anti-abortion.* 2 [C] a medical operation to end a PREGNANCY at an early stage: *She decided to have an abortion.* **SYN** termination ➔ COMPARE MISCARRIAGE

abortion-ist /ə'bɔ:ʃnɪst; *NAmE* ə'bɔ:ʃ-ɪ/ *noun* a person who performs abortions, especially illegally

abortive /ə'bɔ:tɪv; *NAmE* ə'bɔ:rtɪv/ *adj.* (*formal*) (of an action) not successful; failed **SYN** unsuccessful: *an abortive military coup* ◊ *abortive attempts to divert the course of the river*

abound /ə'baʊnd/ *verb* [I] to exist in great numbers or quantities: *Stories about his travels abound.*

PHRV ▶ **abound with/in sth** to have sth in great numbers or quantities: *The lakes abound with fish.* ➔ SEE ALSO ABUNDANCE, ABUNDANT

about ① /ə'baʊt/ *adv., prep., adj.*

adv. 1 ② a little more or less than; a little before or after **SYN** approximately: *It costs about \$10.* ◊ *They waited (for) about an hour.* ◊ *He arrived (at) about ten.* 2 ② nearly; very close to: *I'm just about ready.* ◊ *This is about the best we can hope for.* 3 ② (*especially BrE*) in many directions; here and there: *The children were rushing about in the garden.* 4 ② (*especially BrE*) in no particular order; in various places: *Her books were lying about on the floor.* 5 (*especially BrE*) doing nothing in particular: *People were standing about in the road.* 6 (*especially BrE*) able to be found in a place: *There was nobody about.* ◊ *There's a lot of flu about.* 7 (*specialist or formal*) facing the opposite direction: *He brought the ship about.* ➔ NOTE AT AROUND

IDM ▶ **that's about 'all | that's about 'it** used to say that you have finished telling sb about sth and there is nothing to add: *'Anything else?' 'No, that's about it for now.'* ➔ MORE AT JUST AWD, OUT AWD.

prep. 1 ② on the subject of sb/sth; in connection with sb/sth: *a book about flowers* ◊ *Tell me all about it.* ◊ *What's she so angry about?* ◊ *There's something strange about him.* ◊ *I don't know what you're on about* (= talking about). ◊ *There's nothing you can do about it now.* 2 ② used to describe the purpose or an aspect of sth: *Movies are all about making money these days.* ◊ *What was all that about?* (= what was the reason for what has just happened?) 3 ② busy with sth; doing sth: *Everywhere people were going about their daily business.* ◊ *And while you're about it ...* (= while you're doing that) 4 (*especially BrE*) in many directions in a place; here and there: *We wandered about the town for an hour or so.* ◊ *He looked about the room.* 5 (*especially BrE*) in various parts of a place; here and there: *The papers were strewn about the room.* 6 (*especially BrE*) next to a place or person; in the area mentioned:

▼ LANGUAGE BANK

about

Saying what a text is about

- *The book is about homeless people in the cities.*
- *The report deals with the issue of homelessness in London.*
- *The writer discusses the problems faced by homeless people.*
- *The article presents an overview of the issues surrounding homelessness.*
- *The novel explores the theme of friendship among homeless people.*
- *The first chapter examines the relationship between homelessness and drug addiction.*
- *The paper considers the question of why so many young people become homeless.*

She's somewhere about the office. **7** (literary) surrounding sb/sth: She wore a shawl about her shoulders.

1DM **how/what about...?** **1** **?** used when asking for information about sb/sth: How about Ruth? Have you heard from her? **?** I'm having fish. What about you? **2** **?** used to make a suggestion: How about going for a walk? **?** (especially NAmE) How about we go for a walk? **?** What about a break?

adj.

1DM **be about to do sth** **?** to be close to doing sth; to be going to do sth very soon: I was just about to ask you the same thing. **not be about to do sth** to not be willing to do sth; to not intend to do sth: I've never done any cooking and I'm not about to start now.

about-turn (BrE) (also **about-face** NAmE, BrE) noun [sing.] a complete change of opinion, plan or behaviour: The government did an about-turn over nuclear energy.

above **?** /ə'baʊ/ prep., adv., adj.

prep. **1** **?** at or to a higher place or position than sb/sth: The water came above our knees. **?** We were flying above the clouds. **?** the people in the apartment above mine **?** A captain in the navy ranks above a captain in the army. **?** They finished the year six places above their local rivals. **2** **?** more than sth; greater in number, level or age than sb/sth: Inflation is above 6%. **?** Temperatures have been above average. **?** We cannot accept children above the age of 10. **3** of greater importance or of higher quality than sb/sth: I rate her above most other players of her age. **4** too good or too honest to do sth: She's not above lying when it suits her. **?** He's above suspicion (= he is completely trusted). **5** (of a sound) louder or clearer than another sound: I couldn't hear her above the noise of the traffic.

1DM **above all** **?** most important of all; especially: Above all, keep in touch. **?** LANGUAGE BANK AT EMPHASIS **above yourself** (disapproving) having too high an opinion of yourself **?** MORE AT OVER prep.

adv. **1** **?** at or to a higher place: Put it on the shelf above. **?** Seen from above the cars looked tiny. **?** They were acting on instructions from above (= from sb in a higher position of authority). **2** **?** greater in number, level or age: increases of 5% and above **?** A score of 70 or above will get you an 'A'. **?** children aged 12 and above **3** earlier in sth written or printed: As was stated above... **?** See above, page 97.

adj. (only before noun) mentioned or printed previously in a letter, book, etc: Please write to us at the above address. **?** **the above** noun [sing. + sing./pl. v.]: Please notify us if the above is not correct. **?** All the above (= people mentioned above) have passed the exam.

▼ WHICH WORD?

above / over

- Above and over** can both be used to describe a position higher than something: They built a new room above/over the garage. When you are talking about movement from one side of something to the other, you can only use **over**: They jumped over the stream. **Over** can also mean 'covering': He put a blanket over the sleeping child.
- Above and over** can also mean 'more than'. **Above** is used in relation to a minimum level or a fixed point: 2000 feet above sea level **?** Temperatures will not rise above zero tonight. **Over** is used with numbers, ages, money and time: He's over 50. **?** It costs over £100. **?** We waited over 2 hours.

a bove 'board adj., adv. legal and honest; in a legal and honest way: Don't worry; the deal was completely above board. **ORIGIN** If card players keep their hands above the table (the board), other players can see what they are doing.

a bove-mentioned adj. (only before noun) mentioned or named earlier in the same letter, book, etc.

a bove-the-fold adj. (only before noun) in a position where it is seen first, for example on the top half of the front page of a newspaper or in the part of a web page that you see first when you open it: above-the-fold images

? The company logo must be placed in an above-the-fold position. **?** COMPARE BELOW-THE-FOLD **1DM** SEE FOLD n.

abra-ca-dabra /æbrə'kæ'dæbrə/ exclamation a word that people say when they do a magic trick, in order to make it successful

ab-rade /ə'breɪd/ verb **~sth** (specialist) to rub the surface of sth, such as rock or skin, and damage it or make it rough

ab-ra-sion /ə'breɪʒn/ noun (specialist) **1** [C] a damaged area of the skin where it has been rubbed against sth hard and rough: He suffered cuts and abrasions to the face. **2** [U] damage to a surface caused by rubbing sth very hard against it: Diamonds have extreme resistance to abrasion.

abra-sive /ə'breɪsɪv/ adj., noun

adj. **1** an abrasive substance is rough and can be used to clean a surface or to make it smooth: abrasive kitchen cleaners **2** (of a person or their manner) rude and unkind; acting in a way that may hurt other people's feelings

▶ abra-sive-ly adv. **abra-sive-ness** noun [U]

▶ a substance used for cleaning surfaces or for making them smooth

abreast /ə'breɪst/ adv. next to sb/sth and facing the same way: cycling two abreast **?** ~ of sb/sth A police car drew abreast of us and signalled us to stop.

1DM **keep abreast of sth** to make sure that you know all the most recent facts about a subject: It is almost impossible to keep abreast of all the latest developments in computing.

abridge /ə'brɪdʒ/ verb **~sth** to make a book, play, etc. shorter by leaving parts out **▶ abridged** adj.: an abridged edition/version **OPP unabridged** **abridgment** (also **abridgment**) noun [U, C]

abroad **?** /ə'brɔ:d/ adv. **1** **?** in or to a foreign country: to be/go/travel/live abroad **?** She worked abroad for a year. **?** imports of cheap food from abroad **?** He was famous, both at home and abroad (= in his own country and in other countries). **?** WORDFINDER NOTE AT TOURIST **2** (formal) being talked about or felt by many people: There was news abroad that a change was coming. **3** (old use) outside; outdoors

ab-ro-gate /æbrə'geɪt/ verb **~sth** (specialist) to officially end a law, an agreement, etc. **SYD** repeal **▶ ab-ro-gation** /æbrə'geɪʃn/ noun [U]

ab-rupt /ə'brʌpt/ adj. **1** sudden and unexpected, often in an unpleasant way: an abrupt change/halt/departure **2** speaking or acting in a way that seems unfriendly and rude; not taking time to say more than is necessary **SYD** brusque, curt: an abrupt manner **?** She was very abrupt with me in our meeting. **▶ ab-rupt-ly** adv. **ab-rupt-ness** noun [U]

ABS /eɪ bi: 'es/ abbr. anti-lock braking system **?** SEE ALSO ANTI-LOCK

abs /æbz/ noun [pl.] (informal) = ABDOMINALS

ab-sc-ess /'æbses/ noun a swollen and infected area on your skin or in your body, full of a thick yellowish liquid (called pus)

ab-sc-issa /æb'sɪsə/ (pl. **ab-sc-issae** /-sɪz/ or **ab-sc-issas**) noun (mathematics) the COORDINATE that gives the distance along the horizontal AXIS **?** COMPARE ORDINATE

ab-sc-ond /əb'skɒnd; NAmE əb'skɑ:nd/ verb **1** [I] **?** (from sth) to escape from a place that you are not allowed to leave without permission **2** [I] **?** (with sth) to leave secretly and take with you sth, especially money, that does not belong to you: He absconded with the company funds.

ab-seil /'æbsɛɪl/ (BrE) (NAmE **rap-pel**) verb [I] **?** (down, off, etc. sth) to go down a steep CLIFF or rock while attached to a rope, pushing against the slope or rock with your feet **?** VISUAL VOCAB PAGE V40 **▶ ab-seil** (BrE) (NAmE **rap-pel**) noun

ab-s-ence **?** /'æbsəns/ noun **1** **?** [U, C] the fact of sb being away from a place where they are usually expected to be; the occasion or period of time when sb is away: The decision was made in my absence (= while I was not there). **?** We did not receive any news during his long absence. **?** ~ from... absence from work **?** repeated absences from school **?** SEE ALSO LEAVE noun **2** **?** [U] the fact of sb/sth