

THE ADVANCED
LEARNER'S DICTIONARY
OF
CURRENT ENGLISH

BY

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GENERAL EDITOR'S NOTE

THIS Dictionary has been reprinted photographically from the original edition, which was compiled in Tokyo for the Institute for Research in English Teaching and published there in 1942.

Attention is directed to the Addenda on pp. 1513-17, consisting mainly of words which have come into use since then.

For many of the special features of this Dictionary the compilers are much indebted to Dr. H. E. Palmer, first Director of the Institute for Research in English Teaching, Tokyo. For example, the notes on the special features of the adverbial particles and anomalous finites (see pp. vi-x) are based on his work.

A. S. Hornby is responsible for the Introduction and for the definitions of the chief determinatives, adverbial particles, anomalous finites, prepositions, and such 'heavy duty words' as *put*, *pull*, *set*, *take*, *so*, and *as*.

The compilers wish to express their thanks to Mrs. Kate Goodman Inazawa for her valuable help with the proof-reading and for numerous useful suggestions concerning American usage.

A. S. HORNBY

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

THE publication of two other dictionaries for learners of the language—*The Progressive English Dictionary* and *An English-Reader's Dictionary*—makes desirable the slight change in the title of the present work, which has hitherto been called *A Learner's Dictionary of Current English*.

The Oxford University Press now offers a series of three English Dictionaries, compiled under Mr. A. S. Hornby's editorship specially for learners at the elementary, intermediate and advanced stages, respectively.

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INTRODUCTION

This *Idiomatic and Syntactic English Dictionary* has been compiled to meet the needs of foreign students of English. It is called "Idiomatic and Syntactic" because the compilers have made it their aim to give as much useful information as possible concerning idioms and syntax. It is hoped that the dictionary will be of value to those who are learning English as a foreign language, not only throughout the British Empire but also in other countries throughout the world.

Vocabulary

The words selected for inclusion in this volume are those that the foreign student of English is likely to meet in his studies up to the time when he enters a university. After this he will probably need a dictionary with a larger vocabulary for reading purposes, though for writing English he will continue to find this volume useful.

Most archaic words, or those which are likely to occur only in purely scientific and technical contexts, have been excluded. Colloquial and slang words and expressions have been included if they are of the sort likely to be found in books (e. g. modern fiction and drama) read by students. Foreign words and Latin words and phrases of common occurrence in English have also been included.

Definitions

Definitions have been made as simple as possible. Where definition in easy, common words was not practicable or satisfactory, pictures and diagrams have been supplied. A lobster, in the *Concise Oxford Dictionary* is defined as "a large marine stalk-eyed ten-footed long tailed edible crustacean with large claws formed by the first pair of feet, bluish-black before and scarlet after boiling, its flesh as food". The foreign student of English, if he is a beginner, is likely to be puzzled by certain words in this definition ("stalk eyed" and "crustacean" for example). The *C. O. D.* was not written

specially for him. The ordinary user of the *C. O. D.* is likely to be a person who knows quite well what a lobster is and who refers to this word in a dictionary only when he needs exact and scientific information of the kind given in the above admirably concise and complete definition. The foreign student usually needs only to identify the new word. This new dictionary supplies him with a picture, which in itself is probably enough for his purpose, without the brief definition that accompanies it.

No special definition vocabulary has been used. It would have been possible, perhaps, by long experiment, to arrive at a vocabulary of two or three thousand words adequate to define the whole number of words dealt with. But the compilers could have no confidence that the definition vocabulary would be known to the prospective users of the dictionary. It seemed better to make definitions on the general principle (1) that common words should be explained by means of other common words (with the useful addition of synonyms which are less common) or by means of pictures or diagrams, and (2) that less common words (likely to be met with only when the learner has already acquired a vocabulary of several thousand words) should be defined by the use of a wider vocabulary.

Illustrations

This volume contains 1406 illustrations. In the Appendix there are illustrations of words used in sports and music. These have been included because all over the world to-day Western games and music are very popular.

Pronunciation

Pronunciation is shown by means of the symbols adopted by the International Phonetic Association. A key to these symbols appears on page xxvi.

This system has been used in preference to others because it is exact and scientific. Once learnt, these symbols are of value in the learning of other languages. They are essential in any language text-book.

Syllabification has been indicated, partly as a help to pronunciation and partly to guide learners on the

question of how to divide words in writing and typing. A double hyphen (=) indicates that the word is to be hyphenated on all occasions. Unfortunately there are no standards on this question and usage varies greatly. In general the *C. O. D.* has been followed.

Spelling

Where American spelling differs from English, both American and English forms have been given. Thus, *theatre* is entered as *theatre, -ter*. In the case of *-our* words, the *u* has been placed within parentheses to indicate that it is omitted in American spelling. Some words which have double *l* in English (e. g. *traveller*) have only a single *l* in American. The second *l* is placed within parentheses to indicate this. Two exceptions are *wilful* and *skilful*. These words have only one *l* in English but may have two *l*'s in American.

Notes on Type

Definitions and notes are printed in roman type. Illustrative phrases and sentences are printed in italic type, often with explanations or paraphrases in roman type and within parentheses. Idioms, phrases collocations and compounds (when these are not main entries) are in small bold-face type. When such a phrase or collocation has more than one meaning these meanings are set out by numerals placed within parentheses. *Go off*, for example, has eight definitions. The semantic varieties of each main entry are indicated by numerals in black circles, ①, ②, ③, etc.

Square brackets indicate alternatives and parentheses possible omissions. Thus, the entry **say** [**put in**] a (good) word for means that *put in* may be substituted for *say* and that *good* may be omitted. It stands for the following—

say a good word for,
put in a good word for,
say a word for,
put in a word for.

The asterisk (*) indicates cross-references. Thus, at *minstrel* there is given, in parentheses, *nigger** *minstrel*. On turning to the entry at *nigger*, the reader will find a picture of a nigger minstrel.

IDIOMATIC AND SYNTACTIC ENGLISH DICTIONARY

A

1 **A**, **a** [ei] the first letter of the alphabet (pl. **A's** **a's** [eiz]). **Al** [éiwlán] very good, excellent.

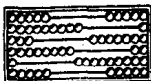
2 **a** [ei, ə] **an** [ən, ən, n] *det.* (indef. art.) (**An** is used when the next word begins with a vowel sound.) **A** and **an** are normally used only with singular, countable nouns. **1** one. *There's a book on the table. I can see a tree.* In this sense the plural is *some, any, several*, etc. When **a(n)** is used with a possessive word, the pattern is *a friend of mine, a book of hers, a neighbour of Mr. Green's*. **2** each; any; every; a thing (etc.) called **a**. *A horse is an animal* (=Horses are animals). *How many sides has a square?* In this sense no word is used with plural nouns. **3** (with other determinatives) *a few books; a great many people; a little water*. many **a** (man), many men. (The use of *many a* is rather liter. or emot.) **4** one like. *He thinks he's a Napoleon.* **5** the same. *They are of an age.* **6** (used with a person's name showing that this person is unknown to the speaker or the person spoken to) a certain. *A Mr. Smith* (i.e. someone called Mr. Smith) *has called to see you.*

7 **a** [ə] *prep.* each; per, as *50 miles an hour; twice a day; \$60 a week.*

a-back [əbæk] *adv.* taken **aback**, surprised.

abacus [əbəkəs] *n.* (pl. **abaci** [əbəsai] or **abacuses** [əbəkəsiz]) **1** beads or balls on wires used in Europe and America for teaching

small children to count. **2** a frame with beads used in the East for working with numbers.



a-bandon

[əbændən] *vt.*

(P 1) **1** give up completely; stop doing. *Don't abandon the attempt* (i.e. don't stop trying). *They abandoned all hope* (i.e. gave up hoping). **2** leave a place, not intending to come back. *The sailors abandoned the sinking ship.* **3** leave in a cruel way. *The heartless man abandoned his wife and children although they had no friends to take care of them.* **4** **abandon oneself to**, give oneself up completely to; no longer control (one's feelings, etc.). *When her third son died she abandoned herself to despair.*

An abacus

a-base [əbeis] *vt.* (P 1) make lower in office, rank or position; make humble or less honourable. **a-basement** [əbeismənt] *n.*

a-bashed [əbæst] *adj.* confused; not knowing what to do or say; feeling ashamed or embarrassed (with or without a sense of wrong). *The poor man stood abashed at this display of wealth.*

a-bate [əbeít] *vt. & i.* **1** (P 1, 21) make or become less. *The doctor gave him some medicine to abate the pain. The ship set sail when the storm abated.* **2** (P 1) put an end to; destroy the cause of. *We must*

abate the smoke nuisance in our big cities (i.e. do something to stop smoke from factory chimneys, etc.)

a-bate-ment, *n* [U]

ab-ness [æbəs] *n* the woman who rules the women in an abbey

ab-bey [æbi] *n* ① a building or group of buildings in which men (called *monks*) or women (called *nuns*) live a quiet and peaceful life in the service of God (See *monastery* and *nunnery*) ② the whole number of these men or women ③ a church, usually large, that was once an abbey or part of an abbey



Westminster Abbey London

ab-bot [æbət] *n* the man who rules the monks in an abbey

ab-bre-vi-ate [æbrɪ veɪt] *vt* (P 1, 18) make short "*January*" is often abbreviated to *Jan*"

ab-bre-vi-ation [æbrɪ veɪʃən] *n* ① [U] making short ② [C] a short form of a word "*Arr*" and "*dep*" are abbreviations of "*arrive*" and "*depart*"

ab-di-cate [æbdɪkeɪt] *vt* & *t* (P 1, 21) give up (royal power, a throne, an office or position) *When the king abdicated his brother succeeded him on the throne* **ab-di-ca-tion** [æbdɪkeɪʃən] *n* [C] & [U]

ab-do-men [æbdəmen, æbdoumen] *n* ① the lower part of the human body containing the stomach and bowels (Cf colloq *belly*) (See the diagram at *backbone*) ② the last of the three parts of an insect's body **ab-dom-i-nal** [æbdəmɪnəl] *adj* of or in the abdomen, as *abdominal exercises*, an *abdominal operation*. (See *intestine*)

ab-duct [æbdʌkt] *vt* (P 1) carry away (a person) by force **ab-duc-tion** [æbdʌkʃən] *n*

a-bed [æbed] *adv* (not colloq) in bed or on the bed

A-bel [ébl] *n* the second son of Adam and Eve, killed by his brother Cain.

ab-er-ra-tion [æbəreɪʃən] *n* [U] going away from the right path, as *to steal money in a moment of aberration*, [C] an instance of this.

ab-et [æbet] *vt* (U) (usu in the legal phrase *aid and abet*) help (a person) in doing wrong

ab-ey-ance [əbeɪəns] *n* [U] the state of not being in force the condition of not being active for the time being *fall into abeyance* (of a law rule, custom, etc.), be suspended for a time

ab-hor [əbhɔ] *vt* (rr) (P 1) hate, think of with bor or or disgust. *She abhors cruelty to animals*

ab-hor-rence [əbhɔrəns] *n* [U] horror; great hate

a-bide [əbaɪd] *vt* & *i* (pret & pp *abode*) ① (P 24) **abide by**, be true or faithful to *An honourable man must always abide by his promises* ② (P 1) (in neg and interr, colloq use) endure, put up with *I can't abide that fellow* (=I dislike him very much) ③ (old use) (P 20, 23) live or stay at **ab-id-ing** [əbaɪdɪŋ] *adj*. (liter) never-ending

ab-il-ity [əbɪlɪti] *n* ① [U] power to do things cleverness *Unless you show more ability, you will never succeed in your work* *He is a man of ability* (=a clever man) **to the best of one's ability**, as well as one can ② (pl) cleverness of mind

ab-ject [æbdʒekt] *adj* wretched, miserable, (of persons) having no courage and deserving contempt.

ab-jure [æbdʒʊ, æbdʒʊə] *vt*. (P 1) swear or promise solemnly to give up *Some of the Roman Emperors tried to make Christians abjure their religion.* **ab-ju-ra-tion** [æbdʒʊreɪʃən] *n* [C] & [U]

a-blaze [əbleɪz] *adv* & *predic. adj* ① (of buildings, etc) on fire, in a blaze ② (fig) bright, flashing, excited. *The house was ablaze with lights* *Her face was ablaze with anger*

a-ble [ébl] *adj* ① **be able to**, have the power, cleverness or chance to (do something) (See *can, could*) *Is the baby able to walk yet* (=can the baby walk yet)? *Shall you be able to come* (=will it be possible for you to come)? ② **clever**, showing knowledge or skill *He made a very able speech.* *He was defended by an able lawyer* *He's old but still*

quite able (=not yet physically weak).
ab-normal [æbnɔːmə] *adj.* different from what is usual, ordinary or expected. *It is abnormal for a baby to have teeth at the age of two months.* **ab-normal-ly**, *adv.*

a-board [əbɔːd] *adv. & prep.* on or into a ship (and in U.S.A. a train). *All aboard!* (=the ship is going to leave; get into it!) *They went aboard the ship. close aboard*, near; at the side of.

1 a-bode [əbɔːd] *n.* (not colloq.) a house. **take up [make] one's abode**, live (at or in).

2 a-bode [əbɔːd] *pret.* of *abide*.

a-bol-ish [əbɔːlɪʃ] *vt.* (P 1) put an end to; destroy. *If war could be abolished, armies and navies would be unnecessary.* **ab-o-li-tion** [æbəlɪʃən] *n.* U

a-bom-i-na-ble [əbɔːmɪnəbl̩] *adj.*
 ① causing horror and disgust; hateful. ② (colloq.) very bad, as an abominable dinner; abominable weather.

a-bom-i-nate [əbɔːmɪneɪt] *vt.* (P 1) hate very much; (colloq.) dislike. **a-bom-i-na-tion** [əbɔːmɪneɪʃən] *n.*
 ① U a feeling of horror and disgust, as to hold a thing in abomination.
 ② C a thing that causes this feeling.

ab-o-rig-i-nal [æbərɪdʒɪnəl] *adj.* existing from the beginning, as the aboriginal inhabitants of a country (e.g. the Ainu of Japan). **ab-o-rig-i-nals** [æbərɪdʒɪnɪz] *n. pl.* the first or earliest inhabitants of a country.

a-bor-tive [æbɔːtɪv] *adj.* not having grown properly; ending in failure.

a-bound [əbaʊnd] *vi.* (P 23) be plentiful. *Fish abound in the sea* (=there are plenty of fish in the sea). **abound in**. (P 24) *He abounds in courage* (=he's very brave; he has plenty of courage).

1 a-bout [əbaʊt] *adv. part.* ① here and there; on all sides; not far away. *He must be somewhere about* (=somewhere near here). *There were several men lying about* (=here and there) *on the grass. Don't leave empty bottles and waste paper about when you go for a picnic. be up [out] and about*, be out of bed and doing things (e.g. after an illness). ②

about to, just going to. *He was about to start* (=was just going to start; was on the point of starting).

③ in the opposite direction. *He faced about* (=turned round). **About turn!** (military command. Turn round facing the other way.) ④ **turn (and turn) about**, one after another; in turn. ⑤ nearly; almost. *John is about as tall as I am. That's about right. Give me about twenty. Come about ten o'clock.* ⑥ **come about**, happen. **bring something about**, cause something to happen. **be going about**, be passed from one person to another. *The news is going about that...* (=people are saying that....)

2 a-bout [əbaʊt] *prep.* ① of; concerning. *What do you know about him? What's he so angry about* (=what has made him so angry)? *Tell me all about it* (=all you know). ② here and there; not far away; on all sides; near. *I dropped it somewhere about here* (=not far from here). *He was tired of walking about the streets. Don't leave bottles, tins and papers lying about the park. Have you any money about you* (=in your pockets)?

1 a-bove [əbʌv] *prep.* ① higher than; over. *The aeroplane was above the clouds. keep one's head above water*, (fig.) keep safe; keep out of debt. ② beyond; at a higher point than. *There's a water fall above the bridge. John is above* (=cleverer than) *all the other boys in his class.* ③ too great, good or difficult for. *He is above deceit* (=so honest that he would not deceive anyone). *This book is above me* (=too difficult for me). *He is above criticism* (=too great to be criticized). **be above oneself**, (colloq.) think oneself better or cleverer than others; be too proud of oneself. ④ greater in number or amount. *All children above six years of age must go to school. There is nothing in this shop above 50 cents* (=that costs more than fifty cents). ⑤ more than. *A soldier values honour above life. There were above 500 people there. above all*, more than anything else.

above [əbʌv] *adv.* ① over one's head. *My bedroom is just above.* ② before or earlier. *See the notes above.* *See the above statement* (=the statement that is above, earlier in the article, book, etc.). ③ in Heaven. **above-board** [əbʌvbɔ:d] *adj. & adv.* without any trick or concealment; honourable. **above-mentioned** [əbʌvmɛntɪd] *adj.* mentioned before (in the same page, book, etc.).

abreast [əbrɛst] *adv.* side by side, moving or facing in the same direction. *The boys were walking three abreast.* **keep abreast of** [with], keep level with. *We must read the papers to keep abreast of the times* (=to know the latest things that are being said and done in the world).



Walking
three abreast

abridge [əbrɪdʒ] *vt.* (P 1) make short or less. *Long books are often abridged for school use.* **abridgement**, *n.* ① [] making short or less. ② [] a thing (e.g. a book) that has been abridged.

abroad [əbrɔ:d] *adv.* ① in or to a foreign country, as to go [be, live, travel] abroad. **from abroad**, from a foreign country. ② far and wide; in all directions; widely. *The news quickly spread abroad* (=everyone soon heard it). *There's a rumour abroad that...* (=people are saying that...). ③ outside one's house; out of doors. *You were abroad very early this morning; couldn't you sleep?*

abrogate [əbrəgeɪt] *vt.* (P 1) do away with; repeal (a law or custom); abolish. **abrogation** [əbrəgeɪʃən] *n.* []

abrupt [əbrʌpt] *adj.* ① quick; sudden; not expected. *The road is full of abrupt turns and is dangerous for motor-cars.* ② (of behaviour and speech) rough; impolite. *He has a very abrupt manner.* ③ steep. *The path was so abrupt that he had to get off his horse and walk.* ④ (of a way of thinking, speaking, or writing) not joined smoothly; break-

ing off suddenly. *The ideas in your composition are good but the style is rather abrupt.* **abruptly**, *adv.* **abruptness**, *n.*

abscess [æbsɛs, æbsɪs] *n.* a swelling on the body containing a thick yellowish-white liquid. A bad tooth may cause an abscess on the gums.

abscond [æbskɔ:nd] *vi.* (P 21, 23, 24) go away suddenly and secretly, esp. to escape punishment for doing wrong.

absence [æbsɛns] *n.* ① [] being away. (Cf. *presence*.) *During his absence in America his son grew up to be a man. Did anything happen in my absence* (=while I was away)? *What was his absence from school caused by* (=why was he away from school)? ② [] an occasion or time of being away, as a long absence; numerous absences from school. ③ [] being without; not having. *Cold is the absence of heat. In the absence of evidence* (=there being no evidence), *the prisoner was set free.* **absence of mind**, want of attention.

absent [æbsɛnt] *adj.* ① away; not present. *Why were you absent from school yesterday?* ② lost in thought; not paying attention. *I asked him a question but he looked at me in an absent way and didn't answer.*

absent [æbsɛnt] *vt.* (refl.) (P 1, 18) **absent oneself from**, stay or keep away from; not be present at. *Why did you absent yourself from school yesterday?*

absent-minded [æbsɛntmaɪndɪd] *adj.* not thinking of what one is doing or of what is happening near one; often forgetting things; lost in thought.

absolute [æbsəlu:t] *adj.* ① complete; perfect; unmixed. *A child has absolute trust in its mother. When speaking in a court of law, we must tell the absolute truth.* ② having complete power; free from any control. *An absolute ruler need not ask anyone for permission to do a thing. The King of England is not an absolute ruler.* ③ certain; real; undoubted. *It is an absolute fact that the earth goes round the sun. A man should not be punished without*

- absolute proof of his guilt.* ① not having any conditions. *An absolute promise must be kept whatever happens.* **ab-so-lute-ly**, *adv.* ① completely, as *absolutely impossible.* ② (colloq.) Certainly! Quite!
- ab-solve** [əb'sɒlv] *vt.* (P 1, 18) ① say that a person is free from blame, sin or guilt, as *to absolve a person from blame.* ② say that a person need not keep a promise or do something that is a duty.
- ab-sorb** [əb'sɔ:b] *vt.* (P 1) ① take or drink in. *Paper that absorbs ink is called "blotting-paper."* *Dry sand absorbs water.* *The clever boy absorbed all the knowledge that his teachers could give him.* ② be absorbed in, be very deeply interested in; give all one's attention to. *Harry is absorbed in the study of Latin; his brother is absorbed in tennis.* **ab-sorb-ent**, *adj.* able to absorb. **ab-sorb-ing**, *adj.* very interesting; taking up the attention, as *an absorbing tale of adventure.*
- ab-sorp-tion** [əb'sɔ:pʃən] *n.* ① taking or drinking in. *Complete absorption of light makes a thing appear black.* ② being deeply interested in. *His absorption in sport interferes with his studies.*
- ab-stain** [əb'steɪn] *vi.* (P 24) do without; hold oneself back from. *The doctor ordered him to abstain from beer and wine.*
- ab-ster-mi-ous** [əb'stɜ:mɪəs] *adj.* holding back from too much food, drink, enjoyment, etc; moderate.
- ab-stin-ence** [əb'stɪnəns] *n.* ① holding back from food, drink, enjoyment, etc. **total abstinence**, doing without alcoholic drinks (wine, etc.) completely.
- ab-stract** [əb'strækt] *adj.* ① separated from what is real; thought of separately from facts or objects. *A flower is beautiful; beauty itself is abstract.* **abstract noun**, a noun that is the name of a quality. "Length," "width," "strength" and "goodness" are abstract nouns. ② difficult to understand. *Philosophy is an abstract subject.*
- ab-tract** [əb'strækt] *vt.* (P 18) ① take away, or out, as *to abstract metal from ore.* ② take secretly

or wrongly.

- ab-tract** [əb'strækt] *n.* a short description of the chief ideas in a book, speech, etc.
- ab-struse** [əb'stru:s] *adj.* not clear; difficult to understand; deep.
- ab-straction** [əb'strækʃən] *n.* ① ② the act of abstracting or the state of being abstracted. ③ ④ the act of regarding something from an abstract point of view; a thing that is considered from an abstract point of view. *Whiteness is an abstraction.* ⑤ ⑥ absent-mindedness; the state of being lost in thought.
- ab-surd** [əb'sɜ:d] *adj.* foolish; silly; unreasonable; causing people to laugh. **ab-surd-ly**, *adv.*
- ab-sur-di-ty** [əb'sɜ:dɪtɪ] *n.* ① ② foolishness. ③ ④ a foolish thing; an absurd act or statement.
- ab-un-dance** [əb'ʌndəns] *n.* ① ② great plenty; more than is needed. *live in abundance*, have plenty of the things that make life enjoyable. (Cf. *abund.*) ③ (with indef. art.) a quantity that is more than enough, as *an abundance of good things.*
- ab-un-dant** [əb'ʌndənt] *adj.* more than enough; plenty of. **ab-un-dant-ly**, *adv.*
- ab-use** [əb'ju:z] *vt.* (P 1) ① make a bad use of; treat roughly, badly or cruelly. *Don't abuse your health by working when you ought to be sleeping or resting.* *A good rider never abuses his horse (= makes it go too fast or causes it to be tired out).* ② say bad, unkind or cruel things about a person. ③ (old use) deceive.
- ab-use** [əb'ju:s] *n.* ① a bad or wrong use. ② ③ rough or cruel treatment. ④ ⑤ bad language; cursing. ⑥ ⑦ a bad or unjust custom or practice. *The new governor promised to put an end to all the abuses in the country.*
- ab-u-sive** [əb'ju:sɪv] *adj.* treating badly or cruelly; using bad language; containing curses and bad words.
- ab-ys-s** [əbɪs] *n.* a deep or bottomless hole, as *the abyss of despair* (fig. very deep despair; the complete absence of hope). **ab-ys-sal**

[əbɪzmə] *adj.* bottomless, as *abysmal ignorance* (fig. complete absence of knowledge).

Ab-ys-si-ni-a [əbɪsɪnjə] *n.* a country in N. E. Africa, officially called Ethiopia.

a-ca-cia [əkɛɪʃə] *n.* a tree or shrub that grows in warm countries.

ac-a-dem-ic [ækədəmɪk] *adj.*

① having to do with schools, colleges, studies or learning. (See the picture at *costume*.) ② too much concerned with rules and theories; without practical value or importance.



Acacia

③ a private school, usually for the children of rich people.

ac-a-de-my [ækədəmɪ] *n.* ① a school for some special purpose, as an *Academy of Art* [*Music*, etc.]; a *naval* (military) *academy*. ② a society of learned men who encourage art, literature, science, etc., as the *Royal Academy* (in London); the *Imperial Academy of Japan*. ③ a private school, usually for the children of rich people.

ac-cede [ækseɪd] *vi.* (P 24) ① agree; say "Yes" to, as to *accede to a request* [*proposal* etc.]. ② succeed or attain, as to *accede to the throne* (=become king, etc.) (also in P 21); to *accede to an estate* (=receive land or property when the owner dies). ③ join, as to *accede to a political party*.

ac-cel-er-ate [ækseləreɪt] *vt. & i.* (P 1, 21) increase the speed of; cause to go quickly; become faster.

ac-cel-er-a-tion [ækseləreɪʃən] *n.* increase of speed. **ac-cel-er-a-tor** [ækseləreɪtə] *n.* anything that increases speed, esp. the pedal in a motor-car that is pressed down to make the car go faster.

ac-cent [æk-sənt] *n.* ① a greater force or a different tone of voice given to words or parts of words. In the word "to-day," the *accent* is on the second syllable. ② a mark used to show the place of the accent. In this dictionary the mark (ˈ) is used over the vowel to show the accent. ③ a way of speaking

or pronouncing. *He speaks French with an English accent.*

ac-cent [æk-sənt] *vt.* (P 1) give a word or syllable greater force or a different tone; mark with an accent.

ac-centu-ate [æk-səntʃueɪt] *vt.* (P 1) ① place emphasis on (a word or syllable) in speech. ② make (a thing) appear more important, prominent or forceful.

ac-cept [æk-səpt] *vt.* (P 1) ① agree to take what is offered or given.

He asked her to marry him and she accepted him. Did you accept their invitation to dinner? ② say that something is true, right or satisfactory. *I cannot accept such a poor excuse. An accepted truth* (=something that everyone believes to be true).

ac-cept-able [æk-səptəbl] *adj.* worth accepting; pleasant and satisfactory. **ac-cept-ance** [æk-səptəns] *n.* taking or being willing to take what is offered.

ac-cess [æk-ses] *n.* ① a way of getting to a place. *The only access to the farmhouse is across some rice-fields.* **easy** [difficult] of access, **easy** [difficult] to get to or reach. ② the chance of getting, using or meeting. *Students must have access to good books. Only high officials had access to the Emperor.*

ac-ces-si-ble [æk-sesɪbl] *adj.* easy to get to or at. *The house is not accessible by motor-car* (=it's impossible to get to the house by motor-car).

ac-ces-sion [æk-səʃən] *n.* (Cf. *accede*.) ① reaching a state or position, as *the King's accession to the throne*. ② & ③ (an) addition, as *the accession of new members to a political party*.

ac-ces-so-ry [æk-sə-səri] *n.* ① something extra that is added, as *the accessories of a motor-car* (= lamps, pumps, oil-cans, tools); *the accessories of a woman's dress* (e.g., gloves, handbag). ② one who helps in a crime or who hides the criminal.

ac-ci-dence [æk-sɪ-dəns] *n.* ① grammatical rules about the changes in the form of words (e.g. foot-feet; have-has-had). (Cf. *syntax*.)

ac-ci-dent [æk-sɪ-dənt] *n.* something that happens unexpectedly and by

chance, usually something unfortunate. *Twenty people were killed in the railway accident. without accident, safely. by accident, by chance. You might cut yourself by accident; you wouldn't cut yourself on purpose. meet with an accident, have an unexpected misfortune. ac-ci-den-tal [ækʰsɪdɛntəl] adj. happening by chance. ac-ci-den-tal-ly, adv. by accident.*

ac-claim [ækleɪm] *vt.* (P 1, 10) welcome with loud shouts, as to acclaim the winner of a race; to acclaim a man (as) king. **ac-cla-ma-tion** [ækkləmeɪʃən] *n.* loud shouts or cries expressing joy, welcome, satisfaction, praise, etc., made by many people. carried by acclamation, (of a proposal at a meeting) approved by loud shouts, without counting votes.

ac-cli-ma-tize [ækklɪmətaɪz] *vt.* (P 1, 18) make or get accustomed to a new climate and (fig.) to new surroundings and ways of living.

ac-com-mo-date [ækɒmədeɪt] *vt.* (P 1, 18) ① have room for; supply with what is needed (e.g. money, beds, food, lodging): *The hotel can accommodate 500 guests. Can you accommodate me with change for a £5 note?* ② make fit or suitable. *You must accommodate your plans to mine (= change them so that they suit my plans). When you go to a strange country, you have to accommodate yourself to new ways of living (= change your ways to suit the new ways). **ac-com-mo-dat-ing, adj.** kind; easy to deal with; willing to make changes in order to suit other people.*

ac-com-mo-da-tion [ækɒmədeɪʃən] *n.* ① [] a place to eat and sleep in while away from home (e.g. hotels, inns, lodging-houses). *Hotel accommodation was scarce during the Olympic Games.* ② [] a helpful or convenient thing.

ac-com-pa-ni-ment [ækəmpənɪmənt] *n.* a thing that naturally or often goes with another thing. *Disease is often an accompaniment of famine. A song with a piano accompaniment. ac-com-pa-nist [ækəmpənɪst] n.* a person who plays

a musical accompaniment.

ac-com-pa-ny [ækəmpəni] *vt.* (P 1, 10, 18) ① go with. *The warships accompanied the merchant-ships through the Mediterranean.* ② play music to support a singer or another player. *The singer was accompanied at the piano by Mr. Moore.* ③ do two or more things together, as to accompany one's explanation with actions.

ac-com-plice [ækɒmplɪs] *n.* one who helps in a crime or who keeps a crime secret.

ac-com-plish [ækɒmplɪʃ] *vt.* (P 1) succeed in finishing. *Poor health prevented him from accomplishing his task. ac-com-plished, adj.* clever; well-educated; well-finished, as an accomplished young lady (= one who is clever in the social arts, such as music, dancing, painting, etiquette). **ac-com-plish-ment** [ækɒmplɪʃmənt] *n.* ① [] doing. ② [] a thing that is well done. ③ (pl.) cleverness or ability, esp. for social life. *Among her accomplishments were sewing, cooking, playing the piano and dancing.*

ac-cord [ækɔ:d] *n.* ① of one's own accord, without being asked or forced; willingly. **with one accord**, everybody agreeing. **in accord with**, in agreement with; in a way that gives satisfaction. ② [] an agreement (between two countries, etc.).

ac-cord [ækɔ:d] *vt. & i.* ① (P 18, 19) give; grant. *He was accorded a warm welcome.* ② accord with, agree with; be pleasing or satisfactory to. *That does not accord with what you said yesterday.*

ac-cord-ance [ækɔ:dəns] *n.* in accordance with, in agreement with; in harmony with. *In accordance with custom, they bowed to their teacher.*

ac-cord-ing [ækɔ:dɪŋ] *adv.* **ac-cord-ing to**, (prep.) on the authority of; following what is said by; in agreement with; in a way that is in proportion to. *According to the Bible, God made the world in six days. He will be punished according to the seriousness of his crime (= punished lightly if his crime is*

small and heavily if it is great). **according as**, (conj.) in proportion as. *You will be praised or blamed according as your work is good or bad.* **accord-ingly**, adv. therefore; in a suitable way.

ac-cord-i-on [æk:rdʒən] n. a musical wind instrument.

ac-count [æk-5t] vt. (P 1) come up to (a person) and speak (to him); speak first. *I was accosted by a beggar.*



An accordion

ac-count

[ækáunt] vt. & i. ① (P 24) account for, give a good reason for; explain in a satisfactory way. *His illness accounts for his absence. If I lend you the money, I shall want you to account for every penny you spend (=tell me exactly how you spend it).* ② (P 4) think; consider. *In English law, a man is accounted innocent until he is proved guilty.*

ac-count [ækáunt] n. ① a written statement of money received and spent, or of money owing, or of business affairs. *The manager dismissed the clerk because his accounts were not in order. I have an account with the Midland Bank (= I have money in the bank and may put in or draw out money). Can I open an account with you (= do business with you, having a book in which dealings are written)?* ② story; description; explanation. *Don't always believe newspaper accounts, especially during a war.* ③ [] reason; cause. *not on any account [on no account]. Don't leave the baby alone on any account (= for any reason).* *on account of*, because of. *on this [that] account*, for this [that] reason. *on my [his, their, etc.] account*, because of me [him, them, etc.]; for my [his, their, etc.] sake. ④ [] use; importance; profit; value. *of no account*, not important; having little use or value. *on one's own account*, for one's own

profit or advantage. *turn to account*, make a profit from. *He turned his war experiences to good account* (e.g. by writing for the newspapers and earning money); *take into account*, think about; consider. *make little account of*, pay little attention to; think of small value. *take no account of*, pay no attention to.

ac-count-a-ble [ækáuntəbl] adj.

① having to give an account or explanation. *He is accountable to me for all the money he spends* (= he must tell me how he spends it). *not accountable for one's actions*, not to be blamed or punished for doing wrong (e.g. a very young child or a madman). ② explainable.

ac-count-ant [ækáuntənt] n. a person who keeps accounts in a business or who examines accounts for business companies. **ac-count-an-cy**, n. [] the work of keeping accounts.

ac-crue [ækru:] vt. (P 21) come in a natural way or as a result. *If you put money in the bank, interest accrues.*

ac-cu-mu-late [ækju:mju:leɪt] vt. & i. (P 1, 21) come or gather together; make or become great in number or amount. *Dust quickly accumulates if we don't sweep our rooms. By buying ten books every month, he soon accumulated a good library.* **ac-cu-mu-la-tion** [ækju:mju:leɪʃən] n.

ac-cu-rate [ækjurit] adj. exactly right; free from error. *Clocks in railway stations must be accurate. He is always accurate in what he says and does.* **ac-cu-rate-ly**, adv. **ac-cu-ra-cy** [ækjuresi] n. []

ac-cu-sa-tive [ækju:zətɪv] adj. naming the object of a verb or preposition (esp. in Latin and Greek).—n. the accusative case.

ac-cuse [ækju:z] vt. (P 1, 18) say that a person has done wrong, that he has broken the law, or that he is to be blamed. *It is wrong to accuse a person of crime unless you have proof that he is guilty.* *the accused*, the person who is accused of doing wrong, esp. in a court of law. **ac-cu-sa-tion** [ækju:zəʃən] n. ① [] accusing. ② [] a charge of doing

wrong. bring an accusation against, say that (a person) has done wrong. be under an accusation of, be accused of. **accu-ser**, *n.* one who accuses.

ac-cus-tom [ə'kʌstəm] *vt.* (P 18) make used to a thing. When he became a soldier, he had to accustom himself to long marches. Europeans find it difficult to accustom themselves to sitting on the floor in a Japanese house. be [get, become] accustomed to. The poor boy soon became accustomed to hard work and bad food.

ace [eis] *n.* ① a single spot or point on playing cards or dice, as the ace of hearts. within an ace of, very near to; failing or escaping by a hair's-breadth. ② an airman (aviator) who has shot down a large number of enemy machines.

a-cet-y-lene [æ'setili:n] *n.* [U] a colourless gas (C₂H₂) which burns with a clear, bright flame; used for lamps (e.g. on bicycles).

ache [eik] *n.* (usu. sing., with or without the indef. art. but may be pl. in aches and pains.) a continuous pain (not a sharp, sudden pain) as toothache; headache; stomach-ache. —*vi.* (P 21) be in continuous pain. My ear aches. After climbing the mountain, he ached all over (= every part of his body was in pain).

achieve [ətʃi:v] *vt.* (P 1) do successfully; get or reach by effort. You will achieve your ambition if you work hard. We have achieved all that we expected. **achievement** [ətʃi:vmənt] *n.* ① [U] something done successfully, with effort and skill. The inventor was rewarded by the government for his scientific achievements. ② [U] the act of achieving. It was impossible of achievement (= it couldn't be done successfully).

A-chil-lēs [ækili:z] *n.* a Greek hero at the siege of Troy. He could not be injured except in the heel.

a-cid [ésid] *n.* ① a strong, sour liquid. ② (in chemistry) a liquid containing hydrogen and other elements, able to turn vegetable blues red, as sulphuric acid (H₂SO₄). Some acids burn holes in cloth and wood. the acid test, a test that

proves the true value of something. —*adj.* sour; sharp to the taste. Some fruits have an acid flavour.

ac-knowl-edge [ə'knɔ:ldʒ] *vt.* (P 1, 4, 11) ① agree or admit that something is true. You must acknowledge that you have been foolish. He wouldn't acknowledge his mistake. ② recognize a person's authority or position. Harry is acknowledged to be the cleverest boy in the class. ③ say that one has received something. We should always acknowledge gifts as soon as we receive them. **ac-knowl-edg(e)-ment** [ə'knɔ:ldʒ-mənt] *n.* ① [U] recognizing the truth of something. in acknowledgement of, to show thanks and recognition for. I am sending you a small sum of money in acknowledgement of your valuable help. ② [U] something given in return for a service or a kind act. This basket of fruit is a slight acknowledgement of your kindness.

ac-me [é'kmi] *n.* [U] the highest point; the point of perfection. When he became prime minister, he reached the acme of his hopes. Schubert reached the acme of his skill while quite young.

a-corn [é'kɔ:n] *n.* the seed or fruit of the oak-tree.

a-cous-tic [ə'kaústik] *adj.* having to do with sound or hearing, as the acoustic nerves. **a-cous-tics**, *n.* ① (sing. vb.) the science of sound and hearing. ② (pl. vb.) the properties of a building (e.g. a hall) that make it good or bad for hearing (speeches, etc.).



An acorn

ac-quaint [ə'kwéint] *vt.* (P 18) ① make known; let (a person) know; inform. Did he acquaint you with the facts (= tell you what had happened)? You must acquaint yourself with your new duties (= learn them and become familiar with them). ② be acquainted with, have direct or personal knowledge of. I have often heard of Mr. A but I'm not acquainted with him (= I've not met him or spoken to him).

ac-quaint-ance [ə'kwéintəns] *n.* ① [U] knowledge that is obtained

through experience. *He has some acquaintance with German but does not speak the language very well. make the acquaintance of, become acquainted with; get to know. When did you make his acquaintance (= get to know him)?*

② a person whom one knows but who is not a friend. *You might borrow money from a friend, but not from an acquaintance.*

ac-qui-esce [ækwiəs] *vi.* (P 21, 24) agree to or accept quietly or silently, sometimes unwillingly, a plan, suggestion, etc. *She wants to marry a poor primary-school teacher but her parents will never acquiesce. The other members acquiesced in his resignation (= didn't oppose it though perhaps they wished him not to resign). **ac-qui-es-cence** [ækwiəs-əns] *n.* [U] agreeing quietly or silently, perhaps without enthusiasm. **ac-qui-es-cent** [ækwiəsənt] *adj.**

ac-quire [ækwaɪə] *vt.* (P 1) get (by one's own efforts or behaviour). *You must work hard to acquire a good knowledge of a foreign language. He has acquired a reputation for dishonesty. an acquired taste, one that is not natural. Many Japanese don't like cheese when they first eat it; it is an acquired taste.*

ac-quire-ment [ækwaɪəmənt] *n.* ① [U] acquiring. ② [C] a thing that is acquired through the mind; skill or ability. *She is always boasting of her daughter's acquirements (= saying how clever her daughter is).*

ac-qui-si-tion [ækwi-zɪʃən] *n.* ① [U] acquiring. *His chief aim was the acquisition of knowledge.* ② [C] a thing that is acquired. *Mr. A will be a valuable acquisition to the teaching staff of our school.*

ac-quit [ækwit] *vt.* (-it) (P 1, 18) say that a person is not guilty of doing wrong, as to acquit a person of a crime. *acquit oneself, behave; do one's work or duty. **ac-quit-tal**, *n.**

a-c-re [éike] *n.* a measure of land (4840 square yards or about 4000 square metres). *broad acres, wide lands.*

ac-rid [ékrɪd] *adj.* sharp, bitter or stinging to the taste (e.g. the smell of burning feathers or cloth); (fig.)

sharp or bitter in manner, temper or speech.

ac-ri-mo-ni-ous [ækrimouniəs] *adj.* sharp; bitter, as an acrimonious quarrel; acrimonious words (*strife, etc.*).

ac-ri-mo-ny [ækriməni] *n.* [U] sharpness; bitterness.

ac-ro-bat [ék-rəbæt] *n.* a person who can do clever things such as walking along a tight-rope.

ac-ro-bat-ic [ék-rəbætɪk] *adj.* *Walking along a tight-rope is an acrobatic feat.*



An acrobat

a-crop-o-lis [æk-rəpəlɪs] *n.* the fortified part of a Greek city, usually a hill, esp. the fortified hill of Athens.

a-cross [æk-rɔːs] *adv. & prep.* ① from one side to the other (of). *There's a bridge across the river. The river's a mile across.* ② on the other side of. *There's a forest across the river.* ③ in the form of a cross. *He was standing with arms across.* ④ come [run] across, meet or find by chance; happen to find or meet. *I came across a very interesting book in the library.*

act [ækt] *n.* ① a thing done. *To kick a cat is a cruel act. It is an act of kindness to help a blind man across a busy street.* ② doing, in the act of, while (doing something). *The thief was caught in the act of taking the money.* ③ one of the chief divisions of a play or drama. *Shakespeare's plays are in five acts. "Hamlet, I. iii" means Hamlet, Act I, Scene 3.* ④ a law, as an Act of Parliament; the Acts of Congress.

act [ækt] *vt. & i.* ① (P 21, 23, 24) do something. *The time for thinking is past; we must act at once. The girl's life was saved because the doctors acted so quickly. act as, do the work or duty of. Many students acted as guides and interpreters during the Olympic Games. act on [upon] advice, do what one is advised to do. act on a suggestion, do what is suggested. act up to one's reputation, do things as one is*

expected to do them. ④ (P 23) behave. *You've acted very foolishly* (=behaved in a foolish way). ⑤ (P 1, 21) take a part in a play. *Who's acting (the part of) Hamlet?* **act the fool**, behave like a fool. ① (P 21) pretend; behave so that people may believe. *She's not really crying; she's only acting in order to get your sympathy.* ② (P 21) have the usual, correct or expected effect; do what is required. *The brakes wouldn't act and they couldn't stop the car.* **act on**, have an effect on. *This medicine acts on the heart.* **act-ing** [æktɪŋ] *adj.* doing the work of another person, as an *acting manager* (=one who does the manager's work when the manager is away ill, on holiday, etc.). **act-ing** [æktɪŋ] *n.* ① the art of performing in plays in the theatre or for moving pictures. **action** [ækʃən] *n.* ① doing something; work; movement. *The time has come for action* (=we must now do something). *A man of action really does things; he is not satisfied to think of doing things.* **take action**, begin to do something. ② a thing done; an act. *We should judge a man by his actions, not by his talk.* ③ the effect (of one thing on another). *The action of sunlight on certain materials is used in making photographs.* ④ fighting; a battle. **go into action**, begin fighting. **break off an action**, stop fighting. **killed in action**, killed in battle. ⑤ (law) **take [bring] an action against**, go to law against, in order to have a wrong put right. **active** [æktɪv] *adj.* ① busy doing things; not resting; able to do work. *He's over ninety years old and not very active. A boy with an active brain will be more successful than a dull boy. Mount Vesuvius is an active volcano* (=one that is sending out smoke and ashes). (Cf. *dormant*, *extinct*.) ② practical; real. *It's no use talking; I want active help. He's taking an active part in school affairs.* **on active service**, (in the Army, Navy or Air Force) engaged in fighting. ③ (grammar) **the active voice**. *In the sentence "We punish-*

ed him," "punished" is in the active voice. In "He was punished," it is in the passive voice. **ac-tive-ly**, *adv.*

ac-tiv-ly [æktɪvɪli] *n.* ① being active and able to do things. *When a man is over seventy, his time of full activity is usually past.* ② (pl.) what one does. *Classroom activities are things done by pupils in school; outdoor activities are things done outside.*

ac-tor [æktə] *n.* a person who acts in a play (in the theatre or for moving pictures). **ac-tress** [æktɪs] *n.* a woman actor.

ac-tu-al [æktʃuəl] *adj.* real, not imagined. *It's an actual fact; I haven't invented, dreamt or imagined it.* **ac-tu-al-ly**, *adv.* ① really; in truth; although it may seem strange or difficult to believe. *He not only ran in the race, he actually won it!* ② at the present moment; now. *Which is the political group actually in power?*

ac-tu-ate [æktʃueɪt] *vt.* (P 1) cause to act. *A great statesman is actuated by love of his country, not by love of power.*

a-cu-men [ækju:men] *n.* sharpness of mind; being quick and clever, as *business acumen*.

a-cute [ækju:t] *adj.* ① (of the mind and the senses) sharp; quick. *Dogs have an acute sense of smell. A man with an acute mind soon knows whether a book is valuable or not.* ② severe; sharp and sudden. *A bad tooth may cause acute pain.* ③ very strong; deeply felt. *His son's success in the examination gave him acute pleasure.* ④ (of an illness) serious and causing great suffering; coming sharply to a crisis. (Cf. *chronic*.) ⑤ sharp; pointed. **an acute angle**, one that is less than a right angle (=an angle of 90°). (See the illustrations at *angle*.) **a-cute-ness**, *n.* **a-cute-ly**, *adv.*

A.D. [éɪdɪ:] short for (Latin) *anno Domini*, meaning "in the year of our Lord." (Cf. *B.C.*) *1601 A.D.* (=1601 years after the birth of Christ).

ad-age [ædɪdʒ] *n.* an old and wise saying; a common proverb.

a-da-gio [ædɑ:dʒiəʊ] *adj. & adv.* (in