

新东方独家引进

剑桥高级 英语学习词典

CAMBRIDGE
ADVANCED LEARNER'S
DICTIONARY



*CD-ROM Dictionary
and thesaurus in one*

中国内地唯一版本

SECOND EDITION
CAMBRIDGE

New

Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary



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Style and usage labels used in the dictionary

| | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| <i>ABBREVIATION</i> | a shortened form of a word |
| <i>APPROVING</i> | praising someone or something |
| <i>AUS</i> | Australian English |
| <i>CHILD'S WORD</i> | used by children |
| <i>DATED</i> | used in the recent past and often still used by older people |
| <i>DISAPPROVING</i> | used to express dislike or disagreement with someone or something |
| <i>FEMALE</i> | |
| <i>FIGURATIVE</i> | used to express not the basic meaning of a word, but an imaginative one |
| <i>FORMAL</i> | used in serious or official language or when trying to impress other people |
| <i>HUMOROUS</i> | used when you are trying to be funny |
| <i>INFORMAL</i> | used in ordinary speech (and writing) and not suitable for formal situations |
| <i>IRISH ENGLISH</i> | |
| <i>LEGAL</i> | specialized language used in legal documents and in law courts |
| <i>LITERARY</i> | formal and descriptive language used in literature |
| <i>MALE</i> | |
| <i>NORTHERN ENGLISH</i> | used in the North of England |
| <i>NOT STANDARD</i> | commonly used but not following the rules of grammar |
| <i>OFFENSIVE</i> | very rude and likely to offend people |
| <i>OLD USE</i> | used a long time ago in other centuries |
| <i>POLITE WORD / PHRASE</i> | a polite way of referring to something that has other ruder names |
| <i>SAYING</i> | a common phrase or sentence that gives advice, an opinion, etc. |
| <i>SCOTTISH ENGLISH</i> | |
| <i>SLANG</i> | extremely informal language, used mainly by a particular group, especially young people |
| <i>SPECIALIZED</i> | used only by people in a particular subject such as doctors or scientists |
| <i>TRADEMARK</i> | the official name of a product |
| <i>UK</i> | British English |
| <i>US</i> | American English |
| E | Essential: the most common and useful words in English |
| I | Improver: the next level of words to learn to improve your English |
| A | Advanced: words to make your English really fluent and natural |

和词典交朋友（代序）

词典是人类的朋友，一本好词典就是一个好朋友。她会默默地陪伴我们一生，或指导，或备询，或纠错，或评判，让我们开卷有益，受用无穷！《剑桥高级英语学习词典》（以下简称《词典》）就是我们生活中一位值得信赖和推荐的好朋友。

首先，《词典》这位朋友来自大不列颠，血统纯正，出身名门，光“剑桥”这个姓就如雷贯耳，名扬四海。剑桥是英国的一个小城，也是剑桥大学的所在地。虽是弹丸之地，却出过众多诺贝尔奖获得者，造就了无数的著名教授。尽管一代又一代剑桥人来来往往，但剑桥博大的治学精神和创新的教育理念却薪火相传。久而久之，剑桥成了严谨、品质和信誉的代名词。《词典》就诞生在令人肃然起敬的剑桥大学出版社，能认识这样一位朋友实属我们的荣幸。

其次，《词典》虽然出身名门，却并不骄傲自大，而是锐意进取、求新求变。短短几年，已连出几版，从选词到释义、例句到格式、词频到分类、光盘到技术无不精益求精。字里行间处处承载着并渗透出剑桥人的追求和梦想：读者不懂的有解释；读者疑惑的有辨析；读者好奇的有参照；读者易忘的有提醒。《词典》始终以读者的需求和实用为出发点，有问必答，有求必应，让你爱不释手。拥有这样的朋友是我们的一种“财富”。

新东方也在一天天成长，身边的朋友越来越多，中国的、外国的、年长的、年少的。《词典》就是我们新近结交的一位好朋友。她向我们走来，跨越了地域、文化和民族的差异，把我们带进了一个语言、信息和知识的美妙新世界。同时新东方也多了一位学习的榜样，我们会真诚追随剑桥的理念和思想，在向剑桥学习的同时使新东方不断取得进步。

真心希望《词典》能够成为大家学习、工作的好朋友，真心希望新东方能够为大家引荐更多的朋友。谢谢大家！

周成刚

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This dictionary is based on the *Cambridge International Dictionary of English*, editor-in-chief Paul Procter.

Introduction

Welcome to the second edition of the *Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary*. English is constantly evolving, with **new words** coming into the language all the time. It is hard to believe that words like 'website', 'text messaging' or 'reality TV' were unknown to most people just a few years ago, when now they are in common use. Dictionaries have to keep up with this change, and this edition contains a wealth of new vocabulary. Of course, a lot of it comes from the world of computers and the Internet (e.g. blog, whiteboard, graphics card), but many other areas are represented (e.g. speed dating, superbug, hoody).

One of the most important tools we have for tracking both British and American English words is the *Cambridge International Corpus*, a collection of over 600 million words of written and spoken (transcribed) language from a huge variety of sources. The corpus is the evidence which underpins everything we say about words in our dictionaries. We also make great use of the *Cambridge Learner Corpus* which includes exam scripts from Cambridge ESOL exams. The usage notes in this dictionary are based on information from that corpus.

Of course, new editions are not only about new words. We are constantly in touch with teachers and students from all over the world to see how we can improve our dictionaries.

A major feature of this edition is the introduction of the **Frequency Information** system. It is special because it shows the relative importance *not only of words but also of their meanings, and of individual phrases*. To create this system, researchers used data from our corpus. They extracted all the high-frequency words and then coded examples of them to work out the frequency of their different meanings.

The Frequency Information is not just a number-crunching exercise though. On the overwhelming recommendation of teachers and academic advisers, the frequency results were adapted to the needs of learners of English. So, for instance, basic grammar vocabulary which is rare in everyday English is included because it is vital for students.

The resulting system gives students a clear guide to the most important words and meanings to learn:

Meanings marked **E** (Essential) are words which everyone needs to know in order to communicate effectively. They are either extremely common (usually over 400 occurrences per 10 million corpus words), or they express core concepts (e.g. asleep). There are about 4,900 of these meanings.

Meanings marked **I** (Improver) are also common in native speaker English (typically between 200-400 occurrences per 10m corpus words). Like Essential, this band can include less common words which express useful concepts. There are about 3,300 of these meanings.

Meanings marked **A** (Advanced) typically occur around 100-200 times per 10 million corpus words, which is still highly significant. Advanced students should aim to be confident with these to make their English more fluent and natural. There are about 3,700 of these meanings.

Something else new in this edition is the 400 boxes giving **concise collocation information** for common words. Knowing how to put a word in context is vital for fluent English, and these boxes supplement the 25,000 collocations shown in heavy type in the example sentences.

This dictionary is also available in a CD-ROM format. If you have the CD, you can search for words more easily, hear **spoken pronunciations**, see **extra example sentences**, access more comprehensive collocation information, practise your English with **interactive exercises**, and use our unique **SMART thesaurus** to turn the dictionary into a thesaurus at the click of a button.

I hope you will enjoy using the *Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary*. You can look at this and our other dictionaries online at dictionary.cambridge.org, and also use the website to send us your comments or suggestions for the next edition!

Elizabeth Walter

April 2005

How to use the dictionary

1 How do I find the word I want?

The words at the beginning of entries are called 'headwords'. Usually they are black, but the most important words are blue (see 7, below).

blank ^(EMPTY) /blæŋk/ *adj* empty or clear, or containing no information or mark: *a blank sheet of paper* ○ *a blank tape/computer screen* ○ *Sign your name in the blank space at the bottom of the form.*

blank /blæŋk/ *noun* [C] 1 a space in a piece of writing or on a form, left empty for information to be added: *Fill in the blanks in this form.* 2 something not yet marked or finished, such as a key not yet cut into a finished shape

blank ^(NOT REACTING) /blæŋk/ *adj* showing no understanding or no emotion in your facial expression: *a blank stare/expression* (**blankly**) /'blæŋk.li/ *adv*: *He just stared blankly at me.*

blank /blæŋk/ *verb*

PHRASAL VERBS WITH **blank**

▲ **blank sth out** ^(COVER) *phrasal verb* [M] to intentionally cover over something that is written so that it cannot be read: *Some of the names in the report have been blanked out.*

▲ **blank sth out** ^(FORGET) *phrasal verb* [M] to stop yourself thinking about a memory because it is unpleasant and you would prefer not to remember it: *There may be traumatic incident in your past that you have blanked out.*

Words in the same family are often grouped together.

Phrasal verbs are always shown at the end of entries. They are shown with a triangle ▲ before them.

Compound words (two or more words used together as a single word) have their own entries, in alphabetical order.

blank ^(CARTRIDGE) *noun* [C] a small tube containing explosive but no bullet, used in a gun in order to make a loud noise without causing harm: *The starter's pistol fires blanks.*

blank ^(CHEQUE) *UK, US blank check* *noun* [C] a cheque that has a person's signature but does not yet have the amount of money written on it

Sometimes the second word of a headword is shown in brackets. This shows that the meaning is the same whether you use only the first word or both words together.

Alternative spellings of words are shown at the headword.

almanac, almanack /'æl.mə.næk/ /'æl-/ *noun* [C] a book published every year that contains facts and information such as important days, times of the sun rising and going down or changes in the moon

Other alternative forms are shown in brackets.

Some words include 'the' before the headword, to show that they are always used in this form.

the charts *plural noun* the numbered lists produced each week of the records with the highest sales: *the dance charts* ○ *It's been number one in the charts for six weeks.*

'combat trousers *plural noun* ^(ALSO combats) loose trousers made of strong material with large pockets on the outside of the legs: *British Army camouflage-pattern combat trousers*

2 How do I find the right meaning?

Definitions are written using only words from a list of common words that are easy to understand.

chuck ^(STEAK) *noun* [C] a piece of meat cut from the shoulder area of a cow

majorette /meɪ.dʒɪ'teɪ/ (S) /-dʒə'reɪ/ *noun* [C] ^(ALSO drum majorette) a young woman or girl who wears a uniform and makes a pattern of movements with a **BATON** (= stick) by spinning it and throwing it into the air, as part of a group of girls who do this or as the leader of a musical group

Any word in the definition which does not come from that list is shown in SMALL CAPITALS. You can look for the meaning of that word at its own entry, although a short explanation is often given.

GUIDEWORDS show you when a word has more than one main meaning.

church ^(BUILDING) /tʃɜːtʃ/ (noun) [c] a building for Christian religious activities: *The town has four churches.* ○ *a church spire/tower* ○ *a church hall* (= a building belonging to a church, with a large room for meetings)
church ^(ORGANIZATION) /tʃɜːtʃ/ (noun) [c or u] an official Christian religious organization: *All the local churches were represented at the memorial service.* ○ *He went on a walking trip with some of his friends from church.* ^(u) *when this organization meets as a group of people: I'll see her after church.* ○ *They go to church every Sunday.* ○ *church services*

Other, smaller differences in meaning are shown by separate numbered definitions.

3 How do I find idioms and other phrases?

Idioms (phrases which have a special meaning that is not clear from the separate words) and other fixed phrases are shown separately with their own definitions.

pillar /ˈpɪl.ə/ (noun) [c] 1 a strong column made of stone, metal or wood which supports part of a building: *A row of reinforced concrete pillars supports the bridge.* ○ *FIGURATIVE a pillar of smoke/flare* 2 *pillar of sth* a very important member or part of a group, organization, system, etc: *Mrs Maple is a pillar of the local church.* ○ *Equality is one of the pillars of socialism.*
 ● *from pillar to post* If someone goes from pillar to post, they are forced to keep moving from one place to another: *My parents were always on the move and so my childhood was spent being dragged from pillar to post.*

If a word or meaning of a word is always used in a particular grammatical pattern or with particular words, this is shown at the beginning of the definition.

Idioms and fixed phrases are usually listed at the first important word. If you are not sure where to find them, look in the 'Idiom Finder' on page 1515.

4 How do I use this word or phrase?

Italic labels show you the part of speech of a word (whether it is a noun, verb, etc).

reach ^(LEVEL) /riːtʃ/ (verb) [T] to get to a particular, especially high level, etc: *The temperature is expected to reach 30°C today.* ○ *He's just reached the grand old age of 95.* ○ *I've reached the point where I'm not going to put up with her criticisms of me any more.*

reach ^(STRETCH) /riːtʃ/ (verb) [I or T] 1 to stretch out your arm in order to get or touch something: *She's grown so tall that she can reach the door handle now.* ○ *He reached for the phone and knocked over a glass.* ○ *The child reached down/out/over and picked up the kitten.* ○ *He reached his hand out for the money.* ○ *(+ two objects) Can you reach me (down) that book?* 2 if an object reaches something, the top or bottom of it touches that thing: *The ladder won't quite reach the top of the wall.* ○ *She was wearing a dress that reached (to) her ankles.*
 ● *reach for the stars* to want or try to get something that is difficult or impossible to get
reach ⁽ⁿ⁾ /riːtʃ/ (noun) [u] Someone's reach is the distance within which they can stretch out their arm and touch something: *I like to keep a notebook and pencil within (arm's) reach.* ○ *The top shelf is within/out of (his) reach.* ○ *Make sure that you keep all dangerous substances out of the reach of the children.* 2 (u) the distance that can be travelled, especially easily: *We live within (easy) reach of the station.* 3 (s or u) the limit within which someone can achieve something: *An expensive trip like that would be completely beyond/out of (my) reach* (= I would not have enough money to pay for it). ○ *After years of saving, the car was at last within (her) reach* (= she had enough money to pay for it). 4 (s) the length of your arm when you stretch it out: *You've got quite a long reach – can you get that box down from the top shelf for me?* 5 (c usually singular) an act of stretching out your arm: *He made a sudden reach for his gun.*
 ● *a reach of the imagination* when you have to try very hard to imagine something: *It takes (quite) a reach of the imagination to believe that story.*

Common grammar patterns are given next to examples that show their use.

Labels in square brackets give you grammar information. These labels are explained inside the front cover of the dictionary.
 When grammar information is shown before numbered definitions, it is true for all meanings of the word.

When grammar information is shown after a sense number, it is only true for that sense.

reach ^(COMMUNICATE) /riːtʃ/ (verb) [T] 1 to communicate with someone in a different place, especially by telephone or post: *The only way to reach them in the place where they're staying is by mail.* ○ *I've been trying to reach you on the phone all day.* 2 to understand and communicate with someone: *He's a strange child and his teachers find it difficult to reach him.*

curriculum ③ /kəˈrɪk.ju.ləm/ *noun* [C] **plural curricula**
 or **curriculums** the group of subjects studied in a school,
 college, etc: *the school curriculum* ⚡ See also the **national**
curriculum /kəˈrɪk.ju.lɪz/ ④ /-lɪz/ *adj* **SPECIALIZED**

Plural forms, verb forms,
and comparatives and
superlatives are shown if
they are irregular. If you
have the CD of this
dictionary, you can see all
the inflections of every verb.

Thousands of examples
adapted from the
Cambridge International
Corpus show you how to
use words naturally. They
can also help you to check
that you have the
right meaning.

sample **SMALL AMOUNT** ① /ˈsɑːm.pl/ ② /ˈsæm-/ *noun* [C] **1**
 a small amount of something that shows you what the
 rest is or should be like: *a free sample of shampoo*
a samples of carpet/curtain material Please bring some
samples of your work to the interview. **2** a small amount
 of a substance that a doctor or scientist collects in order
 to examine it: *a blood/urine sample* **3** a group of people
 or things that is chosen out of a larger number and is
 questioned or tested in order to obtain information
 about the larger group: *a random sample of voters* ◦ a
 nationally **representative sample** of 200 schools
sample /ˈsɑːm.pl/ ③ /ˈsæm-/ *verb* [T] **1** to taste a small
 amount of food or drink to decide whether you like it:
As the food looked so good, he decided to sample a little
from each dish. **2** to experience a place or an activity,
 often for the first time: *So you're going to sample the*
delights/pleasures of the new restaurant?

Bold words in examples are
'collocations'. These are
words that are used very
often with the word you are
looking up. If you learn
these collocations,
your English will sound
more natural.

Hundreds of common words
have boxes showing the
most common collocations.

WORDS THAT GO WITH **technology**

develop/harness technology • have the technology to
do sth • **advanced/cutting-edge/modern/new** techno-
logy • the **latest** technology

technology ③ /tekˈnɒl.ə.dʒi/ ④ /ˈnɑː.lə-/ *noun* [C or U]
 (the study and knowledge of) the practical, especially indus-
 trial, use of scientific discoveries: *computer techno-*
logy ◦ *Modern technology is amazing, isn't it?* ◦ *What*
this country needs is a long-term policy for investment in
science and technology. ⚡ See also **biotechnology**.

5 How do I pronounce the word?

At entries for compounds
(two or more words used
together), stress marks show
you which part or parts of
the compound you should
stress when you say it. The
pronunciation for each word
in a compound is shown at
the entry for that word.

basketball ③ /bɑː.skɪt.bɔːl/ ④ /ˈbæs.kɪt.bɔːl/ *noun* [C or U]
 (a ball used in) a game played by two teams of five
 men or six women who score points by throwing a large
 ball through an open net hanging from a metal ring
 ⚡ See picture Sports on page Centre 10

basket case **COUNTRY/COMPANY** *noun* [C] a country or
 company that is very unsuccessful financially: *Twenty*
years ago the country was an economic basket case.

British and American
pronunciations of a word
are shown after the
headword. These are
written using the
International Phonetic
Alphabet (IPA). See inside
the back cover of the
dictionary for full
information about the
phonetic symbols.

6 What else should I know about this word or phrase?

Labels in **SMALL SLOPING**
CAPITALS tell you about how a
word or phrase is used, for
example if it is informal
or humorous.

dipstick **PERSON** /ˈdɪp.stɪk/ *noun* [C] **SLANG** a silly person

dip-switch **UK** /ˈdɪp.swɪtʃ/ *noun* [C] **(US dimmer switch)** a
 switch for temporarily reducing the brightness of the
 lights of a vehicle

dire /daɪə/ ③ /daɪ-/ *adj* **1** very serious or extreme: *These*
people are in dire need of help. ◦ *He gave a dire warning*
that an earthquake was imminent. ◦ *This decision will*
have dire consequences for local people. **2** **INFORMAL** very
 bad: *I thought that film was dire!*

When a label is shown after
a sense number, it is true
only for that sense.

If a word or meaning of a word is used only in British English or only in American English, this is shown with the labels *UK* and *US*.

corn ^[FOOD] **A** /kɔːn/ **US** /kɔːrn/ **noun** [U] **1** *UK* (the seeds of) plants, such as wheat, maize, oats and barley: *a sheaf of corn* *o* *grains of corn* **2** *US* the seeds of the maize plant, or the plant itself *See picture Vegetables on page Centre 2*

If the word you have looked up is used only in British English, and a different word is used in American English, this is shown.

'credit ac, count *UK noun* [C] *US charge account* a formal agreement between a shop or other business and a customer, in which the customer can take goods and pay the shop or business for them at a later time

If a word has a different spelling in American and British English, this is shown.

discolour *UK, US* **discolor** /dɪ'skʌl.ə/ **US** /-ə/ **verb** [I or T] to (cause something to) change from the original colour and therefore to look unpleasant: *The coal fire had discoloured the paintwork.* **discoloration** /dɪ'skʌl.ə'reɪ.ʃn/ **noun** [C or U]

COMMON LEARNER ERROR

chance or lucky?

Chance is not used when you are talking about good things that happen. In this situation use 'lucky'.

We were lucky because the weather was perfect.

~~*We had the chance because the weather was perfect.*~~

'Common learner error' notes show you mistakes which learners of English often make, and help you avoid them. These notes are based on the Cambridge Learner Corpus, a huge collection of real exam texts.

Cross-references help you learn more vocabulary connected with a word. They often refer to words with similar or contrasting meanings. If you have the CD of this dictionary, you can use the SMART thesaurus to look up related words for every sense of every word.

emperor **A** /'em.pə.ɹə/ **US** /-ə.ri/ **noun** [C] a male ruler of an empire *See also empress*

empire ^[COUNTRIES] **A** /'em.paɪə/ **US** /-paɪr/ **noun** [C] a group of countries ruled by a single person, government or country: *the Holy Roman Empire* *See also imperial*

7 Do I need to learn this word or phrase?

Many words in this dictionary have the labels E, I, and A. These are the most important and useful words to learn. Words labelled E are 'essential' – you should know them and be able to use them all. I marks 'improver' words, and A marks 'advanced' words that will make your English really fluent and natural.

soon **E** /suːn/ **adv** in or within a short time; before long; quickly: *She'll soon be here.* *She'll be here soon.*
o It will soon be impossible for foreigners to enter the country.
o The sooner we leave, the sooner we'll get there.
o Soon after agreeing to go, she realized she'd made a mistake.
o How soon (= When) can we sign the contract?
o "When would you like to meet?" "The sooner the better."
o I couldn't get out of that place soon enough.
 ● as soon as **E** at the same time or a very short time after: *As soon as I saw her, I knew there was something wrong.*
 ● as soon as possible **E** If you do something as soon as possible, you do it as quickly as you can: *We need the repairs done as soon as possible.*
 ● no sooner... than used to show that one thing happens immediately after another thing: *No sooner had I started mowing the lawn than it started raining.*
 ● no sooner said than done used to say that you will do something immediately
 ● sooner or later **E** used to say that you do not know exactly when something will happen, but you are certain that it will happen: *Sooner or later she's going to realize what a mistake she's made.*
 ● would (just) as soon (also would sooner) If you would (just) as soon do something or would sooner do something, you would prefer to do it rather than something else which is possible: *"Would you like to go out for dinner?" "I'd just as soon stay in – I'm not feeling very well."*

If you have the CD of this dictionary, you can find extra example sentences for these words.

Numbers that are used as words

You will sometimes find these numbers used like ordinary words in English, especially in newspapers or on the Internet. This page tells you what they mean and how they are pronounced.

0800 number /ˌəʊ.eɪtˈhʌn.drəd.nʌm.bə/ *noun* [C] in the UK, a free telephone number that begins with 0800, provided by companies or other organizations offering advice or information

0898 number /ˌəʊ.eɪtˈnaɪn.eɪt.nʌm.bə/ *noun* [C] in the UK, an expensive telephone number that begins with 0898 that is provided by companies offering services such as CHAT LINES

12A /ˌtwelfˈeɪ/ in the UK, a symbol that marks a film that cannot be legally watched alone by children who are under twelve years old

15 /ˌfɪfˈtiːn/ in the UK, a symbol used to mark a film that cannot be legally watched by children who are under fifteen years old

18 /ˌeɪtˈtiːn/ in the UK, a symbol used to mark a film that cannot be legally watched by children who are under eighteen years old

180 /ˌwʌnˈeɪ.ti/ *noun* [C usually singular] *US INFORMAL* a sudden change from a particular opinion, decision or plan to an opposite one: *Jack's done a 180 and agreed to come on the trip.*

2:1 /ˌtuːˈwʌn/ *noun* [C] (ALSO *upper second*) a degree qualification from a British university that is below a first and above a 2:2

2:2 /ˌtuːˈtuː/ *noun* [C] (ALSO *lower second*) a degree qualification from a British university that is below a 2:1 and above a third

20/20 vision /ˌtwen.ti.twen.tiˈvɪʒ.ən/ *noun* [S] the ability to see perfectly, without needing to wear glasses or CONTACT LENSES: *You're so lucky to have 20/20 vision, Dom.*

.22 /ˌpɔɪnt.tuːˈtuː/ *noun* [C] a type of gun that fires small bullets, used especially for hunting small animals

24/7 /ˌtwen.ti.fɔːˈsev.ən/ © /-tʃi.fɔː-/ *adv, adj INFORMAL* twenty four hours a day, seven days a week: all the time: *We're open for business 24/7.* ○ *We offer 24/7 internet access.*

24-hour clock /ˌtwen.ti.fɔːˈraʊəˈkloʊk/ *noun* [S] the system of using 24 numbers instead of 12 to refer the hours in the day

3-D /ˌθriːˈdiː/ in a 3-D film or picture, the objects look real and solid instead of looking like a normal flat picture: *a 3-D effect* ○ *These computer games rely on 3-D graphics.* ○ *The picture looks great because it's in 3-D*

3G /ˌθriːˈdʒiː/ *adj* describes technology that is new and improved, especially MOBILE PHONES on which you can use the Internet, watch television, etc. 3G is short for 'third generation': *They invested heavily in 3G mobile phone networks.* ○ *Learn how to create 3G websites.*

3Ws /θriːˈdʌb.ljuːz/ *noun* something you can say to represent 'www' at the beginning of a website address: *The dictionary website is 3Ws dot dictionary dot cambridge dot org.*

.45 /ˌfɔː.tiˈfaɪv/ © /ˌfɔːr.ti-/ *noun* [C] a large type of PISTOL (= small gun)

4WD *noun* [C or U] *WRITTEN ABBREVIATION FOR four-wheel drive*: a vehicle that has power supplied by the engine to all four wheels so that it can travel easily over difficult ground

4x4 /ˌfɔːˈbɑːfɔːr/ © /ˌfɔːrˈbɑːfɔːr/ *noun* [C or U] *ABBREVIATION FOR four-wheel drive*: a vehicle that has power supplied by the engine to all four wheels so that it can travel easily over difficult ground

\$64,000 question /ˌsɪk.sti.fɔːrθau.zəndˈdaɪ.lə.kwɛs.tʃən/ *noun* [C usually singular] (ALSO *million dollar question*) an important or difficult question, on which a lot depends: *The \$64,000 dollar question is, can we repeat last year's success?*

800 number /ˌeɪtˈhʌn.drəd.nʌm.bə/ © /-bə/ *noun* [C] in the US, a free telephone number that begins with 800, provided by companies or other organizations offering advice or information

900 number /ˌnaɪnˈhʌn.drəd.nʌm.bə/ © /-bə/ *noun* [C] in the US, an expensive telephone number that begins with 900, provided by companies offering services such as CHAT LINES

911 /ˌnaɪn.wʌnˈwʌn/ the telephone number used in the US to call the emergency services

9/11 /ˌnaɪn.iˈlev.ən/ *MAINLY US* September the eleventh, written in US style: the date of the attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon in the US in 2001: *Since 9/11 there has been more co-operation between Russia and America.*

999 /ˌnaɪn.naɪnˈnaɪn/ the telephone number used in Britain to call the emergency services: *a hoax 999 call* ○ *There's been an accident – dial 999 and ask for an ambulance.*

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A

A **[LETTER]** (plural A's), a (plural a's) /eɪ/ noun [C] the 1st letter of the English alphabet

● from A to B from one place to another: *Using this software a driver can now work out the quickest route from A to B.*

● from A to Z including everything: *This book tells the story of her life from A to Z.*

A **[MUSIC]** /eɪ/ noun [C or U] (plural A's or As) a note in Western music: *This concerto is in the key of A major.*

A **[MARK]** /eɪ/ noun [C or U] (plural A's or As) a mark in an exam or for a piece of work that shows that your work is considered excellent: *Sophie got (an) A for English.*
 ○ *She got straight As (= All her marks were As) in her end-of-year exams.* ○ *US Jim is a straight A student (= All his marks are A).*

A **[ELECTRICITY]** WRITTEN ABBREVIATION FOR amp ELECTRICITY

a **[NOT PARTICULAR]** **E** WEAK /ə/ STRONG /eɪ/ determiner (ALSO an) **1** used before a noun to refer to a single thing or person that has not been mentioned before, especially when you are not referring to a particular thing or person, or you do not expect listeners or readers to know which particular thing or person you are referring to: *I've bought a car.* ○ *She's got a boyfriend.* ○ *There was a sudden loud noise.* ○ *What a shame that you couldn't go to the party.* ○ *I heard a child crying.* ○ *Is he a friend of yours (= one of your friends)?* **2** used to state what type of thing or person something or someone is: *She wants to be a doctor when she grows up.* ○ *This is a very mild cheese.* ○ *Experts think the painting may be a Picasso (= by Picasso).* **3** used to mean any or every thing or person of the type you are referring to: *Can you ride a bike?* ○ *a cheetah can run faster than a lion.* ○ *A teacher needs to have a lot of patience.* **4** used before some uncountable nouns when you want to limit their meaning in some way, such as when describing them more completely or referring to one example of them: *I only have a limited knowledge of Spanish.* ○ *He has a great love of music.* ○ *There was a fierceness in her voice.* **5** used before some nouns of action when referring to one example of the action: *Take a look at this, Jez.* ○ *I'm just going to have a wash.* ○ *There was a knocking at the door.* **6** used when referring to a unit or container of something, especially something you eat or drink: *I'd love a coffee.* ○ *All I had for lunch was a yogurt.* **7** used before the first but not the second of two nouns that are referred to as one unit: *a cup and saucer* ○ *a knife and fork* **8** used in front of a person's name when referring to someone who you do not know: *There's a Ms Evans to see you.* **9** used in front of a person's family name when they are a member of that family: *Is that a Wilson over there?* **10** used before the name of a day or month to refer to one example of it: *My birthday is on a Friday this year.* ○ *It's been a very wet June.* **11** used before some words that express a number or amount: *a few days* ○ *a bit of wool* ○ *a lot of money*

COMMON LEARNER ERROR

a or an?

a is used before consonants or before vowels which are pronounced as consonants.

a dog

a university

an is used before vowels.

an old building

a old-building

a **[ONE]** WEAK /ə/ STRONG /eɪ/ determiner (ALSO an) **1** one: *a hundred* ○ *a thousand* ○ *a dozen* ○ *There were three men and a woman.* **2** used between a fraction and a unit of measurement: *half a mile* ○ *a quarter of a kilo* ○ *three-quarters of an hour* ○ *six-tenths of a second* **3** used when

saying how often something happens in a certain period: *Take one tablet three times a day.* ○ *I swim once a week.* **4** used when saying how much someone earns or how much something costs in a certain period: *She earns \$100 000 a year.* ○ *My plumber charges £20 an hour.* ○ *I pay £5 a week for my parking permit.*

A4 /eɪ'fɔː/ **E** /-fɔːr/ noun [U], adj paper that is a standard European size of 21 centimetres by 29.7 centimetres: *a sheet of A4* ○ *A4 paper*

AA **[DEGREE]** /eɪ'eɪ/ noun [C] ABBREVIATION FOR Associate in Arts: a degree given by an American college to someone after they have completed a two-year course, or a person who has this degree

AA **[ALCOHOL]** /eɪ'eɪ/ group noun [S] ABBREVIATION FOR Alcoholics Anonymous: an organization for people who drink too much alcohol and want to cure themselves of this habit: *an AA meeting*

the A/A **[CAR]** group noun [S] ABBREVIATION FOR the Automobile Association: a British organization which gives help and information to drivers who are members of it

AAA /eɪ'eɪ'eɪ/ group noun [S] ABBREVIATION FOR American Automobile Association: an American organization which gives help and information to drivers who are members of it

aah /ɑː/ exclamation ANOTHER SPELLING OF ah

aardvark /'ɑːd.vɑːk/ **E** /'ɑːd.vɑːrk/ noun [C] an African mammal with a long nose and large ears which lives underground and eats insects

AB /eɪ'biː/ noun [C] US FOR BA

aback /ə'bæk/ adv be taken aback to be very shocked or surprised: *I was rather taken aback by her honesty.*

abacus /'æb.ə.kəs/ noun [C] a square or rectangular frame holding an arrangement of small balls on metal rods or wires, which is used for counting, adding and subtracting

abalone /æb.ə.'ləʊ.ni/ **E** /-'ləʊ.ni/ noun [C] a small edible sea animal that lives inside a shell that is the shape of an ear with a white shiny inside

abandon **[LEAVE]** **E** /ə'bæn.dən/ verb [T] to leave a place, thing or person forever: *We had to abandon the car.* ○ *By the time the rebel troops arrived, the village had already been abandoned.* ○ *As a baby he'd been abandoned by his mother.* ○ *We were sinking fast, and the captain gave the order to abandon ship.* **abandoned** /ə'bæn.dənɪd/ adj: *An abandoned baby was found in a box on the hospital steps.* **abandonment** /ə'bæn.dən.mənt/ noun [U]: *The abandonment of the island followed nuclear tests in the area.*

abandon **[STOP]** **E** /ə'bæn.dən/ verb [T] to stop doing an activity before you have finished it: *The match was abandoned at half-time because of the poor weather conditions.* ○ *They had to abandon their attempt to climb the mountain.* ○ *The party has now abandoned its policy of unilateral disarmament.* **abandonment** /ə'bæn.dən.mənt/ noun [U]

▲ **abandon yourself to sth** phrasal verb [R] to allow yourself to be controlled completely by a feeling or way of living: *He abandoned himself to his emotions.*

abandon /ə'bæn.dən/ noun LITERARY with (gay/wild) abandon in a completely uncontrolled way: *We danced with wild abandon.*

abase yourself /ə'beɪs/ verb [R] FORMAL to make yourself seem to be less important or not to deserve respect **abasement** /ə'beɪ.smənt/ noun [U] FORMAL *The pilgrims knelt in self-abasement.*

abashed /ə'bæʃt/ adj [after verb] embarrassed: *He said nothing but looked abashed.*

abate /ə'beɪt/ verb [I] FORMAL to become less strong: *The storm/wind/rain has started to abate.* ○ *The fighting in the area shows no sign of abating.* ○ See also unabated.

abatement /ə'beɪt.mənt/ noun [U]

abattoir MAINLY UK /'æb.ə.twaɪ/ **E** /-twaɪ/ noun [C] (MAINLY US slaughterhouse) a place where animals are killed for their meat

abbess /æb.es/ noun [C] a woman who is in charge of a CONVENT

abbey /'æb.i/ noun [C] a building where monks or nuns live or used to live. Some abbeys are now used as churches: *Westminster Abbey*

abbot /'æb.ət/ *noun* [C] a man who is in charge of a MONASTERY

abbreviate /ə'brɪt.vi.ɛt/ *verb* [T usually passive] to make a word or phrase shorter by using only the first letters of each word: *'Daniel' is often abbreviated to 'Dan'.* ○ *'Chief Executive Officer' is abbreviated as 'CEO'.* **abbreviated** /ə'brɪt.vi.ɛt.ɪd/ *adj* /-tɪd/ *adj*: *'Di' is the abbreviated form of 'Diane'.* **abbreviation** **A** /ə'brɪt.vi'ei.ʃn/ *noun* [C]: *'ITV' is the abbreviation for 'Independent Television'.*

ABC [ALPHABET] /eɪ.bi.'si:/ *noun* [S] (US USUALLY ABCs) INFORMAL **1** the alphabet: *He's learning his ABC at school.* **2** basic information about a subject: *What I need is a book that contains the ABC of carpentry.*

ABC [US TV] /eɪ.bi.'si:/ *group noun* [S] ABBREVIATION FOR American Broadcasting Company: an organization that broadcasts on television in the US

the AB'C [AUSTRALIAN TV] *group noun* [S] ABBREVIATION FOR the Australian Broadcasting Corporation: an organization that broadcasts on radio and television in Australia and is paid for by the government

abdicate [GIVE UP] /æb.dɪ.keɪt/ *verb* [I or T] If a king or queen abdicates, they make a formal statement that they no longer want to be king or queen: *King Edward VIII abdicated (the British throne) in 1936 so that he could marry Mrs Simpson, a divorced woman.* **abdication** /æb.dɪ'keɪ.ʃn/ *noun* [C or U]

abdicate [NOT DO] /æb.dɪ.keɪt/ *verb* FORMAL DISAPPROVING abdicate responsibility to stop controlling or managing something that you are in charge of: *She was accused of abdicating all responsibility for the project.* **abdication** /æb.dɪ'keɪ.ʃn/ *noun* [U] FORMAL The council denied that their decision represented any abdication of responsibility.

abdomen /æb.də.mən/ *noun* [C] SPECIALIZED the lower part of a person's or animal's body, which contains the stomach, bowels and other organs, or the end of an insect's body **abdominal** /æb.dəm.ɪ.nəl/ *adj* /-dɑː.mə-/ *adj*: *abdominal pains*

abdominals /æb.dəm.ɪ.nəlz/ *adj* /-dɑː.mə-/ *plural noun* (INFORMAL abs) muscles in the abdomen

abduct /æb'dʌkt/ *verb* [T] to force someone to go somewhere with you, often using threats or violence: *The company director was abducted from his car by terrorists.* **abduction** /æb'dʌk.ʃn/ *noun* [C or U]: *There has been a series of abductions of young children from schools in the area.* ○ *He was charged with abduction.* **abductor** /æb'dʌk.tə/ *noun* [C]: *She was tortured by her abductors.*

aberrant /ə'ber.ɪnt/ *adj* FORMAL different from what is typical or usual, especially in an unacceptable way: *aberrant behaviour/sexuality*

aberration /ə'ber.ə'reɪ.ʃn/ *noun* [C or U] FORMAL a temporary change from the typical or usual way of behaving: *In a moment of aberration, she agreed to go with him.* ○ *I'm sorry I'm late - I had a mental aberration and forgot we had a meeting today.*

abet /ə'bet/ *verb* [T] (-tt-) to help or encourage someone to do something wrong or illegal: *His accountant had aided and abetted him in the fraud.* **abettor** /ə'bet.ə/ *noun* [C]

abeyance /ə'beɪ.ənts/ *noun* [U] FORMAL a state of not happening or not being acted at present: *Hostilities between the two groups have been in abeyance since last June.* ○ *The project is being held in abeyance until agreement is reached on funding it.*

abhor /ə'hoː/ *verb* [T not continuous] (-rr-) FORMAL to hate a way of behaving or thinking, often because you think it is immoral: *I abhor all forms of racism.*

abhorrent /ə'boːr.ɪnt/ *adj* /æb'hoːr-/ *adj* FORMAL morally very bad: *an abhorrent crime* ○ *Racism of any kind is abhorrent to me.* **abhorrence** /ə'boːr.ɪnts/ *noun* [S or U] FORMAL She looked at him in/with abhorrence. ○ *She has an abhorrence of change.*

abide /ə'baɪd/ *verb* [I usually + adv or prep] OLD USE to live or stay somewhere: *He abided in the wilderness for forty days.*

● **can't abide sb/sth** If you can't abide someone or something, you dislike them very much: *I can't abide her.* ○ *He couldn't abide laziness.*

abide by sth phrasal verb to accept or obey an agreement, decision or rule: *Competitors must abide by the judge's decision.*

abiding /ə'baɪ.dɪŋ/ *adj* [before noun] describes a feeling or memory that you have for a long time: *My abiding memory is of him watering his plants in the garden.*

WORDS THAT GO WITH **ability**

demonstrate/have/possess ability • lack ability • lose the ability to do sth • affect/limit sb's ability to do sth • innate/instinctive/natural ability • amazing/remarkable/uncanny ability • proven ability

ability [POWER] **E** /ə'bil.ɪ.ti/ *noun* [C or U] the physical or mental power or skill needed to do something: *There's no doubting her ability.* ○ [+ to infinitive] *She had the ability to explain things clearly and concisely.* ○ *She's a woman of considerable abilities.* ○ *I have children in my class of very mixed abilities (= different levels of skill or intelligence).* ○ *a mixed ability class* ○ See also **able** CAN DO; **able** SKILLFUL.

-ability [QUALITY] /-ə'bil.ɪ.ti/ *suffix* (ALSO -ibility) used to form nouns from adjectives ending in '-able' or '-ible', to mean the quality of being the stated adjective: *suitability* ○ *stability*

abject [EXTREME] /æb.dʒekt/ *adj* FORMAL **abject misery/poverty/terror**, etc. when someone is extremely unhappy, poor, frightened, etc: *They live in abject poverty.* ○ *This policy has turned out to be an abject failure.*

abject [WITHOUT RESPECT] /æb.dʒekt/ *adj* FORMAL showing no pride or respect for yourself: *an abject apology* ○ *He is almost abject in his respect for his boss.* **abjectly** /æb.dʒekt.li/ *adv*

abjure /əb'dʒʊə/ *verb* [T] FORMAL to state publicly that you no longer agree with a belief or way of behaving: *He abjured his religion/his life of dissipation.*

ablaze [BURNING] /ə'bleɪz/ *adj* [after verb] **1** burning very strongly: *The house was ablaze, and the flames and smoke could be seen for miles around.* **2** brightly lit or brightly coloured: *The ballroom was ablaze with lights.* ○ *The field was ablaze with poppies and wild flowers.*

ablaze [EMOTION] /ə'bleɪz/ *adj* [after verb] full of energy, interest or emotion: *Her eyes were ablaze with excitement.*

able [CAN DO] **E** /eɪ.bl/ *adj* **be able to do sth** to have the necessary physical strength, mental power, skill, time, money or opportunity to do something: *Will she be able to cope with the work?* ○ *He's never been able to admit to his mistakes.* ○ *I'm sorry that I wasn't able to phone you yesterday.* ○ *It's so wonderful being able to see the sea from my window.* ○ See also **ability** POWER.

USAGE

able or can/could?

Able is used with modal and auxiliary verbs, where **can** or **could** are not grammatically possible.

I might not be able to attend the meeting.
I've never been able to understand him.

able [SKILLFUL] /eɪ.bl/ *adj* clever or good at what you do: *an able child/student/secretary* ○ *This problem is now being looked at by some of the ablest minds/scientists in the country.* ○ See also **ability** POWER.

ably /eɪ.blɪ/ *adv*: *He performs his duties very ably (= skillfully).*

-able [CAN BE] /-ə.bl/ *suffix* (ALSO -ible) added to verbs to form adjectives which mean able to receive the action of the stated verb: *breakable* ○ *washable* ○ *moveable*

-able [WORTH BEING] /-ə.bl/ *suffix* (ALSO -ible) added to verbs to form adjectives which mean worth receiving the action of the stated verb: *an admirable person* ○ *an acceptable answer*

able-bodied /eɪ.blɪ'bɒd.ɪd/ *adj* /-bɑː.dɪd/ *adj* describes someone who is healthy and has no illness, injury or condition that makes it difficult to do the things that other people do: *All able-bodied young men were forced to join the army.* **the 'able-bodied' plural noun:** *It is hard for the able-bodied to understand the difficulties that disabled people encounter in their daily lives.*

ablution /əˈbluː.ʃən/ *noun* [U] **FORMAL** the act of washing yourself: *Ablution is part of some religious ceremonies.*
ablutions /əˈbluː.ʃənz/ *plural noun* **HUMOROUS** I must just perform my ablutions (= wash myself)!

abnormal **A** /æbˈnɔː.məl/ **ADJ** different from what is usual or average, especially in a way that is bad: *abnormal behaviour/weather/conditions* • *Tests revealed some abnormal skin cells.*

abnormality /æbˈnɔː.məl.ə.ti/ **ADJ** [C or U] something abnormal, usually in the body: *genetic/congenital abnormalities* • *An increasing number of tests are available for detecting foetal abnormalities.* • *The X-rays showed some slight abnormality.* **abnormally** /æbˈnɔː.məl.i/ **ADJ** [C or U] *adv.* The success rate was abnormally high.

Abo /æb.əʊ/ **US** /-oʊ/ *noun* [C] (*plural* Abos) **AUS** an Aborigine. This word is generally considered offensive.

aboard **A** /əˈbɔːd/ **ADJ** /-bɔːrd/ *adv.* **prep** used when talking about getting onto a ship, aircraft, bus or train: *The flight attendant welcomed us aboard.* • *Welcome aboard flight BA345 to Tokyo.* • *The train's about to leave. All aboard!* • *We spent two months aboard ship* (= on the ship).

abode /əˈbɔːd/ **ADJ** /-bɔːd/ *noun* [C usually singular] the place where someone lives: **FORMAL** The defendant is of no fixed abode (= has no permanent home). • **HUMOROUS** Welcome to my humble abode!

abolish **A** /əˈbɒl.ɪʃ/ **ADJ** /-bɒl.ɪʃ/ *verb* [T] to end an activity or custom officially: *I think bullfighting should be abolished.* • *National Service was abolished in Britain in 1962.* **abolition** /əb.əˈlɪʃ.ən/ *noun* [U]: the abolition of slavery

abolitionist /əb.əˈlɪʃ.ən.ɪst/ *noun* [C] a person who supports the abolition of something

abominable /əˈbɒm.ɪ.nə.bəl/ **ADJ** /-bɑː.mi-/ *adj* very bad or unpleasant: *The prisoners are forced to live in abominable conditions.* • *The weather's been abominable all week.* **abominably** /əˈbɒm.ɪ.nə.bli/ **ADJ** /-bɑː.mi-/ *adv.* He behaved abominably towards her.

a.bominable 'snowman *noun* [C] a yeti

abomination /əˈbɒm.ɪ.neɪ.ʃən/ **ADJ** /-bɑː.mi-/ *noun* [C] **FORMAL** something that disgusts you: *Foxhunting is an abomination.*

abominate /əˈbɒm.ɪ.neɪt/ **ADJ** /-bɑː.mi-/ *verb* [T not continuous] **FORMAL** to hate something very much: *He abominates cruelty of all kinds.*

aboriginal /əˈbɔːrɪdʒ.ɪ.nəl/ *adj* describes a person or living thing that has existed in a country or continent since the earliest time known to people: *aboriginal forests* • *aboriginal inhabitants*

Aborigine /əˈbɔːrɪdʒ.ɪ.nəl/ *noun* [C] a member of the race of dark-skinned people who were the first people to live in Australia **Aboriginal** /əˈbɔːrɪdʒ.ɪ.nəl/ *adj*: *Aboriginal art/traditions*

Aboriginal /əˈbɔːrɪdʒ.ɪ.nəl/ *noun* [C] an Aborigine

abort **STOP** /əˈbɔːt/ **ADJ** /-bɔːt/ *verb* [T] to cause something to stop or fail before it begins or before it is complete: *The plan/flight had to be aborted at the last minute.*

abortion /əˈbɔː.ʃən/ **ADJ** /-bɔːt-/ *noun* [C] **SLANG** a failure: *This project is a complete abortion.*

abortive /əˈbɔː.tɪv/ **ADJ** /-bɔː.tɪv/ *adj* **FORMAL** describes an attempt or plan that you have to give up because it has failed: *He made two abortive attempts on the French throne.*

abort **END PREGNANCY** /əˈbɔːt/ **ADJ** /-bɔːt-/ *verb* **1** [T] to stop the development of a baby that has not been born, usually by having a medical operation: *Do you think it's wrong to use aborted foetuses for medical research?* **2** [I] another word for miscarriage, see at miscarriage

abortion **A** /əˈbɔː.ʃən/ **ADJ** /-bɔːt-/ *noun* [C or U] the intentional ending of a pregnancy, usually by a medical operation: *She decided to have/get an abortion.* • *Abortion is restricted in some American states.* • Compare miscarriage; stillbirth.

abortionist /əˈbɔː.ʃən.ɪst/ **ADJ** /-bɔːt-/ *noun* [C] a person who performs abortions to end unwanted pregnancies, often illegally and for money

abound /əˈbaʊnd/ *verb* [I] to exist in large numbers: *Theories abound about how the earth began.*

▲ abound in/with sth phrasal verb If something abounds in/with other things, it has a lot of them: *The coast here abounds with rare plants.*

about **CONNECTED WITH** **E** /əˈbaʊt/ *prep* on the subject of, connected with: *What's that book about?* • *a film about the Spanish Civil War* • *We were talking/laughing about Sophie.* • *He's always (going) on about what a great job he's got.* • *I'm worried about David.* • *I really don't know what all the fuss is about.* • *I wish you'd do something about* (= take action to solve the problem of) *your bedroom – it's a real mess.* • **UK INFORMAL** *Could you make me a coffee too while you're about it* (= while you are making one for yourself)? • *What didn't you like about the play?* • **There's something about** (= in the character of) *her attitude that worries me.* • **There's something special about him** (= in his character). • *"Is that your car?" "Yes, what about it" (= why are you asking me?)"* • This is sometimes said in an angry or threatening way.

● **How/What about?** used when suggesting or offering something to someone: *How about a trip to the zoo this afternoon?* • *"Coffee, Sarah?" "No, thanks."* • *"What about you, Kate?"*

about **APPROXIMATELY** **E** /əˈbaʊt/ *adv* a little more or less than the stated number or amount; approximately: *about six feet tall* • *about two months ago* • *"What time are you leaving work today?" "About five."* • *We're about* (= almost) *ready to leave.* • *Well, I think that's about it for now* (= we have almost finished what we are doing for the present).

about **IN THIS PLACE** **UK** **E** /əˈbaʊt/ *adv.* **prep.** **adj** [after verb] (**US** **around**) positioned or moving in or near a place, often without a clear direction, purpose or order: *She always leaves her clothes lying about on the floor.* • *They heard someone moving about outside.* • *I've been running about all morning trying to find you.* • **UK FORMAL** *Do you have such a thing as a pen about you/your person* (= Have you got a pen)? • *Is John about* (= somewhere near)? • *There's a lot of flu about* (= many people have it) *at the moment.*

about **INTENDING** **E** /əˈbaʊt/ *adj* be about to do sth to be going to do something very soon: *I was about to leave when Mark arrived.* • *She looked as if she was about to cry.*

about-turn **UK** /əˈbaʊtˈtʃɜːn/ **ADJ** /-tʃɜːn/ *noun* [C] (**US** **about-face**) **1** a change of direction: *I'd only gone a little way down the street when I remembered I hadn't locked the door, so I made/did a quick about-turn and ran back to the house.* **2** a complete change of opinion or behaviour: *This is the Government's second about-turn on the issue.*

above **HIGHER POSITION** **E** /əˈbaʊ/ *adv.* **prep** in or to a higher position than something else: *There's a mirror above the washbasin.* • *He waved the letter excitedly above his head.* • *She's rented a room above a shop.* • *Her name comes above mine on the list.* • *The helicopter was hovering above the building.*

above **MORE** **E** /əˈbaʊ/ *adv.* **prep** **1** more than an amount or level: *It says on the box it's for children aged three and above.* • *Rates of pay are above average.* • *Temperatures rarely rise above zero in winter.* • *She values her job above her family.* • *They value their freedom above (and beyond) all else.* **2** above all most importantly: *Above all, I'd like to thank my family.*

above **ON PAGE** **E** /əˈbaʊ/ *adv.* **adj** When used in a piece of writing, above means higher on the page, or on a previous page: *Please send the articles to the address given above.*

the a'bove plural noun all the people or things listed earlier: *All of the above should be invited.*

above **RANK** **A** /əˈbaʊ/ *adv.* **prep** in a more important or advanced position than someone else: *Sally's a grade above me.*

above **TOO IMPORTANT** /əˈbaʊ/ *adv.* **prep** too good or important for something: *No one is above suspicion in this matter.* • *He's not above lying* (= he sometimes lies) *to protect himself.*

a,bove 'board *adj* [after verb] describes a plan or business agreement that is honest and not trying to deceive anyone: *The deal was completely open and above board.*

above-mentioned /əˈbʌvˈmen.tʃnd/ *adj* FORMAL refers to things or people in a document or book that have been mentioned earlier: *All of the above-mentioned films won Oscars.* ⇨ Compare **undermentioned**.

abracadabra /ˌæb.rə.kəˈdæb.rə/ *exclamation* said by someone who is performing a magic trick, in order to help them perform it successfully

abrade /əˈbreɪd/ *verb* [T] SPECIALIZED to remove part of the surface of something by rubbing

abrasion /əˈbreɪ.ʒn/ *noun* SPECIALIZED 1 [U] the process of rubbing away the surface of something: *There seems to have been some abrasion of the surface.* 2 [C] a place where the surface of something, such as skin, has been rubbed away: *She had a small abrasion on her knee.*

abrasive [CLEANING SUBSTANCE] /əˈbreɪ.sɪv/ *noun* [C] a substance used for rubbing away the surface of something, usually to clean it or make it shiny: *You'll need a strong abrasive for cleaning this sink.* **abrasive** /əˈbreɪ.sɪv/ *adj*: *an abrasive cleaner/powder/liquid*

abrasive [UNPLEASANT] /əˈbreɪ.sɪv/ *adj* rude and unfriendly: *She has a rather abrasive manner.* **abrasively** /əˈbreɪ.sɪv.li/ *adv* **abrasiveness** /əˈbreɪ.sɪv.nəs/ *noun* [U]

abreast /əˈbrest/ *adv* 1 describes two or more people who are next to each other and moving in the same direction: *We were running/cycling two abreast.* 2 *The motorcyclist came abreast of her car and shouted abuse at her.* 2 **keep abreast of sth** to stay informed about the most recent facts about a subject or situation: *I try to keep abreast of any developments.*

abridge /əˈbrɪdʒ/ *verb* [T] to make a book, play or piece of writing shorter by removing details and unimportant information: *The book was abridged for children.*

abridged /əˈbrɪdʒd/ *adj*: *I've only read the abridged edition/version of her novel.* **abridgment, abridgement** /əˈbrɪdʒ.mənt/ *noun* [C or U]

abroad [FOREIGN PLACE] ③ /əˈbrɔːd/ *adj* [after verb], *adv* in or to a foreign country or countries: *He's currently abroad on business.* ② *We always go abroad in the summer.*

abroad [OUT] /əˈbrɔːd/ *adj* [after verb] 1 LITERARY OR OLD USE outside; not at home: *Not a soul was abroad that morning.* 2 FORMAL describes ideas, feelings and opinions that are shared by many people: *There's a rumour abroad that she intends to leave the company.*

abrogate /əˈbrɒɡeɪt/ ⑤ /-rə-/ *verb* [T] FORMAL to end a law, agreement or custom formally: *The treaty was abrogated in 1929.* **abrogation** /əˈbrɒɡeɪ.ʃn/ ⑤ /-rə-/ *noun* [S or U] FORMAL

abrupt [SUDDEN] ② /əˈbrʌpt/ *adj* describes something that is sudden and unexpected, and often unpleasant: *an abrupt change/movement* ② *Our conversation came to an abrupt end when George burst into the room.* ② *The road ended in an abrupt (= sudden and very steep) slope down to the sea.* **abruptly** /əˈbrʌpt.li/ *adv*: *The talks ended abruptly when one of the delegations walked out in protest.* **abruptness** /əˈbrʌpt.nəs/ *noun* [U]

abrupt [UNFRIENDLY] /əˈbrʌpt/ *adj* using too few words when talking, in a way that seems rude and unfriendly: *an abrupt manner/reply* ② *He is sometimes very abrupt with clients.* **abruptly** /əˈbrʌpt.li/ *adv* **abruptness** /əˈbrʌpt.nəs/ *noun* [U]

ABS /eɪ.biː.əs/ *noun* [U] ABBREVIATION FOR anti-lock braking system: a brake fitted to some road vehicles that prevents SKIDDING (= uncontrolled sliding) by reducing the effects of sudden braking

abs /æbz/ *plural noun* INFORMAL ABDOMINAL muscles: *exercises to tone/build up your abs*

abscess /ˈæb.ses/ *noun* [C] a painful swollen area on or in the body, which contains pus (= thick, yellow liquid): *She had an abscess on her gum.*

abscond [ESCAPE] /æbˈskɒnd/ ⑤ /-skaːnd/ *verb* [I] to go away suddenly and secretly in order to escape from somewhere: *Two prisoners absconded last night.* ② *She absconded from boarding school with her boyfriend.* **absconder** /æbˈskɒn.də/ ⑤ /-skaːn.də/ *noun* [C]: *A 14 year-old absconder from a children's home in Bristol was found alive and well in London this morning.*

abscond [STEAL] /æbˈskɒnd/ ⑤ /-skaːnd/ *verb* [I] to go away suddenly and secretly because you have stolen

something, usually money: *They absconded with £10 000 of the company's money.*

abseil UK /ˈæb.seɪl/ *verb* [I] (US **rappel**) to go down a very steep slope by holding on to a rope which is fastened to the top of the slope: *She abseiled down the rock face.* **abseil** UK /ˈæb.seɪl/ *noun* [C] (US **rappel**)

absence [NOT PRESENT] ① /ˈæb.səns/ *noun* [C or U] when someone is not where they are usually expected to be: *A new manager was appointed during/in her absence.* ② *She has had repeated absences from work this year.*

● **Absence makes the heart grow fonder.** SAYING This means that we feel more affection for people we love when they are not with us.

absent ① /ˈæb.sənt/ *adj* not in the place where you are expected to be, especially at school or work: *John has been absent from school/work for three days now.* ② *We drank a toast to absent friends.*

ab'sent yourself /æbˈsent/ *verb* [R] FORMAL to not go to a place where you are expected to be, especially a school or place of work: *You cannot choose to absent yourself (from work/school) on a whim.*

absentee /ˈæb.sənˈtiː/ *noun* [C] someone who is not at school or work when they should be: *There are several absentees in the school this week, because a lot of people have got flu.* **absenteeism** /ˈæb.sənˈtiː.ɪ.zm/ *noun* [U]: *The high rate of absenteeism is costing the company a lot of money.*

absence [NOT EXISTING] ② /ˈæb.səns/ *noun* [U] when something does not exist: *He drew attention to the absence of concrete evidence against the defendant.* ② *In the absence of (= because there were not) more suitable candidates, we decided to offer the job to Mr Conway.*

absent /ˈæb.sənt/ *adj* not present: *Any sign of remorse was completely absent from her face.*

absent /ˈæb.sənt/ *adj* describes a person or the expression on their face when they are not paying attention to what is happening near them, and are thinking about other things

absent /ˈæb.sənt/ *prep* US in the absence of; without: *Absent a detailed plan, the project was doomed from the start.* **absently** /ˈæb.sənˈtiː.li/ *adv*

absentee 'ballot US *noun* [C] (AUS **absentee vote**) a piece of paper which voters who are unable to be present at an election can vote on and send in by post

absentee landlord *noun* [C] a person who rents out a house, apartment or farm to someone, but rarely or never visits it

absent-minded /ˈæb.sənˈmaɪn.dɪd/ *adj* describes someone who tends to forget things or does not pay attention to what is happening near them because they are thinking about other things **absent-mindedly** /ˈæb.sənˈmaɪn.dɪd.li/ *adv*: *She absent-mindedly left her umbrella on the bus.* **absent-mindedness** /ˈæb.sənˈmaɪn.dɪd.nəs/ *noun* [U]

absinthe, absinth /ˈæb.sæθ/ /-sɪntθ/ ⑤ /-/-/ *noun* [U] a strong alcoholic drink which is green and has a bitter taste

absolute [VERY GREAT] ② /ˈæb.səˈluːt/ /-/-/ *adj* 1 very great or to the largest degree possible: *a man of absolute integrity/discretion* ② *I have absolute faith in her judgment.* ② *There was no absolute proof of fraud.* 2 [before noun] used when expressing a strong opinion: *He's an absolute idiot!* ② *That's absolute rubbish!*

absolutely ③ /ˈæb.səˈluːt.li/ /-/-/ *adv* 1 completely: *I believed/trusted him absolutely.* ② *You must be absolutely silent or the birds won't appear.* ③ *We've achieved absolutely nothing today.* 2 used for adding force to a strong adjective which is not usually used with 'very', or to a verb expressing strong emotion: *It's absolutely impossible to work with all this noise.* ③ *The food was absolutely disgusting/delicious.* ③ *I absolutely loathe/adore jazz.* 3 used as a way of strongly saying 'yes': *"It was an excellent film, though." "Absolutely!"* 4 absolutely not used as a way of strongly saying 'no': *"Are you too tired to continue?" "Absolutely not!"*

absolute [NOT CHANGING] /ˈæb.səˈluːt/ /-/-/ *adj* [before noun] not dependent on anything else; true, right, or the same in all situations: *an absolute law/principle/doctrine* ② *Do you think there's such a thing as absolute truth/beauty?*