



A handy reference book that's more than a dictionary,  
more than a grammar, more than a manual of style...

# ENCYCLOPEDIC DICTIONARY OF ENGLISH USAGE



by N.H. Mager and S.K. Mager

In addition to 15,000 definitions, this mammoth volume contains: Guides to spelling...grammar...punctuation . . . pronunciation . . . names . . . places . . . titles . . . synonyms . . . abbreviations . . . foreign words . . . new words . . . hundreds of units of measure . . . clearly defined, with many examples!



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PRENTICE-HALL, INC.  
Englewood Cliffs, N.J.



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## A WORD FROM THE AUTHORS

*Encyclopedic Dictionary of English Usage* was compiled from experience—the experience of answering thousands of questions through the years: “How do you say . . . ?” “How do you write . . . ?” Basically, it is a selection from many reference books, from clippings, and from original inquiry. It has taken the gist of the *Style Manual* of the Government Printing Office, which is our first authority; *A Manual of Style*, the University of Chicago Press; the *Style Book* of the *New York Times*; some basic grammars and government writing manuals; various primers of thousands of words misspelled, misused, misunderstood or mispronounced; and some basic writings on filing, spelling, pronunciation and usage. It is more than a dictionary, more than a grammar, more than a manual of style—in many ways it serves the purposes of all three. To the numerous compilers before them, the editors express their sincere appreciation.

Included, too, are definitions and explanations of commonly used—or misused—expressions and abbreviations: terms such as B-52 bomber, the MiG 15, fore and aft, the ducat and the furlong. These are terms that most of us accept without a clear valuation, and often with a misconception as to significance.

This encyclopedic dictionary is a composite tool to help you speak and write more correctly and more specifically, to understand more completely the terms you commonly use or read, to resolve your doubts about what is incorrect and what is best usage, and to suggest a uniform style in matters where good usage permits a choice of several alternatives.

How is this book different from other manuals of style, usage and grammar? First, because it is an integrated work, combining a variety of the most common problems into a single, alphabetically arranged unit. Second, it explains by example rather than by exposition. The editors feel that this provides the answers more specifically, more expeditiously, and usually more simply. Third,



this manual provides the answers to more everyday problems because the answers are more concisely put, and because only common problems are presented. Frequency of use is the major criterion for inclusion.

In making selection of people and places, the importance of those selected was of minimum consideration. It was the difficulty involved in pronunciation, spelling or comprehension that finally determined the choice, and the fact that the name or word appeared in writings or conversation that nominated the item for inclusion. In a few instances, a family tree is recited to distinguish between generations and families of similar names: the Rockefeller, the Roosevelt.

In creating a pronunciation explanation system some of the subtleties have been eliminated to provide a universally understandable system with minimum reference to a code.

### *Vowels*

<i>Sound Expressed By</i>		<i>Webster Phonetic</i>	
<i>a</i>			
ae	=	$\bar{a}$	as in may, day, delay
a	=	a	as in map, bad, pass
ai	=	ai	as in hair
ah	=	$\bar{a}$	as in bother, father
aw	=	$\bar{o}$	as in saw, all, prawn
<i>e</i>			
ee	=	e, $\acute{e}$	as in meat, bleed, tree
eh	=	e, $e\acute{u}$	as in bed, elk, operate
eu	=	$\ddot{e}u$	as in few
<i>i</i>			
ie	=	$\bar{i}$	as in why, side, buy
ih	=	i, $\acute{i}$ , $\acute{u}$	as in tip, wish, iln
<i>o</i>			
oh	=	$\bar{o}$	as in woe, snow, toad
oi	=	oi	as in coin, employ, coy
oo	=	$\bar{u}$	as in rule, spitoon, truth
ou	=	$ou\acute{}$	as in now, plow, denounce





<i>u</i>			
u	=	ü	as in stood, soot, could
uh	=		as in duchess, hurry

### *Consonants*

wh	as in what, when, whale
sh	as in shock, shun, dish
th	as in either, then, diphthong
zh	as in division, azure

Cross references are indicated by:

SEE. Where little or no information is given in the original listing, and *Cf.* where additional information is given in another listing.

To use this encyclopedic dictionary effectively, you need take only two steps: 1) determine the word or subject that presents a problem, and 2) seek it out in alphabetical order. Explanations are purposely limited, but proper usage is indicated for each situation.


Most problems in the use of language can resolve themselves into single words. Some may involve spelling, capitalization, or pronunciation; others, meaning; still others may involve confusing grammatical usage. These words are integrated in alphabetical order and easily found.

Where two spellings are correct, the first spelling, alphabetically, is used in listing. Problems in grammar, punctuation, filing, and style are listed under a subject heading: CAPITALIZATION, COMMA, HYPHENIZATION, MEASUREMENT, NAMES, NUMBER, PREDICATE and so forth. Finding the listings is thus as easy as ABC.

Many shortenings have been utilized; the elimination of articles, the use of some non-standard, but understandable abbreviations, the designation of "adj." for unit modifier, and a general conciseness. In most instances, examples of correct usage are given without explanation or exposition, as the simplest answer to imaginary questions. In indicating proper endings, the last letter has been repeated rather than merely the addition of a suffix; the editors felt this was the way it was most explicable in ordinary situations.

Finally, in compiling and editing the selection contained in this work, the editors have attempted to create a tool with maximum





usefulness as determined by our own experience. We hope that readers in the business and professional worlds, students at high school and college levels, and indeed any individual who seeks to improve his ability to communicate in speaking and writing will find the book useful, enlightening, and entertaining.

*N.H. and S.K. Mager*





## TYPICAL LANGUAGE PROBLEMS THIS ENCYCLOPEDIC DICTIONARY SOLVES



### *How to pronounce*

Bogota, N.J.  
bona fide  
Cairo, Ill.  
Albert Camus  
maniacal  
Schism

Sinn Fein  
Taliaferro County  
Tyrol  
Uruguay  
vive voce  
Worcester, Mass.

### *When to capitalize*

a.d.  
b.c.  
a.m.  
the bible  
calliope

court  
DeGaulle  
state  
tours  
union

### *How to abbreviate*

California  
Canadian dollars  
Doctor of Literature  
Hawaii  
kilograms

New Mexico  
pence (penny)  
Quebec  
Senate concurrent resolution  
subparagraph

### *Differentiate between*

Algiers and Algeria	1 lb. avoirdupois and 1 lb. troy
amoral, immoral, unmoral	the Republic of the Congo and
catboat, cutter, sloop (SEE boat)	the Congo Republic
emerge and immerge	scherzo and scherzando
fervent and fervid	sensual and sensuous
hue, brilliance, color	technic and technique
insidious and invidious	valance and valence





*Define or explain*

caduceus	a palindrome
didactic	samurai
embrasure	Scandinavia
empiricism	subjunctive mood
Latin America	tendentious
monopsony	a usufruct

*Which to write*

caret, carat, or carrot	judgement or judgment
Cameroon or Cameroun	Michigander or Michiganite
different from or different than	Scotsman or Scotchman
farther or further	10 or ten (SEE Numbers)
FCC or F.C.C.	X ray, Xray or X-ray

*How much is*

a dekaliter	a league
a fathom	an octavo
a hogshead	a septimillion
one horsepower	a talent
a knot	a tun

*Which is the correct spelling*

accommodate or accomodate	perseverence or perseverance
acoustics or accoustics	pronunciation or pronounciation
arbitrator or arbitrater	sacrilegious or sacreligious
encumbrance or encumberance	supercede or supersede
irascible or irascible	wierd or weird
merringue or meringue	

*. . . and many thousands more.*



# A

**a.** As an article, use *a* before all consonants except silent *h*. *a history, a humble man, a 4-H club*. ALSO before a consonant sound in a vowel. *a union, a UFC station, a one-time champion*. Cf. *an*.

**a.** (abbr.) ampere; are (metric system ), area.

**A.** (abbr.) altitude, atomic weight, area, areage, absolute (temperature).

**A-bomb.** A-flat, A-frame, A-pole, A-sharp.

**aa.** author's alteration.

**A.A.** Alcoholics Anonymous; athletic association; *Boston A.A.*

**AAC.** *anno ante Christum* (Lat.) Year before Christ.

**Aachen** [AH-k'n]. (Fr.) Aix-la-Chapelle, [AEKS-la-sha-PEHL] city, W. Germany.

**Aaron** [AIR'n].

**A.B.** or *a.b.* (abbr.) able-bodied seaman.

**A.B.** or *B.A.* (abbr.) bachelor of arts.

**abaca.** Manila hemp; also the plant from which it comes.

**abacus.** Pl. abici, abacie, or abacuses. A calculating instrument.

**abattoir** [ab-a-TWAR]. Slaughterhouse.

**abbe** [a-BAE]. (Fr.) A secular ecclesiastic.

**Abbot** (Catholic). ADDRESS: His Excellency, The Right Reverend John Jones, Abbot of Briarcliff. SALUTATION: Your Excellency.

**Abbot** (Protestant). ADDRESS: The Lord Abbot of Briarcliff, or The Right Reverend Abbot Brown. SALUTATION: Dear Father Abbot; My Lord Abbot.

**abbreviation.** A shortening of a word or phrase. abbreviated abbr. —ated, —ating, —able.

**ABRIDGMENT.** Shortening by selection of most important portions.

**ABBREVIATIONS.** Some abbreviations have evolved into commonly used words. They are then treated as words with points omitted: *NATO, co-op, etc.*

Although styles differ, the tendency is for abbreviations to lose their points as they increase in use. Thus GPO style drops the points on almost all federal and international agencies, the *New York Times* on some, and some publishers on only a few. When an abbreviation is made up of letters from one word, it generally does not require a point, *TV*; but where two or more words are involved, *N. Y. Times* usually uses abbreviation points, *R.F.D.*

In most writings, abbreviations are to be avoided, but more extensive use is made of them in tabular material, headlines, indexes, and addresses. The chief factor in deciding when to use an abbreviation is reading facility—the readiness with which the reader can determine the meaning and the technical space limitations.

A large number of words, particularly new ones, are so distracting to the eye or so difficult to pronounce that abbreviation is necessary for good communication. Such abbreviations are proper both in writing and in speech: *DDT, DP, R.S.V.P., D.A.R., V.I.P., G.I., M.C., KLM*. (Imagine spelling out Koninkli jke Luchtvaart Maat-schaapi voor Nederland en Kolonien N.V.!)

The Abbreviation Point looks like a period and is used after many abbreviations. Although the abbreviation point is combined with a period into one dot at the end of a sentence, it remains before any other punctuation mark. Customary usage eliminates the point for abbreviations of governmental organizations. DO NOT use the abbreviation point after: (1) chemical symbols ( $H_2O$ ); (2) formal signs of books (*8vo*); (3) initials used as titles of technical publica-



## ABC

tions or organizations in technical matter (*PAIS, Public Affairs Information Service*); (4) linguistic epochs (*IE, Indo-European*); (5) per cent; (6) contractions (*can't*); (7) shortened forms of names (*Sam*); (8) Roman numerals (*XIX*); (9) letters not used as abbreviations (*A and B met and discussed the matter.*) BUT: If *A* and *B* are abbreviations for actual names, the abbreviation point is used.

**ABC.** (abbr.) atomic, biological, and chemical (war weapons).

**ABC's.** The alphabet.

**Aberdeen** [AB-ehr-DEEN]. City in Scotland; City in Maryland.

**abettor.** Preferred to *abetter*, especially in law.

**abide.** For p.p., *abode* is preferable to *abided* (in the sense of *dwelt*) BUT *He abided by his statements.*

**abjure.** Forswear; renounce on oath; disavow.

**ADJURE.** Charge or command solemnly; entreat or appeal to earnestly.

—**able.** When added to a transitive verb, drop any final silent *e* or *ate* of polysyllabic words: *abominable, rebatable, accumulable.*

—**ible** is an alternative established by custom for some forms. The general rule: (1) When there is a corresponding noun that ends in *—tion* preceded by *a*, the adjective ending is *—able*: *quotation, quotable; presentation, presentable.* (2) When there is a corresponding noun ending in *—tion* or *—sion* not preceded by *a*, the adjective ending is *—ible*: *expansible, extensible, admissible.* Words formed from them by adding the prefixes *in-, un-, non-*, also have the *—ible* ending.

**able-bodied.** (adj.), **able-minded** (adj.).

**abolition.** abolishing, abolishment, in order of preference.

**aborigine.** [AB-oh-RIHJ-ih-nee]. Pl. *—ines*; *—inal* (adj.).

**about.** Informal for approximately. BUT NEVER *about forty to fifty.* NOT: *He estimated about 15,000 were present.*

**about-face.**

## ABSTEMIOUS

**above.** (adv.) Generally, at a higher level. Also, foregoing.

**OVER.** Indicates a higher level, sometimes with intimation of motion.

**ON.** Indicates touching.

**UPON.** Formal for *on*.

**UNDER, UNDERNEATH.** SEE below.

**above statement, above-listed, above-mentioned.** Avoid as stilted. *The example above* is pref. to *the above example.* ALSO acceptable: *statement given above, this.*

**abridgment.** Preferred to *abridgement*; *—eable.* *abridged from, abridgment of.* Cf. *abbreviation.*

**abrogate** [AB-roh-gaet]. Annul; abolish; repeal. *—gable.*

**ABRUPT MODIFICATION.** A rhetorical device in which the modifier appears immediately after the subject at the beginning of a sentence. This places an emphasis on the subject. *The law, although unenforceable, was a major deterrent to fraud.*

**abs.** (abbr.) absolute; abstract.

**abscess** [AB-sess]. Infection; collection of pus.

**absence.** absentee; *—teeism.*

**absent-minded.**

**ABSOLUTE CONSTRUCTION** (nominative absolute). A literary construction in which the participial phrase is not connected with the main clause. *The facts being proved, he won his point.*

**absolve** [ab-SAHLV]. Free from a bond or obligation, or from condemnation for sin. *He was absolved from sin after confessing.*

**absorb** [ab-SAWRB]. Take into.

**ADSORB** [ad-SAWRB]. To condense and hold by absorption, the adhesion of a thin layer of molecules to the surface of a solid body.

**abstemious** [ab-STEE-mee-uhs]. Displaying habitual moderation in food and liquor.

**ABSTINENT.** Displaying forbearance from indulgence, (as in certain foods). Habitual restraint, especially from intoxicating beverages, is *total abstinence.*



## ABSTRACT NOUN

**ABSTRACT NOUN.** A noun that names a quality, state or idea: *peace, freedom, whiteness*. Abstract is also used to mean the general class (*fruit*) as opposed to the particular (*apple*). Lower-case except where a proper name is involved. Overuse of abstract nouns makes a writing difficult to read. A concrete noun names a specific member of a group: *snake* rather than *reptile*.

**abutting.** Touching, sometimes with a protruding portion.

**abysmal** [a-BIHZ-m-1]. Deep; bottomless.

**ABYSSAL.** (Unfathomable; tech., water depth over 300 fathoms.)

**abyss.** bottomless, unmeasurable.

**CHASM** is deep, long, and narrow.

**Abyssinia** [ab-uh-SIHN-ih-uh]. SEE Ethiopia.

**A.C.** (abbr.) athletic club.

**a.c.** (abbr.) alternating current.

**academician** [uh-kad-uh-MISH-'n].

**academic degrees and titles.** John J. Smith, Ph.D.; John J. Smith, Doctor of Philosophy; Prof. John J. Smith; Professor Smith; the professor. Degrees and titles are listed separately in this sequence; theological degrees, degrees earned in course, and honorary degrees in order of bestowal.

**academic departments.** Lower-case department of philosophy, department of French literature, etc.

**Academy.** Andover Academy, the academy; Merchant Marine Academy, the academy (BUT GPO uses Academy for a second reference). Most styles capitalize a second reference to National Academy of Science; the Academy of Sciences; French Academy; the United States Military, Naval, and Air Force Academies. BUT the service academies.

**Acadia** [uh-KAE-dih-uh]. Original name of Nova Scotia.

**a cappella** [ah-kah-PELL-ah]. Unaccompanied choral music.

**Acapulco de Juarez** [ah-kah-POOL-koh dthae-HWAH-raes]. South Mexico Pacific seaport-resort.

## ACCOMPANIED BY, WITH

**accede** [ak-SEED]. (v.) Assume an office; assent to.

**EXCEED.** Surpass.

**ACCENT.** When the same multisyllabic word is both noun and adjective, the adjective is usually accented on the last syllable; the noun on the first syllable: (n.) an *EX-pert*; (adj.) *ex-PERT* player. When the word is both a noun and a verb, the verb is usually accented on last syllable; progress (n.) [*PRAHG-rehs*]; (v.) [*proh-GREHS*]. Sometimes the consonantal sound at the end is hard in the noun, soft in the verb; use (n.) *yooz*; (v.) *yooz*; excuse (n.) *ex-KYOOS*; (v.) *ex-KYOOZ*. There are no general rules regarding accent in the English language, but new words tend to follow the accent of similar older words. The tendency is towards recessive accents, and towards accenting the first syllable.

**accept.** Receive willingly. *I accept your gift.*

**EXCEPT.** Leave out, exclude. *He gave a gift to everyone except me.*

**acceptance.** In general, approval. Act of accepting.

**ACCEPTATION.** The meaning of a word as it is generally understood.

**accepter.** Preferred to —*or*. In law, acceptor.

**access.** Opportunity of admission.

**EXCESS.** Too much.

**accession** [ak-SESH-uhn]. Approach; adherence; something added; reaching an office or condition.

**accessory** [ak-SES-oh-ree]. (n. or adj.) Preferred to *accessary*. (adj.) Aiding or assisting; (n.) that which (or one who) assists or contributes.

**accidentally.** NOT *accidently*.

**acclimate** [uh-KLIE-miht; AK-luh-maet]. Also *acclimatize* [uh-KLIE-muh-tiez].

**accolade** [ak-oh-LAED]. A ritual embrace; award.

**accompanied by, with.** *By* is used to indicate an additional person. *With* is used to indicate supplementary activity. *He arrived, accompanied by his valet. She introduced her fiancée and accompanied her remarks with an affectionate hug.* —nying, —niment.



## ACCOMMODATE

**accommodate.** -ted, -ting.

**accompanist.** Preferred to *-nyist*.

**accordion.** NOT *accordian*.

**accouchement** [uh-KOOSH-mahn or mehnt].  
Delivery in childbirth; confinement period of pregnancy.

**account of** ... *describe* is redundant. NOT:  
*An account of his adventures is described in*  
... *Cf. cause.*

**accouter** [uh-KOOT-er]. Pref. to *accoutre*.  
Furnish with equipment or dress; *accouterment*.

**acct.** (abbr.) *account*. Also *a/c*.

**accumulate** [a-KYOO-myuh-laet]. —ting.

**accurate** [AK-yoo-riht] —racy.

**accursed.** Preferred to *accurst*.

**ACCUSATIVE CASE** is used for objects of a verb or a preposition; more commonly called the objective case: I hit *him*. It is on the *table*. *Cf. Objective Case.*

**accuse of.** Charge with: *I accuse him of theft.*

**acetic** [a-SEE-tihk]. Pertains to vinegar.

**ASCETIC** [a-SEHT-ihk]. Given to self-denial; austere.

**Acheson, Dean Gooderham** [AT-chehs-ihn].  
(1893–1971) U.S. statesman; Sec. of State, 1949–1952.

**achieve.** Implies effort. AVOID: *achieving old age*.

**ack-ack.** Antiaircraft gun, or its fire.

**acknowledgment.** Preferred to *acknowledgement*. BUT *acknowledgeable*.

**acoustics** [uh-KOOS-tihks]. The science of sound; qualities that determine the clarity of sound in a room.

**acquiesce** [ak-wee-EHS]. Accept or comply passively.

**acre.** Unit of area measure. = 40469 hectare = 4,046.8726 sq. meters = 10 sq. surveyor's ch. = 160 sq. rods = 4840 sq. yd. = 43560 sq.ft. = approx. 2/3 city square block.

## ADAPT

**acreage.**

**acre-foot.** Measure of water = 1 foot covering 1 acre = 325,900 gals. Also *acre-inch*.

**acrid** [AK-rid]. Irritating; corrosive.

**acrostic.** Verse in which initial letters of words or lines form a word or words.

**Act.** (federal, state, or foreign). Capitalize short or popular title: *Classification Act, Economy Act, Lend-Lease Act*. BUT: the act.

**ACT.** A simple deed.

**act of God.** Unpreventable accident.

**Acting.** Capitalize if part of complete capitalized title: *Acting Secretary of State*. BUT: *the acting secretary*.

**activate.** To make active, esp. through chemical treatment.

**ACTUATE** [AK-tyoo-aet]. Put into action; incite to activity; arouse. Implies communication of power.

**acumen** [a-KYOO-m'n]. Keeness of mind.

**A.D.** (abbr.) *anno Domini* (of the year of our Lord). The specific year should follow, NOT precede: *A.D. 1964*. NOT: *the tenth century A.D.* In type, often written with small caps : **A.D.**

**B.C.,** before Christ; the year should precede: *70 B.C.* In type, often small caps : **B.C.**

**B.C.E.** Before the Christian Era. *70 B.C.E.*  
**C.E.** The Christian Era.

**ad.** (abbr.) Shortening of "advertisement." No period.

**ADD.** Increase.

**ADA.** (abbr.) Americans for Democratic Action, liberal political organization.

**Ada.** Adah [ae-dah].

**adagio** [uh-DAH-joh]. A slow, graceful musical composition or dance. Pl. -gios.

**adapt.** -ed, -ing, -ter; -able (adj.), -ability (n.) ; -ive (adj.), -ation (n.). To make suitable; to fit or suit. *He adapts himself well to new situations.*



## ADDENDUM

**ADOPT.** Take as one's own. *They adopted a new policy.*

**addendum.** Addition; supplement. Pl. -da.

**add.** Join to or unite with; append. addible.

**addicted to.** Must be followed by a noun.

**Addis Ababa** [AHD-ihs AH-buh-buh]. Capital of Ethiopia.

**addict** [AD-ihkt (n.) or -dihkt (v.)]. give oneself over to; (n.) one addicted to a habit, especially to taking drugs. -ed, -ing; -ed (adj.); -edness (n.), -tion (n.).

**addle.** Confuse; muddle.

**addle.** —brain, —head, —pate.

**address** [uh-DREHS]. (v.) Address, lecture, speech are in descending order of formality.

**ADDRESS.** In general, the address should stand out clearly from the body of a letter and should be specific and complete on the envelope. Principal words are capitalized. Mr., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Rev. or Hon. precede a name; Esq., Jr., Sr., 2d and academic degrees follow the name. BUT: When a degree or Esq. follows a name, there should be no preceding title. Write out North, South, West and East. In an address NW., SW., NE., SE., indicate divisions of a city. Do not abbreviate *street* or *building* as part of a name, *Court Street Building*, but street, avenue, place, road, square, boulevard building, terrace, or court may be abbreviated following a name or numbers. Write out names of U.S. states, territories or possessions when standing alone, but abbreviate after the name of a city (except Alaska, Hawaii, Idaho, Maine, Ohio, Utah, Canal Zone, Puerto Rico, Samoa, and Virgin Islands). Unofficial abbreviations widely used are: Alas., Ida., Me., O., Ut., C.Z., P.R., V.I. Where it is known, the zip code should appear on an envelope, following the names of city and state: New York, N.Y. 10020. Where the zip code is not known and the postal zone is known, the postal zone should appear between city and state, followed by a comma: New York 10, N.Y.

**adduce.** Offer as an argument; cite. -ced, -cing; -cible (adj.) Preferred to *-eable*.

**adept** [uh-DEHPT]. Skilled: *She is adept with a needle.* *Adept in* is preferred to *adept at*.

## ADJOINING

**adequate.** Sufficient.

**adhere.** Stick; cling. -ed, -ing; -ent (n. and adj.); -ence (n.).

**ADHERENCE.** Mental or moral attachment.

**ad hoc** [ad hahk]. (Lat.) For this (special purpose): *ad hoc committee*.

**ad hominem** [ad HAHM-in-ehm]. (Lat.) To the man; refers to an argument that appeals to one's prejudices rather than to reason.

**adieu** [uh-DYEU]. Farewell. Pl. —s or —x, leave-takings.

**adj.** (abbr.) adjective.

**adjacent.** . . . to . . . Not *of*.

**ADJECTIVE.** A word used to qualify a noun.

It generally has no special forms to denote singular, plural, or gender, but most adjectives have comparative and superlative forms. Cf. Comparison. Nouns, pronouns, verbal forms of verbs, and some adverbs, may be used as adjectives: *sink washers, frightening crowds, frightened crowds*. Adjectives are classified as adherent when they are placed before a noun; apposite when they are placed after a noun; predicate when they follow a linking verb; objective complement or factitive when they follow the object of a verb. In a series of adjectives, the usual order is: (1) definitive adjectives (*a, the, this*); (2) ordinal numbers (*second, third*, BUT NOT *first, last*, and *others*); (3) cardinal numbers (*seven, two*); (4) fractions (*one-half*); (5) units (*tenths, dozens*); (6) adjective of degree (*more, least*); (7) judgment words (*true, happy, ugly*); (8) descriptive adjectives (*bright*); (9) adjective of size (*tall, slight*); (10) adjectives of color (*blue, green*). Phrases and clauses follow the noun. Exceptions have been established by popular usage in some forms and when *of* is needed: *half of the men, half the men*.

Compound adjective forms are hyphenated for clarity when they precede the noun: *The first-class passengers*. BUT: *The scholastic standing of the school is first class*.

Adjectives (and adverbs) are compared in three forms: positive, comparative (with *-er* added, or prefixed by *more*) and superlative (with *-est* added, or prefixed by *most*).

**adjoining.** Having a common boundary, contiguous.



## ADJ. GEN.

**ADJACENT.** Near. Next to, but not necessarily connected; i.e., *a road may run between adjacent farms.*

**ATTACHED.** Fastened to, connected.

**Adj. Gen.** adjutant general. Pl. adjutants general.

**adjoin** [a-JOIN]. -ed, -ing; -ing (adj.). See adjoining.

**ADJOURN** [a-JEHRN, NOT ad-]. -ed, -ing; -ment (n.). Cf. prorogue.

**adjudge** [a-JUHJ]. Decide; determine; order or decree. -ed, -ging.

**adjudicate** [a-JOO-dih-kaet]. Decide judicially. -ting, -cable.

**adjure** [a-joor]. Command solemnly; entreat earnestly. Cf. abjure.

**ad-lib.** (Theatrical slang). To speak lines not in the script. -bbled, -bbing. (n.) ad lib, pl. ad libs; (adj.), ad-lib.

**Adm.** (abbr.) admiral. Used with a name.

**administer.** Manage; direct. -ed, -ing; trable (adj.), -trant (adj.), -trate (v.), -tration (n.)

**administrate.** -ed, -ting, -tive (adj.); -tion (n.), -tor (n.), -torship (n.), -tratrix (n.).

**Administration.** Capitalize with name when referring to specific agency appointed by the President and standing alone if referring to a federal unit: Farmers Home Administration, Food and Drug Administration, Maritime Administration, Veterans Administration, etc., the Administration. BUT: Roosevelt administration; administration bill, policy, etc.

**administration.** British use *government* or the *ministry*.

**Administrator** of Veterans Affairs; the administrator.

**administrator.** In law, a person who administers an estate.

**administratrix.** Female administrator. Pl. -tratrices [trae-TRIE-seez or TRAE-trih-seez].

**admirable** [AD-muh-ra-uh-b'l]. Cf. strong opinion words.

## ADVERB

**admiral.** Charles F. Hughes, rear admiral, United States Navy; the rear admiral; Admiral Hughes.

**Admiralty.** Lord of the (British, etc.).

**admire.** -red, -ring; -ring (adj.); -rer (n.).

**admission.** More generally used than admittance (entrance) to suggest accompanying rights, obligations, and so on: admission to a church, a group.

**admit.** -tted, -tting; -ttance (n.).

**admit of.** *He will admit of no other solution.*

**ad nauseam** [ad-NAW-shee-am or NAW-see-am]. To the point of disgust.

**adobe** [uh-DOH-bee]. Sun-dried brick; a building made of such brick or clay.

**adopted** (adj.) Refers to the child.

**ADOPTIVE** (adj.). Refers to the parent.

**adore.** -red, -ring; ration (n.), -rer (n.).

**adulate** [AD-yoo-laet]. Praise or flatter obsequiously. -d, -ting; -tory [AD-yoo-luh-tawr-ee] (adj.); -tor (n.).

**adult** [uh-DUHLT; AD-uhlt].

**adulterate.** Corrupt or defile by adding a baser substance. -rable.

**adv.** (abbr.) adverb.

**ad val.** (abbr.) ad valorem.

**ad valorem.** (Lat.) according to value. A tax or duty of a percentage of the value of the taxed goods. *ad valorem duty.*

**advance.** (n.) Progress, improvement; rise in price, -ced, -cing; -d (adj.) *Advance warning, advance planning* are redundant.

**advancement.** (n.) Progression; often refers to promotion. **DISTINGUISH** from progress. *The student received an advancement in rating for the progress he had made in his studies.*

**advantageous.** Profitable; favorable.

**ADVENTITIOUS.** Accidental; fortuitous.

**ADVERB.** (adv.) A word, phrase or clause that modifies a verb, adjective, or other



## ADVERBIAL ACCUSATIVE

## AEON

adverb. It answers such questions as where, how, how much, when: *speedily, directly, only, very*.

An adjective or a noun may be used as an adverb; *light blue dress; He was there Tuesday*. Adverbs are classified as adverbs of time: *now, soon*; place: *here, everywhere*; manner: *softly, hurriedly*; and degree: *mostly, scarcely*. They are also classified as interrogative: *when, how*. (*She didn't know when he came*); relative (used to introduce a sentence); negative: *not, never, hardly*; directional: *back, up, down*; and descriptive: *slowly, beautifully, brightly*. Only descriptive adverbs are compared in three forms. Cf. Comparison.

With a compound verb, place an adverb between the auxiliary and the verb: *He has always slept well*. With a copulative verb, usually place the adverb between noun and complement: *He is ever ready to go*. With a transitive verb, the adverb does not intervene between verb and complement: *He selected the material wisely*. NOT: *He selected wisely the material*. Split an infinitive with an adverb only when necessary for greater clarity: *He hopes to at least see the prisoner*. Cf. adjective.

ADVERBIAL ADJ. Formed from an adverb and a participle, sometimes omitted: *the down (going) stairway*.

**adverbial accusative.** A noun not in the genitive used as an adverb in a prepositional phrase: *The miles we walked over road and field*.

ADVERBIAL GENITIVE. A noun used as an adverb, formed from the archaic genitive case, usually marked by its *—s* ending. *I work days*. Often such words as *since, needs, sometimes*, are adverb genitives.

**ADVERBIAL CLAUSE** may be placed (1) at the beginning of the sentence, either to emphasize the main clause or to avoid piling up adverbial clauses after the main clause; or (2) after the main clause, in its natural position. *If he loves me, he will come. He will come if he loves me*. Long or complex modifiers placed at the end of a sentence are anticlimactic and weaken the sentence.

**adversary** [AD-vuhr-sehr-ee]. Antagonist, enemy.

**adverse** [ad-VURS or AD-vurs]. Opposing. *There were many adverse conditions to be met*.

AVERSE [a-VURS]. Unwilling, reluctant. *I am averse to seeing bad movies*.

**advert** [ad-VURT]. Allude. -ed, -ing; -ent (adj.); -ence (n.), -ency (n.).

**advertisement** [ad-VUHR-tis-ment or AD-vihr-TIEZ-ment], -sing, -tised; -tiser; (n.), -tise-ment (n.). Also -ize.

**advice** [ad-VIES]. (n.) A recommended opinion.

ADVISE [ad-VIEZ]. (v.) counsel, warn.

INFORM (v.) Communicate. AVOID use of *advise* for *inform*. NOT: *He advised me that it was raining*.

**advise** -vising, -vised; -visable (adj.), -vised (adj.), -viser, -visory (adj.) -visability (n.), -visableness (n.), -visedness (n.), -visement (n.).

**advisedly.** Deliberately; after consideration.

INTENTIONALLY. By plan.

**adviser.** Preferred to *advisor*; BUT advisory.

**advocate.** Support or plead for: *He advocated free speech*. NOT: *He advocated that liquor be served*. -ating, -d; -atory (adj.); -ator (n.), -tion (n.).

**adze** [adz]. Ax, hatchet with cutting edge perpendicular to handle.

ae. oe. The *e* (or ae) alone is used for these ligatures in English: *aesthetic* or *esthetic*; *aesophagus* or *esophagus*.

A.E.C. (abbr.) Atomic Energy Commission. (GPO uses no periods.)

AEF. (abbr.) American Expeditionary Forces (World War I).

**Aegean Sea** [A-JEE-'n]. Between Greece and Turkey.

**aegis** [EE-jihz]. Also *egis*. The shield of Zeus; by extension, a protection.

**Aeneid** [ee-NEE-id]. Epic by Virgil.

**Aeolian** [ee-OH-lih-an]. Member of a Greek tribe that colonized Lesbos.

**aeolian.** Produced by wind, as rock sculpture.

**aeolian harp.** Stringed instrument on which the wind produces tones.

**aeon.** [EE-ahn]. *Eon* is preferred. Extremely long period of time.



## AERATE

- aerate** [AE-ehr-aet]. Preferred to aerify.
- aerial** [ae-EER-ee-uhl; AIR-ee'l]. Pertains to the air; insubstantial; radio antenna is preferred to *aerial*.
- aerie** [AE-ehr-rih]. A nest. Preferred to *aery*, *eyry*, *eyrie*.
- aero**. Combining form, meaning air or gas: *aerodrome*, *aerodynamic*.
- Aerolineas Argentinas**. Argentinian airline.
- Aeronaves de Mexico**. Mexican airline.
- aeroplane** [AE-ehr-oh-plaen or AIR-uh-plaen]. SEE *airplane*.
- aerospace**. The total expanse beyond the earth's surface.
- Aeschylus** [EHS-kih-luhs]. (525–456 B.C.) Greek playwright.
- Aesop** [EE-sahp]. (c.620–560 B.C.) Greek fabulist.
- aesthete** [EHS-theet]. One who emphasizes (or overemphasizes) appreciation of beauty. Preferred to Brit. *esthete*.
- aesthetic** [ehs-THEHT-ik]. Pertains to the beautiful. More generally used than *esthetic*.
- AFB**. (abbr.) Air Force Base. (with name).
- Afghan hound**.
- Alc**. (abbr.) airman, first class.
- a few**. a good many, a great many, a very few, many a man. BUT NOT: an extremely few, a good few.
- affect**. (v.) Influence, change, produce an effect upon. *The fire affected all the houses*. *affectible*.
- EFFECT (v.) Bring about, fulfill. *He has effected many improvements in management*.
- EFFECT (n.) Result, consequence. *The effect of the fire was bankruptcy to the business*.
- affidavit** [af-ih-DAE-viht]. Written statement made under oath.
- affiliate**. Correct; associate. -liable.
- affix** [AF-fihks]. (n.) Something added; e.g., a seal.

## AFTERWARD

- AFFIX** (v.) [a-FIHKS]. Join to or add. SEE *prefix*.
- afflict**. He is afflicted with arthritis.
- INFLICT. Cause to suffer; impose. *He inflicts his presence on them*.
- affluence**. Abundance; connotes plenty.
- OPULENCE. Riches; connotes luxury.
- A.F.L.** (abbr.) American Federation of Labor. Preferred to *A.F. of L.*
- Afghanistan** [af-GAN-ih-stan]. Native, Afghan (s); adj. Afghan. Cap., Kabul [KAE-bull]; Currency, afghani (Afg), pul.
- afore-**. Combining form meaning before: *aforecited*, *aforementioned*.
- aforesaid**. AVOID as pedantic. Use *this*.
- a fortiori** [ae fawr-shih-OH-ree]. (Lat.) On yet firmer grounds; all the more. In logic, used to introduce a fact previously mentioned, from which it follows: *He was a millionaire; a fortiori, the expense of the trip was not a factor*.
- afoul**. In collision. From *run foul of*. (U.S.)
- afraid**. Any degree of apprehension. NEVER use directly after a noun. NOT: *An afraid child*.
- afanchise**. Free from bondage or obligation.
- ENFRANCHISE. Set free; endow with citizenship or its privileges, esp. the right of suffrage.
- Africa**. East, East Coast, North, South-West, West Coast.
- African** refers only to Negroes. Cf. South Africa. Negro refers only to native Negroes. Current usage prefers Black.
- Afro**. Combining form meaning Africa. *Afro-American*.
- Afrikaner**. SEE Union of South Africa.
- after-**[AFT-uhr]. Combining form meaning subsequent in time or place: *afterbirth*, *afterthought*, *aftereffect*.
- afterward**. Subsequently. Preferred to -s. in U.S.; Brit. use—s. Cf. *backward*.