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The
Merriam
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Thesaurus

韦氏
小词库

世界图书出版公司

The Merriam-Webster Thesaurus

韦氏小词库

[美] 梅里亚姆-韦伯斯特公司 编



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内 容 介 绍

本书由梅里亚姆-韦伯斯特出版公司的资深编辑积多年著述及编校的宝贵经验编纂而成的一本袖珍英语小词典。本词库收词十万余条,简要给出核心词义,并提供一个精选的例句,再列出其同义词、反义词、相关词、对照词及常见的习惯用法。是一本帮助读者确切理解词义、恰当选择单词、扩大词汇量的多功能工具书。

THE MERRIAM-WEBSTER THESAURUS

Merriam-Webster 1989

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[美] 梅里亚姆-韦伯斯特公司 编

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Preface

THE MERRIAM-WEBSTER THESAURUS is based on Webster's Collegiate Thesaurus and is designed especially to meet the day-to-day needs of those who want a compact and handy thesaurus. In this book we have been able to eliminate much of the bulk and weight of the larger volume while retaining the basic features that distinguish Webster's Collegiate Thesaurus.

The basic premise behind both books is that the user of a thesaurus is seeking a more appropriate term than the one he has in mind. This very broad concept is scarcely consonant with the typical thesaurus presentation of "synonyms" and sometimes "antonyms". In point of fact, the user may be seeking a synonym, a word stronger or weaker in force, one of slightly different meaning, a more starchy or more folksy word, an idiomatic phrase that conveys the same idea, or a word that to a greater or lesser degree contrasts with his starting point. Patently, all these possible uses cannot be subsumed reasonably under the rather unitary notions of "synonym" and "antonym". Perhaps the longevity of Roget's *Thesaurus* rests on the simple fact that in spite of its complexity and lack of guidance, it does spread before the user a greater body of material to browse through than any comparable book heretofore available. The Merriam-Webster Thesaurus is designed to present a similar range of material but in a readily available and highly structured form that minimizes the consultant's need to grope and guess.

In earlier Merriam-Webster® publications the pattern of supplementing synonym lists with lists of related and contrasted words, words that were relevant to the group under study yet not quite synonyms or antonyms respectively, was extensively tested. This favorably received feature not only allowed more precise delineation of synonyms and antonyms but provided the user with much additional significant and pertinent assistance. The same plan of supplementing synonyms and antonyms with genuinely germane collateral material has been made a feature of this thesaurus.

Additional features of The Merriam-Webster Thesaurus designed to facilitate its use are the provision at each main entry of a concise statement of the segment of denotation in which a group of words can be construed as synonyms, a strictly alphabetical organization, and the entry at its own alphabetical place of each word that appears as a synonym at a main entry. The absence or inadequate handling of the first of these features is a major flaw in

most existent thesauruses. Though many justifications have been offered for avoiding the second, they all boil down to the implausible notion that the members of a group of words are synonymous but some are more synonymous than others! Perhaps unfairly, one can't help feeling that the only valid explanation for non-alphabetical listing of properly chosen synonyms appears in one specialized dictionary of synonyms whose author comments: "Apologies are in order, however, for my inability to maintain alphabetical order within the categories, the plea being of course lack of time." Finally, since no one can anticipate where the user's search may start, it seems only logical to enter each synonym in such a way that it can serve as a convenient starting point in his searching.

Though The Merriam-Webster Thesaurus is based on Webster's Collegiate Thesaurus, its ultimate authority lies in Webster's Third New International Dictionary and the Merriam-Webster research file of nearly 13,000,000 instances of words in actual use by a wide range of writers and speakers. In preparing The Merriam-Webster Thesaurus the chief organizational change was the replacement of the synonym list at each secondary entry with a cross-reference to the appropriate main entry. In addition a few specialized or abstruse entries were eliminated and a few synonyms not likely to be of general interest were dropped.

The Merriam-Webster Thesaurus was prepared by Kathleen M. Doherty, assistant editor, under the immediate supervision of E. Ward Gilman, senior editor.

Explanatory Notes

How to Use The Merriam-Webster Thesaurus

Every thesaurus user should read these Explanatory Notes because a thorough understanding of the scope, content, and structure of the book is essential to its effective employment. The key lines at the bottom of the text pages direct the user to these Explanatory Notes.

Since the English lexicon contains an incalculable number of fixed combinations, senses, subsenses, and nuances of meaning (for example, Webster's Third New International Dictionary records some 251 distinguishable meanings for the verb *set* and its fixed combinations), *it is essential that the thesaurus be used in conjunction with an adequate dictionary.*

Scope of The Merriam-Webster Thesaurus

This book is concerned with the general vocabulary of the English language. Since the user may actually be hindered rather than helped by a vocabulary diluted with obsolete, archaic, or extremely rare terms or with specialized or technical jargon, such words have been omitted.

Structure and Content

Entry Order The body of the book consists of main and secondary entries introduced by alphabetically ordered boldface headwords, as

raid vb 1 to make a raid on <Indians *raided* the settlers frequently>
syn foray, harass, harry, maraud
rel despoil, devastate, ravage, sack, spoliator,
waste; loot, plunder, rifle, rob
2 syn see INVADE 1

raider n syn see MARAUDER

rail n syn see RAILING

where *raid*, *raider*, and *rail* are the headwords introducing either a main entry (as *raid* vb 1), or a secondary entry (as *raid* vb 2, *raider* n, or *rail* n).

Homograph headwords are entered in historical order: the one first used in English is entered first, as

till prep
till conj
till vb

Verbs used predominantly with one or two prepositions or adverbs may be headwords introducing main or secondary entries; in this case, they are entered with the verb segment in boldface type followed by the parenthetical element or elements in lightface type. Such verb + particle combinations immediately follow their base verb in alphabetical order:

put vb ————— base-verb homograph
put (back) vb —————
put (on) vb ————— verb + particle combinations
put (on or upon) vb —————
put n ————— noun homograph

Fixed verb + adverb collocations commonly entered in dictionaries as two-word verbs have boldface entry at their appropriate alphabetical positions in this book. However, they follow any verb + particle combinations occurring in the same alphabetical sequence:

take vb ————— base verb
take (from) vb ————— verb + particle combinations
take (to) vb —————
take away vb —————
take back vb ————— two-word verb collocations
take down vb —————
take in vb —————
take off vb —————

Headwords ordinarily conform to normal dictionary practices: for instance, they are styled as singular nouns or infinitive verbs. Special situations (as plural usage or variant spellings) are signaled by the use of boldface subheads, as

crossroad n, *now crossroads* pl but sing or pl in
 context SYN SEE JUNCTURE 2

woe n . . . 3 *woes* *woes* pl SYN SEE DISASTER

catty-corner (or *catty-corner* or *kitty-corner*) adv
 SYN SEE DIAGONALLY

where *crossroads* and *woes* are subheads indicating plural usage, and *catty-corner* and *kitty-corner* are subheads showing variant spellings of the headwords.

The Main Entry and Its Basic Elements Each main entry consists of a headword followed by a part-of-speech label, a sense number when needed, a meaning core with a brief verbal illustration, and a list of synonyms. Lists of related words, idiomatic equivalents, contrasted words, and antonyms follow the synonym list if they are called for.

A typical main entry is

calm *adj* 1 free from storm or rough activity <the
wind died and the sea became *calm*>
syn *halcyon*, *hushed*, *placid*, *quiet*, *still*, *stilly*,
untroubled
rel *inactive*, *quiescent*, *reposing*, *resting*; *pacific*,
smooth, *tranquil*, *unruffled*
idiom *calm as a millpond*, *still as death*
con *agitated*, *disturbed*, *perturbed*, *restless*,
turbulent, *uneasy*
ant *stormy*

where the italic part-of-speech label *adj* indicates that the headword is an adjective. Other such labels used in the book are: *adv* (adverb), *conj* (conjunction), *interj* (interjection), *n* (noun), *prep* (preposition), *pron* (pronoun), and *vb* (verb).

Individual senses of multisense entries (as *calm adj*) are introduced by a boldface sense number (as 1).

The meaning core, as at *calm* 1

free from storm or rough activity

indicates the area of meaning in which a group of words (in this case *calm*, *halcyon*, *hushed*, *placid*, *quiet*, *still*, *stilly*, and *untroubled*) are considered to be synonymous.

In other words, the meaning core pinpoints the exact relationship between the main-entry headword and its synonyms.

A meaning core may be supplemented by a usage note introduced by a lightface dash when additional information or comments on syntax or usage are required:

yet *adv* 1 beyond this — used as an intensive to
stress the comparative degree

Some interjections express feelings but otherwise are untranslatable into substitutable meaning; in such cases, the meaning core itself may be replaced by a usage note:

good-bye *interj* — used as a conventional expression
of good wishes at parting

Each meaning core is followed by a verbal illustration enclosed by angle brackets, as

<the wind died and the sea became *calm*>

that exemplifies a typical use of the headword (here, *calm*) in its pertinent sense (1). The verbal illustration also offers the thesaurus user a frame for testing the suitability of the synonyms and/or related words with regard to his particular needs. Two verbal illustrations may appear after a meaning core that is broad enough to subsume alternatives (as both a literal and an extended use):

see **v** 1 to take cognizance of by physical
or mental vision <aw that the boat was being
driven ashore> <the only one who saw the truth>

Such double illustrations have been chosen with discretion and are used sparingly in this book.

The boldface italic abbreviation **syn** introduces a synonym list that appears at each main entry on a line below the meaning core and the verbal illustration. This list may consist of only one synonym (as *here* at **hitherto** *adv* 2) or of many (as *halcyon, hushed, placid, quiet, still, stilly, and untroubled* at **calm** *adj* 1). Each synonym in a main-entry list has a boldface entry at its own alphabetical place.

A compare cross-reference may appear at the end of a main-entry **syn** list. This cross-reference introduced by the italic word *compare* is used (1) when two or more groups of synonyms are very closely related and it is felt that the user examining one list should be aware of the existence of the other list or lists:

assassin *n* a person hired or hireable to
commit murder <found out who paid the assassin>
syn bravo, cutthroat, gun, gunman, ||gunsel, gunslinger,
hatchet man, hit man, torpedo, triggerman; *compare* **MURDERER**

murderer *n* one who kills a human being
<a murderer who wouldn't hesitate to kill in cold blood>
syn homicide, killer, manslayer, slayer; *compare* **ASSASSIN**

and (2) when the user should be warned that certain words have evolved derivative senses that tend to blur precise sense boundaries and consequently cause an overlapping of senses or of meaning, thus making those words somewhat less desirable choices for the user in terms of preciseness than other words in their lists. A comparison of the main entries

ration *n* an amount allotted or made available
especially from a limited supply <saved up their gasoline
ration for a vacation trip>
syn allotment, allowance, apportionment, measure,
meed, part, portion, quantum, quota, share; *compare* **SHARE** 1

share *n* 1 something belonging to, assumed by, or falling to
one (as in division or apportionment) <wanted his share of
the prize money>
syn allotment, allowance, bite, cut, lot,
part, partage, portion, quota, slice; *compare* **RATION**

reveals the usage overlap of the synonyms *allotment, allowance, part, portion, quota, and share*, which are indeed valid synonyms at both entries.

The Secondary Entry and Its Basic Elements A secondary entry consists of a boldface headword followed by a part-of-speech label, a boldface sense number when needed, and a *syn* see cross-reference in small capitals directing the user to the appropriate main entry in whose *syn* list the secondary entry appears (followed when needed by a lightface sense number of the main entry). Lists of related words, idiomatic equivalents, contrasted words, or antonyms that are specifically applicable to the secondary-entry headword in the relationship indicated by the *syn* see cross-reference may be included as well.

A typical secondary entry is

placid *adj* 1 *syn* see CALM 1
rel irenic, peaceful, serene, unagitated, unstimulating
ant roiled

where **placid** is the headword, *adj* is the part-of-speech label, 1 is the sense number of the secondary entry, and *syn* see CALM 1 is the *syn* cross-reference directing the user to the main entry **calm** 1 where **placid** is a synonym.

Main and Secondary Entries: Elements Common to Both All, some, or none of the following lists may appear at both main and secondary entries in this order: related words, idiomatic equivalents, contrasted words, and antonyms.

The boldface abbreviation *rel* introduces a list of related words. The related words — words that are almost but not quite synonymous with the headword — are included at an entry next after the synonym list. For example, at the main entry

splendid *adj* . . .
 2 extraordinarily or transcendently impressive . . .
syn glorious, gorgeous, magnificent, proud,
 resplendent, splendid, splendidous, sublime, superb
rel eminent, illustrious; grand, impressive, lavish,
 luxurious, royal, sumptuous; divine, exquisite,
 lovely; incomparable, matchless, peerless,
 superlative, supreme, unparalleled, unsurpassed;
 surpassing, transcendent

the *rel* list is composed of twenty terms separated into five subgroups that each share a common likeness or relation with the headword and its synonyms. On the other hand, at the secondary entry

splendid *adj* *syn* see SLENDID 2
rel dazzling, marvelous; smashing, wallowing;
 rattling, ripping, screaming, terrific

three subgroups of eight terms were selected as being distinctively related to **splendid** rather than to the whole synonym group in the context indicated by the *syn* see cross-reference to **splendid** 2. Related words appearing at a main entry are not ordinarily repeated at the secondary entries. The user should therefore check the main entry when seeking the most complete groupings of related words. Related words as such are not entered in boldface at their own alphabetical places. They may, of course, be synonyms in other lists or head their own main entries.

The boldface italic abbreviation *idiom* introduces a list of idiomatic equivalents that are essentially the same in meaning as the members of a synonym group. An *idiom* list at a main entry includes phrases that are generally pertinent to the entire *syn* list and the headword, as the ones at

speak *vb* 1 to articulate words in order to express
 thoughts . . .
syn talk, utter, verbalize, vocalize, voice
rel . . .
idiom break silence, give voice (or tongue or utterance) to,

let fall, make public (or known), open
one's mouth (or lips), put in (or into) words, say one's say,
speak one's piece

while a secondary-entry list, as the one at

retaliate *vb* **syn** see **RECIPROCATE**

ret. . . .
idiom even the score, get back at, get
even with, give in kind, give one a
dose of his own medicine, give one tit for
tat, pay one in his own coin, settle (or
square) accounts, turn the tables on

features idioms that are particularly appropriate equivalents of its headword in the context indicated by the **syn** see cross-reference. Idiomatic equivalents, including those fixed verb + preposition combinations that function as idioms rather than as literal meanings of the verb, are not entered in boldface at their own alphabetical places in this book.

The boldface italic abbreviation **con** introduces a list of contrasted words — words that are strongly contrastable but not quite antonymous with the headword — that may appear at an entry:

watchful *adj* paying close attention usually
with a view to anticipating approaching
danger or opportunity .

syn . . .
rel . . .
idiom . . .
con careless, heedless, thoughtless;
inadvertent; absentminded, abstracted,
faraway

alert *adj* 1 **syn** see **WATCHFUL**

rel . . .
idiom . . .
con inattentive, unmindful; aloof,
detached, indifferent, unconcerned

At the main entry **watchful** *adj* the **con** list is composed of seven words separated into three subgroups that each share at least one aspect of contrast to the headword and its **syn** list, while the **con** list at the secondary entry **alert** 1 comprises six words separated into two such subgroups. Contrasted words appearing at a main entry are not ordinarily repeated at the secondary entries. The thesaurus user should therefore check the main entry when seeking the most complete groupings of contrasted words. Contrasted words as such are not entered in boldface at their own alphabetical places. They may, of course, be synonyms in other lists or head their own main entries.

The boldface italic abbreviation **ant** introduces the last possible element of a main or secondary entry: an antonym or list of antonyms, as at the entry

perfect *adj* . . . 2 . . .
ant imperfect

or at the entry

quiet *adj.* . . . 4 not showy or obtrusive . . .
and gaudy, loud

When antonyms are drawn from different classes of opposites, members of the two groups are separated by a semicolon, as at the entry

<i>assistance</i> <i>n.</i> <i>syn</i> see <i>HELP</i> 1 <i>rel.</i> . . . <i>con.</i> . . . <i>ant</i> impediment, impeding, obstructing, obstruction		antonyms that are opposites with intermediates antonyms that are reverse opposites
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Like related and contrasted words, antonyms as such are not entered in bold-face at their own alphabetical places. They may, of course, be synonyms in other lists or head their own main entries.

Main and Secondary Entries: The One Arbitrary Rule Ideally, a book such as this should be free of all arbitrary restraints and curtailments. In practice, however, its editors found that one rule was essential: *No word may appear in more than one list at a main or secondary entry.* For example, *nice* is a synonym at *pleasant* *adj.* 1. The applicable sense of *nice* is found in Webster's Third New International Dictionary at the entry '*nice* . . . *adj.* . . . 7 (binding substitute) + 7b, where the definitions are

: pleasant and satisfying: as . . . b: ENJOYABLE . . .
PLEASING, DELIGHTFUL <a *nice* time at
the party> <*nice* and warm by the fire> <we have
four *nice* bedrooms upstairs to make them
comfortable — Willa Cather>

However, one might reasonably construe senses 7e (: MILD, CLEMENT, PLEASING <the *nice* weather of late spring> <the *nice* old days of the past>) and 7g (: FITTING, APPROPRIATE, SUITABLE <the *nice* clothes she wears> <not a *nice* word for use in church>) as a basis for entering *nice* as a related word as well as a synonym at *pleasant* 1, while sense 8 in Webster's Third New International Dictionary

: most inappropriate: UNPLEASANT, UNATTRACTIVE . . .
TREACHEROUS — used ironically <a chronic
alcoholic is certainly a *nice* one to talk about
temperance> <a *nice* friend, who would have
me . . . cover myself with eternal infamy — J.A.
Froude> <got himself in a *nice* fix>

could be construed as evidence for entering *nice* as both a contrasted word and an antonym at *pleasant* 1. Obviously, the thesaurus user would not be helped by an entry showing any word in such an involved relationship with itself.

Labels, Punctuation, and Symbols

Labels Words that are labeled *cap* or *usu* [ally] *cap* in Webster's Third New International Dictionary are capitalized in this book. Thus, the synonyms *Gehenna*, *Pandemonium*, *Sheol*, and *Tophet* are so styled at the main entry *hell* *n.* as are the related words *Styx* and *Tartarus*. A term that is capitalized

in a main-entry *syn* list is also capitalized when it appears as a boldface secondary entry at its own alphabetical position:

Gehenna *n syn* **see** **HELL**

If only one entered sense of a word is capitalized, an italic *cap* label followed by a boldface capitalized subhead is attached to the affected sense:

pandemonium *n* 1 *cap* **Pandemonium** *syn* **see** **HELL**
 2 *syn* **see** **SINK** 1
 3 *syn* **see** **DIN**

In addition to the part-of-speech label, an italic plural label may be added when a word or a sense of a word is sometimes, often, usually, or always used in the plural. Typical examples of these labels are found at

years *n pl syn* **see** **OLD AGE**

where *pl* indicates that the headword **years** is always plural in form and construction in this particular application, and at

road *n* 1 *often* **roads** *pl syn* **see** **HARBOR** 3
 2 *syn* **see** **WAY** 1
 3 *syn* **see** **WAY** 2

where sense 1 (and only that sense) of the headword **road** is often but not always used in the plural, and at

minutia *n, usu* **minutiae** *pl* 1 *syn* **see**
INS AND OUTS
 2 *syn* **see** **TRIVIA**

where the label preceding both senses indicates that the headword **minutia** is usually used in the plural in both of these applications, and at the main entry

trivia *n pl but sometimes sing in constr*

where the label is qualified to show that this plural noun may sometimes be used with a singular verb, and at

common *n* 1 **commons** *pl but sing or pl in*
constr syn **see** **COMMONALTY**

which indicates that **common** occurs as a plural noun in sense 1 but may occur with either singular or plural verbs, and at

outdoors *n pl but sing in constr* the space where
 air is unconfined <every night he let the dog
 run in the **outdoors**>

whose label indicates that while the word **outdoors** is a plural noun, it consistently takes a singular verb. Use of these labels conforms to the treatment of plurals in Webster's Third New International Dictionary.

An italic subject guide phrase pointing to something with which the headword is associated may precede a meaning core in a very few instances, as at

set *v* . . . 11 of a *fowl* to incubate eggs
 by crouching upon them . . .

Punctuation A comma links items (as synonyms, idiomatic equivalents, members of a single group or subgroup of related or contrasted words or of antonyms) that are alike in their relation to the headword, as at

conservative adj. . . . 2 . . .
syn controlled, discreet, moderate, reasonable,
 restrained, temperate, unexcessive, unextreme
rel cautious, chary, wary; circumspect, politic, proper,
 prudent
con expansive, unconstrained; excessive, freewheeling,
 uncontrolled, unrestrained

A semicolon signals a break in continuity and is used in *rel* and *con* lists (as between the two subgroups in the *rel* and *con* lists at *conservative* 2 above) to separate subgroups of words which differ in their relation to the headword. A semicolon is also used to separate antonyms that belong to different classes of opposites, as

arise vb 1 *syn* see RISE 4
ant recline; slump

where the two antonyms are so separated. A semicolon may also appear at the end of a main-entry *syn* list to introduce a compare cross-reference, as shown at *honorable adj* 1:

syn estimable, high-principled, noble,
 sterling, worthy; compare VENERABLE 1

Parentheses enclose variant spellings, as at the main entry *cake vb* 1 where

en crust (or *incrusted*)

is a synonym, and at the secondary entries, where that particular synonym is styled

en crust (or *incrusted*) *vb* *syn* see CAKE 1

Parentheses also enclose a particle or particles usually associated with a base word, as

adore vb . . . 3 to love, admire, or enjoy excessively . . .
syn dote (on or upon), idolize, worship

dote (on or upon) *vb* *syn* see ADORE 3

Similarly, parentheses may indicate usage alternatives in idiomatic expressions, as at *slavery n* 2 where

idiom . . . the yoke (or chains) of slavery

alerts the user that he may choose one of two noun elements when employing this particular idiom. Parentheses are also used in main-entry *syn* lists to enclose plural suffixes of words that are sometimes, often, or usually but not always used in the plural:

send *n*, *usu sends pl* a great number or abundance . . .
syn gob(s), heap, jillion, load(s), million,
 oodles, quantities, . . .

Parentheses enclose material indicating a typical or, occasionally, a sole object of reference, as in the meaning core of *express vb 2*

to give expression to (as a thought, an opinion,
 or an emotion)

where they enclose an adjunct, or at entries such as *abrogate vb 2*

ant establish, fix (as a right, a quality, or
 a custom)

where an antonym or a group of antonyms is associated with a particular object or objects of reference — a restriction or limitation to which the thesaurus user should be alerted.

Symbols A warning symbol is used in this book in the form of the double bars ||.

The double bars prefixing some terms warn the user that the employment of such a term may involve a problem of diction too complex for presentation in a thesaurus, or a restriction in usage. Consequently, the thesaurus user should consult a dictionary if he is in doubt about the stylistic level or appropriateness of the word or if he is unfamiliar with its meaning. For example, ||*fat cat* (a synonym of *notable n 1*), ||*chuff* (a synonym of *sullen adj*), and ||*pxy* (a synonym of *swamp n*) are all double-barred in this book because they carry stigmatizing or regional labels in Webster's Third New International Dictionary.

A

Thesaurus of the English Language

A

aback *adv* *syn* see UNAWARES

abaft *adv* toward or at the stern (of a vessel)

<headed *abaft* for a smoke>

syn aft, astern

rel after, back, behind

ant forward

abast *prep* to the rear of <huddled in a nook *abast* the chimney>

syn back of, behind

abalienate *vb* *syn* see TRANSFER 4

abandon *vb* 1 to give up without intent to return or reclaim <*abandoned* his family>

syn chuck, desert, forsake, quit, renounce, throw over

rel cast (off), discard, disuse, drop, junk, scrap; reject, repudiate

idiom have done with, leave flat, quit cold, run out on, turn one's back on (or upon), walk out on

com hold, keep, possess, retain; redeem, rescue, save; acquire, gain, get, procure, win; cherish, foster

ant reclaim

2 *syn* see RELINQUISH

ant retain

abandon *n* 1 *syn* see UNCONSTRAINT

2 carefree disregard for consequences <behave with *abandon*>

syn impulsiveness, uninhibitedness, unrestraint; compare UNCONSTRAINT

rel freedom, liberty, license; exuberance, heedlessness, laxity, laxness, looseness, unruliness, wildness; incontinence, licentiousness, wantonness; fun, games, play, sport

com constraint, inhibitedness, inhibition, restraint; repression, suppression

ant self-restraint

abandoned *adj* 1 *syn* see DERELICT 1

2 free from moral restraint <lived a thoroughly *abandoned* life>

syn dissolute, licentious, profligate, reprobate, self-abandoned, unprincipled

rel debased, debauched, depraved, perverted, riotous; incorrigible; lascivious, lecherous, lewd, wanton; corrupt, degenerate

ant

idiom dead to honor, gone to the bad, lost to shame, rotten (to or at) the core

com ethical, high-principled, moral, reputable, virtuous; correct, decent, decorous, proper, seemly

ant scrupulous, upright

abase *vb* *syn* see HUMBLE

rel demote, diminish, downgrade, reduce; fawn, grovel, toady; cower, cringe, truckle

com elevate, lift, raise

ant exalt; extol

abash *vb* *syn* see EMBARRASS 1

rel abase, demean, humble, humiliate

idiom make one eat humble pie

ant embolden, reassure

abashment *n* *syn* see EMBARRASSMENT

abate *vb* 1 *syn* see ABOLISH 1

2 *syn* see ANNIHILATE 2

3 *syn* see DECREASE

4 to lessen in force or intensity <the storm *abated* slowly>

syn |bate, die (down or away), ease off, ebb, fall, let up, lull, moderate, relent, slacken, subside, wane

rel decrease, diminish, dwindle, lessen, weaken

idiom run its course

com augment, expand, extend, increase; mount, rage, soar, surge

ant revive; rise

abatement *n* *syn* see DEDUCTION 1

com enlargement, increase

ant addition

abbreviate *vb* *syn* see SHORTEN

rel attenuate, extenuate

com enlarge, increase; amplify, dilate, expand

ant lengthen; extend

ABC *n* 1 *usu* ABC's *pl* *syn* see ALPHABET 1

2 *often* ABC's *pl* *syn* see ALPHABET 2

abdicate *vb* 1 to part formally or definitely with a position of honor or power <the king *abdicated* the throne in order to marry a commoner>

syn demit, renounce, resign; compare RELINQUISH

ant

2 abdomen

rel abandon, leave, relinquish, surrender;
drop; withdraw
com appropriate, arrogate, confiscate; grab,
seize, take over, wrest
ant assume, usurp
2 syn see DISCARD
com keep, retain, treasure

abdomen *n* the part of the body between the chest and the pelvis <intense pain in the lower abdomen>

syn belly, [gut, paunch, stomach, tummy, venter
rel bay window, [breadbasket, corporation, pod, pot, potbelly, middle, midriff, midsection

abduct *vb* *syn* see KIDNAP

rel grab, seize

abecedarian *n* *syn* see AMATEUR 2

aberrant *adj* 1 *syn* see ABNORMAL 1

rel different, disparate, divergent; eccentric, odd, peculiar, strange; exceptional, unusual
com natural, normal, regular, typical; customary, usual, wonted
ant true (to a type)

2 syn see ERRANT 2

aberration *n* 1 *syn* see DEVIATION 1

rel abnormality; mistake, slip; curiosity, oddity, prodigy, rarity
com average, mean, norm; normality
ant conformity; regularity
2 syn see INSANITY 1
ant soundness (of mind)

abet *vb* 1 *syn* see INCITE

rel egg, exhort, goad, prod, spur, urge; advocate, countenance, encourage, endorse
com forbid, prevent, prohibit; debar, deter, discourage

2 syn see HELP 1

abettor *n* *syn* see CONFEDERATE

abeyance *n* a state of temporary inactivity <the warm dry weather kept his asthma in abeyance>

syn abeyancy, cold storage, doldrums, dormancy, intermission, interruption, latency, quiescence, quiescency, suspension
rel break, interval, pause, respite
com activeness, activity, stir
ant continuance

abeyancy *n* *syn* see ABEYANCE

ant continuance

abeyant *adj* *syn* see LATENT

rel deferred, intermitted, postponed, stayed, suppressed; repressed
com refreshed, renewed, restored
ant active, operative, revived

abhor *vb* 1 *syn* see HATE

2 syn see DESPISE

com dote (on or upon), like, love
ant admire

abhorrence *n* *syn* see ABOMINATION 2

rel distaste, repellency; dismay, horror
com affection, attachment, love
ant admiration; enjoyment

abhorrent *adj* 1 *syn* see HATEFUL 2

ant admirable

syn synonym(s) *rel* related word(s)
ant antonym(s) *com* contrasted word(s)
idiom idiomatic equivalent(s)
| use limited; if in doubt, see a dictionary

2 syn see REPUGNANT 1

rel antipathetic; uncongenial, unsympathetic

com alluring, attractive, captivating; enticing, seductive, tempting

ant congenial

abide *vb* 1 *syn* see STAY 2

rel adhere, cleave, cling, stick; dwell, live, reside

com go, leave, quit; move, remove, shift

ant depart

2 syn see CONTINUE 1

rel linger; exist, subsist

com avoid, elude, escape, evade

ant pass

3 syn see BEAR 10

rel accept, receive; accede, consent

idiom put up with

4 syn see RESIDE 1

abiding *adj* *syn* see SURE 2

rel durable, lasting, perdurable, persistent
com ephemeral, impermanent, short-lived, transient, transitory

ability *n* 1 physical, mental, or legal power to perform <he has the ability to accomplish whatever he sets his mind to>

syn adequacy, capability, capacity, competence, might, qualification, qualifiedness
rel address, adroitness, cleverness, dexterity; aptitude, aptness, facility, knack
idiom what it takes

com impotence, inadequacy, incapability, incompetence

ant inability

2 natural or acquired proficiency especially in a particular activity <he has unusual ability in planning and designing>

syn command, expertise, expertism, expertness, knack, know-how, mastership, mastery, skill

rel adroitness, deftness, efficiency, handiness, proficiency; ingenuity, resourcefulness; talent

com inadequacy, incompetence, ineffectualness, unfitness, fatuity, futility, inanity

abject *adj* *syn* see DOWNTRODDEN

abjure *vb* to give up (something formerly adhered to) irrevocably and usually solemnly or formally <an immigrant solemnly abjuring allegiance to his former country>

syn forswear, palinode, recall, recant, retract, take back, unsay, withdraw
rel disavow, disown, renounce, repudiate; abandon, desert, forsake; cede, relinquish, surrender

idiom eat one's words

ablaze *adj* 1 *syn* see BURNING 1

2 syn see ALIGHT 2

able *adj* possessed of or marked by a high level of efficiency and ability <an able student always near the head of his class>

syn au fait, capable, competent, good, proper, qualified, wicked

rel effective, effectual, efficient; expert, proficient, skilled, skillful; alert, clever, keen, sharp; brainy, brilliant, intelligent, smart; enterprising, go-ahead, up-and-coming

com ineffective, ineffectual, inefficient; incapable, incompetent, unqualified; fair, indifferent, mediocre; lackluster, maladroit