

COLLINS
NEW
ENGLISH
DICTIONARY

COLLINS NEW ENGLISH DICTIONARY

*A New Dictionary of the Living Language,
Containing over 100,000 Definitions and
Copious Supplements*

Edited under the direction of
ALEXANDER H. IRVINE

M.A.(Hons.), Officier d'Académie

With an Introduction by
ERNEST WEEKLEY
M.A., D. Litt.



COLLINS
LONDON AND GLASGOW

GENERAL EDITOR: G. F. MAINE

First published 1956

There is first the literature of *knowledge*, and secondly, the literature of *power*. The function of the first is—to *teach*; the function of the second is—to *move*; the first is a rudder, the second an oar or a sail. The first speaks to the *mere* discursive understanding; the second speaks ultimately, it may happen, to the higher understanding of reason.

THOMAS DE QUINCEY (1785-1859)
Essays on the Poets: Pope

Printed in Great Britain by
COLLINS CLEAR-TYPE PRESS

DICTIONARY OF THE
ENGLISH LANGUAGE

4-1



H.M. THE QUEEN AND H.R.H. THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH

This photograph was taken in the Throne Room of Buckingham Palace after the Coronation on June 2nd, 1953. Her Majesty is wearing the Imperial State Crown.

(Cecil Beaton)

LIST OF MAPS

	<i>Map Numbers</i>
By Air from London	1
By Air from Winnipeg	1
The World : Political	2, 3
<i>Seaways</i>	
<i>Railways</i>	
<i>Airways</i>	
Europe	4, 5
British Isles and Continent	6, 7
<i>Weather Forecast Chart</i>	
U.S.S.R. in Europe	8, 9
Near and Middle East	10, 11
<i>Holy Land</i>	
<i>Aden and the Yemen</i>	
Asia	12, 13
<i>Bering Strait</i>	
India, Pakistan, Burma, Ceylon, Afghanistan	14, 15
China, Japan, Korea	16, 17
Africa	18, 19
<i>Khartoum-Cairo</i>	
<i>Nile Delta</i>	
Southern Africa	20, 21
<i>Witwatersrand</i>	
Australia	22, 23
<i>Tasmania</i>	
<i>Sydney neighbourhood</i>	
<i>Melbourne neighbourhood</i>	
New Zealand	24, 25
<i>Distances from N.Z.</i>	
<i>Antarctica</i>	

	<i>Map Numbers</i>
North and Central America	26, 27
Canada	28, 29
United States	30, 31
South America and West Indies	32
<i>Jamaica: Trinidad</i>	
<i>Rio de Janeiro-Sao Paulo</i>	
<i>Buenos Aires-Montevideo</i>	

INTRODUCTION

by Ernest Weekley, M.A., D.Litt.

I recollect a conversation in which the General Editor of this dictionary once said to me: "Speech is the *Logos* of thought"; and I thought to myself: how true that is, for unless thought is expressed in the spoken or written word, how is it to be communicated? The English alphabet consists of twenty-six letters, and out of this seemingly meagre apparatus scholars and scientists, poets and playwrights, writers of fiction and countless numbers of people of whom one has never heard, have made words and put them together to form sentences to express what was in their minds. Bacon and Newton, Milton and Shakespeare, Jane Austen and Dickens, and of course their modern counterparts, have shown us what can be produced by the juxtapositions of wonder-working sounds; that alchemy by which the raw constituents of the alphabet are wrought to gold.

Nor is it the field of Literature only that causes us to marvel. The common speech of the people gives to our language pith and vitality. When I was a young man the word "fan" had specific and well-defined connotations. Nowadays one hears of "football fans," "radio fans" and "television fans," and one conjures up the picture of vast numbers of people eagerly participating in these recreations. And this colloquialising does not end there. The players, speakers, crooners, and the rest, also have their "fans," who contribute to the curious amalgam of our cosmopolitan civilisation. My reason for mentioning this is to bring out that a language is not something which can be determined within certain limits, but a living organism which is for ever growing and expanding, for ever giving birth to new progeny.

I suppose the English language must now contain something like half-a-million words. Few of us between the cradle and the grave make use of one-fiftieth of that number. In our reading, however, we encounter a great many which we never, or rarely, employ ourselves, but of which we need, if we are to read intelligently, a clear and accurate explanation. Hence in the educated household (a description which applies, or, in view of the enormous sums now spent on education, should apply to all households), a good dictionary is essential.

When we first hear or read a strange word, or one which, without being quite unknown to us, has a somewhat unfamiliar ring, our curiosity may take one of four forms. We may desire to know what is the correct spelling, its accepted pronunciation, its exact meaning, its origin. If we

are really intelligent people we probably are anxious on all four points, or, at any rate, on such of them as lie outside our previous experience of the word; and of course the crossword enthusiast has a fifth motive for opening the dictionary.

The fact is that nobody, however well educated, can ever be sure that he will not, even when reading a simple story, suddenly need enlightenment with regard to some word or other, and the well-informed reader who is anxious to remain such will at once proceed to seek that enlightenment in the dictionary. We may divide the reading public into two classes—those who want to know and those who do not. The first class is ever growing at the expense of the second, while those few who are determined to avoid transfer are intellectually past praying for.

No one-volume dictionary, however comprehensive, can possibly hope to cope with every phase of human activity in the modern world. Words used in atomic-physics and in the many other specialised fields in science and industry are now so numerous that they require a dictionary to themselves, and it is certain that with every advance in science and civilisation, more and more technical terms will come crowding into the language.

Opinions may differ as to the amount of additional matter of this kind which it is desirable to add to a dictionary for general use. My own opinion is that there are in every dictionary a great many words the omission of which would be no great loss. But then, the publisher must take account of the conventions, and the little used, or possibly redundant, words remain. What the modern editor has to do, then, is to compromise. He cannot hope to include everything, so he sets out to make a book which will contain a reasonable balance of this and that. That is, in addition to a comprehensive basic vocabulary, he must include as many as possible of the new words which have become a part of everyday speech, and the better known modern scientific terms. To achieve this he may have to omit certain archaic words which are the province of the specialist in semantics.

All this, the editors of this book have done. It is encyclopedic in character, a superb *vade mecum* for home, school and office. Let the intelligent layman dip into this dictionary and he will discover it to be anything but a dull book. On the contrary he will find himself wandering from word to word, each of which will ignite interest in another, as the stump of one cigarette can be made to ignite the next.

This insatiable curiosity about words does not affect many people, but a reasonable curiosity as to the real values of our verbal currency should be as natural as the instinct to eat and drink. In fact, in the ideal republic he who neglected to inform himself on such matters, or made a practice of using words without understanding them, would be expelled from the community as an undesirable citizen.

FOREWORD

That dictionaries and other standard reference books may fulfil their proper function, publishers have found it necessary to issue, periodically, revised editions enlarged and brought up-to-date by means of an appendix to, and (or) copious insertions within, the original text. Economically, this expedient is justified, since the entire re-writing of such manuals would be, particularly at the present time, a costly undertaking. Yet the publishers now offer to the public a volume which is not merely a revised edition of a predecessor, but is, in fact, a NEW dictionary.

A comprehensive dictionary, for frequent consultation, should contain all the vocabulary of the living language which the ordinary man or student may meet in his daily conversation, his general reading, his study of English Literature or in his contacts with the ever-changing world of modern invention and discovery. Never in the history of lexicography has the influx of new words been more rapid than in the last quarter of a century. The specialised vocabularies of aviation, wireless telegraphy, radio, television, medical and atomic research; new words created by recent developments in social history and the Arts, or in the years of the Second World War; Americanisms, colloquialisms—all are part of this unusual influx. To remain of manageable size, therefore, a new dictionary must distinguish between the permanent and the ephemeral, and be, of necessity, not only comprehensive but selective.

Reference books are all too often relegated to the least accessible shelf of the bookcase, their very bulk a deterrent to ready consultation, but this new Dictionary by being comprehensive, selective and compact, will have achieved its purpose if it become the constant companion, the vade-mecum, of all those students of the English language who seek to know it better.

A. H. IRVINE

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

As it would have been impossible for me to compile unaided a work of this kind, requiring such prolonged research and assiduous investigation, I am happy to record the value of the enthusiastic co-operation and loyal support given me by the following:—

Assistant Editors

FRANCES M. ANDERSON, M.A.(HONS.), B.A.(HONS.)
ALEX. B. MACGARRY, M.A.(HONS.)
CHARLES G. MCGOWN, M.A.(HONS.)
LOUISE E. THOMSON, M.A.(HONS.)

Special Readers

MARION BAILLIE, M.A.(HONS.)
ROBERT D. BINNIE, M.A.(HONS.)
DONALD S. HENDERSON, M.A.(HONS.)

A. H. I.

PLAN OF THE TEXT

For ease of reference the words in this Dictionary are arranged in groups, being related and derived words (sub-entries) placed under the word chosen as the main-entry.

The question of pronunciation is answered by giving each main-entry a separate re-spelling based on a simple but clear and precise phonetic system. To make these re-spellings immediately intelligible, a minimum of special symbols has been used. Furthermore, with words of more than one syllable, whether main- or sub-entries, an accent mark (') is placed after the syllable on which the stress should fall. Sub-entries are, however, re-spelled only in cases where the pronunciation differs from that of the main-entry, or when the word, by reason of its unusual length or unfamiliar appearance, might present difficulty to the ordinary reader. The part of speech of each word is given immediately after its phonetic re-spelling and then follow (a) its meaning or meanings, with in many cases a selection of phrases illustrating special or idiomatic uses of the word, (b) at the end of each paragraph, enclosed in square brackets, the etymology or origin of the main-entry, and (c) on occasions, and as a useful complement to the dictionary meanings of the word, a list of appropriate synonyms and antonyms.

These arrangements may best be understood by examining a typical entry from the dictionary:

prefer (prē-fer') *v.t.* to like better; to choose rather; to promote to an office or dignity; to proffer or bring forward for consideration.—**preferable** *a.* worthy of preference; more desirable.—**preferably** *adv.*—**preferableness** *n.*—**preference** *n.* the act of preferring one thing before another; that which is preferred; choice.—**preferential** (pref-e-ren'-shal) *a.* giving or receiving a preference.—**preferentially** *adv.*—**preferment** *n.* advancement or promotion; a position of honour, esp. in the church.—**preference, preferred shares**, shares which rank before ordinary shares when dividends are paid out.—**preferential tariff**, import duties favouring certain countries [L. *prae* before; *ferre*, to bear]. *Syn.* to select, elect, advance. *Ant.* to reject, discard.

KEY TO PRONUNCIATION

(a) Apart from "g" (always hard as in *get*) the consonants retain their name-sounds.

(b) All unmarked vowels are sounded as in *pat, pet, pit, pot, nut*.

(c) Special symbols used are:—

<p>(i) ā as in <i>fate</i> â „ <i>far</i> a „ <i>ado</i> ē „ <i>me</i> e „ <i>her</i> ī „ <i>mite</i></p>	<p>ō as in <i>note</i> ôô „ <i>moon</i> oo „ <i>foot</i> ū „ <i>tune</i> aw „ <i>awl</i> ou „ <i>foul</i></p>
<p>(ii) th „ <i>thin</i> TH „ <i>then</i> H „ <i>loch</i> zh „ <i>leisure</i></p>	<p>hw „ <i>when</i> ch „ <i>church</i> j „ <i>jam</i> y „ <i>yet</i></p>

(d) The French nasal vowels (*an, on, in, un*), so difficult to interpret accurately except by the use of the International Phonetic Script symbols, have been reduced to the following simple approximations:—

an, am, en, em	=ong
on, om	=ōng
in	=ang
un	=ung

For example: *embonpoint*=ong-bōng-pwang

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS DICTIONARY

<i>a.</i>	adjective	<i>Dial.</i>	Dialect; Dialectal
<i>abbrev.</i>	abbreviation	<i>Dict.</i>	Dictionary
<i>ablat.</i>	ablative; ablatival	<i>dim.</i>	diminutive
<i>Aborig.</i>	Aboriginal	<i>Dut.</i>	Dutch
<i>acc.</i>	accusative	<i>Dyn.</i>	Dynamics
<i>A.D.</i>	Anno Domini		
	(in the year of Our Lord)	<i>E.</i>	East; English
<i>adv.</i>	adverb	<i>Eccl.</i>	Ecclesiastical
<i>Aero.</i>	Aeronautics	<i>e.g.</i>	for example (Lat.= <i>exemplia gratia</i>)
<i>Afr.</i>	Africa; African	<i>E.Ind.</i>	East Indian
<i>Agric.</i>	Agriculture	<i>Elect.</i>	Electricity
<i>Alg.</i>	Algebra	<i>Embryol.</i>	Embryology
<i>Amer.</i>	America; American	<i>Engin.</i>	Engineering
<i>Anat.</i>	Anatomy	<i>Entom.</i>	Entomology
<i>Anglo-Ind.</i>	Anglo-Indian	<i>esp.</i>	especially
<i>Anthropol.</i>	Anthropology	<i>Ethnol.</i>	Ethnology
<i>Ar.</i>	Arabic	<i>etym.</i>	etymology
<i>Arch.</i>	Archaic		
<i>Archaeol.</i>	Archaeology	<i>F., Fahr.</i>	Fahrenheit
<i>Archit.</i>	Architecture	<i>fem.</i>	feminine
<i>Arith.</i>	Arithmetic	<i>fig.</i>	figuratively
<i>Astrol.</i>	Astrology	<i>Finn.</i>	Finnish
<i>Astron.</i>	Astronomy	<i>Flem.</i>	Flemish
<i>aux.</i>	auxiliary	<i>Fort.</i>	Fortification
<i>Aviat.</i>	Aviation.	<i>fr.</i>	from
		<i>Fr.</i>	French
<i>Bacter.</i>	Bacteriology		
<i>B.C.</i>	before Christ	<i>Gael.</i>	Gaelic
<i>Bib.</i>	Biblical	<i>gen.</i>	genitive
<i>Biol.</i>	Biology	<i>Geog.</i>	Geography
<i>Bot.</i>	Botany	<i>Geol.</i>	Geology
<i>Br.</i>	British	<i>Geom.</i>	Geometry
<i>Braz.</i>	Brazilian	<i>Ger.</i>	German
<i>Bret.</i>	Breton	<i>Gk.</i>	Greek
<i>Build.</i>	Building	<i>Gk. Myth.</i>	Greek Mythology
		<i>Gram.</i>	Grammar
<i>c.</i>	about (Lat.= <i>Circa</i>)		
<i>C.</i>	Centigrade; Central	<i>Heb.</i>	Hebrew
<i>Can.</i>	Canada; Canadian	<i>Her.</i>	Heraldry
<i>cap.</i>	capital	<i>Hind.</i>	Hindustani
<i>Carib.</i>	Caribbean	<i>Hist.</i>	History
<i>Carp.</i>	Carpentry	<i>Hort.</i>	Horticulture
<i>Celt.</i>	Celtic	<i>Hung.</i>	Hungarian
<i>cent.</i>	century		
<i>Cent.</i>	Central	<i>i.</i>	intransitive
<i>cf.</i>	compare (Lat.= <i>confer</i>)	<i>Ice.</i>	Icelandic
<i>ch.</i>	chapter	<i>i.e.</i>	that is (Lat.= <i>id est</i>)
<i>Chem.</i>	Chemistry	<i>imit.</i>	imitation; imitative
<i>Chin.</i>	Chinese	<i>imper.</i>	imperative
<i>Class. Myth.</i>	Classical Mythology	<i>impers.</i>	impersonal
<i>Colloq.</i>	Colloquial; Colloquialism	<i>Ind.</i>	Indian
<i>Comm.</i>	Commerce; Commercial	<i>indef. art.</i>	indefinite article
<i>comp.</i>	comparative	<i>indic.</i>	indicative
<i>conj.</i>	conjunction	<i>infin.</i>	infinitive
<i>conn.</i>	connected	<i>interj.</i>	interjection
<i>contr.</i>	contraction	<i>interrog.</i>	interrogative
<i>corrupt.</i>	corruption	<i>Ir.</i>	Irish
		<i>It.</i>	Italian
<i>Dan.</i>	Danish		
<i>dat.</i>	dative	<i>Jap.</i>	Japanese
<i>def. art.</i>	definite article		
<i>demons.</i>	demonstrative	<i>L.</i>	Latin
<i>der.</i>	derivation; derived		

<i>L.Ger.</i>	Low German	<i>Poet.</i>	Poetry; poetical
<i>lit.</i>	literally	<i>Pol.</i>	Polish
<i>Lit.</i>	Literature	<i>Port.</i>	Portuguese
<i>L.L.</i>	Low (Late) Latin	<i>poss.</i>	possessive
<i> masc.</i>	masculine	<i>pref.</i>	prefix
<i>Math.</i>	Mathematics	<i>prep.</i>	preposition
<i>M.E.</i>	Middle English	<i>pres.</i>	present
<i>Mech.</i>	Mechanics	<i>Print.</i>	Printing
<i>Med.</i>	Medicine	<i>prob.</i>	probably
<i>Metal.</i>	Metallurgy	<i>pron.</i>	pronoun
<i>Meteor.</i>	Meteorology	<i>Pros.</i>	Prosody
<i>Mex.</i>	Mexican	<i>Prov.</i>	Provincial
<i>M.H.Ger.</i>	Middle High German	<i>pr.p.</i>	present participle
<i>Mil.</i>	Military	<i>Psych.</i>	psychology
<i>Min.</i>	Mineralogy	<i>q.v.</i>	which see (Lat. = <i>quod vide</i>)
<i>Mod.</i>	Modern	<i>R.</i>	River
<i>Mus.</i>	Music	<i>R.C.</i>	Roman Catholic
<i>Myth.</i>	Mythology	<i>recip.</i>	reciprocal
<i>n.</i>	noun	<i>redup.</i>	reduplication
<i>N.</i>	North; Norse	<i>ref.</i>	reference; referring
<i>Nat.Hist.</i>	Natural History	<i>refl.</i>	reflexive
<i>Naut.</i>	Nautical	<i>rel.</i>	related; relative
<i>neg.</i>	negative	<i>Rhet.</i>	Rhetoric
<i>neut.</i>	neuter	<i>Rom.</i>	Roman
<i>nom.</i>	nominative	<i>Rom.Myth.</i>	Roman Mythology
<i>Norw.</i>	Norwegian	<i>Russ.</i>	Russian
<i>n.pl.</i>	noun plural	<i>S.</i>	South
<i>n.sing.</i>	noun singular	<i>S. Afr.</i>	South African
<i>N.T.</i>	New Testament	<i>S. Amer.</i>	South American
<i>obj.</i>	object; objective	<i>Sans.</i>	Sanskrit
<i>obs.</i>	obsolete	<i>Scand.</i>	Scandinavian
<i>O.E.</i>	Old English	<i>Scot.</i>	Scots; Scottish
<i>O.Fr.</i>	Old French	<i>Sculp.</i>	Sculpture
<i>O.H.Ger.</i>	Old High German	<i>sing.</i>	singular
<i>O.L.Ger.</i>	Old Low German	<i>Singh.</i>	Singhalese
<i>O.N.</i>	Old Norse	<i>Slav.</i>	Slavonic
<i>Onomat.</i>	Onomatopoeic	<i>Sp.</i>	Spanish
<i>opp.</i>	opposite; opposed	<i>St.</i>	Saint
<i>Opt.</i>	Optics	<i>superl.</i>	superlative
<i>orig.</i>	originally	<i>Surg.</i>	Surgery
<i>Ornith.</i>	Ornithology	<i>Sw.</i>	Swedish
<i>O.T.</i>	Old Testament	<i>Syn.</i>	Synonym
<i>Paint.</i>	Painting	<i>t.</i>	transitive
<i>pa.p.</i>	past participle	<i>Teleg.</i>	Telegraphy
<i>pass.</i>	passive	<i>Teut.</i>	Teutonic
<i>pa.t.</i>	past tense	<i>Theat.</i>	Theatre
<i>Path.</i>	Pathology	<i>Theol.</i>	Theology
<i>perh.</i>	perhaps	<i>Trig.</i>	Trigonometry
<i>pers.</i>	person	<i>Turk.</i>	Turkish
<i>Pers.</i>	Persian	<i>U.S.(A.)</i>	United States (of America)
<i>pert.</i>	pertaining	<i>v.</i>	verb
<i>Peruv.</i>	Peruvian	<i>var.</i>	variant; variation
<i>Pharm.</i>	Pharmacy	<i>v.i.</i>	verb intransitive
<i>Philol.</i>	Philology	<i>v.t.</i>	verb transitive
<i>Philos.</i>	Philosophy	<i>vulg.</i>	vulgar
<i>Phon.</i>	Phonetics	<i>W.</i>	Welsh; West
<i>Photog.</i>	Photography	<i>Zool.</i>	Zoology
<i>Phys.</i>	Physics		
<i>Physiol.</i>	Physiology		
<i>pl.</i>	plural		

CONTENTS

	PAGE
INTRODUCTION	ix
FOREWORD	xi
PLAN OF TEXT	xiii
KEY TO PRONUNCIATION	xiv
ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS DICTIONARY	xv
THE DICTIONARY, A—Z	1
COMMON FOREIGN WORDS AND PHRASES FROM CLASSICAL AND MODERN LANGUAGES	1206
ABBREVIATIONS IN COMMON USE	1223
CHRISTIAN NAMES OF MEN AND WOMEN	1245
CEREMONIOUS FORMS OF ADDRESS	1255
RELATIVE RANKS OF BRITISH COMMISSIONED OFFICERS	1257
WEIGHTS AND MEASURES	1258
MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION	1259
THE NATURALLY OCCURRING ELEMENTS	1262
FOREIGN ALPHABETS	1264

A

A, a, the first letter of the alphabet.

A (ā, ǝ) *a*, the indefinite article, meaning *one*, placed before nouns singular; also in some idiomatic constructions, e.g. *a few men*. It is a contraction of *an* (fr. O.E. *an*, *one*), still used before vowels, and often before unaccented syllables beginning with *h* aspirate, *u*, and *eu* sounded as *yu*.

A (ā) the name of the sixth note of the diatonic scale of C major, *la* in tonic sol-fa notation.—**A flat** (Ab) the name of a musical tone intermediate between A and G.—**A sharp** (A♯) the name of a tone intermediate between A and B.

Al (ā wun) denotes a ship listed as "first-class" in Lloyd's Register of Shipping; hence, first-rate; excellent; physically fit.

a' (aw) *a*. (*Scot.*) contraction of **all**.

aabec (ā'-bek) *n*. an Australian bark used as a sweat-producing medicine [Native].

aal (āl) *n*. an East Indian shrub of the madder family; or the red yew obtained from its root; a tree of the terebinth family, in the Molluca Islands, with an aromatic bark, used in seasoning food.

aardvark (ārd'-vārk) *n*. a burrowing animal resembling the ant-eater, found in parts of Africa; the earth-pig [Dut. *aarde*, earth; *vark*, a pig].

aardwolf (ārd'-wóolf) *n*. a S. African carnivorous animal, resembling a hyaena; earth-wolf [Dut. *aarde*, earth, and *wolf*].

Aaron (ā'-ron) *n*. (*Bib.*) the elder brother of Moses, and first high-priest of the Jews.—**Aaron'ic** (ā-ron'-ik), **Aaron'ical** *a. pert.* to Aaron or to his priestly office.—**Aa'ron's beard** (bērd) *n*. (*Bot.*) the popular name of *Hypericum calycinum* (St. John's Wort, or Rose of Sharon).—**Aaron's rod** *n*. (*Bot.*) a popular name for *Verbasum thapsus*, a plant with flowers on a long stem; (*Archit.*) a rod with a serpent twisted round it.

aasvogel (ās-vo'-gel) *n*. the S. African vulture [Dut. *aas*, carrion; *voegel*, a bird].

Ab (ab) *n*. the fifth ecclesiastical and the eleventh civil month of the Hebrew year, commencing with the full moon during the period July 9th-Aug. 7th [Heb.].

ab- (ab) *L.* prefix meaning, from, away, off.

abaca (ab'-a-ka) *n*. Manila hemp, or the plant producing it [Malay].

aback (a-bak') *adv.* backward; on the back; (*Naut.*) against the masts, of sails pressed back by the wind.—**taken aback**, taken by surprise; disconcerted [O.E. *on bæc*].

abacot (ab'-a-kot) *n*. an old-time hat with turned-up brim, and ending in a point or point before or behind [corrupt. of *byccket*, fr. O.Fr. *bicoquet*].

abactinal (ab-ak'-ti-nāl) *a.* (*Zool.*) pert. to that part of a radiate animal opposite to the mouth; aboral; without rays [L. *ab*; Gk. *aktis*, a ray].

abaction (ab-ak'-shun) *n*. the stealing of a number of cattle at one time.—**abac'tor** *n*. a cattle-thief [L. *ab*, from; *agere*, to drive].

abacus (ab'-a-kus) *n*. an instrument in the form of a frame with parallel wires on which arithmetical calculations are made with sliding balls or beads; a counting-frame; (*Archit.*) a tablet crowning a column and its capital.—**ab'acist** *n*. one who uses an abacus in calculating; a calculator [L., from Gk. *abax*, a reckoning-board].

Abaddon (a-bad'-on) *n*. a Hebrew name for the Devil; the destroying angel; hell; Gk. *Apollyon* [fr. Heb. *abad*, he perished].

abaft' (a-baft) *adv.* and *prep.* (*Naut.*) at or towards the stern; behind [O.E. *æftan*, behind].

abalienate (ab-āl'-yen-āt) *v.t.* (*Law*) to transfer the title of property from one to another.—**abaliena'tion** *n*. the act of so doing; (*Med.*) mental deterioration [L. *ab*, from; *alienus*, belonging to another].

abalone (ab-a-lōn'-ē) *n*. the name of several species of limpet-like molluscs or "earshells," yielding mother of pearl [Sp.].

abandon (a-ban'-don) *v.t.* to give up wholly and finally; to relinquish; to surrender;—*n.* careless freedom; a yielding to unrestrained impulse; dash.—**aban'doned** *a.* deserted; forsaken; unrestrained; given up entirely, as to a vice; hence, very wicked.—**aban'donedly** *adv.*—**aban'donment** *n*. the act of abandoning, or state of being abandoned; (*Law*) the relinquishing of an interest or claim [Fr. *abandonner*, to give up]. *Syn.* to cede, yield, renounce, desert, forsake. *Ant.* to keep, retain, cherish, maintain.

abase (a-bās') *v.t.* to bring low; to cast down; to humble.—**abas'ed** *a.* (*Her.*) depressed.—**abas'ement** *n*. the act of, or state of being, abased; humiliation [L. *ad*, to; L.L. *bassare*, to lower]. *Syn.* to debase, degrade, humiliate. *Ant.* to exalt, honour, raise.

abash (a-bash') *v.t.* to strike with sudden shame or fear; to make ashamed; to excite a consciousness of guilt, inferiority, etc.—**abash'ment** *n*. confusion from shame, fear, etc. [Fr. *ébahir*, to astound]. *Syn.* to shame, disconcert, confound, discomfit. *Ant.* to encourage, sustain, assure.

abate (a-bāt') *v.t.* to beat down, lessen; (*Law*) to put an end to, as a nuisance; to annul, as a writ;—*v.i.* to become less, decrease, subside, decline.—**abat'able** *a.* able to be abated.—**abat'ement** *n*. the act of abating, or the state of being abated; decrease; reduction; (*Law*) the remitting, as of a tax; failure, as of a writ; removal, as of a nuisance; entry of a stranger into a freehold after the death of the last possessor, before the heir.—**plea in abatement** (*Law*) a plea showing reason for abating or quashing the plaintiff's statement of claim on the ground of its being improperly framed.—**abat'er** *n*. [L. *ad*, and *batere*, for *batuere*, to strike].

abatis, abattis (a'-ba-tis) *n*. a barricade of felled trees for defence [Fr. fr. *abatire*, to fell].

abat-jour (a-ba-jōór') *n*. a skylight; a device for throwing light downwards. [Fr. *abatire*, to throw down; *jour*, daylight].

abattoir (a-ba-twār') *n*. a slaughter-house, esp. one under a local government authority [Fr. *abatire*, to fell].

abature (ab'-a-tūr') *n*. the trail of a beast of the chase [Fr.].

abb (ab) *n*. woof-yarn; weft-yarn; warp-yarn [O.E. *aweb*, wool].

Abba (ab'-a) *n*. (*Bib.*) father; used in the phrase 'Abba, Father,' an invocation used in fervent prayer [Heb. *ab*, father].

abbacy (ab'-a-si) *n*. the office or dignity of an abbot; the building under the control of an abbot; an abbey.—**abbatial** (a-bā'-shāl) *a. pert.* to an abbot, or an abbey.—**abbé** (ab'-ā) *n*. the general designation of, and mode of address for, an R.C. priest in France; an abbot.—**abb'ess** *n*. the mother superior of a nunnery, fulfilling the same functions as an abbot in a monastery.—**abb'ey** (ab'-i) *n*. a church establishment