

Chambers Concise Dictionary

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Preface

Every good dictionary is both a product and a reflection of its times, and this new edition of *Chambers Concise Dictionary* comes with all the clarity, comprehensiveness and authority appropriate to the information technology of the 90s.

A fresh look at what the user requires of dictionaries, both as regards content and accessibility, influenced the approach of the editors throughout the years of planning and compilation of this dictionary.

Up-to-dateness and width of coverage have been high priorities of the editors. This is shown not only in the wealth of new words added to the dictionary, but also in the many new meanings of 'old' words. The vibrancy and vitality of English today is reflected in many ways. For example, words previously regarded as slang have now become accepted as colloquial and these changes in usage have been clearly indicated. Nouns may now be used as verbs, as **kebab** 'to skewer'. Adjectives may also have become nouns, as with **renewable**.

The editors have retained in the dictionary, adequately and sympathetically defined, a number of words that are no longer in the forefront of the English language of today, but which, for good historical and linguistic reasons, still merit a place in an up-to-date dictionary such as the *Concise*.

Great importance has been attached to ensuring that the dictionary should be easy to use. *Chambers* has a tradition of listing words under their related headwords, as for example

historical under **history**, **preference** under **prefer**. Apart from being linguistically sound, this has been a space-saving feature enabling us to provide larger numbers of words in a manageable extent. Where, however, this practice has seemed to us to be less helpful to the user we have separated the words into independent entries, showing their relationships by means of the word origins.

Again with ease of use in mind, we have aimed to avoid using contractions in the definitions. For example, rather than '*pop.*', '*iron.*' and '*gen.*' we have '*popularly*', '*ironic*' and '*generally*'. The text has been systematically modernised and streamlined, directness and immediateness replacing the rather formal style and language of the previous edition. We have also aimed to make as many definitions as possible 'one-stop'; that is, all information required for full understanding is given within the definition itself, so that there is no need for the user to refer to other entries. Where we felt, however, that such one-stop treatment would be cumbersome or would diminish the value of the definition, we have not followed this course.

Close co-operation between our editorial and design teams has created a dictionary which, with its clear, uncluttered, undaunting and immediately readable pages, projects an image of modern lexicography that is accessible and authoritative. We are confident that *Chambers Concise Dictionary* will be as much a pleasure to use as it has been to produce.

C S

Using the dictionary

(see also inside front cover)

Order of entries

All entries are listed alphabetically, each entry having as a basic pattern the following elements:

- (1) Headword
- (2) Pronunciation
- (3) Part of speech label
- (4) Definition(s)
- (5) Etymology

Within this framework there are often subheads -- words that are derived from the headword (*derivatives*), or *compounds* or *phrases* that include the headword or one of its derivatives. This grouping of related words within an entry preserves and explains their etymological 'family' link, while at the same time ensuring that space is used as effectively as possible.

Structure

The main elements of an entry are explained in greater detail below:

1. Headword

The word (in **bold type**) projecting at the head of an entry is referred to as the headword. Headwords are listed in alphabetical order.

Superscript numbers are added to headwords where necessary (see e.g. **cape**¹, **cape**²) to indicate homographs (words of identical spelling but of different meaning, origin, etc.).

Included in the headword list, in alphabetical order, are **cross-references**, words of which the full entry, or on which further information, is to be found elsewhere in the dictionary. Also included in the alphabetical headword sequence are **abbreviation** and **symbol** entries, which follow full-word entries of identical spelling, and which themselves are followed by **prefix**, **suffix** and **combining form** entries (see page x).

2. Pronunciation

(see also inside back cover)

The respelling system (detailed in the inside back cover) has been used in this dictionary. It is a method that is intelligible to a large number of people who are not familiar with phonetic symbols, and one that allows for more than one interpretation -- so that each user of the dictionary may choose a pronunciation in keeping with his or her speech.

Pronunciation guidance (in *italic type*) follows the headword, and is given elsewhere in an entry in parentheses where helpful. The main, current British pronunciations are given, and also significant US etc. variants if appropriate, but the

numerous possible regional variations cannot be covered individually in a dictionary of this size. See pages xi and xii for details on American English and other varieties.

Guidance on stress patterns in words of more than one syllable is given by the use of the stress mark ('), which *follows* the syllable that has the main accent, both in respelling and in bold subheads for which no full or partial respelling is required.

3. Part of speech label

Following the pronunciation at the head of an entry is a label to indicate the headword's part of speech (e.g. *adj* for adjective, *n* for noun). A further part of speech label may follow a set of definitions, to show that the preceding bold word is also used as another type of word (e.g. **gash** *v* to cut deeply into. -- *n* a deep, open cut).

Part of speech labels are given after all headwords except phrasal items, and before each direct derivative word. Compound nouns are not labelled.

Entries for prefix, suffix and combining form items treat all compound subheads as derivative items, i.e. they have individual part of speech labels.

4. Definition(s)

Definitions in the dictionary entries are ordered and grouped with a view to clarity, ease of comprehension and use. Normally the most common meanings are given first, unless an earlier, perhaps more specific, sense serves to clarify or explain its subsequent use. In general, obsolete, rare, dialect and archaic senses are omitted from this dictionary.

ary, in favour of current, modern uses, although certain items in these categories, felt to be of special help or interest to the modern reader, have been included.

Definitions are separated by semi-colons.

In abbreviation and symbol entries, definitions are listed alphabetically.

5. Etymology

The etymology is given in square brackets at the end of each entry. If no etymology is shown, this indicates that the origin and history of the headword is unknown or uncertain. The sign '—' indicates 'derived from'. A bold word given as an etymology directs the reader to that word entry as the derivation; other etymologies may direct the reader directly to another etymology. A bold prefix given as an etymology indicates that the headword is formed from that prefix plus the remaining word-item; both elements may be found at their separate dictionary entries.

For abbreviations used in etymologies and elsewhere in the dictionary, see pages xiv-xvi.

6. Subheads

Subheads are bold-print items not listed as separate entries, but listed and explained within an entry. Note the order in which subheads appear in an entry:

(a) Direct derivatives

These are words which are formed by adding a suffix or ending either to the headword or to the root word. They are given, alphabetically, immediately after the various meanings of the headword. Each is given a grammatical (part of speech) label. Their pronunciation basically follows that of the headword, with stress marks placed *after* the syllable with the main accent. Where necessary, fuller respelling guidance is given in parentheses. If the meaning of a regular, direct derivative is readily deducible, it may be undefined.

(b) Compounds

Compound words (i.e. those made up of two or more words, the first being the entry headword or one of its derivatives) follow any direct derivatives. They may be hyphenated, one-word or two-word compounds. If the compound's meaning is evident from its two parts, it may be undefined. Where no grammatical label has been given at a compound, it is to be assumed to be a noun. Those compounds which do not begin with the headword or derivative of the headword are listed under the third category, the phrases.

(c) Phrases

Following any direct derivatives and any compound words, all phrasal items relating to the

headword are listed alphabetically. These may be phrases, phrasal verbs or idioms, or compounds which do not begin with the headword or any of its derivatives.

7. Alternative forms

Words spelt or formed in more than one way, but sharing the same meaning(s) and use, are shown in the dictionary linked by the word 'or'. Where a number of such alternatives are shown, strict alphabetical order may be waived in order to show the most commonly used form at the head of the list.

At headwords, alternative forms that have different pronunciations are each followed immediately by their appropriate pronunciation(s). If the pronunciation follows both headword forms, it applies to both forms.

In hyphenated compound words, an alternative form may be shown only by the alternative element of the compound (e.g. *hunt'ing-box*, *-lodge* or *-seat*).

8. Inflections

Inflected words are shown, following a colon, after the definition(s) of a word (if any). Plural forms and verb participles etc. are shown only if they are irregular in formation, or warrant special clarification. Comparative and superlative forms of adjectives are given (again only by the same criteria) *in parentheses* following the adjective or its grammatical label. Current *equivalent* feminine forms appear alongside the masculine forms, whereas distinctively or less commonly used feminine forms are shown, following a colon, after the definition(s).

9. Classification labels

A label relating to the classification (e.g. *colloq.*, *slang*, *chem.*, *electr.*, *psychol.*) of a word or meaning precedes the list of meanings where it applies to all of the meanings given.

Where a label applies to only one definition in a list, it immediately *follows* that definition.

A label which precedes the part of speech label at the head of an entry applies to *all* meanings of the word *and* to its derivatives and their meanings unless or until it is cancelled by a further classification label. This applies also where there is only one sense and one meaning of a word.

Classification labels are shown in italic print.

Foreign words A bracketed abbreviation in roman type (e.g. *Fr.*, *Ger.*) preceding the part of speech label at the head of an entry signifies that the word is still regarded as a foreign word, rather than as a naturalised English word. German nouns have been spelt with a capital letter, as they are in their country of origin.

10. Alternative pronunciations

As for alternative word forms, alternative pronunciations are shown in the dictionary linked by the word 'or', or by a comma in a string of alternatives. The main, current British pronunciations of a word are given, and also significant and commonly-encountered US, Australian etc. variants as applicable.

Alternative pronunciations at a headword are generally given in full. Elsewhere in an entry simply the syllable or syllables of a word which may be pronounced alternatively are given.

In all alternative or partial pronunciations, that part of a word not included in the respelling is to be assumed unchanged from the main pronunciation given earlier in the entry.

11. Prefix, suffix and combining forms

These entries are treated as ordinary word entries except in the respects specified below.

In the respelling given at a prefix or similar headword, often no stress pattern is specified, as it varies according to the words formed with that element.

Entries for prefix, suffix and combining form items (as already noted in 3.) show a separate part of speech label at each compound subhead 'nested' within the entry, treating them as derivatives of the headword.

If more than one definition is given they generally follow an initial linking word and a colon (e.g. *dia-* *pf*/x denoting: through; across; during; composed of).

American English

Despite increased contact and communication between Britain and America there are still major differences in the forms of English spoken and written in the two countries.

Spelling

Spelling differences in a number of individual words (e.g. *maneuver*, *defense*, and *practice* as a verb) have been noted in the dictionary. Groups of words in which the spelling is different are as follows:

Brit. U.S.

our *or* American spellings such as *color*, *humor*, have often been noted in the text

re *er* *center*, *meter*, *reconnoiter*, *multipeter*, *theater*, etc.

But, to show the hard sound of *c* or *g*: *agre*, *lucre*, *massacre*, *ogre*, etc.

ll *l* Americans have single *l* in all derivatives in *-ed*, *-ing*, *-er* (or *-or*) of words ending in an *l*: *canceled*, *-ing*, *caroled*, *-ing*, *chiseled*, *-ing*, *counseled*, *-ing*, *-or*, *dishveled*, *-ing*, *equaled*, *-ing*, *imperiled*, *-ing*, *jeweled*, *-ing*, *-er*, *libeled*, *-ing*, *-er*, *reveled*, *-ing*, *-er*, *traveled*, *-ing*, *-er*, *victualled*, *-ing*, *-er*, etc. Also *woolen*, *marvelous*.

l or *ll* *ll* *enroll*, *enthral*, *instill*, *thrall*, *dom*.

l *ll* In *fulfill*, *skillful*, *willful*.

In nouns in *-ment*: *entr*, *ent* *enthralment*, *fulfillment*, *installment*.

pp *p* *kidnaped*, *-ing*, *-er*, *worshiped*, *-ing*, *-er*.

tt *t* *carbureted*, *-or*.

ae, *oe* or *e* *e* The tendency to replace *ae* and *oe* in words from Greek or Latin by *e* is more strongly developed in the United States than in Britain: e.g. *etiology*, *hemoglobin*, *esophagus*.

ise or *ize* *ize* In verbs and their derivatives that may be spelt *-ise* or *-ize*, Americans prefer *-ize*.

Pronunciation

American pronunciation is naturally not the same in all areas and in all classes, but generally speaking it shows differences from British English pronunciation in the following respects (not specifically noted in the dictionary):

Brit. U.S.

ä Various shorter forms of the vowel are common in place of English *ä*.

i Where British English has *i* in final position, as in *happy*, Americans tend to pronounce the vowel *e*.

ö Alternative form *ä* is common in words such as *haunt*, *launch*, *saunter*, *taunt*, *vaunt*.

o A longer vowel than the normal British one is heard in *coffee*, *long*, *officer*, *soft*, etc., (mostly words in which the vowel is followed by *f*, *th*, *s*, *r*, *g*, *ng*); *ü* also is widely used in these words. *Block*, *pond*, *probable*, *top*, etc. always have *ü*.

ü In British English this is a diphthong; in American English it often loses its diphthongal character when preceded by *t*, *d*, *n*, *l* or *s*, becoming *öö*.

-il In the commoner words Americans pronounce *-il*, as *agile* (*ajil*), *fertile*, *fragile*, *futile*, *hostile*, *versatile*. In *infantile* and *juvenile*, both *-il* and *-il* are heard; *gentile* is always pronounced *-il*; *mercantile* is usually pronounced *-il*.

t In words such as *batter*, *butter*, *writing*, the *-tt-* *-t-* is pronounced with a sound similar or identical to that of the *-dd-* *-d-* of *madder*, *shudder*, *riding*.

Vowels and diphthongs before r

Brit. U.S.

a In America, this is commonly pronounced as a diphthong, the first element of which approaches a lengthened form of *e*.

Sometimes the second element, *a*, is not pronounced when the diphthong occurs in initial or medial position in a word; for example, the usual pronunciation of *Maryland* is *mer'i-land*.

u Some Americans tend to make a sound approaching *e*, so that *marry*, for instance, approximates to *merry*.

i The sound heard in *squirrel*, *stirrup*, and commonly also in *syrup*, approaches *ü*.

ü In English speech, when *ur* is followed by a vowel, the sound of the *u* is not *ü*, but Americans tend to pronounce the same vowel in *her* and *hurry*. Other examples are *occurring*, *worry*, and *courage*.

är In words such as *clerk* and *Derby* where English speech preserves an older pronunciation *är*, American speech follows the spelling, pronouncing the words *klürk*, *dür'bi*, etc.

-äri Americans tend to give words in *-ary* and *-ory* a stronger secondary accent and to pronounce *-er'ä* and *-ör'ä*. Examples are *necess-ary*, *monetary*, *secondary*, *temporary*, *obligatory*, *peremptory*, *respiratory*.

Some individual differences in the sounds of certain words and prefixes are noted in the dictionary, e.g. *tomato*, *schedule*, *simultaneous*, *anti-*.

Some variations in vocabulary and meaning between British English and American English are indicated in the dictionary, e.g. *bonnet* *hood*, *braces*, *suspenders*. A few words used only in the U.S. are likewise indicated, e.g. *sidewalk*.

Some other varieties of English

British English and American English are only two of the many varieties of English which exist in the world today. Other forms of English exist elsewhere, notably in Canada, South Africa, India and Pakistan, Australia and New Zealand. These differ to a greater or lesser extent from the English of Britain and America with regard to vocabulary, grammar, pronunciation and sometimes spelling. Many words or meanings of words unique to these regional forms are noted in the dictionary, e.g. *baux*, *billabong*, *coloured*, *hartal*, *joey*. Some guidance on the pronunciation and spelling is given in the following notes. The grammatical differences are for the most part beyond the scope of a dictionary.

Canadian English

In spelling, Canadian usage stands midway between American English and British English. The usage is however far from uniform and varies from province to province and even from person to person. Hence such spellings as *color*, *traveler* and *center*, which reflect American usage, and *colour*, *traveller* and *centre*, which reflect the British, are to be found alongside each other.

In pronunciation Canadian English exhibits features found in both American and British English although it more commonly follows American English, e.g. speakers of Canadian English pronounce *tomato* with an *ā* as do speakers of American English.

Brit. Can.

- r* Like American English, Canadian English pronounces *r* in the word-final position and before a consonant.
- ɪ* In the pronunciation of many Canadians, words such as *matter* and *madder* rhyme, as in American English.
- i* The sound heard in *squirrel*, etc. approaches *ū*.
- ɪl* Of the words which end in *-il* in British English, some e.g. *docile*, *textile*, *fragile*, end in *-il* as in British English, while others such as *missile* and *fertile* end in *-il* as in American English.
- ɪ, ow* Canadian English differs from both American and British English in its treatment of the vowels *ow* and *ɪ*, in that the vowels in for example *loud* and *ride* do not rhyme with those of *lout* and *write*.

English in Australia and New Zealand

Although there are differences between the English spoken in Australia and that of New Zealand, some of which will be commented on below, the two varieties are sufficiently similar to each other to be treated together here.

The spelling of Australian English traditionally follows that of British English but American spelling is now sometimes also found.

Among the features of pronunciation that can be noted are as follows:

Brit. Austr., N.Z.

- r* As in British English, *r* is not pronounced before a consonant or at the end of a word, except by speakers in the southern part of the South Island of New Zealand.
- i* Australian and New Zealand English has *ē* in words such as *happy*, *very*, where British English has *i*. In closed unstressed syllables, where British English has *i*, Australian and New Zealand English have *e*, as for example in *mistake*, *defeat*, *ticket*, etc.
- ōr* The pronunciation *ōe* of words like *sure*, *pure*, etc. has been almost entirely superseded by either *ō* or *ōō*.
- ā* In many words in which British English has *ā*, Australian and New Zealand English have *a*. In words ending in *-ance*, New Zealand English has *ā* where Australian English has *a* or *ū*. In Australian English *luther* is pronounced with *a*, but in New Zealand with *ā*.
- ō* Before *l*, this tends to be pronounced as *o*.

English in South Africa

In spelling, South Africa follows British English. In pronunciation, the following features are notable:

Brit. S. Africa

- r* The S. African English treatment of *r* word-finally and before consonants is the same as that of British English.
- i* S. African English has *ē* where British English has *i* in *very*, *secretary*, etc. In other positions, *i* is pronounced more centrally than in British English, with a vowel close to *ə*.
- a, e, ū* There is a tendency to raise these vowels to values approaching *e*, *i*, *ō*, etc. so giving *de'dē* for *daddy*, *kit'l* for *kettle*, and so on.
- ār* This is normally pronounced as a long *e* or *ā* sound in words like *bear*, *fair*, etc.

English in the Indian Subcontinent

English in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh is normally learned as a second language, and is often greatly influenced by the speaker's first language. Thus no homogeneous Indian English can be described here but only a number of features about which one may make some general remarks.

Two common features of Indian English are the use of retroflex *ɖ*, etc. for British English *t*, *d*, etc., and the substitution of *p*, *t*, *d* for *f*, *th*, *dh*. Speakers whose native language is Hindi or Urdu tend to insert an *i* before the initial consonant clusters in words such as *speech*, *school*, because these consonant groups do not occur in initial positions in Hindi or Urdu.

Indian English pronounces word-final *r* and pre-consonantal *r*.

Vowels in unstressed syllables are often pronounced in the way they would be in stressed syllables, where British English has *ə* or *i*.

Characters used in etymologies

A brief guide to the pronunciation of some of the non-English characters which appear most frequently in etymologies is given below. The pronunciations given are necessarily approximate as it is not always possible to convey the exact phonetic values intended by means of respelling symbols or verbal explanations.

Vowels

Symbol	Sound
<i>ā, ē, ī, ū</i>	In etymologies, these are long vowels with the sounds (or approximately the sounds) represented by the respelling symbols <i>a</i> or <i>ā</i> , <i>e</i> or <i>ē</i> , and <i>ō</i> or <i>ū</i> respectively.
<i>ō</i>	This represents a long <i>o</i> or <i>ō</i> sound or a monophthongal pronunciation of the respelling character <i>ō</i> .
<i>ī</i>	A long <i>u</i> sound.
<i>ā</i>	A long vowel similar in sound to the RP pronunciation of respelling symbol <i>a</i> .
<i>a, e, etc., ā, ē, etc.</i>	Short vowels corresponding to <i>ā, ē, etc.</i> , with values, varying from language to language, similar to those of the corresponding long vowels or those of the short vowels of English.
<i>ā, ē, ī, ō, ū</i>	In some languages, e.g. Middle High German, these symbols are used for long vowels with the values <i>ā, ā, ē, ō, ō</i> respectively.
<i>ā, ō</i>	These have the values of respelling symbols <i>e/ā</i> and <i>o/ē</i> respectively.
<i>ī</i> etc.	The diacritic <i>˘</i> is used, as in the respelling, to show nasalisation of vowels.

Consonants

Symbol	Sound
<i>d, t, n, s, ẓ.</i>	These are retroflex counterparts of <i>d, t, etc.</i>
<i>ṛ</i>	In Sanskrit, a vowel rather than a consonant; in Hindi, etc., a consonant formed by the tongue moving from a retroflex position to strike against the teeth-ridge.
<i>h</i>	The normal <i>h</i> -sound of English.
<i>m̃</i>	This marks nasalisation of the preceding vowel or the following consonant in Sanskrit.
<i>ñ</i>	A sound similar to <i>ny</i> , as in Sp. <i>cañon</i> .
<i>ṅ</i>	The sound written <i>ng</i> in the respelling and in English orthography.
<i>ś</i>	In Sanskrit, etc., a sound similar to <i>sh</i> .
<i>c</i>	In Sanskrit, etc., a sound midway between <i>k</i> and <i>ch</i> ; in Turkish, the sound of <i>j</i> as in <i>judge</i> .
<i>ç</i>	In French, Arabic and Portuguese, this represents the sound <i>s</i> ; in Turkish, <i>ch</i> .
<i>ş</i>	In Turkish, the sound <i>sh</i> .
<i>q</i>	A sound similar to <i>k</i> but pronounced slightly farther back in the mouth.
<i>ğ</i>	This marks a lengthening of the preceding vowel in Turkish.
<i>gg</i>	In Gothic, the sound <i>ng</i> .
	In Russian words, this represents a 'soft sign', marking a <i>y</i> -like palatalisation of the preceding consonant: in Chinese words, it is a mark of strong aspiration; in Arabic, Hebrew and Hawaiian, a glottal stop.
	In Arabic and Hebrew, a sound like <i>hh</i> but produced rather deeper in the throat.

Abbreviations used in the dictionary

(Note that abbreviations shown in roman with stops may also occur *without stops* when printed in *italic*, as labels.)

abbrev.	abbreviation	<i>chem</i>	chemical,	esp.	especially
abl.	ablative		chemistry	etc.	(<i>L. et cetera</i>) and so on
accus.	accusative	<i>chem eng</i>	chemical engineering	ety.	etymology
A.D.	<i>anno domini</i>	Chin.	Chinese	euph.	euphemism,
adj.	adjective				euphemistic(ally)
adv.	adverb	<i>civ eng</i>	civil engineering	Eur.	Europe(an)
Afr.	Africa(n)	cm.	centimetre(s)	exc.	except
A.Fr.	Anglo-French	<i>C of E</i>	Church of England	fem.	feminine
Afrik.	Afrikaans	colloq.	colloquial(ly)	ff.	following (pages),
<i>agri</i>	agriculture	compar.	comparative		folios
<i>alg</i>	algebra	<i>compui</i>	computers,	<i>fig</i>	figurative(ly)
Am.	America(n)		computing	Finn.	Finnish
<i>anat</i>	anatomy	conj.	conjunction	fl.	(<i>L. floruit</i>)
<i>anthrop</i>	anthropology	conn.	connected,		flourished
<i>antiq</i>	antiques, antiquity		connection	Flem.	Flemish
app.	apparently	contr.	contracted,	fol.	followed,
approx.	approximately		contraction		following
Ar.	Arabic	Copt.	Coptic	<i>fort</i>	fortification
<i>archaeol</i>	archaeology	Corn.	Cornish	Fr.	French
<i>archit</i>	architecture	corres.	corresponding	Fris.	Frisian
<i>arith</i>	arithmetic	<i>crystal</i>	crystallography	fut.	future
As.	Asia(n)	cu.	cubic	Gael.	Gaelic
Assyr.	Assyrian	Czech.	Czechoslovakian	<i>geog</i>	geography
<i>astrol</i>	astrology	d.	died	<i>geol</i>	geology
<i>astron</i>	astronomy	Dan.	Danish	<i>geom</i>	geometry
attrib.	attributive(ly)	dat.	dative	Ger.	German(y)
augm.	augmentative	demonstr.	demonstrative	Gmc.	Germanic
Austr.	Australia(n)	deriv.	derivative,	Goth.	Gothic
A.V.	Authorised Version		derived,	Gr.	Greek
			derivation	<i>gram</i>	grammar
b.	born	<i>derog</i>	derogatorily	Heb.	Hebrew
<i>bacteriol</i>	bacteriology	Dict., dict.	Dictionary,	Hind.	Hindustan{
Bav.	Bavarian		dictionary	<i>hist</i>	historic,
B.C.	before Christ	dimin.	diminutive		history
Beng.	Bengali	Du.	Dutch	<i>hort</i>	horticult.
<i>biochem</i>	biochemistry	E.	East	Hung.	Hungari{
<i>biol</i>	biology	<i>EAfr</i>	East Africa(n)	<i>hyperb</i>	hyperbolically
Bohem.	Bohemian	<i>EAnglian</i>	Eas. Anglian	Icel.	Icelandic (Modern)
<i>bot</i>	botany	<i>eccles</i>	ecclesiastical	i.e.	(<i>L. id est</i>) that is
Br.	Britain, British	<i>ecol</i>	ecology	<i>illit</i>	illiterate
Braz.	Brazilian	<i>econ</i>	economy	imit.	imitative
c	(<i>L. circa</i>) about	<i>educ</i>	education	<i>immun</i>	immunology
Can.	Canada,	c.g.	(<i>L. exempli gratia</i>)	imper.	imperative
	Canadian		for example	imperf.	imperfect
<i>cap</i>	capital	Egyp.	Egyptian	impers.	impersonal
<i>caps</i>	capitals	<i>electr</i>	electrical,	incl.	including
<i>Caribb</i>	Caribbean		electricity	Ind.	India(n)
<i>cartog</i>	cartography	<i>embryol</i>	embryology	indef.	indefinite
Celt.	Celtic	Eng.	England,	indic.	indicative
cent.	century		English	infin.	infinitive
cf.	(<i>L. confer</i>)	<i>eng</i>	engineering	infl.	influenced
	compare	<i>entom</i>	entomology	instrum.	instrumental (case)
Ch	Church	erron.	erroneous(ly)		

interj.	interjection	<i>npl</i>	noun plural	<i>pr t</i>	present tense
interrog.	interrogative	<i>ns</i>	nouns	<i>psychol</i>	psychology
intrans.	intransitive	<i>nsing</i>	noun singular	q.v., qq.v.	(<i>L. quod vide</i>) which see
Ir.	Ireland,	N.T.	New Testament	R.C.	Roman Catholic (Church)
	Irish	<i>nuc</i>	nuclear	refl.	reflexive
irreg.	irregular(ly)	N.Z.	New Zealand	rel.	related, relative
Is.	Island(s),	O.	Old	<i>relig</i>	religion, religious
	Isle(s)	obs.	obsolete	<i>rhet</i>	rhetoric
It.	Italian,	O.E.	Old English	Rom.	Romanian
	Italy	O.Fr.	Old French	Rum.	Rumanian
I.V.R.	International	O.Fris.	Old Frisian	Russ.	Russian
	Vehicle	O.H.G.	Old High German	R.V.	Revised Version
	Registration	O.Ir.	Old Irish	S.	South
Jap.	Japanese	O.N.	Old Norse	<i>SAfr</i>	South Africa(n)
Jav.	Javanese	O.N.Fr.	Old Northern French	<i>SAm</i>	South America(n)
kg.	kilogram(s)	O.Sax.	Old Saxon	<i>SAsia</i>	South Asia(n)
km.	kilometre(s)	opp.	opposed, opposite	Sax.	Saxon
L.	Latin	<i>org</i>	organic	Scand.	Scandinavian
lb.	(<i>L. libra(e)</i>) pound(s)	orig.	original(ly)	Scot.	Scottish
L.G.	Low German	<i>ornithol</i>	ornithology	<i>sculp</i>	sculpture
lit.	literal(ly)	O.T.	Old Testament	<i>SEAsia</i>	South East Asia(n)
Lith.	Lithuanian	p.	participle	sep.	separate
L.L.	Low (or Late) Latin	Pak.	Pakistan(i)	Serb.	Serbian
<i>mach</i>	machinery	<i>palaeog</i>	palaeography	sfx.	suffix
Malay.	Malaysian	<i>palaeontol</i>	palaeontology	<i>Sing</i>	Singapore
masc.	masculine	<i>pa p</i>	past participle	sing.	singular
<i>math</i>	mathematical, mathematics	<i>pa t</i>	past tense	Sinh.	Sinhalese
M.Du.	Middle Dutch	<i>pathol</i>	pathology	Slav.	Slavonic
M.E.	Middle English	perf.	perfect	<i>sociol</i>	sociology
<i>mech</i>	mechanical, mechanics	perh.	perhaps	Sp.	Spanish
Med.	Mediaeval	pers.	person, personal	<i>SpAm</i>	Spanish America(n)
<i>med</i>	medicine	Pers.	Persian	<i>specif</i>	specifically
<i>metall</i>	metallurgy	Peruv.	Peruvian	sq.	square
<i>metaphys</i>	metaphysics	<i>petr</i>	petrology	st.	stone
<i>meteorol</i>	meteorology	pfx.	prefix	subj.	subject, subjective, subjunctive
Mex.	Mexican	<i>pharm</i>	pharmacy	superl.	superlative
M.Flem.	Middle Flemish	<i>pharmacol</i>	pharmacology	<i>surg</i>	surgery
M.Fr.	Middle French	<i>philat</i>	philately	s.v.	(<i>L. sub verba</i>) under the word
M.H.G.	Middle High German	<i>philol</i>	philology	Sw.	Swedish
<i>microbiol</i>	microbiology	<i>philos</i>	philosophy	<i>SWEng</i>	South West England
<i>mil</i>	military	<i>phon</i>	phonetics	symb.	symbol
M.L.G.	Middle Low German	<i>phot</i>	photography	t.	tense
mm.	millimetre(s)	<i>phys</i>	physics	<i>tech</i>	technology
mod.	modern	<i>physiol</i>	physiology	<i>telecomm</i>	telecommunications
<i>mus</i>	music	pl.	plural	<i>teleg</i>	telegraphy
N.	New, North	Pol.	Polish	<i>theat</i>	theatre, theatrical
<i>n</i>	noun	<i>pol econ</i>	political economy	<i>theol</i>	theology
<i>NAm</i>	North America(n)	Port.	Portuguese	trans.	transitive, translation
<i>nat hist</i>	natural history	poss.	possessive, possible, possibly	<i>trig</i>	trigonometry
<i>naut</i>	nautical	prep.	preposition	Turk.	Turkish
neg.	negative	pres.	present	TV	television
neut.	neuter, neutral	prev.	previous(ly)		
N.L.	New Latin	prob.	probably		
no.	number	pron.	pronoun		
nom.	nominative	Prov.	Provençal		
Norm.	Norman	<i>pr p</i>	present participle		
Norw.	Norwegian				

U.K.	United Kingdom	usu.	usually	vt	verb transitive
ult.	ultimately	v	verb	vulg	vulgar(ly)
U.S.	United States (of America)	vet	veterinary medicine	W.	West
U.S.S.R.	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	vi	verb intransitive	W/Afr	West Africa(n)
		Viet.	Vietnamese	W.Ind.	West Indian,
		voc.	vocative	WIndies	West Indies

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A or **a**, *n* the first letter in the modern English alphabet (also see **alpha**); a note, the major sixth of the scale of **C** (*mus*); something or someone of first class or order, or of a class arbitrarily designated **A**; the designation of the principal series of paper sizes, ranging from **A0** (841 × 1189 mm.) to **A10** (26 × 37 mm.); one of the four blood types in the ABO blood group system. — **A1** (*ā wun*) first-rate, excellent; (of a ship) in first-class condition — as originally designated in Lloyd's Register of Shipping; **A'-road** a trunk or a principal road; **A'-side** (*recorded music*) the side of a single which holds the principal track being marketed. — **from A to B** from one point or place to another; **from A to Z** from beginning to end.

A or **A.** *abbrev* for: Academician; Academy; ace (*cards*); acre(s); advanced; alto (*mus*); amateur; American; American; ammeter; ampere; answer; area; argon (now usu. **Ar**; *chem*); Associate (of a society, etc.); atomic; atomic weight; Australia; Australian; Austria (I.V.R.). — **A'-bomb** atomic bomb; **A level** advanced level, (a pass in) an examination generally taken after seven years of secondary education, esp. in England and Wales. — Also *adj* (often with *hyphen*).

Å *symbol* for Ångström or angstrom.

a, also (esp. emphatic) **ā**, *adj* the indefinite article, a broken down form of **an** used before a consonant sound. [O.E. *ān*, one.]

a or **a.** *abbrev* for: about; absent; acceleration; accepted; acre; acreage; acting; active; adjective; advance; advanced; afternoon; **anno** (L.), in the year; **annus** (L.), year; anonymous; answer; *ante* (L.), before; anterior; are (metric measure); atto-.

a- *pref* a reduced form of the O.E. preposition *an*, *on*, *on*, *in*, *at*, as in *abroad*, *afloat*, *asleep*, *a-begging*, and occasionally used separately as a preposition, as in *once a year*.

a- *pref*, **a-** or **an-** *an-*, *an-*, *pref* without, not, opposite to, as in *amoral*, *anaemia*, *anodyne*. [Gr., without, not.]

AA *abbrev* for: Alcoholics Anonymous; anti-aircraft; Architectural Association; Associate of Arts; Australian Army; Automobile Association.

aa or **AA** *symbol* for (in prescriptions, etc.) in equal quantities, of each. [L.L. *ana* — Gr., again.]

AAA *abbrev* for: Amateur Athletic Association; American Automobile Association; Australian Automobile Association.

AAC *abbrev* for: Amateur Athletic Club; *anno ante Christum* (L.), in the year before Christ; Army Air Corps (US).

AAM *abbrev* for air-to-air missile.

A & M *abbrev* for (Hymns) Ancient and Modern.

A & R *abbrev* for: artists and recording; artists and repertoire.

aar *abbrev* for: against all risks (*commerce*); average annual rainfall.

aardvark *ārd'vārk*, *n* the antbear, a long-nosed African edentate that feeds on termites, etc. [Du. *aarde*, earth, *vark* (now *varken*), pig.]

aardwolf *ārd'wōlf*, *n* a hyena-like mammal of southern Africa that feeds mainly on termites and carrion. [Du. *aarde*, earth, *wolf*, wolf.]

AB *ā-bē*, *n* one of the four blood types in the ABO blood group system.

AB *abbrev* for: able-bodied (seaman); Advisory

Board; Alberta (Canadian province); *Artium Baccalaureus* (L.), Bachelor of Arts (US); autobahn.

ab- *pref* opposite to, from, away from, as in *abnormal*. [L. *ab*, from.]

ab- *pref* used to indicate a centimetre-gram-second electromagnetic unit. [**absolute**.]

a/b *abbrev* for airborne.

abaca *ā-bā-kā*, *n* a plantain grown in the Philippine Islands; its fibre, called Manila hemp. [Tagalog.]

abaci. See **abacus**.

aback *ā-bak'*, *adv* backwards; said of sails pressed backward against the mast by the wind (*naut*). — **taken aback** taken by surprise. [O.E. *on bæc*, on back; see **a-**.]

abacus *ab'ā-kas*, *n* a frame used for counting, containing rods on which are moveable beads; a piece of flat stone between the capital of a column and the architrave (*archit*). — *pl* **ab'aci** (-sī) or **ab'acuses**. [L. *abacus* — Gr. *abax*, -akos.]

abaft *ā-bāft'*, (*naut*) *adv* and *prep* behind; towards the stern. [**a-** and O.E. *bæftan*, after — *pref*. *be-* and *æftan*, behind.]

abalone *ab-a-lō'nā*, *n* an edible mollusc, whose shell has a pearly lining. [Am. Sp. *abulón*.]

abampere *ab-am'pār*, (*electr*) *n* a unit equivalent to 10 amperes. [**ab-** and **ampere**.]

abandon *ā-ban'dan*, *vi* to give up; to desert; to give (oneself) over without restraint; to give up all claims to. — *n* the condition of letting oneself go; careless freedom of action. — *adj* **aban'doned** completely deserted; given up, as to a vice; profligate, dissolute. — *adv* **aban'donedly**. — *n* **abandonee** (*law*) an insurer to whom a wreck has been abandoned. — *n* **aban'donment**. [O.Fr. *abandoner*, to put at one's disposal or in one's control.]

abase *ā-bās'*, *vt* to degrade, belittle; to humble; to lower, put down. — *adj* **abased**. — *n* **abase'ment**. [O.Fr. *abaissier* — L. *ad*, to, L.L. *bassus*, low.]

abash *ā-bash'*, *vt* to strike with shame or embarrassment; to disconcert. — *adj* **abashed**. [O.Fr. *eshahir*, to astound.]

abate *ā-bāt'*, *vi* to grow less; to subside; to be abated (*law*). — *vt* to nullify, to bring down (*law*); to lessen, reduce; to mitigate, blunt. — *adj* **abāt'able**. — *adj* **abāt'ed** blunted; diminished; lowered; subdued. — *n* **abate'ment**. [O.Fr. *abatre*, to beat down — L. *ab*, from, and *batuēre*, to beat.]

abattoir *ab'ā-twār*, *n* a public slaughterhouse. [Fr.; see *ety.* for **abate**.]

abaxial *ab-ak'si-āl*, (*bot*) *adj* away from the axis. [**ab-**.]

abbacy *ab'ā-si*, *n* the office or jurisdiction of an abbot; the time during which one is abbot. — *adj* **abbatial** (*ab-ā'shl*). [L.L. *abbātia*, abbey.]

abbé *ab'ā*, *n* a courtesy title for a French priest or cleric. [Fr., orig. abbot.]

abbess *ab'es*, *n* a woman who is head of an abbey. [L.L. *abbātissa*, fem. of *abbās*, abbot.]

abbey *ab'i*, *n* a convent under an abbot or abbess, or (*loosely*) a prior or prioress; the church now or formerly attached to such an abbey; a name often retained by an abbatial building that has become a private house. — *pl* **abb'eyes**. [O.Fr. *abaie* (Fr. *abbaye*) — L.L. *abbātia*, abbey.]

ā face; *ā far*; *ū fur*; *ū fume*; *f fire*; *ō foam*; *ō form*; *ōō fool*; *ōō foot*; *ē feet*; *a former*

abbot *ab'at*, *n* a male head of an abbey (*fem* *abb'ess*). — *n* **abb'otship**. [L.L. *abbas*, *abbātis* — Aramaic *abbā*.]

abbr. or **abbrev.** *abbrev* for: abbreviated; abbreviation.

abbreviate *a-brē'vi-āt*, *vt* to shorten; to contract; to abridge. — *n* **abbreviā'tion** an act of shortening; a shortened form, esp. part of a word. — *n* **abbrē'viator**. — *adj* **abbrē'viatory** (*-a-tor-i*). [L. *abbreviāre*, *-ātum* — *ab* (intensive) and *brevis*, short.]

ABC *a-bē-sē*, *n* the alphabet (so-named from its first letters); the first rudiments, the basics; anything arranged alphabetically.

ABC *abbrev* for: American Broadcasting Company; Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

abd *abbrev* for: abdicated; abridged.

abdabs. See **habdabs**.

abdicate *ab'di-kāt*, *vt* and *vi* formally to renounce or give up (office or dignity). — *adj* **ab'dicable**. — *n* **abdicā'tion**. [L. *ab*, from or off, *dicāre*, *-ātum*, to proclaim.]

abdomen *ab'da-man*, *n* the belly; (in mammals) the part between diaphragm and pelvis; (in arthropods) the hind-body. — *adj* **abdominal** (*ab-dom'i-nal*). — *adv* **abdom'inally**. [L. *abdomen*, *-inis*.]

abduct *ab-dū'sant*, (*anat*) *adj* (of a muscle) drawing back. [See **abduct**.]

abduct *ab-duk't*, *vt* to take away by fraud or violence; to kidnap; (of a muscle) to cause abduction in (a part of the body). — *n* **abductee** a person who is abducted. — *n* **abduction** (*-duk'shan*) the carrying away, esp. of a person by fraud or force; muscular action drawing one part of the body (such as an arm or finger) away from another or away from the median axis of the body. — *n* **abduc'tor** someone who abducts; a muscle that draws away (*anat*). [L. *abducere* — *ab*, from, *ducere*, *ductum*, to draw, lead.]

abeam *a-bēm'*, (*naut*) *adv* in a line at right angles to a vessel's length, on the beam. [a- and **beam**.]

abele *a-bēl'* or *a-bl'*, *n* the white poplar-tree. [Du. *abeel*, ult. — L. *albus*, white.]

abelia *a-bēl'i-a*, *n* a plant of the *Abelia* genus of shrubs of the honeysuckle family with pink or white flowers. [Clarke *Abel*, 1780-1826, English physician and botanist.]

Aberdeen *ab-ar-dēn'* (or sometimes *ab'*), *adj* of or originating in *Aberdeen* or *Aberdeenshire*. — *n* (in full *Aberdeen terrier*) a coarse-haired kind of Scottish terrier. — *adj* **Aberdō'nian** of *Aberdeen*. — Also *n*. — **Aberdeen Angus** (*ang'gas*) a breed of hornless, black cattle.

aberrate *ab'ar-āt*, *vi* to wander or deviate from the right way. — *n* **aberrance** (*-er'*) or **aberr'ancy**. — *adj* **aberr'ant** wandering, straying; having characteristics not strictly in accordance with type (*bot* and *zool*). — *n* **aberration** (*ab-ar-ā'shan*) a deviation from the usual, normal, or right course, direction or behaviour; a wandering of the intellect, mental lapse; a non-convergence of rays, owing to difference in refrangibility of different colours (**chromatic aberration**) or to difference of focus of the marginal and central parts of a lens or mirror (**spherical aberration**); an apparent displacement of a star (*astron*). [L. *aberrāre*, *-ātum* — *ab*, from, *errāre*, to wander.]

abet *a-bet'*, *vt* to incite by encouragement or aid (used chiefly in a bad sense; see also **aid** and **abet** under **aid**): — *pr p* **abet'ting**; *pa p* **abet'ted**. — *n* **abet'ment**. — *n* **abet'ter** or (esp. *legal*) **abet'tor**. [O.Fr. *abeiter* — *a* (L. *ad*, to), and *beter*, to bait; see **bait**.]

abeyance *a-bē'ans*, *n* a state of suspension or temporary inactivity; the state of being without a claimant (as of a peerage). — *adj* **abey'ant**. [O.Fr. *abeance* — *a* (L. *ad*, to), and *beer*, *baer*, to gape, open wide.]

abhor *ab-hōr'*, *vi* to shrink from with horror; to detest, loathe: — *pr p* **abhor'ring**; *pa t* and *pa p* **abhorred**.

— *n* **abhorrence** (*ab-hor'ans*) extreme hatred; something that is abhorred. — *adj* **abhor'r'ent** repugnant; strongly opposed or out of keeping; detestable; detested; detesting. — *adv* **abhor'r'ently**. — *n* **abhor'r'er**. [L. *abhorrere* — *ab*, from, and *horrere*, to bristle, shudder.]

abide *a-bid'*, *vi* to endure; to tolerate; to meet, face, sustain; to wait for, bide. — *vi* to remain; to dwell or stay; to conform to, adhere to, comply with, obey (with *by*): — *pa t* and *pa p* **abōde** or **abid'ed**. — *n* **abid'ence**. — *adj* **abid'ing** continual, permanent. — *adv* **abid'ingly**. [O.E. *āðidan* — *pf* *ð-*, and *ðidan*, to wait.]

à bientôt *a byē-tō*, (Fr.) *see* you again soon.

ability *a-bil'i-ti*, *n* the quality or fact of being able (to); power (physical and mental); strength; skill. [O.Fr. *ableté* (Fr. *habilete*), remodelled on its source, L. *habilitās*, *-ātis* — *habere*, to have, hold.]

ab init. *abbrev* for **ab initio** (*ab in-ish'i-ō* or *-ii'i-ō*; L.) from the beginning.

abiosis *ā-bī-ō'sis*, (*med*) *n* absence of life. — *adj* **abiot'ic** without life; inanimate. [a-² and Gr. *biotikos* — *bios*, life.]

abject *ab'jekt*, *adj* mean; worthless; grovelling; base, contemptible. — *n* **abjec'tion**. — *adv* **ab'jectly**. — *n* **ab'jectness**. [L. *abjicere*, *abjectum* — *ab*, from, *jacere*, to throw.]

abjure *ab-jōr'*, *vt* to renounce on oath or solemnly; to recant; to repudiate. — *n* **abjurā'tion**. — *n* **abjur'er**. [L. *ab*, from, *jurāre*, *-ātum*, to swear.]

abl. *abbrev* for **ablative**.

ablation *ab-lā'shan*, *n* removal, esp. surgical removal of an organ or body-tissue, etc.; decrease caused by melting, evaporation, weathering, or (in *aerospace*) by heat friction on re-entering the atmosphere. — *vi* **ablate** (*ab-lāt'*). — *adj* **ablative** (*ab-lā-tiv*) pertaining to ablation; in or belonging to a case which in Indo-European languages originally expressed *direction from*, or *time when*, later extended to other functions (*gram*). — *n* the ablative case; a word in the ablative. — *adj* **ablatt'val**. — *n* **ablat'or** the heat shield of a spacecraft. — **ablative absolute** in Latin a phrase generally comprising a noun or pronoun coupled with another noun, an adjective or a participle, both in the ablative case and usu. indicating the time or cause of an event. [L. *ablātus*, past *p*. of *auferre*, to carry off, remove.]

ablaut *āp'lout* or *ab'lowt*, (*philol*) *n* a variation in root vowel as in *sing*, *sang*, *song*, *sung*. [Ger., *ab*, off, *Laut*, sound.]

ablaze *a-blāz'*, *adv* and *adj* in a blaze, on fire; gleaming brightly. [a-¹ and **blaze**¹.]

able *ā-bl*, *adj* (*compar* **a'bler**, *superl* **a'blest**) having enough strength, power or means (to do a thing); skilful. — *adj* **a'ble-bodied** free from disability, etc.; robust. — *adv* **a'bly**. — **able seaman** or **able-bodied seaman** (*abbrev.* **AB**) a seaman able to perform all the duties of seamanship and having a higher rating than the ordinary sailor. — **able seawoman** or **able-bodied seawoman**. [See **ability**.]

-able *-a-bl*, *adj* *sfx* capable of (being); able to (be); worthy of (being); likely to (be); that must (be); suitable for; in accordance with; causing. — *n* *sfx* **-ability**. — *adv* *sfx* **-ably**. — See also **-ible**. [O.Fr.]

ablution *a-blōō'shan*, (*n* (often in *pl*) the act of washing, esp. the body; ceremonial washing; (in *sing*) the wine and water used to rinse the chalice, drunk by the officiating priest (*RC relig*). — *adj* **ablu'tionary**. — *n* **ablutomane** (*a-blōō-tō-mān*) a person obsessed with cleanliness. [L. *ablūtio*, *-ōnis* — *ab*, away, *luere*, to wash.]

ABM *abbrev* for **antiballistic missile**.

abnegate *ab-ni-gāt*, *vi* to deny; to renounce. — *n* **abnegā'tion**. — *n* **ab'negātor**. [L. *ab*, away, *negāre*, to deny.]

a face; *ā* far; *ū* fur; *ū* fume; *f* fire; *ō* foam; *ō* form; *ōō* fool; *ōō* foot; *ē* feet; *a* former

abnormal *ab-nôr'ml*, *adj* not normal. — *n* **abnor'malism**. — **abnormality** (*ab-nôr-mal'i-ti*). — *adv* **abnor'mally**. — **abnor'mity**. — **abnormal load** (usu. of road transport) a larger or heavier load than is generally carried. [Fr. *anormal* — L.L. *anormalus* — Gr. *anômalos* (see **anomaly**).]

ABC blood group system *ā'hē-ō blud grōōp sis'təm*, *n* (med) a system by which human blood is classified into four groups (O, A, B, AB) according to the antigens carried by the red blood cells.

Ab *ab'ō*, (*Austr.*; *offensive*) *n* short for Aboriginal or Aborigine: — *pl* **Ab'ōs**.

aboard *ā-bōrd'*, *adv* or *prep* on board; in or into a ship, railway train, etc.; alongside (*naut.*). [*a* -¹ and *board*.]

abode *ā-bōd'*, *n* a dwelling-place, home. — of no fixed **abode** (*legal*) having no regular, habitual address. [*abide*.]

abolish *ā-hol'ish*, *vt* to put an end to. — *adj* **abol'ish-able**. — *n* **aboli'tion**. — *adj* **aboli'tional**. — *adj* **aboli'tionary**. — **aboli'tionism**. — **aboli'tionist** a person who seeks to abolish anything, e.g. slavery or capital punishment. [L. *abolere*, -*itum*.]

abomasum *ab-ō-mā'səm*, *n* the fourth or true stomach of ruminants: — *pl* **abomā'sa**. — *adj* **abomā'sal**. [*ab* -¹ and L. *omāsum*, tripe, paunch.]

abominate *ā-hom'in-āt*, *vt* to abhor, detest. — *adj* **abom'inable** hateful; detestable. — *n* **abom'in-ableness**. — *adv* **abom'inably**. — **abominā'tion** extreme aversion; a detested object, anything abominable. — *n* **abom'inator**. — **abominable snow-men** a mythical hairy man-like creature supposed to live in the Himalayas (also called the **yeti**). [L. *abomināri*, -*ātus*, to turn from as being of bad omen; see **omen**.]

ab origine *ab ō-rij'in-ē* or *rēg'in-e*, (L.) from the very first, from the source.

aborigine *ab-ā-rij'i-nē* or *-ni*, *n* an original or native inhabitant of a country, esp. (now often, and in Australia always, with *cap*) Australia. — *adj* **ab-orig'inal** (often with *cap*) earliest, primitive, indigenous. — *n* (now often, and in Australia always, with *cap*) an aborigine; (with *cap*) an Australian Aboriginal language. — **aboriginality** (-*al'i-ti*). — *adv* **aborig'inally**. [L. (pl.) *aboriginēs* — *ab*, from, or *gō*, -*inis*, beginning.]

abort *ā-bōrt'*, *vi* to miscarry in birth; to come to nothing; to fail before getting fully under way or reaching a viable stage of development. — *vt* to cause to abort; to check or call off (an attack, mission, etc.) at an early stage. — *n* an instance of abortion (esp. of a rocket launch). — *n* **abor'ticide** (-*i-sid*) the killing of a foetus in the womb; a drug or agent causing this (also called an **abortifacient**). — *adj* **abortifacient** (-*i-fā'shənt*) causing abortion. — Also *n*. — *n* **abor'tion** the premature expulsion of an embryo or a foetus, either occurring naturally (**spontaneous abortion**) or by artificial means (**induced abortion**), esp. in the first three months of pregnancy; the procuring of an induced abortion; anything that fails in the course of coming into being. — *n* **abor'tionist** a person who procures abortion. — *adj* **abor'tive** unsuccessful; brought out or produced in an imperfect condition; checked in development. — *adv* **abor'tively**. — *n* **abor'tiveness**. — **abortion pill** a drug taken orally that brings about abortion; **contagious abortion** contagious bacterial infections of cattle and of horses, causing abortion. [L. *aboriri*, *abortus* — *pf.* *ab* -¹ and *oriri*, to rise.]

aboulia or **abulia** *ā-bōō'li-ā* or *ā-bū'li-ā*, *n* loss of willpower; inability to make decisions. [*a* -² and Gr. *boulē*, will.]

abound *ā-bownd'*, *vi* to exist in great plenty; to be rich (with *in*); to be filled (with *with*). — *adj* **abound'ing**. [O.Fr. *abunder* — L. *abundare*, to overflow.]

about *ā-bow'*, *prep* round on the outside of; around; here and there in; near in place, time, size, etc.; on the

person of; connected with; concerning; engaged in. — *adv* around; halfway round, the opposite direction (e.g. *to face about*); nearly; here and there; on the opposite tack; in motion or activity. — **about-face** a complete change of opinion, attitude, etc. — Also *vi*. — Also **about-turn**. — **about to** on the point of (doing etc.); also **just about to**; (in *neg*) not likely or keen (to do something) (*colloq.*); **bring about** to cause to take place; **come about** to happen in the course of time; **go about** to prepare to do; **turn about** alternately; in rotation. [O.E. *onbūtan* — *on*, in, *būtan*, without.]

above *ā-buv'*, *prep* over; in or to a position higher than that of; beyond in degree, amount, etc.; too magnanimous or proud for. — *adv* overhead; in a higher position, order or power; in an earlier passage (of text, etc.); in heaven. — *adj* mentioned in an earlier passage. — *adj* **above-board** open, without deception. — *adj* **above-mentioned**. — *adj* **above-named**. — *adj* **above-the-line** of or pertaining to the Government's expenditure and revenue allowed for in its original estimates and provided for by taxation; of or pertaining to the expenditure and revenue detailed in a company's profit and loss account. — **above oneself** conceited. [Late O.E. *ābūfan* — O.E. *ā*, on, *būfan*, above.]

Abp *abbrev* for Archbishop.

abr. *abbrev* for: abridged; abridgment.

abracadabra *ab-ra-kā-dab'ra*, *n* a magic word; a spell or conjuring word; gibberish. [Found in a 2nd-cent. poem.]

abrade *ā-brād'*, *vt* to wear down or off. — *adj* and *n* **abrā'dant**. [L. *ab*, from, *rādere*, *rāsum*, to scrape.]

abbranchiate *ā-brang'ki-āt*, (*zool*) *adj* without gills. [*a* -² and Gr. *branchia*, gills.]

abrasion *ā-brā'zhən*, *n* a wearing away; a worn-down or grazed place. — *adj* **abrā'sive** (-*ziv* or -*siv*) tending to abrade; harsh; (of a person) tending to irritate or annoy. — *n* a substance used to clean, smooth, etc. by scratching and grinding. [Ety. as for **abrade**.]

abreaction *ab-rē-ak'shən*, (*psychol*) *n* the resolution of a neurosis by reviving forgotten or repressed ideas of the event first causing it. — *vi* **abreact'**. [*ab* -¹ and *reaction*.]

abreast *ā-brest'*, *adv* with fronts in line; side by side; (with *of*) keeping pace with. [*a* -¹ and *breast*.]

abridge *ā-brij'*, *vt* to shorten; to epitomise; to curtail. — *n* **abridg'er**. — *n* **abridg'ment** (or sometimes **abridge'ment**) contraction; shortening; an epitome or synopsis. [O.Fr. *abregier* — L. *abbreviāre*.]

abroad *ā-brōd'*, *adv* in or to another country; over a wide area; at large; out of doors; current. [*a* -¹ and *broad*.]

abrogate *ab-rō-gāt'*, *vt* to annul, rescind. — *n* **abrogā'tion**. — *adj* **ab'rogative**. — *n* **ab'rogator**. [L. *ab*, away, *rogāre*, -*ātum*, to ask, or to propose a law.]

abrupt *ā-brupt'*, *adj* broken off or as if broken off; sudden, unexpected; precipitous, steep; (of manners) short, rude. — *adv* **abrupt'ly**. — *n* **abrupt'ness**. [L. *abruptus* — *ab*, from, *rumpere*, *ruptum*, to break.]

ABS *abbrev* for anti-lock braking system.

abs. *abbrev* for: absence; absent; absolute; absolutely; absorbent; abstract.

abscess *ab'ses* or -*sis*, (*med*) *n* a collection of pus in a cavity, usu. causing an inflamed swelling. [L. *abscessus* — *abs*, from, *cēdere*, *cēssum*, to go, retreat.]

abscind *ab-sind'*, *vt* to cut off. — *n* **abscissa** (*ab-sis'ə*) (*math*) the intercept between a fixed point and the foot of an ordinate; the *x*-co-ordinate in analytical geometry: — *pl* **abscissae** (*ab-sis'ē* or -*sis'ē*). — *n* **abscission** (-*sizh'ən*) an act of cutting off, or state of being cut off; organised shedding of a part (e.g. a leaf or fruit) (*bot*). [L. *abscindere*, *abscissum*, to cut off.]

abscise *ab-siz'*, (*bot*) *vi* to fall off by abscission. — *vt* to cause to separate by abscission. — *n* **abscisin** (-*sis'in*) any of a number of plant hormones which promote

ā face; *ā far*; *ū fur*; *ū fume*; *f fire*; *ō foam*; *ō form*; *ōō fool*; *ōō foot*; *ē feet*; *ā former*