

COLLINS  
POCKET  
ENGLISH  
DICTIONARY

**COLLINS  
POCKET  
DICTIONARY  
OF THE  
ENGLISH  
LANGUAGE**

**Collins  
London and Glasgow**

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## FOREWORD

COLLINS POCKET ENGLISH DICTIONARY is an up-to-date survey of the contemporary language. Like its larger brother, *Collins English Dictionary*, COLLINS POCKET DICTIONARY caters for today's needs by placing the current core meaning of words at the head of the definition, where it belongs for most purposes, and treating specialized and obsolete meanings only after current senses have been established.

Like the larger volume, too, the present book puts emphasis on ease of use and ready availability of information by placing all vocabulary items including compounds, prefixes and suffixes, abbreviations, and foreign terms in a single alphabetical listing; and by ensuring that all words that require defining are entered as independent headwords. Only idioms and items that consist of the headword plus standard ending are placed within another entry.

In addition, simplicity and clarity have been sought by framing definitions in direct, straightforward language and by marking off different meanings clearly with bold numbers. The result is a body of dictionary information instantly accessible to all who consult it, irrespective of their degree of verbal sophistication, a dictionary truly suitable for Everyman.

Another feature that will commend itself to most users is the emphasis on spelling aids. Not only the 'standard' irregular forms are shown: our rule has been to show *any* form of the headword that might pose a spelling difficulty: for example, the plurals of *all* nouns ending in *-o* or *-y* are given, not just those considered irregular.

The present convenient, compact volume has been achieved by concentrating on a judicious selection of general and special vocabulary that excludes rarer and highly technical words and meanings (for which the reader is referred to *Collins English Dictionary*); and by omitting proper names.

Etymologies, though brief, preserve the essential elements; and no economies have been made in respect of pronunciations, like spelling difficulties, a very frequent reason for referring to one's dictionary. The pronunciation scheme uses a minimum of special symbols, again in the interests of clarity and simplicity.

The result is a compact all-purpose dictionary that we hope will serve the needs of large numbers of people all over the world who speak and write English and may need occasional help with it.

W.T.M.

# GUIDE TO THE USE OF THE DICTIONARY

## 1. HEADWORDS

### 1.1 Single alphabetical listing

All main entries in the dictionary, whether single words, compounds, combining forms (see 1.3, below), abbreviations, or foreign words, are entered in alphabetical order in the main text.

### 1.2 Alternative spellings

Alternative spellings that are alphabetically close and both common are placed together at the head of the article. Where one form is less common it is placed *after* the relevant definition.

Alternative spellings that are alphabetically distant are given separate main entries, with the less common form cross-referred to the more common form.

Common North American spellings are given in this way.

Although only *-ize* and *-ization* spellings are shown, the reader should understand that spellings in *-ise* and *-isation* are equally acceptable.

### 1.3 Combining forms

Prefixes, suffixes, and other combining forms are generously represented among the headwords since they enable the reader significantly to expand the vocabulary shown in the dictionary.

Combining forms that are added to the beginning of words are distinguished thus: *dis-*; *in-*; *self-*. Those that are added to the end of words are shown thus: *-able*; *-or*; *-ship*.

### 1.4 Homographs

Headwords that have the same spelling but are different words are entered separately and distinguished by small superior numbers, thus:

mine<sup>1</sup>  
mine<sup>2</sup>

### 1.5 Cross-references

Cross-references from one main entry to another are shown by placing the headword to which the reader is referred in small capitals, thus:

microchipsame ASCHIP (n.6)  
plywood [PLY<sup>1</sup> + WOOD]

## 2. PRONUNCIATION

### 2.1 General note

The pronunciations shown are those commonly used by educated speakers of English. The few special symbols used will be readily understood from the sample words shown in the key (2.2, below) and are devised to allow a wide range of speakers of English to interpret them in the light of their own pronunciation.

### 2.2 Pronunciation Key

Only special symbols are shown in the key. Letters not shown have their normal values.

## English Sounds

ä	as in acre, rate, gait
ä	as in calm, far, father
ē	as in fee, meat, funny
i	as in pipe, why, buy
ō	as in tone, groan, though
ô	as in call, corn, awl
oo	as in book, full, soot
oo	as in food, soup, through, brew
yoo	as in sinuous, globular
yoo	as in few, tune, due
oi	as in boil, boy, loiter
ou	as in shout, aloud, allowed
ur	as in demur, fern, bird
ə	as in alone (ə'lɒn'), potter (pɒ'tər), timorous (tim'ər əs), nation (nə'shən)
ər	as in perhaps, partner, undergo
ēə	as in fear, mere, beer
āə	as in fair, vary, bear, bare
ooə	as in moor, cure, furious
iə	as in fire, lyre
ouə	as in our, flour
ch	as in church, chair, lurch
sh	as in shin, cushion, bashed
zh	as in leisure, fusion, azure
th	as in think, both, nothing
th	as in this, bother, loathing
ŋ	as in sing, anger, anxious
ʔ	as in apple (ap'ɪl), happen (hap'n)
kh	as in Scottish loch (see also below)

## Foreign Sounds

ä	as in Fr. <i>bal</i> , halfway between (a) and (ä)
ē	as in Fr. <i>coeur</i> : the sound (e) pronounced with lips rounded as if for (o)
ö	as in Fr. <i>feu</i> or Ger. <i>Goethe</i> : the sound (ä) pronounced with lips rounded as if for (ö)
ö	as in a range of sounds as heard in Fr. <i>coq</i> , Ger. <i>doch</i> , Ital. <i>poco</i> , Sp. <i>torero</i>
ü	as in Fr. <i>duc</i> or Ger. <i>grün</i> : the sound (ē) pronounced with lips rounded as if for (oo)
kh	as in Ger. <i>doch</i> : a prolonged (h) sound with the lips and tongue positioned as if for (k)
ɪ	as in Ger. <i>ich</i> : as the previous sound but formed in the front of the mouth with the tongue raised towards the front of the palate
n	as in Fr. <i>bon</i> , <i>vin</i> , <i>blanc</i> , etc.: indicates that the preceding vowel sound is nasalized
r	as in the uvular or tongue-point trill of the 'r' in Fr. <i>rare</i> , Ger. <i>recht</i> , Ital. <i>trarre</i> , Sp. <i>reserva</i> , etc. as in Fr. <i>lettre</i> (let'r')

# Guide to the Dictionary

## 2.3 Notes

(i) Though words like *castle*, *path*, *fast* are shown as pronounced with an (ʌ) sound, many speakers use an (a). Such variations are acceptable and are to be assumed by the reader.

(ii) The letter 'r' in some positions is not sounded in the speech of Southern England and elsewhere. However, many speakers in other areas do sound the 'r' in such positions with varying degrees of distinctness. Again, such variations are to be assumed, and though the dictionary shows an 'r' in such pronunciations as *fern* (fɜ:n), *fear* (fɛ:ə), *arm* (ɑ:m), the reader will sound or not sound the 'r' according to his speech habits.

(iii) The symbol (ə), the schwa, represents the neutral vowel heard in a wide range of unstressed syllables. In some such words, however, among some speakers an (i) sound is heard, as in *listless* (list'ləs or list'lis). Again, such variations should be assumed.

(iv) The widely received pronunciation of words like *which*, *why* is with a simple (w) sound and is so shown in the dictionary, many speakers, in Scotland and elsewhere, preserve an aspirated sound: (hw). Once again this variation is to be assumed.

(v) A primary or main stress is shown by an accent (ˈ) after the stressed syllable. A secondary or weaker stress is shown by a lighter tick (ˊ) after the syllable carrying secondary stress.

(vi) When a pronunciation is not shown, it is the same as that of the preceding headword or can easily be deduced from it, or, in the case of compounds, from the pronunciations given for the separate parts. Partial pronunciations are given when this can be done without loss of clarity.

## 3. PART-OF-SPEECH LABELS

Part-of-speech function is shown for headwords and derived forms within articles, but not for prefixes, suffixes, abbreviations, and multiple word entries. When a word functions as more than one part-of-speech, each change of function is shown by a bold dash and a new part-of-speech label.

When two or more part-of-speech labels are attached to an entry without an intervening definition (*juggle ... vt., vi ...*) each applies equally to what follows.

## 4. INFLECTED FORMS

Inflected forms regarded as irregular or offering difficulty in spelling are shown in small bold type after the part-of-speech label. The following notes amplify this general statement.

### 4.1 Plurals of nouns

The following are regarded as regular: plurals formed simply by adding -s to the

singular or by adding -es when the singular ends in s, x, z, ch, or sh.

Plurals formed in any other way are shown.

### 4.2 Verbal forms

The following are regarded as regular:

(i) present tenses formed simply by adding -s to the infinitive or by adding -es after s, x, z, ch, and sh.

(ii) past tenses and past participles formed simply by adding -ed to the infinitive with no other change.

(iii) present participles formed simply by adding -ing to the infinitive with no other change.

Verbal parts formed in any other way are shown, including verbs which drop a final e in forming the present participle.

Where two inflected verbal parts are given, the first is the past tense and the past participle, and the second is the present participle.

Where three inflected verbal parts are given, the first is the past tense, the second is the past participle, and the third is the present participle.

**make ... vt. made, mak'ing ...**  
**swim ... vi. swam, swum, swim'ming ...**

### 4.3 Comparatives and Superlatives

The following are regarded as regular: comparatives and superlatives formed simply by adding -er or -est to the base.

Comparatives and superlatives that involve any further change in the base word are shown.

4.4 Irregular forms that are alphabetically distant from the base form are entered in their alphabetical place as headwords and cross-referred to the base form.

## 5. ETYMOLOGIES

A brief account of the origin of most words is placed within square brackets before the definitions. Occasionally the reader is referred to the etymologies given at the component parts of a word (see example at 1.5, above). The presence of {< ?} indicates that the etymology is uncertain.

## 6. DEFINITIONS

### 6.1 Numbering of Senses

Where the definition embraces two or more distinct meanings, the different senses are marked off with consecutive bold numbers. The senses of each part of speech and idiomatic phrase are numbered separately. Sometimes a numbered sense is subdivided

# Guide to the Dictionary

into a), b), etc., especially to denote specific applications of a general meaning.

In general, the meaning given first in the dictionary is not the oldest (and often obsolete) meaning, but the core meaning common in current usage.

## 6.2 Capitalization

Where a headword has a capital initial, that word is always so written or printed in generally accepted usage. Where a word is usually (but not always) capitalized or usually (but not always) used with a small initial, these facts are indicated. The reader is also told when a word is capitalized for a specific meaning (or meanings) or, conversely, not capitalized for a specific meaning or meanings.

## 6.3 Plural usages

Where a word is only used in the plural (or often or usually) this is clearly indicated. Where a word is used in the plural (or often or usually) for a specific meaning or meanings, this, again, is indicated.

If a noun that is plural in form is used as a singular in all or some meanings, this information is provided.

## 6.4 Prepositional usage

When a verb is followed by a certain preposition or prepositions in some or all of its meanings, this information is provided. Such prepositional usage is not to be confused with idioms that consist of verb + preposition/adverb with a special meaning ("phrasal verbs," eg. *get on*, *get over*, *get up*). Such phrasal verbs are entered as idiomatic phrases.

## 6.5 Additional information

Background information or comment has been added to the definition proper when this seemed helpful. Such additional material is usually introduced by a colon.

## 6.6 Examples

Examples of how a word is used have been provided where this helps to clarify the definition. Such examples are placed within italic square brackets.

## 7. USAGE LABELS

Certain words and certain meanings are restricted in usage in any of a number of ways. A word or meaning may be technical or slang or vulgar or poetic, and so on. Words or meanings that occur in technical or specialized contexts have a *field label* attached to them to indicate the area in which they are likely to be encountered (*Music*, *Physics*, *Aeronautics*, and soon).

In addition, as a help to appropriate usage the following restrictive labels are employed with meanings as indicated.

[Colloq.] Colloquial: characteristic of relaxed conversation or informal writing, but not substandard or illiterate.

[Slang] Slang: characteristic of speech in highly informal contexts, not generally regarded as accepted or standard.

[Derog.] Derogatory: describing a use that could be offensive, whether intended to be so or not.

[Vulg.] Vulgar: a word or meaning usually considered taboo in most contexts.

[Archaic] Archaic: a word or sense no longer in common use but still found in certain restricted contexts (eg. church ritual) and earlier literature.

[Obs.] Obsolete: no longer in use but found in earlier literature.

[Poet.] Poetic: characteristic of poetry (especially poetry of the 18th and 19th centuries) or of poetic prose.

[Dial.] Dialect: a word or meaning regularly used only in some geographical areas.

In addition, where a word or meaning is typical of the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, S Africa, etc., this fact is noted.

## 8. IDIOMATIC PHRASES

Idiomatic phrases are listed in alphabetical order after the completed definition of the headword. Idioms are entered under the key word, that is, the word that contains the main idea, and this will often not be the first word in the phrase. For example:

*eat one's heart out*; *set one's heart on* will be found under **heart**; *give someone his head*; *keep (or lose) one's head* under **head**.

Where part of a phrase is placed within brackets, that part is either optional or shows an acceptable variation.

## 9. DERIVED ENTRIES

Derived entries are formed by adding a standard ending to the headword and are run-in in alphabetical order at the end of the entry block. However, any derived word that has developed a distinct meaning of its own that cannot be deduced from the base word has been entered as a separate headword and fully defined. Only when no definition is required are they run in. (See 1.3, above).

The number of such possible derived words in English is indefinitely great. They are listed here when they are a standard part of the current language; but less common forms and many adverbs ending in *-ly* are omitted. The reader should understand that almost any English adjective can be turned into an adverb by adding *-ly*.

# ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS USED IN THE DICTIONARY

**abbrev.** abbreviated; abbreviation

**abl.** ablative

**Abor.** Aboriginal (in etym.)

**acc.** accusative

**adj.** adjective

**adv.** adverb

**Aeron.** Aeronautics

**Afr.** African

**Afrik.** Afrikaans

**alt.** alternative

**Am.** American

**AmInd.** American Indian

**AmSp.** American Spanish

**Anat.** Anatomy

**Anglo-Ind.** Anglo-Indian

**Anglo-Norm.** Anglo-Norman

**Ar.** Arabic

**Aram.** Aramaic

**Archaeol.** Archaeology

**Archit.** Architecture

**Arith.** Arithmetic

**art.** article

**assoc.** associated

**Astrol.** Astrology

**Astron.** Astronomy

**Aust.** Australian

**Beng.** Bengali

**Biochem.** Biochemistry

**Biol.** Biology

**Bot.** Botany

**Braz.** Brazilian

**Brit.** British

**C** Celsius; Central

**c.** century (in etym.); circa

**Canad.** Canada; Canadian

**Celt.** Celtic

**cent.** century; centuries

**cf.** compare

**Ch.** Church

**Chem.** Chemistry

**Chin.** Chinese

**cm** centimetre(s)

**Colloq.** colloquial

**comp.** compound

**compar.** comparative

**conj.** conjunction

**contr.** contracted; contraction

**Dan.** Danish

**dat.** dative

**deriv.** derivative

**Derog.** derogatory

**Dial., dial.** dialect

**dim.** diminutive

**Du.** Dutch

**E** East; eastern

**E.** East; English (in etym. & pronun.)

**Early ModDu.** Early Modern Dutch

**Early ModG.** Early Modern German

**Eccles.** Ecclesiastical

**Ecol.** Ecology

**Econ.** Economics

**Educ.** Education

**e.g.** for example

**Elec.** Electricity

**Eng.** English

**equiv.** equivalent

**esp.** especially

**etym.** etymology

**Ex.** example

**exc.** except

**fem.** feminine

**ff.** following (entry, sense, etc.)

**fig.** figurative(ly)

**Finn.** Finnish

**Fl.** Flemish

**Fr.** French

**Frank.** Frankish

**freq.** frequentative

**fut.** future

**g** gram(s)

**G.** German (in etym. & pronun.)

**Gael.** Gaelic

**gen.** genitive

**Geog.** Geography

**Geol.** Geology

**Geom.** Geometry

**Ger.** German

**ger.** gerund

**Gmc.** Germanic

**Goth.** Gothic

**Gr.** Greek

**Gram.** Grammar

**Haw.** Hawaiian

**Heb.** Hebrew

**Hist.** Historical; History

**Hort.** Horticulture

**Hung.** Hungarian

**hyp.** hypothetical

**Ice.** Icelandic

**l.e.** that is

**imper.** imperative

**imperf.** imperfect

**incl.** including

**Ind.** Indian

**indic.** indicative

**inf.** infinitive

**intens.** intensive

**interj.** interjection

**Ir.** Irish

**irreg.** irregular

**It.** Italian

**Jap.** Japanese

**Jav.** Javanese

**kg** kilogram(s)

**km** kilometre(s)

**litre(s)**

**L** Late

**L.** Latin

**LGr.** Late Greek



## Abbreviations and Symbols (cont.)

**Linguis.** Linguistics  
**lit.** literally  
**LL.** Late Latin  
**LME.** Late Middle English

**m** metre(s)  
**M** Middle; Medieval  
**Math.** Mathematics  
**MDu.** Middle Dutch  
**ME.** Middle English  
**Mech.** Mechanics  
**Med.** Medicine; Medieval  
**M.** Meteorology  
**Mex.** Mexican  
**MexInd.** Mexican Indian  
**MFr.** Middle French  
**MGr.** Middle Greek  
**MHG.** Middle High German  
**Mil.** Military  
**ML.** Medieval Latin  
**MLowG.** Middle Low German  
**Mod., Mod** Modern  
**ModE.** Modern English  
**ModGr.** Modern Greek  
**ModL.** Modern Latin  
**Myth.** Mythology

**N** North; northern  
**N.** North  
**n.** noun  
**Naut., naut.** nautical usage  
**NE** northeastern  
**neut.** neuter  
**n.fem.** noun feminine  
**n.masc.** noun masculine  
**nom.** nominative  
**Norm.** Norman  
**Norw.** Norwegian  
**n.pl.** plural form of noun  
**n.sing.** singular form of noun  
**N.T.** New Testament  
**NW** northwestern  
**N.Z.** New Zealand

**O** Old  
**Obs., obs.** obsolete  
**occas.** occasionally  
**OE.** Old English  
**OFr.** Old French  
**OHG.** Old High German  
**Olr.** Old Irish  
**ON.** Old Norse  
**ONormFr.** Old Norman French  
**orig.** originally  
**OS.** Old Saxon  
**O.T.** Old Testament

**p.** page  
**part.** participle  
**pass.** passive  
**Per.** Persian  
**perf.** perfect  
**pers.** person  
**Philos.** Philosophy  
**Phonet.** Phonetics  
**Photog.** Photography  
**phr.** phrase  
**Phys. Ed.** Physical Education  
**Physiol.** Physiology  
**PidE.** Pidgin English  
**pl.** plural  
**Poet.** Poetic  
**Pol.** Polish

**pop.** popular  
**Port.** Portuguese  
**poss.** possessive  
**pp.** pages; past participle  
**Pr.** Provençal  
**prec.** preceding  
**prep.** preposition  
**pres.** present  
**prin. pts.** principle parts  
**prob.** probably  
**pron.** pronoun  
**pronun.** pronunciation  
**prp.** present participle  
**Psychol.** Psychology  
**pt.** past tense

**R.C.Ch.** Roman Catholic Church  
**redupl.** reduplication  
**refl.** reflexive  
**Rom.** Roman  
**Russ.** Russian

**S** South; southern  
**S.** South  
**S Afr.** South African  
**Sans.** Sanskrit  
**Scand.** Scandinavian  
**Scot.** Scottish  
**SE** southeastern  
**Sem.** Semitic  
**sing.** singular  
**Slav.** Slavic  
**Sp.** Spanish  
**sp.** spelled; spelling  
**specif.** specifically  
**subj.** subjective  
**superl.** superlative  
**SW** southwestern  
**Swed.** Swedish

**Theol.** Theology  
**trans.** translation  
**Turk.** Turkish  
**TV, T.V.** television

**ult.** ultimately  
**U.S.** United States

**v.** verb  
**var.** variant; variety  
**v.aux.** auxiliary verb  
**Vet.** Veterinary Medicine  
**vi.** intransitive verb  
**VL.** Vulgar Latin  
**voc.** vocative  
**vt.** transitive verb  
**Vulg.** vulgar; Vulgate

**W** West; western  
**W.** Welsh; West  
**WAfr.** West African  
**WInd.** West Indian

**Yid.** Yiddish

**Zool.** Zoology

‡ foreign word or phrase  
 + plus  
 < derived from  
 ? uncertain; possibly; perhaps  
 & and

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# A

**A, a** (à) *n.*, *pl.* A's, a's 1. the first letter of the English alphabet 2. a symbol for the first in a sequence or group —from **A to Z** from start to finish

**A** (à) *n.* Music the sixth tone in the ascending scale of C major —*adj.* shaped like A

**A** *Physic's* the symbol for ampere

**a** (ə; stressed ä) *adj.*, *indefinite article* [A is used before words beginning with a consonant sound or a sounded *h* [a child, a home, a uniform]

**a** are(s) (metric measure of land)

**a-** a prefix meaning: 1. [OE. a-] up, out [awake] 2. [OE. of-, af-] off, of [akin] 3. [Gr. a-, an-] not [atypical]

**Å** angstrom unit

**A.** 1. absolute 2. ampere 3. angstrom

**A., a.** Music alto

**a.** 1. acre(s) 2. adjective 3. answer

**AA, A.A.** 1. Alcoholics Anonymism 2.

antiaircraft 3. Automobile Association

**AAA, A.A.A.** Amateur Athletics Association

**AI** (ä'wun') 1. [Colloq.] first-class; excellent 2. a designation of first-class ships as in Lloyd's Register

**aardvark** (ärd'värk') *n.* [obs. Afrik., earth pig] a nocturnal burrowing mammal of Africa feeding off termites: also called *ant bear*

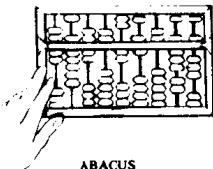
**Aaron's beard** (äär'änz) the popular name of various plants, esp. St. John's Wort

**ab- [L.]** a prefix meaning away, from, off, down [abdicate]

**A.B.** able-bodied seaman

**aba** (ä'bä) *n.* [Ar.] a sleeveless robe worn by Arabs

**aback** (əbäk') *adv.* 1. pressed backwards against the mast, as sails in a wind from ahead 2. [Archaic] backwards —*taken aback* startled and confused



**abacus** (äb'əkäs) *n.*, *pl.* -cuses, -ci'(-si') [Archit. a slab forming the uppermost part of the capital of a column

**abaft** (əbäft') *adv.* [prep. Naut. behind

**abalone** (äb'əlö'nē) *n.* [AmSp.] a sea mollusc with a spiral shell lined with mother-of-pearl

**abandon** (əbän'dän) *vt.* [n. unrestrained freedom of action or emotion —**aban'donment** *n.*

**abandoned** *adj.* 1. forsaken; deserted 2. unrestrained 3. shamefully wicked; immoral

**abase** (əbäs') *vt.* **abased'**, **abas'ing** [abase'ment *n.*

**abash** (əbäsh') *vt.* [abashed' *adj.*

**abate** (əbät') *vt.* **abat'ed**, **abat'ing** [vi. to become less; subside —**abate'ment** *n.*

**abattoir** (äb'ätwär') *n.* [see ABATE] a slaughterhouse

**abbacy** (äb'əse) *n.*, *pl.* -cies an abbot's or abbess's position, jurisdiction, or term of office

**abbé** (ä'bä) *n.* [Fr.: see ABBOT] a French title of respect for a priest

**abbess** (äb'es) *n.* [see ABBOT] a woman who is head of an abbey of nuns

**abbey** (äb'é) *n.* 1. a monastery or convent 2. a church belonging to an abbey

**abbot** (äb'ət) *n.* [

**abbr., abbrev.** 1. abbreviated 2. abbreviation

**abbreviate** (əbré'veät') *vt.* -at'ed, -at'ing [abbrev'iation *n.*

**A B C** (ä'bé'sé') *n.*, *pl.* A B C's 1. the alphabet 2. the basic elements (of a subject) 3. an alphabetically arranged reference or guide book

**ABC** Australian Broadcasting Commission

**abdicate** (äb'däkät') *vt.*, *vi.* -cat'ed, -cat'ing [ab'dica'tion *n.*

**abdomen** (äb'dəman) *n.* [L.] 1. the lower part of the body containing the intestines, etc.; belly 2. in arthropods, the hind part of the body —**abdominal** (äbdəm'ən'l) *adj.*

**abduct** (ab'dukt') *vt.* [*<* L. *ab*, away + *ducere*, to lead] to kidnap (a person) —*abduc'tion* *n.* —*abduc'tor* *n.*

**abeam** (ə'bem') *adv.* at right angles to a ship's side

**Aberdeen Angus** (əb'ərdən'əŋ'gəs) any of a breed of black, hornless cattle, originally from Scotland

**Aberdeen terrier** a long-bodied, wire-haired terrier

**aberration** (əb'ər'ə'shən) *n.* [*<* L. *ab*, from + *errare*, wander] 1. a departure from what is right, true, normal, etc. 2. mental derangement 3. Astron. the apparent displacement of a heavenly body 4. Optics the failure of light rays from one point to converge to a single focus

**abet** (ə'bet') *vt.* *abet'ted*, *abet'ting* [*<* Ofr. *a*, to + *beter*, to bait] to incite or help, esp. in wrongdoing —*abet'ment* *n.* —*abet'tor*, *abet'ter* *n.*

**abeyance** (əbə'eəns) *n.* [*<* Ofr. *a*, at + *bayer*, gape] temporary suspension, as of an activity or function

**abhor** (əb'hɔr') *vt.* -*horred'*, -*hor'ring* [*<* L. *ab*, from + *horre*, to shudder] to shrink from in disgust or hatred —*abhor'rence* (əb'hɔr'eəns) *n.*

**abhorrent** (əb'hɔr'ənt) *adj.* 1. causing disgust, hatred, etc.; detestable 2. opposed (to) [*abhor'rent* to his principles] —*abhor'rently* *adv.*

**abide** (ə'baɪd) *vi.* *abode'* or *abid'ed*, *abid'ing* [*<* OE. *a*, (intens.) + *bidan*, remain] 1. to remain 2. [Archaic] to reside —*vt.* 1. to tolerate 2. to submit to 3. to await —*abide* by 1. to live up to (a promise, etc.) 2. to submit to and carry out —*abid'ance* *n.*

**abiding** *adj.* enduring; lasting —*abid'ingly* *adv.*

**ability** (ə'bɪl'ə'ti) *n.*, *pl.* -*ties* 1. skill or talent; competence 2. a being able; power to do

**-ability** (ə'bɪl'ə'ti) *pl.* -*ties* [L.] a suffix used to form nouns from adjectives ending in *-ABLE* [*durability*]

**abject** (əb'jekt) *adj.* [*<* L. *ab*, from + *jacere*, throw] 1. of the lowest degree; miserable 2. lacking self-respect; servile —*ab'jectness*, *ab'jec'tion* *n.*

**abjure** (əb'juʊər') *vt.* -*jured'*, -*jur'ing* [*<* L. *ab*, from + *jurare*, swear] to give up (rights, allegiance, etc.) on oath; renounce —*ab'juration* (əb'juʊə're'shən) *n.*

**ablate** (ə'bɪl'ət) *vt.* -*lat'ed*, -*lat'ing* [see *fl.*] 1. to remove, as by surgery 2. Astrophysics to melt, vaporize, etc. (surface material) 3. Geol. to wear away, as by the action of water —*abla'tion* *n.*

**ablative** (əb'lətɪv) *n.* [*<* L. *ab*, away + *ferre*, carry] the grammatical case in Latin expressing removal, direction from, cause, etc. —*adj.* of or in the ablative

**ablaut** (əb'lout) *n.* [G. *<* *ab*, off + *Laut*, sound] the change of vowels in related words to show changes in tense, meaning, etc. (Ex.: *drink*, *drank*, *drunk*)

**ablaze** (ə'bɪl'əz) *adj.* 1. flaming 2. greatly excited

**able** (ə'bɪl) *adj.* *a'ble*, *a'blast* [*<* L.

*habere*, have] 1. having enough power, skill, etc. (to do something) 2. skilled; talented —*a'bly* *adv.*

**-able** (ə'bɪl) [*<* L. *abilis*] a suffix meaning: 1. able to [*durable*] 2. capable of being [*drinkable*] 3. worthy of being [*lovable*] 4. having qualities of [*comfortable*] 5. tending or inclined to [*peaceable*]

**able-bodied** (ə'bɪl'bɔd'əd) *adj.* healthy and strong

**able-bodied seaman** same as **ABLE RATING**

**able rating** see **MILITARY RANKS**, **table**

**ablution** (əbɪl'u'shən) *n.* [*<* L. *ab*, off + *luere*, lave] 1. a washing of the body, esp. as a religious ceremony 2. [*pl.*] [*Colloq.*] washing facilities

**-ably** (ə'bɪl) a suffix used to form adverbs from adjectives ending in *-ABLE* [*peaceably*]

**ABM** anti-ballistic missile

**abnegate** (əb'nəgət') *vt.* -*gat'ed*, -*gat'ing* [*<* L. *ab*, from + *negare*, deny] to give up (rights, claims, etc.); renounce —*ab'nega'tion* *n.* —*ab'nega'tor* *n.*

**abnormal** (əb'nɔr'məl) *adj.* not normal, average, or typical; irregular —*ab'normal'ity* (mə'l'ə'ti) *n.*

**Aborigine** (ə'brɔɪ) *n.*, *pl.* -*bos* [*<* **ABORIGINE**] [Aust. Slang] an Australian aborigine —*adj.* aboriginal

**aboard** (ə'bɔrd') *adv.* 1. on, in, or into a ship, aircraft, etc. 2. alongside —*prep.* on board

**abode** (ə'bɔd') *n.* [see **ABIDE**] a home; residence

**abode'** *ait. pt. and pp.* of **ABIDE**

**abolish** (ə'bɒl'ɪʃ) *vt.* [*<* L. *abolere*, destroy] to do away with; put an end to —*abol'ishment* *n.*

**abolition** (ə'bɒl'ɪʃən) *n.* 1. an abolishing or being abolished 2. [occas. A-] the abolishing of slavery —*ab'ol'itionary* *adj.* —*ab'ol'itionist* *n.*

**A-bomb** (ə'bɒm') *n.* same as **ATOMIC BOMB**

**abominable** (əbɒm'ənəbəl) *adj.* 1. disgusting; vile 2. very bad —*abom'inally* *adv.*

**Abominable Snowman** a large, hairy, manlike animal reputed to live in the Himalayas

**abominate** (əbɒm'ənət') *vt.* -*nat'ed*, -*nat'ing* [*<* L. *abominari*, regard as an ill omen] 1. to feel hatred and disgust for; loathe 2. to dislike very much —*abom'ina'tion* *n.* —*abom'inator* *n.*

**aboriginal** (ə'bɔrɪj'ənl) *adj.* 1. existing from earliest days; first; indigenous 2. of aborigines, esp. [A-] those of Australia —*n.* same as **ABORIGINE**

**aborigine** (ə'bɔrɪj'əné') *n.*, *pl.* -*nes* [L. *<* *ab*, from + *origine*, beginning] any of the earliest known inhabitants of a region, esp. [A-] those of Australia

**abort** (ə'bɔrt') *vt.* [*<* L. *aboriri*, to miscarry] 1. to have a miscarriage 2. to fail to be completed —*vt.* 1. to cause to have an abortion 2. to cut short (an operation of an aircraft, missile, etc.)

**abortion** (ə'bɔr'shən) *n.* 1. deliberate

termination of pregnancy 2. expulsion of a foetus from the womb before it is viable 3. anything immature and incomplete 4. anything grotesquely misshapen

**abortive adj.** 1. coming to nothing; unsuccessful 2. Biol. rudimentary 3. Med. causing abortion

**abound** (ə'baʊnd') *vi.* [*< L. ab-, away + undare, rise in waves*] 1. to be plentiful 2. to teem (with)

**about** (ə'baʊt') *adv.* [*< OE. onbutan, around*] 1. all round 2. here and there 3. near 4. in the opposite direction 5. in succession or rotation [play fair—turn and turn about] 6. approximately —*adj.* 1. active [up and about again] 2. in the vicinity —*prep.* 1. on all sides of 2. here and there in 3. near to 4. with; on (one's person) [have your wits about you] 5. attending to [go about your business] 6. intending; on the point of 7. concerning —*how* (or *what*) **about** [Colloq.] what is your opinion concerning? —*how about that!* [Colloq.] isn't that interesting!

**about-turn** (ə'baʊt'tɜ:n') *for v., ə'baʊt'tɜ:n'* *n.* 1. a sharp turn to the opposite direction 2. a sharp change, as in opinion —*vi. -turned', -turn'ing* to turn or face in the opposite direction Also **about'face'**

**above** (ə'bu:v') *adv.* [*OE. abufan*] 1. in a higher place; up 2. in heaven 3. at a previous place (in a piece of writing) 4. higher in status, etc. —*prep.* 1. higher than 2. beyond; past 3. upstream from 4. better or more than 5. too honourable or good for [not above cheating] —*adj.* mentioned earlier —*n.* something that is above —**above all** most of all; mainly

**aboveboard** (ə'bu:v'bɔ:d') *adv., adj.* without dishonesty

**abracadabra** (əb'rəkədəb'rə) *n.* [LL.] 1. a word supposed to have magic powers, used in incantations, etc. 2. foolish or meaningless talk

**abrade** (əbrəd') *vt. -rad'ed, -rad'ing* [*< L. ab-, away + radere, scrape*] to rub off; wear away by scraping

**abrasion** (əbrə'zheɪn) *n.* 1. a scraping or rubbing off, as of skin 2. an abraded spot or area

**abrasive adj.** causing abrasion —*n.* a substance used for grinding, polishing, etc.

**abreast** (ə'breɪst') *adv., adj.* 1. side by side 2. informed (of) or conversant (with) recent developments

**abridge** (ə'bri:dʒ') *vt. abridged', abridg'ing* [*< LL. abbreviare: see ABBREVIATE*] 1. to shorten by using fewer words 2. to reduce in scope, extent, etc. —*abridg'er n.* —*abridg'ment, abridge'ment n.*

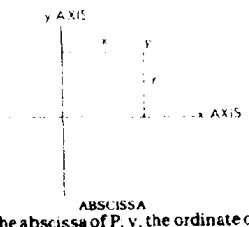
**abroad** (əbrɔ:d') *adv.* 1. to or in foreign countries 2. circulating [a report is abroad that he is ill] 3. far and wide 4. outdoors —*from abroad* from a foreign land

**abrogate** (əb'rɒgət') *vt. -gat'ed, -gat'ing* [*< L. ab-, away + rogare, propose*] to cancel or repeal; annul —*ab'rogat'ion n.* —*ab'rogative adj.* —*ab'rogator n.*

**abrupt** (əbrʌpt') *adj.* [*< L. ab-, off +*

*rumpere, break*] 1. sudden; unexpected 2. brusque 3. very steep 4. jumping from topic to topic; disconnected

—*abrupt'ly adv.* —*abrupt'ness n.*  
**abscess** (əb'ses) *n.* [*< L. < ab(s)-, from + cedere, go*] a swollen, inflamed area in body tissues, in which pus gathers —*vi.* to form an abscess —*ab'scessed adj.*



**abscissa** (əb'sis'ə) *n., pl. -sas, -sae* (-(ē) [*< L. ab-, from + scindere, to cut*]) *Math* in a system of coordinates, the distance of a point from the vertical axis as measured along a line parallel to the horizontal axis: cf. ORDINATE

**abscond** (əb'skɒnd') *vi.* [*< L. ab(s)-, from + condere, hide*] to run away and hide, esp. in order to escape the law —*abscond'er n.*

**absell** (əb'səl) *vi.* [*< G. ab-, down + Seil, rope*] *Mountaineering* to descend by means of a double rope secured from above —*n.* a descent so made

**absence** (əb'sens) *n.* 1. the state of being absent 2. the time of being away 3. a lack [in the absence of proof]

**absent** (əb'sent; *for v. absent'*) *adj.* [*< L. ab-, away + esse, be*] 1. not present; away 2. not existing; lacking 3. not attentive —*vi.* to keep (oneself) away

**absentee** (əb'senté') *n.* a person who is absent, as from work —*adj.* designating or of a person who lives away from his property, office, etc. (an absentee landlord)

**absenteeism n.** absence from work, school, etc., esp. when deliberate or habitual

**absent-minded adj.** 1. not attentive; preoccupied 2. habitually forgetful

**absinthe, absinth** (əb'sinth) *n.* [*< Gr. absinthion*] 1. wormwood 2. a green liqueur with the flavour of wormwood and anise

**absolute** (əb'səljūt') *adj.* [see ABSOLVE] 1. perfect; complete 2. not mixed; pure 3. unrestricted [an absolute ruler] 4. positive; definite 5. actual; real [an absolute truth] 6. *Gram.* a) forming part of a sentence, but syntactically independent /in the sentence "The weather being good, they went," the weather being good is an absolute construction] b) with no expressed object: said of a verb usually transitive —*n.* something that is absolute

—*the Absolute Philos.* that which is thought of as existing in and by itself, without relation to anything else —*ab'solute'ness n.*

**absolutely** (əb'səljūt'li; *for interj., ab'-*

**absolutely** (*əb'solūt'li*) *adv.* in an absolute manner —*interj.* yes indeed; definitely

**absolute majority** 1. a majority of over half 2. a majority that beats the combined opposition

**absolute pitch** the ability to identify or sing any note, or to sing a given tone, without having a known pitch sounded beforehand

**absolute temperature** temperature measured from absolute zero

**absolute zero** a point of temperature theoretically equal to  $-273.15^{\circ}\text{C}$ : the hypothetical point at which a substance would have no molecular motion and no heat

**absolution** (*ab'sə'lōō'shan*) [see ABSOLVE] 1. a formal freeing (from guilt); forgiveness 2. remission (of sin or its penalty)

**absolutism** (*ab'sə'lōō'tiz'm*) *n.* government in which the ruler has unlimited powers —*ab'solut'ist n., adj.*

**absolve** (*əbzolv'*) *vt.* -solved', -solv'ing [*< L. ab-, from + solvere, to loose*] 1. to pronounce free from guilt 2. to give religious absolution to 3. to free (someone from an obligation) —*absolv'ent adj., n.*

**absorb** (*əbsɔrb'*) *vt.* [*< L. ab-, from + sorbere, drink in*] 1. to suck up 2. to engross 3. to take in and incorporate 4. to take in (a shock, jolt, etc.) with little or no recoil or reaction 5. to take in and not reflect (light, sound, etc.) —*absorbed' adj., -absorb'ent adj., n. -absorb'ing adj.*

**absorption** (*əbsɔrp'shan*) *n.* 1. an absorbing 2. great interest 3. *Biol.* the passing of nutrient material into the blood or lymph —*absorp'tive adj.*

**abstain** (*əbstān'*) *vi.* [*< L. ab(s)-, from + tenere, hold*] 1. to do without voluntarily; refrain (from), esp. alcohol 2. to choose not to vote —*abstain'er n.*

**abstemious** (*əbstē'mēəs*) *adj.* [*< L. ab(s)-, from + temetum, strong drink*] moderate, esp. in eating and drinking —*abste'miously adv. -abste'miousness n.*

**abstention** (*əbstən'shan*) *n.* an abstaining; specif., a refraining from voting on some issue

**abstinence** (*əb'stēnəns*) *n.* an abstaining from some or all food, drink, or other pleasures —*ab'stinent adj.*

**abstract** (*ab'strakt*; also, and for *n. 1* & *v. 3* always, *ab'strak't'*) *adj.* [*< L. ab(s)-, from + trahere, draw*] 1. thought of apart from material objects 2. expressing a quality so thought of ["beauty" is an abstract word] 3. theoretical 4. not easy to understand 5. *Art* seeking to make an effect through form and colour alone —*n.* 1. a summary 2. an abstract thing, condition, etc. —*vt.* 1. to take away 2. to think of (a quality) apart from any object that has it 3. to summarize —*in the abstract* in theory as distinct from practice —*abstract'ly adv.*

**abstracted adj.** withdrawn in mind; preoccupied

**abstraction n.** 1. mental withdrawal 2.

an abstracting 3. an abstract idea 4. an unrealistic notion 5. an abstract picture, sculpture, etc. —*abstrac'tionism n. -abstrac'tionist n.*

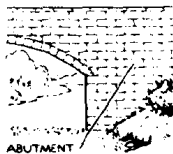
**abstruse** (*ab'strūs'*) *adj.* [*< L. ab(s)-, away + trudere, thrust*] hard to understand; deep —*abstruse'ly adv.*

**absurd** (*əb'sɜrd'*) *adj.* [*< L. ab-, intens. + surdus, deaf*] so clearly inconsistent or unreasonable as to be laughable or ridiculous —*absurd'ly, absurd'ness n.*

**abundance** (*əbun'dəns*) *n.* [see ABOUND] 1. a great supply; more than sufficient quantity 2. wealth —*abun'dant adj. -abun'dantly adv.*

**abuse** (*əbyʊz'*; for *n., abyʊz's'*) *vt.* *abused', abus'ing* [*< L. ab-, away + uti, to use*] 1. to use wrongly 2. to mistreat 3. to insult; revile —*n.* 1. wrong use 2. mistreatment 3. a corrupt practice 4. insulting language —*abus'er n. -abu'sive adj.*

**abut** (*əbʊt'*) *vi.* *abut'ted, abut'ting* [*< OFr. a-, to + bout, end*] 1. to touch or lean against end-on 2. to adjoin —*vt.* to border upon



**abutment n.** the supporting structure of a bridge, arch, etc.

**abysmal** (*əbiz'm'l*) *adj.* 1. of or like an abyss; bottomless 2. [Colloq.] immeasurably bad —*abys'mally adv.*

**abyss** (*əbis'*) *n.* [*< Gr. a-, without + byssos, bottom*] 1. a bottomless gulf; chasm 2. anything too deep for measurement [an abyss of shame] 3. *Theol.* the primeval chaos before the Creation —*abys'sal (əbis'li) adj.*

**-ac** (*ak, ək*) [*< Fr. < Gr.*] a suffix meaning: 1. relating to [cardiac] 2. affected by or having [maniac]

**Ac** *Chem.* actinium

**AC, A.C., a.c.** alternating current

**A.C.** aircraft(s)man

**A/C, m/c** Bookkeeping account

**acacia** (*əkə'shiə*) *n.* [*< Gr. akakia, thorny tree*] a tree or shrub with clusters of yellow or white flowers: some yield gum arabic or dyes

**academic** (*ək'ədēm'ik*) *adj.* [see ACADEMY] 1. of colleges, universities, etc. 2. merely theoretical [an academic question] 3. having to do with liberal rather than technical education Also *ac'adem'ical* —*n.* a person at university, esp. a teacher —*ac'adem'ically adv.*

**academic freedom** freedom of a teacher or student to express views without arbitrary interference

**academy** (*əkad'əmə*) *n., pl. -mies* [*< Gr. akademeia, place where Plato taught*]

1. a school offering training in a special field 2. an association of scholars, writers, artists, etc., for advancing literature, art, or science 3. a secondary school, esp. in Scotland

**acanthus** (əkan'thas) *n.*, *pl.* -thuses, -thi (-thi) [*<* Gr. akē, a point] 1. a plant with lobed, often spiny leaves 2. *Archit.* a conventional representation of its leaf

**A.C.A.S., ACAS** Advisory, Conciliation, and Arbitration Service

**acc.** 1. accompanied 2. account 3. accusative

**A.C.C.A.** Association of Certified and Corporate Accountants

**accede** (əkséd') *vt.* -ced'ed, -ced'ing [*<* L. *ad.*, to + *cedere*, to yield] 1. to assent, agree (*to*) 2. to enter upon the duties (of an office) —**acced'ence** *n.* —**acced'ed** *n.*

**accelerando** (ək sel'əran'dō) *adv.*, *adj.* [*It.*] *Music* with gradually quickening tempo

**accelerate** (ək sel'ərat') *vt.* -at'ed, -at'ing [*<* L. *ad.*, to + *celerare*, hasten] 1. to increase the speed of 2. to cause to happen sooner —*vt.* to go faster —**accel'eration** *n.* —**accel'erative** *adj.*

**accelerator** *n.* 1. a device, as the foot throttle of a motor vehicle, for speeding up something 2. *Chem.* a substance that speeds up a reaction 3. *Nuclear Physics* a device that accelerates charged particles to high energies

**accent** (ək'sent; *for v. also* əksent') *n.* [*<* L. *ad.*, to + *cantare*, to sing] 1. the emphasis given to a syllable or word in speaking it 2. a mark used to show this emphasis or to distinguish various sounds for the same letter 3. a distinguishing regional or national way of pronouncing 4. [*pl.*] speech 5. special emphasis [*to put the accent (i safety)*] 6. *Music* emphasis or stress on a note or chord 7. *Prosody* rhythmic stress or beat —*vt.* 1. to stress 2. to mark with an accent

**accantor** (ək sen'tar) *n.* [*<* L. *ad.*, to + *cantor*, singer] any of a genus of small songbirds, as the hedge sparrow

**accentuate** (ək sen'tyən wāt') *vt.* -at'ed, -at'ing 1. to pronounce or mark with an accent or stress 2. to emphasize —**accen'tuation** *n.*

**accept** (əksept') *vt.* [*<* L. *ad.*, to + *capere*, take] 1. to receive willingly 2. to say 'yes' to [*to accept an invitation*] 3. to agree to 4. to believe in 5. to approve 6. to understand as having a certain meaning 7. to agree to pay —*vt.* to accept something offered —**accept'er** *n.*

**acceptable** *adj.* worth accepting; satisfactory or, sometimes, merely adequate —**accept'ability** *n.* —**accept'ably** *adv.*

**acceptance** *n.* 1. an accepting or being accepted 2. approval 3. assent 4. a promise to pay

**accepted** *adj.* generally regarded as true, proper, etc.; conventional; approved

**acceptor** *n.* 1. one who accepts, esp. a bill of exchange 2. *Electronics* an

impurity added to a semiconductor that increases its conductivity

**access** (ək'ses) *n.* [*see* ACCEDE] 1. approach 2. a means of approaching 3. the right to enter, use, etc. 4. an outburst [*an access of anger*] 5. the onset (of a disease)

**accessary** (ək ses'ərè) *adj.*, *n.*, *pl.* -ries *same as* ACCESSORY

**accessible** (ək ses'əb'l) *adj.* 1. that can be approached or entered 2. easy to approach or enter 3. obtainable 4. open to the influence of (with *to*) [*not accessible to pity*] —**access'ibility** *n.* —**access'sibly** *adv.*

**accession** (ək sesh'ən) *n.* 1. the act of attaining (a throne, power, etc.) 2. assent 3. a) increase by addition b) an item added, as to a library —**access'ional** *adj.*

**accessory** (ək ses'ərè) *adj.* [*see* ACCEDE] 1. extra; additional 2. Law helping in an unlawful act —*n.*, *pl.* -ries 1. something extra, as an article to complete one's costume or a piece of optional equipment 2. Law an accomplice —**accessory before (or after) the fact** one who aids another before (or after) the commission of a crime —**accessorial** (ək'səsr'əəl) *adj.*

**access time** in computers, the time between a request for information from storage and its delivery

**accident** (ək'sadənt) *n.* [*<* L. *ad.*, to + *cadere*, to fall] 1. a happening that is not foreseen or intended 2. an unintended happening that results in injury, loss, etc. 3. chance [*to meet by accident*] 4. an attribute that is not essential

**accidental** (ək'sadənt'l) *adj.* 1. happening by chance 2. belonging but not essential —*n.* 1. a nonessential quality 2. *Music* a sign, as a sharp or flat, placed before a note to show a change of pitch —**acc'iden'tally** *adv.*

**acclaim** (ək klām') *vt.* [*<* L. *ad.*, to + *clamare*, to cry out] 1. to greet with strong approval 2. to announce with much applause or praise [*they acclaimed him victor*] —*n.* loud applause or strong approval

**acclamation** (ək ləmə'shən) *n.* 1. loud applause or strong approval 2. an approving vote by voice without an actual count 3. [*Canad.*] an unopposed election —**acclamatory** (ək klām'ətərè) *adj.*

**acclimatize** (ək klīm'tīz') *vt.*, *vi.* -tized', -tiz'ing [*see* AD- & CLIMATE] to accustom or become accustomed 'o a different climate or environment —**accl'imatiza'tion** *n.*

**accolade** (ək'əlad') *n.* [*ult. <* L. *ad.*, to + *collum*, neck] 1. anything done or given as a sign of great respect, appreciation, etc. 2. a touch with a sword used in conferring knighthood

**accommodate** (ək kəm'ədāt') *vt.* -dat'ed, -dat'ing [*<* L. *ad.*, to + *com-*, with + *modus*, a measure] 1. to help by supplying (*with* something) 2. to do a favour for 3. to adjust; adapt 4. to reconcile 5. to have room for —*vt.* to become adjusted, as the lens of the eye in focusing —**accom'modative** *adj.* —**accom'moda'tor** *n.*

**accommodating** *adj.* ready to help; obliging

**accommodation** (ə'kum'ə'dā'shən) *n.* 1. adjustment 2. lodgings or space, as in a hotel, on a ship, etc. 3. reconciliation of differences 4. willingness to do favours 5. a help or convenience

**accommodation address** an address to which letters, etc. may be sent, although the addressee does not live or work there

**accompaniment** (ə'kum'pən'mənt) *n.* 1. anything that accompanies something else 2. Music a part played as a subsidiary to a song, or to another part

**accompanist** (ə'kum'pən'ist) *n.* a person who plays an accompaniment

**accompany** (ə'kum'pən'ē) *vt.* -nied, -nying [see AD- & COMPANION] 1. to go or be together with 2. to supplement 3. to play an accompaniment for or to

**accomplice** (ə'kum'plis) *n.* [see COMPLEX] a person who knowingly helps another in an unlawful act

**accomplish** (ə'kum'pliʃ) *vt.* [ad., intens. + *compleo*, complete] to do; succeed in doing; complete

**accomplished** *adj.* 1. done; completed 2. skilled; proficient 3. trained in the social arts or skills

**accomplishment** *n.* 1. completion 2. something done successfully; achievement 3. a social art or skill

**accord** (ə'kɔrd') *vt.* [ad., to + *cor.* heart] to grant or concede —*vi.* to agree or harmonize (*with*) —*n.* mutual agreement; harmony —*of one's own accord* willingly, without being asked —*with one accord* all agreeing —*accord'ance* *n.*

**according** *adj.* in harmony —*according as* to the degree that —*according to* 1. in agreement with 2. in the order of 3. as stated by

**accordingly** *adv.* 1. in a way that is fitting and proper 2. therefore



ACCORDION

**accordion** (ə'kɔrd'jən) *n.* [accordare, be in tune] a musical instrument with a bellows which is pressed to force air through reeds opened by fingering keys or studs —*adj.* having folds like an accordion's bellows [accordion pleats] —*accor'dionist* *n.*

**accost** (ə'kɔst') *vt.* [ad., to + *costa*, rib, side] to approach and speak to, esp. in a bold or forward manner

**account** (ə'kaunt') *n.* [computare:

see COMPUTE] 1. a report 2. an explanation 3. worth; importance 4. a record of financial transactions 5. *same* as BANK ACCOUNT —*vi.* to consider to be —*vt.* 1. to furnish a reckoning of money received and paid out 2. to make amends (*for*) 3. to give reasons (*for*) 4. to be the cause of (*with for*) 5. to put out of action by killing, defeating, etc. (*with for*) —*by all accounts* according to all opinions —*call to account* 1. to demand an explanation of 2. to reprimand —*give a good account of oneself* to acquit oneself well —*on account* as partial payment —*on account of* because of —*on no account* under no circumstances —*take account of* 1. to allow for 2. to take notice of —*take into account* to take into consideration —*turn to (good) account* to get use or profit from

**accountable** *adj.* 1. obliged to account for one's acts; responsible 2. that can be accounted for; explainable —*account'ability* *n.* —*account'ably* *adv.*

**accountant** *n.* a person whose work is to inspect or keep financial accounts —*account'ancy* *n.*

**accounting** *n.* the principles or practice of setting up and auditing financial accounts

**accountments** (ə'kaʊnt'trəmənts) *n.pl.* [con., together + *suere*, to sew] 1. clothes; dress 2. equipment; furnishings

**accredit** (ə'kred'it) *vt.* [see CREDIT] 1. to attribute 2. to certify as meeting certain standards 3. to give credentials to (an ambassador, representative, etc.) 4. to take as true —*accred'ita'tion* *n.*

**accretion** (ə'kre'shən) *n.* [ad., to + *crecere*, grow] 1. growth in size, esp. by addition 2. a growing together of parts 3. accumulated matter 4. a whole resulting from such growth —*accre'tive* *adj.*

**accrue** (ə'kruʊ') *vt.* -crued', -cru'ing [see ACCRETION] 1. to come as a natural growth 2. to be added periodically as an increase —*accru'al* *n.*

**acct.** account

**acculturation** (ə'kul'chə'rā'shən) *n.* a conditioning or becoming adapted to a different culture

**accumulate** (ə'kyʊm'yə'lāt') *vt.* *vi.* -lat'-ed, -lat'ing [ad., to + *cumulare*, to heap] to pile up or collect, esp. over a period of time —*accu'mulative* *adj.*

**accumulation** (ə'kyʊm'yə'lā'shən) *n.* 1. an accumulating; collection 2. accumulated or collected material

**accumulator** (ə'kyʊm'yə'lāt'ər) *n.* 1. a storage battery 2. a device, as in a computer, that stores a quantity and that will add to it, storing the sum 3. a bet on several successive races, both the stake and the winnings being carried forward from one race to the next

**accuracy** (ə'kyʊrəsē) *n.* the quality or state of being accurate; precision

**accurate** (ə'kyʊrət) *adj.* [ad., to + *cura*, care] 1. careful and exact 2. free from errors —*ac'curately* *adv.*

**accursed** (ə'kɜrs'ɪd) *adj.* 1. under a curse 2. deserving to be cursed Also *accurs't'*



## accusation

**accusation** (ak'yoo zá'shən) *n.* 1. an accusing or being accused 2. the wrong that one is accused of

**accusative** (əkyoo'zə'tiv) *adj.* [see ACCUSE] *Gram.* designating or in the case of an object of a verb or prepositions —*n.* 1. the accusative case 2. a word in this case —**accu'sati'val** (-tí'v'l) *adj.*

**accusatory** (əkyoo'zə'tar'ē) *adj.* making or containing an accusation; accusing

**accuse** (əkyooz'v) *vt.* -cused', -cus'ing [ < L. *ad.*, to + *causa*, lawsuit ] 1. to blame 2. to bring charges against (of breaking the law, etc.) —**the accused** *Law* the person charged with committing a crime —**accus'er** *n.* —**accus'ingly** *adv.*

**accustom** (akus'tam) *vt.* to make used (to something) as by custom or regular use; habituate

**accustomed** *adj.* 1. customary; usual; characteristic 2. used (to); in the habit of

**ace** (ás) *n.* [ < L. *as*, unit ] 1. a playing card, domino, etc. with one spot 2. a serve, as in tennis, that one's opponent is unable to return 3. Golf a hole in one 4. a combat pilot who has destroyed many enemy aircraft 5. [Colloq.] an expert —*adj.* [Colloq.] first-rate; expert —**ace up one's sleeve** a hidden and powerful advantage —**within an ace of** on the verge of, very close to

**-aceous** (ə'shəs) [L.] a suffix meaning of the nature of, like, belonging to, producing, etc.

**acerbate** (as'ərbát') *vt.* -bat'ed, -bat'ing 1. to make sour or bitter 2. to irritate; vex

**acerbity** (əsur'bətē) *n.*, *pl.* -ties [ < L. *acerbus*, bitter ] 1. sharpness or harshness of temper, words, etc. 2. a sour, astringent quality —**acer'bic** *adj.*

**acetaldehyde** (as'ətal'dəhid') *n.* [ACET(O)- + ALDEHYDE] a colourless, soluble, volatile liquid used as a solvent

**acetate** (as'ətát') *n.* a salt or ester of acetic acid

**acetic** (əset'ik) *adj.* [ < L. *acetum*: see ACETO- ] of, like, containing, or producing acetic acid or vinegar

**acetic acid** a sour, colourless liquid having a sharp odour: it is found in vinegar

**aceto-** [ < L. *acetum*, vinegar ] a combining form meaning of or from acetic acid

**acetone** (as'ətón') *n.* a colourless, flammable, volatile liquid used as a solvent for certain oils, etc.

**acetylene** (əset'əlén') *n.* a colourless gas used for lighting and, with oxygen, in blowlamps, etc.

**acetylsalicylic acid** (əset'əl sal'əsil'ik) aspirin

**ache** (ák) *vi.* ached, ach'ing [OE. *acan*] 1. to have or give dull, steady pain 2. to yearn —*n.* a dull, continuous pain

**achieve** (əchév') *vt.* achieved', achiev'ing [ < OFR. *a-*, to + *chief*: see CHIEF ] 1. to succeed in doing; accomplish 2. to get by exertion, attain; gain —**achiev'er** *n.*

**achievement** *n.* 1. an achieving 2. a thing achieved, esp. by skill, work, etc.; feat

## acoustics

**Achilles' heel** (əkil'ēz) [ < *Achilles*, Gr. hero killed by an arrow in his vulnerable heel ] (one's) vulnerable spot

**Achilles' tendon** the tendon connecting the back of the heel to the muscles of the calf of the leg

**achromatic** (ak'rəmat'ik) *adj.* [ < Gr. *a-*, without + *chroma*, colour ] 1. colourless 2. refracting white light without breaking it up into its component colours

**acid** (as'id) *adj.* [L. *acidus*, sour] 1. sharp to the taste; sour 2. sharp or sarcastic in speech, etc. 3. of an acid 4. having too much acid —*n.* 1. a sour substance 2. [Slang] same as LSD 3. *Chem.* any compound that reacts with a base to form a salt —**ac'idly** *adv.*

**acidic** (əsid'ik) *adj.* 1. forming acid 2. acid

**acidify** (əsid'əfi') *vt.*, *vl.* -fied', -fy'ing 1. to make or become sour or acid 2. to change into an acid

**acidity** (əsid'ətē) *n.*, *pl.* -ties 1. acid quality or condition; sourness 2. the degree of this

**acid test** [orig., a test of gold by acid] a crucial, final test of value or quality

**acidulous** (əsid'yoo las) *adj.* 1. somewhat acid or sour 2. somewhat sarcastic Also **acid'ulent**

**-acious** (ə'shəs) [ < L. ] a suffix meaning inclined to, full of [ *tenacious* ]

**-acity** (as'ətē) a *n.*-forming suffix corresponding to -ACIOUS [ *tenacity* ]

**ack-ack** (ak'ak') *n.* [echoic] [Colloq.] an anti-aircraft gun or its fire

**acknowledge** (aknol'ij) *vt.* -edged, -edging [ult. < OE *oncnawan*, to understand] 1. to admit to be true 2. to recognize the authority or claims of 3. to recognize and answer (a greeting or introduction) 4. to express thanks for 5. to state that one has received (a letter, gift, etc.)

**acknowledgment, acknowledgment** *n.* 1. an admission 2. something done or given in acknowledging, as thanks 3. recognition of the authority or claims of

**acme** (ak'mē) *n.* [Gr. *akmé*, a point, top] the highest point; peak

**acne** (ak'nē) *n.* [? < Gr. *akmé*: see prec.] a skin disease characterized by inflammation of the sebaceous glands, causing pimples on the face, etc.

**acolyte** (ak'əlit') *n.* [ < Gr. *akolouthos*, follower ] 1. R.C.Ch. a member of the highest of the four minor orders, who serves at Mass 2. an attendant 3. a novice

**aconite** (ak'ənit') *n.* [ < L. < Gr. *akoniton* ] 1. a poisonous plant with blue, purple, or yellow hoodlike flowers 2. a drug made from the dried roots

**acorn** (ə'körn') *n.* [ < OE. *æcern*, nut ] the fruit of the oak tree

**acoustic** (əkuūs'tik) *adj.* [ < Gr. *akouein*, hear ] 1. having to do with hearing or with acoustics 2. detonated by sound vibrations [an *acoustic mine*] 3. designating a musical instrument whose tones are not electronically altered Also **acous'tical** —**acous'tically** *adv.*

**acoustics** *n.pl.* 1. the qualities of a room, etc. that relate to how clearly sounds can