

The Penguin
**English Student's
Dictionary**

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Edited by L A Hill

PENGUIN ENGLISH

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Introduction

The *Penguin English Student's Dictionary* has been carefully prepared for people studying and using English as a foreign or second language. It is based on many years of experience of teaching English, training teachers of English and writing textbooks for students and teachers.

This dictionary pays as much attention to English phrases and expressions as to the meanings of individual words. It helps the student to understand the meaning *and* usage of a word or expression when he/she is listening or reading or writing. If the student hears or reads '*Helen is on business in our town. She is in business in London.*' and wants to know the difference between '*in business*' and '*on business*', he/she should look up **business** in the dictionary and then find ***in business*** and ***on business***.

The main word (called a 'headword') is given in **bold** letters and words with the same spelling but different meanings are numbered ^{1,2} etc. Changes in the part of speech of a word (e.g. adjective, noun, and verb) are listed in alphabetical order and marked ▷.

Pronunciation for each word is given in phonetic symbols (e.g. **seat** /si:t/). For the meaning of these symbols and practice in using them, ⇒ page viii.

After the pronunciation, the part of speech is given (e.g. *adj.*, *adv.*, *c.n.*, *u.n.*, *tr.v.*, *intr.v.* etc). For explanations of these abbreviations and the part of speech, ⇒ page x.

If the headword is a noun that does not form its plural by adding *-s* or *-es*, the plural form is given (e.g. **body** (*pl -ies*) means that the plural of 'body' is 'bodies'; **child** (*pl children*) means that the plural of 'child' is 'children').

If the comparative or superlative of an adjective or adverb is not formed with *-er*, *-est* or *-r*, *-st*, the forms are given (e.g. **tiny** (*-ier*, *-iest*) means that the forms are 'tinier' and 'tiniest'; **big** (*-ger*, *-gest*) means that the forms are 'bigger', 'biggest').

Any unusual verb forms are also given (e.g. **swim** (*-mm-*, *p.t swam*, *p.p swum*) means that we write 'swimming' in the present tense, 'swam' in the past tense and 'swum' as the past participle; **cancel** (*-ll-*, *US -l-*) means that in British English we write 'cancelling', 'cancelled' etc and in American English we write 'canceling', 'canceled' etc).

There is information if a word is used only in certain situations (e.g. *formal*, *informal*, *slang* or *med.*, *law*, *tech.*). For an explanation of these abbreviations, ⇒ page xii.

The meaning of the word is then given, often with one or more examples. Different meanings of the same word are numbered **1**, **2** etc. Detailed help is given with usage. For example, a word may be used in a particular phrase or group of words (e.g. **abstain** is often used in '**abstain from (doing) s.t.**').

At the end and after all the meanings have been given, there is a list of idioms in which the word is used (e.g. at the end of **come** we find **come across s.o./s.t.**, **come into money** etc).

A word that comes from the same root as another but has a suffix added to it is grouped under the headword (e.g. the adjective '**bearable**' comes from the verb '**bear**' with the suffix '**-able**'; ⇒ Appendix 2 for details). If the word comes in a different alphabetical order when grouped in this way, it also appears in its correct alphabetical position with an arrow, ⇒ meaning 'look up ...', to show where to find it (e.g. 'showy' is explained under **show**, and between **shower** and **shrank** we find **showy** ⇒ show). If the pronunciation does not present any difficulties, these words do not have a full phonetic transcription but stress-markers only (e.g. '**yellowness**'). If there is a major change in pronunciation, the full phonetic transcription is given (e.g. **ratification** /ˌrætɪfɪ'keɪʃən/ from **ratify** /'ræti,fai/; **pleasure** /'pleɪʒə/ from **please** /pli:z/). For explanations of stress-markers, ⇒ page ix.

After the main dictionary, there are very useful appendices on irregular verbs, common affixes and roots, punctuation, the family, geographical names, numbers, times and dates, money, weights and measures, mathematical signs and symbols and ranks in the armed forces.

Phonetic symbols

Vowels

i:	keep	ɔ:	all	ʊ	bone	aɪ	fire
ɪ	lip	ʊ	full	əʊ	how	ɔɪ	lawyer
e	end	u:	food	ɔɪ	toy	aʊ	tower
æ	sat	ɔ	away	ɪə	clear	ʊə	lower
ʌ	up	ɜ:	nerve	eə	pair		
ɑ:	star	eɪ	make	ʊə	sure		
ɒ	pot	aɪ	side	eɪə	player		

For more practice, ⇒ the end of this section.

Consonants

b	bed	k	came	v	van	tʃ	chip
d	do	l	lost	w	went	ʃ	sheep
f	fish	m	man	s	sat	θ	think
g	great	n	now	z	zoo	ð	there
h	hit	p	pill	ŋ	sing	dʒ	gentle
j	you	r	run	ɪ	time	ʒ	pleasure

For more practice, ⇒ the end of this section.

Note: Linking r. When the letter **r** appears between vowel sounds, it is pronounced /r/; we do not point this out each time in this dictionary. Compare, for example, **gather** /'gæðə/ and **gathering** /'gæðərɪŋ/; **come here** /,kam 'hiə/ and **here** it is /,hiə/ it 'iz/.

Stress-markers

- 1 (showing main or primary stress), e.g. **'perfect** (*adj.*), **per'fect** (*verb*).
- 1 (showing secondary (less important) stress), e.g. **'unim'portant**, **'recog,nize**, **'recon,cili'ation**, **'inter'nationa,lize**.
- 2 *Note:* Rhythm is very important in spoken English and in this dictionary there is maximum help by a liberal use of secondary stress-marks.

Sound examples to use for practice

- | | |
|--|--|
| i: these, tea, keen, receive, <u>people</u> ,
key, machine, <u>field</u> , <u>quay</u> ,
<u>phoenix</u> . | eɪ lake, aid, date, break, eight, they,
<u>gaol</u> , <u>gauge</u> , <u>fête</u> , <u>ballet</u> , <u>fiancée</u> . |
| ɪ village, <u>captain</u> , <u>Friday</u> , <u>married</u> ,
exact, coffee, foreign, abbey,
mirror, carriage, women, minute,
<u>build</u> , <u>city</u> . | əʊ sew, home, road, toe, blow, owe,
<u>brooch</u> , <u>soul</u> , <u>chauffeur</u> , <u>beau</u> . |
| e bed, any, said, says, very, head,
leisure, leopard, friend, bury,
guess, haemorrhage. | aɪ either, eye, bite, die, guide, buy,
type, goodbye, my, light, aisle, ay,
<u>aye</u> , <u>geyser</u> . |
| æ map, apple, valley, <u>plait</u> ,
guarantee. | əʊ house, out, cow. |
| ʌ study, above, doesn't, blood,
courage. | ɔɪ oil, foil, boy, buoy. |
| ɑ: car, bazaar, aunt, clerk, heart,
guard. | ɪɔ here, dear, beer, area, happier,
museum, theory, courteous, pier,
companion, curious, souvenir,
medium, diarrhoea. |
| ɒ lot, forest, quarrel, sausage,
rendezvous, knowledge, cough. | eɔ care, air, prayer, mayor, there,
bear, their, aeroplane. |
| ɔ: more, door, four, warm, tall,
August, extraordinary, law, awe,
bought. | ʊɔ tour, sure, February, influence. |
| ʊ put, woman, wolf, book, could. | eɪɔ player, playable, abeyance,
greyer. |
| u: June, blue, fruit, chew, move,
shoe, too, soup, manoeuvre,
rheumatism. | aɪɔ hire, dial, quiet, lion, tyre, flyer. |
| ɔ arrange, basement, action,
original, cupboard, sergeant,
bigger, honour, figure, surgeon,
courageous, chauffeur, gracious,
tortoise. | ɔɪɔ lawyer, employer, joyous. |
| ɜ: bird, serve, word, burn, early,
connoisseur, colonel, journey,
myrtle. | aʊɔ flower, our, coward. |
| | ɔʊɔ mower, sower, coalesce. |
| | b bad, dabble. |
| | d day, middle. |
| | f fat, suffer, enough, photograph. |
| | g get, gone, gear, beggar, ghost. |
| | h hat, who. |
| | j yet, hallelujah. |

k	cat, acclaim, character, back, racket, <u>saccharin</u> , <u>kill</u> , <u>cheque</u> , <u>khaki</u> .	ŋ	<u>bang</u> , <u>anchor</u> .
l	self, <u>fall</u> .	t	<u>ten</u> , <u>Thomas</u> , <u>butter</u> , <u>baked</u> .
m	<u>man</u> , <u>hammer</u> , <u>hymn</u> .	tʃ	<u>chap</u> , <u>question</u> , <u>nature</u> , <u>catch</u> , <u>cello</u> .
n	<u>nail</u> , <u>penny</u> .	ʃ	<u>ship</u> , <u>mission</u> , <u>action</u> , <u>social</u> , <u>machine</u> , <u>conscious</u> , <u>schedule</u> , <u>chalet</u> , <u>fuchsia</u> .
p	<u>pen</u> , <u>shepherd</u> , <u>happy</u> , <u>hiccough</u> .	dʒ	<u>edge</u> , <u>judge</u> , <u>gem</u> , <u>gaol</u> , <u>suggest</u> , <u>adjust</u> , <u>soldier</u> , <u>jam</u> , <u>sandwich</u> .
r	<u>red</u> , <u>marry</u> , <u>diarrhoea</u> .	ʒ	<u>garage</u> , <u>measure</u> , <u>vision</u> , <u>azure</u> .
v	<u>very</u> , <u>voice</u> , of.	θ	<u>thick</u> , <u>thin</u> , <u>thistle</u> , <u>cloth</u> , <u>north</u> , <u>worth</u> .
w	<u>way</u> , <u>what</u> .	ð	<u>bathe</u> , <u>the</u> , <u>than</u> , <u>these</u> , <u>clothe</u> , <u>clothes</u> , <u>worthy</u> .
s	<u>city</u> , <u>gas</u> , <u>dress</u> , <u>scene</u> , <u>muscle</u> , <u>schism</u> , <u>waltz</u> .		
z	<u>zoom</u> , <u>dogs</u> , <u>his</u> , <u>dissolve</u> , <u>xylophone</u> .		

Abbreviations

abbr abbreviation, e.g. **CID** *abbr*
Criminal Investigation Department.

adj adjective, e.g. *This is a big place.*
This place is big.

adv adverb, e.g. *He walks quickly. This place is very big. This hat is big enough for me. Come home soon. She is not in today.*

attrib attributive (of an adj), i.e. that comes before a noun or pron and not after a verb, e.g. *a big tree*.

aux.v auxiliary verb, i.e. one used to form a tense of a verb, e.g. *He was reading a book. I have finished. It may rain soon.*

chem.symb chemical symbol, e.g. **ammonia** (*chem.symb* NH₃).

c.n countable noun, i.e. one that can be used after 'a(n)' and that has a plural, e.g. *horse; woman; answer*.

comp comparative (of adjs and advs), e.g. *bigger; better; more beautiful*.

conj conjunction, e.g. *You and I. Come in or shut the door.*

def.n definite noun, i.e. one that is used with 'the' before it, e.g. *north; seaside*.

def.pl.n definite plural noun, i.e. one that is used with 'the' before it and that takes a plural verb; e.g. *tropics; Philippines*.

derog derogatory, e.g. *It is derog to say that an adult is 'childish'.*

det determiner, i.e. a word that qualifies a noun or pronoun and comes before any adjs that also qualify it, e.g. *this small girl; every day*.

e.g for example.

esp especially.

etc et cetera.

fig figurative, i.e. not used in its literal sense, e.g. *What an animal that man is!*

i.e that is; in other words.

interj interjection, e.g. *Hi! Sh! What!*

intr.v verb that does not take a direct object, e.g. *go; live; garden*.

n noun; e.g. *policeman; physics; women*.

neg negative.

pers person, e.g. 3rd pers sing pres.t = third person singular present tense.

pl plural.

pl.n plural noun, e.g. *deer*; *cacti*; *cattle*.
The government have decided to change the law.

poss possessive, e.g. *Jack's*; *monkeys'*; *women's*.

poss.adj possessive adjective, e.g. *my*; *your*.

poss.pron possessive pronoun, e.g. *mine*; *yours*; *someone's*.

p.p past participle, e.g. *finished*; *grown*; *swum*.

pred predicative (of an adj.), i.e. one that follows a verb, e.g. *He is ill*.

prep preposition, e.g. *She is not at home*. *What are you looking at?*

pres.t present tense, e.g. *I live here*. *I am listening to some music*.

pron pronoun, e.g. *I*; *you*; *everyone*.
Some like it, some don't.

p.t past tense, e.g. *lived*; *was*; *swam*.

refl.v reflexive verb, i.e. one that takes a pronoun in *-self/-selves* as its object; e.g. *enjoy oneself*.

Scot Scots English.

sing singular.

sing.n noun that can be used after 'a(n)' but cannot be used in the plural, e.g. *an abundance of birds*. *She is a match for any of us*.

s.o someone.

s.t something.

superl superlative (of adjs and advs), e.g. *biggest*; *best*; *most beautiful*.

s.w somewhere.

ymb symbol; e.g. *H ymb* Hydrogen.

t.h trade name, e.g. *hoover*.

tr.v transitive verb; i.e. one that takes a direct object, e.g. *got*; *outdo*.

UK British English.

u.n uncountable noun, i.e. one that is not used after 'a(n)' nor in the plural, but which can be used after 'some' /*some*/ or 'any', e.g. *water*; *modesty*.

unique n singular noun that is neither a *c.n* (⇒ above) nor a *def.n* (⇒ above), nor a *u.n* (⇒ above), e.g. *England*; *mathematics*. *School begins at 9 o'clock*.

US American English.

usu usually.

v verb, e.g. *receive*; *ought*.

written abbr written abbreviation, e.g. *Ave* *written abbr* Avenue.

▷ change of part of speech in an entry.

⇒ see, e.g. *advocate* ... ⇒ *attorney*.

/ or, e.g. *each/every* means *each* or *every*.

= is the same as, e.g. *anyone* = *anybody*.

To save space, changes that occur in words when they are put in the plural, in the past tense etc are not always shown in full. The following 'abbreviations' are used:

doubling e.g. *rob* (-bb-) means that when a suffix other than -s is added to 'rob', the b is doubled, producing 'robbing' and 'robbed'.

plurals *tomato* (pl -es) means that the plural of tomato is tomatoes; *motto* (pl -s) means that the plural of motto is mottos.

Grammatical markers used in full

collective noun/name noun or name that is singular in form but takes a plural verb, e.g. *The crowd are drinking and singing.*

command = imperative.

direct object person, animal or thing that the action of a verb is directed to, e.g. *I saw him.*

imperative form of a verb that gives an order, e.g. *Stop!*

indirect object person, animal or thing that is the beneficiary or sufferer of an action that consists of verb + direct object, e.g. *I gave him a book.*

object direct object of a verb, or person, animal or thing governed by a preposition, e.g. *There's nothing in it.*

objective case form of a pronoun that is used when it is the object, e.g. *me, him, us, them.*

prefix part of a word that comes at the beginning of it, has an individual meaning, but cannot be used as a word by itself, e.g. 'uneasy'; 'prehistoric'. ⇒ Appendix 2.

suffix part of a word that comes at the end of it and cannot be used as a word by itself. Many suffixes change one part of speech into another, 'goodness'; 'easily'; 'greenish'. ⇒ Appendix 2.

Style markers used in full

showing style, areas of use or origin

commerce

formal

French

French in origin.

German

German in origin.

Greek

Greek in origin.

informal

joking

Latin

Latin in origin.

law

literary

mathematics

medicine

military

old use

proverb

religion

slang

technical

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Aa

A, a /eɪ/ *c/unique* **n** 1 1st letter of the English alphabet.

▷ *det* (strong form /eɪ/, weak form /ə/) **2** (used before a word that begins with a consonant sound): *a cat; a horse; a useful book; a one-eyed man*. Compare **an**. **3** one example of, when one is not contrasting (⇒ **contrast**(4)) this with two, three etc: 'Have you got a match?' 'Yes, I've got one match but I need it myself.' **4** any, every, example of: *A cat is an animal*. **5** a certain, usu one that one does not know: *There is a Mr Grant to see you*. **6** a kind of: *This is a bread I like very much*. **7** one cup etc of: *I had a coffee at 10 o'clock*. **8** each; every: *They say that an apple a day keeps the doctor away*. **9** a person/animal/thing like: *The cat was a lion when it defended its young*. **10** a painting etc by: *There is a Rubens in our museum*. **a brother etc of mine, yours, Mary's etc** = one of my etc brothers etc.

▷ *symbol* **11** (**A**) (used with a number) major road: *the A40 to Oxford*. ⇒ **M**(14).

A1 /eɪ 'wʌn/ *adj* **1** of the best kind. **2** in the best condition.

AA /eɪ 'eɪ/ *def.n abbr* Automobile Association.

AAA /eɪ eɪ 'eɪ/ *def.n abbr* Amateur Athletic(1) Association.

aback /ə'bæk/ *adv* **take s.o., be taken**. **aback** surprise s.o., be surprised, greatly.

abandon /ə'bændən/ *tr.v* **1** leave (s.o./s.t) without intending to return: *The car was found abandoned in a field*. **2** give (s.t) up; stop trying to do (s.t): *They abandoned the attempt*.

abandonment *u.n.*

abashed /ə'beɪʃt/ *adj* feeling shy or ashamed. Compare **unabashed**.

abate /ə'beɪt/ *intr.v* (formal) become less (strong): *We waited till the storm abated before starting*.

abatement *u.n.*

abattoir /'æbətwa:/ *c.n* official place where animals, e.g. cows, are killed; slaughterhouse.

abess /'æbɪs/ *c.n* woman who is the head of a convent.

abbey /'æbi/ *n* **1** *c/unique* **n** name by which some big churches are known: *Westminster Abbey*. **2** *c.n* (old use) monastery or convent. **3** *c.n* building that used to be an abbey(2).

abbot /'æbət/ *c.n* man who is the head of a monastery.

abbreviate /ə'brɪvɪeɪt/ *tr.v* make (a word etc) short(er).

abbreviation /ə'brɪvɪ'eɪʃən/ *c.n* short form, usu of words: 'Mon' is an abbreviation of 'Monday'.

ABC /eɪ bi: 'si:/ *def.n* **1** alphabet, usu when being learnt by small children. **2** children's book with pictures illustrating(1) the ABC(1). **as easy as ABC** very easy.

abdicate /'æbɪ'keɪt/ *v* **1** *intr.v* give up being king, queen etc. **2** *tr.v* give up (a claim, responsibility etc).

abdication /'æbɪ'keɪʃən/ *c/u.n.*

abdomen /'æbdəmən/ *c.n* **1** part of one's body that is between the chest and the top of one's legs. **2** (in insects) last section(1) of the body.

abdominal /əb'dɒmɪnəl/ *adj* of or referring to the abdomen: *abdominal pains*.

abduct /əb'dʌkt/ *tr.v* take (s.o.) away unlawfully. **abduction** /əb'dʌkʃən/ *u.n.*

aberrant /æ'berənt/ *adj* not right or normal: *aberrant behaviour*.

aberration /æbə'reɪʃən/ *c/u.n* (example of the) act of not doing what is right or normal, usu without thinking. **in (a moment of) aberration** as a result of (a short) aberration: *She drank his coffee in a moment of aberration*.

abet /ə'bet/ *tr.v* (-tt-) (usu **aid** and — **s.o** (in doing, to do, s.t)) help and/or encourage (s.o) to do s.t wrong.

abeyance /ə'beɪəns/ *u.n* (often **fall into, be in, —**) (formal) (of a law, rule etc) state of temporarily not being in use/operation.

abhor /əb'hɔ:/ *tr.v* (-tt-) (formal) hate (s.t); be disgusted by (s.t): *We all abhor cruelty to animals*.

abhorrence /əb'hɒrəns/ *u.n.*

abhorrent /əb'hɒrənt/ *adj* that causes hatred or disgust.

abide /ə'baɪd/ *v* (p.t.p **abode** /ə'baʊd/, **abided**) **1** *intr.v* (usu — **in s.w**) (old use; literary) live (in a place). **2** *tr.v* (formal) be able to suffer (s.o./s.t) patiently; tolerate (s.o./s.t): *I can't abide the way that man boasts*. **abide by s.t** be faithful to s.t; not change s.t: *I abide by what I have already promised*.

abiding *attrib. adj*: *an abiding love*.

ability ⇒ **able**.

abject /'æbdʒekt/ *adj* (of conditions of living etc) extremely poor and miserable: *abject poverty*.

abjure /əb'dʒʊə/ *tr.v* (formal) promise to give (s.t) up, stop doing (s.t): *Those men have abjured all violence*.

ablaze /ə'bleɪz/ *pred.adj* **1** on fire; burning. **2** (fig) (sometimes — **with s.t**) shining brightly (because of s.t): *The castle was ablaze with lights*. **3** (fig) (often — **with s.t**) very excited (because of anger etc).

able /'eɪbl/ *adj* **1** (pred) (often — **to do s.t**) having the skill, strength etc needed (to do s.t). *I wasn't able to lift the box*. Opposite **unable**. **2** clever, skilful: *an able lawyer*.

ability /ə'biɪlɪtɪ/ *c/u.n* (pl -ies) **1** (often the — **to do s.t**) skill, strength etc needed (to do s.t). **2** *u.n* (often **a person** etc of —) (a person etc who has) cleverness, skill. Opposite **inability**.

able-bodied *adj* fit and strong in one's body. **able-bodied seaman** *c.n* (also **able seaman**) fully trained sailor who is not an officer of any kind.

ably *adv*.

abnormal /æb'nɔ:ml/ *adj* not normal.

abnormality /æb'nɔ:'mælɪtɪ/ *n* (pl -ies) **1** *u.n* fact or quality of being abnormal. **2** *c.n* thing that is abnormal.

abnormally *adv*.

aboard /ə'bɔ:d/ *adv/prep* on or in (a boat, aeroplane etc): *The ship left port as soon as all the passengers were aboard*.

abode /'əbeʊd/ *c.n* (formal or old use) place where one lives. **of no fixed abode** not living at any permanent address. **take up one's abode** begin to live in a place.

abode /ə'boʊd/ *p.t.p.p.* of abide.

abolish /ə'boʊlɪʃ/ *tr.v.* stop (s.t.) permanently: *Most of us would like to see taxes abolished.*

abolition /ə'boʊlɪʃən/ *n.*

A-bomb /'eɪ,bɒm/ *c.n.* (informal) atomic bomb.

abominate /ə'boʊmɪneɪt/ *tr.v.* (formal) hate (s.o./s.t.); feel disgust for (s.o./s.t.): *I abominate rudeness.*

abominable /ə'boʊmɪnəbl/ *adj.* 1 disgusting. 2 (informal) very unpleasant: *We had abominable weather during our holidays.*

abominable 'snowman *c/def.* 7 (also **yeti**) (informal) big creature supposed to live in high mountains in central Asia and look like a person with long hair on its body.

abominably *adv.*

abomination /ə'boʊmɪneɪʃən/ *n* 1 *u.n.* disgust. 2 *c.n.* disgusting thing: *Cruelty to animals is an abomination.* **hold s.o./s.t. in abomination** feel disgust for s.o./s.t.

aboriginal /ə'boʊrɪdʒɪnəl/ *adj* 1 (technical) having existed in that place from the earliest known times.

Aborigine /ə'boʊrɪdʒɪni/ *unique n* (also attrib) original inhabitant of Australia: *the Aborigine culture.*

abort /ə'boʊt/ *tr./intr.v* 1 (cause (a baby or young animal) to be born too soon so that it dies. 2 (cause (a plan, a space flight etc) to come to an end before the planned time.

abortion /ə'boʊʃən/ *c/u.n* 1 (example of the) removal or loss of a baby before it is born, usu before the end of the 28th week of pregnancy(2), so that the baby dies: *Vanessa had to have an abortion because the foetus was not normal.* ⇒ miscarriage(1), premature(1). 2 (fig; informal) event, thing, that is completely unsuccessful: *That dinner party was a total abortion.*

abortive *adj* (formal) unsuccessful: *He made several abortive attempts to start the engine.*

abound /ə'baʊnd/ *intr.v* (formal) exist in great numbers or quantities. **abound in/with s.t.** have great numbers or quantities of s.t.: *This lake abounds in fish.*

abundance /ə'bʌndəns/ *n* 1 *u.n.* plenty; more than enough. 2 *sing.n.* (often 7 — of s.t.) number or quantity (of s.t.) that is more than enough.

abundant *adj* existing in numbers or quantities that are more than enough.

abundantly *adv.*

about /ə'baʊt/ *adv* 1 here and there; to one side and another or the other; on any side: *The children were running about. The ship was rolling about in the rough sea.* 2 here and there (sometimes suggesting that one is idle): *Don't stand about; come and help!* 3 present; in this/that place: *Is there anyone about? Is anyone about in your office at 8 a.m.?* **about turn** (order given to soldiers etc to turn and face in the opposite direction).

▷ *prep* 4 here and there in, on, (s.t.): *Stop running about the room!* 5 here and there but suggesting that one is idle: *There were men standing about the place waiting.* 6 present; in this/that place: *Mr Jones is somewhere about the office.* 7 (often just — s.t.) more or less (s.t.); not exactly, but close to (s.t.): *It's just about 3 o'clock.* 8 with regard to; on the subject of: *What do you know about this letter?* 9 (becoming old use) (a)round: *She was*

wearing pearls about her neck. 10 (while) doing: *Wash these dishes up, and be quick about it!* *I'm baking a cake and while I'm about it I'll bake some biscuits.* **about to do s.t.** going to do s.t. very soon: *I can't see Mr Smith just now; I'm about to leave for London.* **have s.t. about one** be carrying s.t. usu in a pocket. For verb, noun etc + 'about', e.g. *beat about the bush*, *be on about s.t.* *know one's way about (s.t.)*, ⇒ the verb/noun.

above /ə'boʊv/ *adv* Opposite below. 1 (also up —) vertically up from s.o./s.t.; upstairs; directly over: *I sat above and threw the apples down to him. We looked at the stars above.* Opposite beneath(1). 2 higher than its line or upper surface: *Half the rock was under the water and half above.* 3 (also up —) higher without being directly over: *When we looked up at the mountain we could see the top high above.* 4 higher in rank etc: *The invitations are for captains and above.* 5 higher up a river: *We sailed up the Thames to Windsor and places above.* 6 higher on a page; earlier in a book, magazine etc: *See page 4, above.* 7 more in number, age etc: *children of 11 and above.* 8 from below up onto the deck, to a higher place, of a ship: *The captain has gone above to check the sails.* **from above** from a higher position: *Something fell on me from above.* **Heavens above!** ⇒ heaven.

▷ *prep* Opposite 9–14 below. 9 (also up —) vertically up from; directly over: *Sue lives in the flat above John.* 10 higher than the line or upper surface of; at a level higher than: *The plane flew above the clouds. The water came above my knees.* 11 higher than without being directly over: *A few trees were growing above the valley.* 12 higher than in rank, social position etc: *A general is above a colonel.* 13 further up a river than: *Windsor is above London.* 14 more in number, age etc than: *To get in, you must be above 16 years of age.* 15 louder than: *One can hear the water running past above the sound of voices.* 16 (often — s.o.'s head) too difficult for (s.o. to understand): *This book is above me.* 17 too good, high, important etc to be affected by (s.t.): *be above criticism/suspicion* (i.e. so good that no one could criticize or suspect one/it). **above all** ⇒ all (pron). **above board** ⇒ board. **above one's station** ⇒ station. **be above doing s.t.** be too good to do s.t. bad. **from above s.o./s.t.** from over, higher up, than s.o./s.t.: *From above the clouds the sky is deep blue.* **over and above s.t.** ⇒ over (prep).

above-mentioned *adj* mentioned above(6).

abrasive /ə'breɪsɪv/ *adj* 1 rough and able to scratch things or wear them away: *Don't clean the bath with anything abrasive.* 2 (fig; derog) of a person, a way of talking etc) rude; unpleasant: *What an abrasive man Mr Jones is!*

▷ *c.n* 3 abrasive(1) thing, material.

abrasively *adv.* **abrasiveness** *n.*

abreast /ə'brest/ *adv* side by side: *Our soldiers marched three abreast.* **be/keep abreast of s.t.** (continue to) know all the latest information about s.t.

abridge /ə'bɪdʒ/ *tr.v.* make (s.t. written) shorter.

abridgment *c/u.n.* (also **abridgement**).

abroad /ə'brɔːd/ *adv* 1 in, to, one or more foreign countries: *When are you going abroad?* 2 widely; to many or all places: *The good news was spread*

abroad **from abroad** from one or more foreign countries.

abrogate /'æbrəˌgeɪt/ *tr.v* (formal) make (s.t.) stop being the law, rule etc: *We can't just abrogate our treaties with other countries!*

abrogation /'æbrəˌgeɪʃən/ *c/u.n*

abrupt /ə'brʌpt/ *adj* 1 (very) sudden: *Our pleasant days at school came to an abrupt end with the arrival of the new head teacher.* 2 impolitely quick, without trying to be pleasant: *an abrupt manner of speaking.*

abruptly *adv.* **abruptness** *u.n*

abscess /'æbses/ *c.n* part of the body that has been attacked by bacteria so that there is pus under the skin.

abscond /əb'skɒnd/ *intr.v* (often — from s.w.) (with s.n.) (formal) go away secretly and unlawfully (from a place) (taking s.t. with one).

absent /'æbsənt/ *adj* 1 (often — from s.t.) not present (at s.t., usu s.t. one ought to be present at); not in this/tha place: *He's been absent from work all week.* 2 (showing that one is) not paying attention or listening: *an absent look in someone's eyes.* 3 lacking: *The male bird has red on its head but in the female this is absent.*

tr.v /əb'sent/ 4 **absent oneself** (from s.t.) (formal) not go to s.t. that one ought, was expected, to go to.

absence /'æbsəns/ *c/u.n* (often — from s.t.) fact or state of being absent(1) (from s.t.): *Your absence was noted.* **absence of mind** (formal) lack of attention; forgetfulness.

absentee /'æbsən'ti:/ *c.n* person who is absent(1).

'absently *adv* in an absent(2) way.

'absent-minded *adj* not paying attention or listening: *The wisent-minded professor came to college without his socks on.*

'absent-mindedly *adv.* **'absent-mindedness** *u.n*

absolute /'æbsəˌlu:t/ *adj* 1 complete; perfect: *We have absolute confidence in the pilot of the plane.* 2 allowing no doubt: *You must have absolute proof before you make an accusation.* 3 (of a ruler, her/his power etc) not limited in any way: *Modern kings and queens are no longer absolute rulers.* **absolute gem** ⇒ *gem.* **decree absolute** ⇒ *decree*

'absolutely *adv.*

'absolute majority *c.n* (pl -ies) a majority of more than 50 per cent (⇒ *per*).

'absolute zero *unique n* the lowest temperature so far known to be possible; -273.13° Centigrade.

absolve /əb'zɔlv/ *tr.v* (formal) 1 (often — s.o./s.t. from s.t.) declare (s.o./s.t.) to be free (from s.t.). *After asking many questions, the police absolved Judy of all blame for the accident.* 2 (of a priest) give (s.o.) absolution(1).

absolution /'æbsəˌlu:ʃən/ *n* 1 *u.n* (often give s.o., receive(6)). — (for s.t.) forgiveness by a priest (for the bad things he/she has done). 2 *c.n* statement by a priest in a church giving the congregation absolution(1).

absorb /əb'zɔ:b/ *tr.v* 1 take (a liquid etc) in: *Blotting paper absorbs ink.* 2 (fig) understand (an idea etc): *Did you absorb everything the teacher said?* 3 make (s.t.) part of oneself/

itself: *Big companies absorb smaller ones to stop competition.* 4 make (shock, force etc) less.

ab'sorbed *adj* (often — in s.t.) so busy (doing s.t.) that one thinks of nothing else.

ab'sorbent *adj* that absorbs(1) ink, water etc.

ab'sorbing *adj* so interesting that one cannot think about anything else.

absorption /əb'zɔ:pʃən/ *u.n*

abstain /əb'steɪn/ *intr.v* (often — from (doing) s.t.) not do (s.t.): *500 members voted for Mrs Jones, 452 for Miss Robinson and 12 abstained (from voting).*

ab'stainer *c.n* person who abstains from doing s.t., often from drinking alcoholic(1) drinks.

abstention /əb'stenʃən/. **abstinence** /'æbstɪˌnəns/ *u.n*

abstemious /əb'stiːmiəs/ *adj* (formal) moderate, esp in eating and drinking.

ab'stemiously *adv.* **ab'stemiousness** *u.n*

ab'stention, ab'stinance ⇒ *abstain.*

abstract /'æb'strækt/ *adj* 1 (of or referring to s.t.) that cannot be seen, touched etc; not made of matter: *abstract thought.* Opposite concrete(3) 2 that concerns abstract art.

⇒ *c.n* 3 example of abstract art. **In the abstract** in general; without looking at particular cases: *It is no use agreeing to a holiday in the abstract, it depends on where you are willing to go.*

'abstract art *u.n* form of art that does not try to represent things as they really look.

'abstraction /'æb'strækʃən/ *c.n* thing that is abstract(1).

'abstract noun *c.n* noun that is the name of a quality or state, not the name of s.t. one can touch, see etc: *'Size' and 'wickedness' are abstract nouns.* Compare concrete noun

abstract /əb'strækt/ *tr.v* (technical; formal) (often — s.t. from s.t.) remove (s.t.) (from s.t.), usu by a special process(1)

'ab'straction 2 *u.n* fact or act of abstracting(2) (s.t.).

'ab'straction 3 /əb'strækʃən/ *u.n* (formal) ab'sent-mindedness.

ab'struse /əb'stru:s/ *adj* (formal) difficult to understand: *an ab'struse argument*

ab'strusely *adv.* **ab'struseness** *u.n*

absurd /əb'sɜ:d/ *adj* foolish; not reasonable.

'ab'surdity *c/u.n* (pl -ies). **ab'surdly** *adv.*

abundance, abundant(ly) ⇒ *abound.*

abuse /əb'ju:s/ *u.n* 1 rude, unkind or cruel etc things said or written. **a stream of abuse** a lot of abuse(1).

⇒ *tr.v* /əb'ju:z/ 2 say or write rude, unkind or cruel things to/about (s.o./s.t.).

abusive /əb'ju:ʃɪv/ *adj* (of a person, what he/she says or writes etc) full of abuse(1): *an abusive letter.*

'abusively *adv.* **'abusiveness** *u.n*

abuse 2 /əb'ju:s/ *c/u.n* 1 (often an — of s.t.) cruel or dishonest use (of s.t.): *an abuse of one's power.*

⇒ *tr.v* /əb'ju:z/ 2 use (one's position, power etc) wrongly, often dishonestly.

abut /əb'aɪ/ *intr.v* (-tt-) **abut (up) on s.t.** (formal) be next to, or touching, s.t.: *Mrs Smith's land abuts on ours.*

abysmal /əb'ɪzml/ *adj* (informal) very bad: *abysmal weather; an abysmal lack of knowledge.*

abysmally *adv.*

abyss /əˈbɪs/ *c.n* very deep hole in the ground.

(in) **an abyss of s.t** (fig) (in) a state of feeling s.t unpleasant (e.g. despair) very strongly.

AC /eɪˈsi/ *u.n abbr* alternating current.

a/c *written abbr* account(1).

acacia /əˈkeɪʃə/ *c.n* kind of tree from which one gets a kind of gum(1) for sticking things.

academy /əˈkædəmi/ *c/unique n (pl -ies)* (often with capital A; *an/the* — of s.t) 1 college for teaching a particular thing: *the Royal Academy of Music*. 2 group of professional people connected with a particular subject: *the Royal Academy of Arts*. ⇒ *military academy*.

academic /ˌækəˈdemɪk/ *adj* 1 of or referring to a university, college etc, the things studied there etc: *an academic life*. 2 of or referring to subjects that provide information and training for the mind rather than for the hands or for practical purposes: *academic studies*. Compare *technical*(1). 3 (*derog*) not practical; not useful in real life: *Those objections are purely academic*.

▷ *c.n* 4 person who teaches and studies at a university or college.

academically *adv.*

accede /əˈkɛd/ *intr.v* (often — to s.t) (formal) 1 agree (to s.t); accept (s.t): *We have acceded to the government's call for help*. 2 become a member of s.t: *Spain and Portugal have acceded to the EEC*. 3 become king, chairperson etc of s.t after the one before has died, retired etc: *accede to the throne*.

accession /əˈkɛʃən/ *u.n* fact or act of acceding.

accelerate /əˈkɛləreɪt/ *v* 1 *tr/intr.v* (cause (s.t) to) move faster: *John was late so he accelerated and drove the rest of the way at 100 kilometres an hour*. 2 *tr.v* (formal) cause (s.t) to happen sooner: *We are accelerating the building of the new houses*.

acceleration /əˈkɛləˈreɪʃən/ *u.n* 1 act or fact of accelerating (s.t). 2 ability to accelerate(1); rate at which s.t accelerates(1).

accelerator *n* 1 *c.n* device in a car etc that one presses etc to make it go faster. 2 *u.n* (technical) substance that makes a chemical change happen faster. 3 *c.n* (technical) machine for greatly increasing the speed of particles(1) to produce power.

accent /ˈæksənt/ *n* 1 *c/u.n* way of speaking a language by people from a particular part of a country, a particular social class etc: *Ian has a very strong Scots accent*. 2 *c.n* emphasis(2) on (a part of) a word: *The main accent on 'accentuation' is on the fourth syllable*. 3 *c.n* mark put above some letters in some languages: *In the French phrase(1) 'irès génie', all the e's have accents*.

▷ *tr.v* /əˈkɛnt/ 4 pronounce (s.t) with emphasis(2): *We accent the first syllable of 'agriculture'*.

accentuate /əˈkɛntʃuːeɪt/ *tr.v* make (s.t) seem more important by giving emphasis(1) to it: *Her sunburnt skin accentuates the fairness of her hair*.

accentuation /əˈkɛntʃuːeɪʃən/ *c/u.n*.

accept /əˈkɛpt/ *v* 1 *tr/intr.v* agree to take (s.o/s.t who/that is offered); receive (s.t) and agree to do what is asked: *I accept your invitation with great pleasure*. *He was soon accepted into the family*.

2 *tr.v* (often — that ...) agree to (s.t, or that ...): *I accept that I made a mistake*. 3 *tr.v* take responsibility for (s.t): *I accept the blame for the accident*.

acceptability /əˈkɛptəˈbɪlɪti/ *u.n* (often the — of s.t (as s.t)) fact of (s.t) being acceptable (as s.t).

acceptable *adj* that can be accepted(1). Opposite unacceptable.

acceptance *n* 1 *c/u.n* (often the — of s.t) fact of accepting (⇒ *accept(v)*) (s.t): *the acceptance of his offer*. 2 *c/u.n* approval. 3 *c.n* (commerce) agreement to pay (a bill etc).

access /ˈækses/ *u.n* (often — to s.o/s.t) 1 way of getting into a place, reaching s.o/s.t. 2 opportunity to get, use etc, s.t: *Students need to have access to a good library*.

▷ *tr.v* 3 (in computers) get access(1) to (stored information in printed form or on a screen).

accessibility /əˈkɛsəˈbɪlɪti/ *u.n*.

accessible /əˈkɛsəˈbəl/ *adj* able to be reached, got, used etc. Opposite inaccessible.

access road *c.n* road that gives access(1) to a motorway, a group of houses etc.

accessory ⇒ *accessory*(2).

accession ⇒ *accede*.

accessory /əˈkɛsəri/ *c.n* (pl -ies) 1 (often pl) thing that is not absolutely necessary but that helps to make other things more beautiful, comfortable etc: *This white dress would look particularly fine with blue accessories like gloves, belt and shoes*. Compare *extra*(4). 2 (also **accessary**) (law) person who was not present at the time of a crime but helped the criminal(s) before and/or after it. **accessory after/before the fact** person who hides facts about a crime or helps to plan a crime but is not there while the crime is being committed.

accident /ˈæksɪdənt/ *c.n* (usu unfortunate) thing that happens for no clear reason, e.g. a crash between two cars. By **accident** as a result of an accident; not intentionally: *We didn't come together — it was quite by accident that we arrived together*.

accidental /ˈæksɪdəntəl/ *adj* happening by chance, not intentionally: *an accidental meeting*.

accidentally *adv.*

acclaim /əˈkleɪm/ *u.n* (formal) 1 applause and/or praise: *a film greeted with acclaim*.

▷ *tr.v* 2 greet (s.o/s.t) with acclaim(1). 3 (often — s.o/s.t as s.o/s.t) declare publicly that (s.o/s.t) is particularly good: *Shakespeare is acclaimed as England's best dramatist*.

acclamation /ˌækləˈmeɪʃən/ *u.n* (formal) 1 shouts of approval; applause. 2 public declaration by shouting: *Nicola was elected president of our club by acclamation*.

acclimatize, **-ise** /əˈklaɪməˌtaɪz/ *tr/intr.v* (cause (s.o/s.t) to) become used to a new climate.

acclimatization, **-isation** /əˈklaɪmətaɪˈzeɪʃən/ *u.n*.

accolade /ˈækoˌleɪd/ *c.n* great praise; public approval: *The film won the accolade of the newspapers*.

accommodate /əˈkɒmədeɪt/ *tr.v* 1 provide lodging for (s.o). 2 allow enough space for (s.o/s.t): *This seat accommodates three people comfortably*. *accommodate to s.t* (formal) change

in such a way as to fit s.t. *Young people accommodate easily to new conditions.*

ac'commodating *adj* willing to fit in with others.

accommodation /ə,komə'deɪʃən/ *n* house, room(s) etc in which to live; lodging(s). **accommodation to s.t** (formal) changing in such a way as to fit in with s.t.

accompany /ə'kʌmpəni/ *tr.v* (-ies, -ied) 1 go s.w. with (s.o./s.t.): *I shall accompany you as far as the station.* 2 happen, exist, at the same time as (s.t.). *Lack of wind is often accompanied by fog here.* 3 play music to support (one or more singers, a soloist etc): *Maureen accompanied the singer on the piano.*

ac'companiment /ə'kʌmpənɪmənt/ *c/n* thing that accompanies (1-3) s.o./s.t. **to the accompaniment of s.t** (formal) accompanied (2,3) by s.t.: *Joe won the race to the accompaniment of cheers from his friends.*

ac'companist /ə'kʌmpənɪst/ *c/n* person who accompanies (3) s.o.

accomplice /ə'kʌmplɪs/ *c/n* partner in doing s.t. bad.

accomplish /ə'kʌmplɪʃ/ *tr.v* complete (s.t.), do (s.t.), successfully: *accomplish a difficult job.*

ac'complished *adj* very skilful: *an accomplished tennis player.*

ac'complishment *n* 1 *u/n* fact or act of accomplishing (s.t.). 2 *c/n* thing accomplished (⇒ accomplish). 3 *c/n* thing that one is accomplished at: *skill: One of Mary's accomplishments is playing the violin.*

accord /ə'kɔ:d/ *c/n* (formal) agreement: *The two countries have reached (an) accord on trade.* **of one's own accord** without being forced or told to by anyone else; freely. **with one accord** all together.

ac'cordance *u/n* in accordance with s.t. (formal) in agreement with s.t.; following what is said or ordered in s.t.: *in accordance with the rules*

ac'cording *adv* 1 **according to s.o./s.t** (a) as stated, shown, by s.o./s.t. *According to Diana, it snowed here last week.* (b) in a way that depends on s.o./s.t. *We dress according to the weather.*

2 **according as** ... (formal) in so far as ... to the extent that ... depending on the extent to which ... *According as something becomes more transparent it becomes less easy to see.*

ac'cordingly *adv* 1 therefore; so: *I was told to hurry; accordingly, I came by train.* 2 in the way that has been said; indicated etc: *I thought it was going to snow so I dressed accordingly.*

accordion /ə'kɔ:diən/ *c/n* kind of musical instrument that is carried and played by pressing from the sides to push air in and out.

accost /ə'kɔ:st/ *tr.v* (formal) 1 go up to (s.o., usu. a stranger) and speak to (her/him) first. 2 go up to (s.o.) and ask for s.t., usu. money.

account /ə'kaʊnt/ *c/n* 1 (written abbr a/c) statement of money owed and paid or paid in and out. 2 (often (give) an — of s.t.) report, story, (about s.t.) in speech or writing. **current/deposit/joint/savings account** ⇒ current etc. **bring/call s.o. to account** (for s.t.) (a) make s.o. explain s.t. usu. s.t. b: *The/she has done.* (b) punish s.o. (for s.t.). **by/from all accounts** according to what everyone says. **have an account with s.o** keep money with a bank etc. **leave s.o./s.t. out of account**

not include s.o./s.t. in one's calculations. **not on any account; on no account** not for any reason. **of some, no etc account** having some, no etc importance. **on account of s.o./s.t** because of s.o./s.t. **open/close an account** start/end an account(1) at a bank etc. **put s.t. down to one's/s.o.'s account** buy s.t. without paying for it at once, so that the account(1) is sent in later. **put/turn s.t. to (good) account** use s.t. to one's advantage. **render an account (to s.o.)** prepare and send an account(1) (to s.o.). **settle an account, accounts.** (with s.o.) (a) pay what is owing (to s.o.). (b) get revenge or satisfaction (from s.o.) for s.t. bad he or she has done. **take (no) account of s.o./s.t** pay (no) attention to s.o./s.t. **take s.o./s.t. into account** include s.o./s.t. in one's calculations.

intr.v (usu — (to s.o.) for s.t.) 3 give an explanation (to s.o.) (of s.t. one has done etc). 4 be responsible (to s.o.) (for s.t.).

ac'countable *adj* 1 (often — (to s.o.) for s.t.) responsible (to s.o.) (for s.t.): *I hold you accountable for what happened.* 2 having to give an explanation. Compare account(3).

ac'countancy *u/n* job of an accountant.

ac'countant *c/n* person whose job is to keep and/or examine accounts(1). **chartered accountant** ⇒ charter

accredited /ə'kredɪtɪd/ *adj* (formal) having an official right and duty to represent s.o., a company, a government etc.

accretion /ə'kri:ʃən/ *n* (formal) 1 *u/n* growing by having additions made. 2 *c/n* thing that is added in this way.

accrue /ə'kru:/ *intr.v* (often — to s.t.) (formal) increase by being added (to s.t.). **accrue to s.o** come to s.o. as a result of accruing.

accumulate /ə'kjʊ:mju:leɪt/ *tr/itr.v* (cause (s.t.) to) become greater in number or quantity: *Rubbish accumulates quickly if you don't clear it regularly.*

accumulation /ə'kjʊ:mju:leɪʃən/ *n* 1 *u/n* fact or act of accumulating (s.t.). 2 *c/n* thing accumulated: *an accumulation of jobs to do.*

ac'cumulator *c/n* (technical) cell in which electricity is stored.

accurate /'ækjʊrət/ *adj* exact; correct. Opposite inaccurate.

'accuracy *u/n*. **'accurately** *adv*.

accursed /ə'kɜ:st/ *adj* (formal) 1 hated. 2 suffering under a curse.

accusative /ə'kjuzətɪv/ *adj/c/n* (grammar) (of the) form of a word when it is the direct object of a sentence: *The accusative form of the pronoun 'he' is 'him' as in 'I love him'.* ⇒ nominative

accuse /ə'kjuz/ *tr.v* (often — s.o./s.t. of (doing) s.t.) say that (s.o./s.t.) has done, is doing, s.t. wrong, wicked etc.

accusation /ə'kju:zətʃən/ *n* 1 *u/n* act or fact of accusing (s.o./s.t. of (doing) s.t.). 2 *c/n* thing of which one accuses s.o./s.t.: *an accusation of dishonesty.*

ac'cused *def.n* (law) person in a court of law who is accused of a crime.

ac'cuser *c/n* person who accuses s.o./s.t.

ac'cusing *adj* in a way that accuses s.o./s.t.: *an accusing look*

ac'cusingly *adv*.

accustom /ə'kʌstəm/ *tr.v* **accustom oneself/**

s.o./s.t. to s.t. cause oneself, another person, an animal, to become used (2) to s.t.

accustomed *adj* usual: *Pauline went to her accustomed restaurant for lunch.* **accustomed (to doing)** *s.t. used (2) to (doing) s.t.* *The children are quite accustomed to travelling by bus now.*

ace /eɪs/ *c.n* 1 (usu the — of hearts, spades etc) playing card with the highest value or with the value of one. 2 person who is very good at s.t., usu a sport: *a cycling ace.*

acetone /ˈesi,təʊn/ *u.n* kind of liquid used as a solvent, e.g. to remove nail-polish, *chem.form* CH₃COCH₃.

acetylene /əˈseti,lɪn/ *u.n* (also *attrib*) kind of gas that burns very brightly and is used for melting and cutting metal, *chem.form* C₂H₂; *an acetylene torch.*

ache /eɪk/ *c.n* 1 (used in combinations; often have an — (in s.t.)) dull continuous pain (in one of one's ears etc): *have a headache; have (a) toothache; have an ache in your heel.*

▷ *intr.v* 2 (of a person, a part of the body) have an ache(1): *I'm aching all over. My head aches.*

achieve /əˈtʃi:v/ *tr.v* 1 complete (s.t.) successfully: *Helen has achieved her ambition to become a doctor.* 2 get, reach, (s.t. usu s.t. difficult): *Einstein achieved great fame as a scientist.*

achievable *adj* that can be achieved.

achievement *n* 1 *u.n* (often the — of s.t.) act or fact of achieving (s.t.). 2 *c.n* thing achieved.

acid /ˈeɪsɪd/ *adj* 1 sour to the taste: *Lemon juice is acid.* 2 of or referring to acid(4), an acid(5). 3 (fig) (of a person, her/his way of speaking etc) unpleasant; sour(1): *an acid remark.*

▷ *n* 4 *c/u.n* (technical) substance that gives off hydrogen when it is put with water. 5 *c.n* substance, usu a liquid, that has an acid(1) taste. 6 *u.n* (slang) LSD(1).

acidity /əˈsɪdɪti/ *u.n* 1 fact or quality of being acid(1). 2 unpleasant feeling in one's stomach caused by acid(5).

acidity *adv* in an acid(3) way.

acknowledge /əˈknoʊlɪdʒ/ *tr.v* 1 (often — that, what, how etc ...) admit that (s.t.) is true: *He acknowledged that he was wrong.* 2 (also — receipt of (s.t.)) say that (s.t.) has been received: *She acknowledged (receipt of) the letter from the company.* 3 show one's appreciation(1) of support, praise etc from people.

acknowledgement *c/u.n* (also **acknowledgment**) (example of the) fact or act of acknowledging (s.t.). *In acknowledgement (of s.t.)* (a) as a means of acknowledging (s.t.): *I sent John a telegram in acknowledgement of his parcel.* (b) as a reward for s.t.: *Sue has been made a CBE in acknowledgement of her services.*

acme /ˈækm/ *c/def.n* (often the — of s.t.) highest point (of development etc).

acne /ˈækn/ *u.n* disease, usu of young people, marked by unpleasant spots on the face, back etc.

acorn /ˈeɪkɔːn/ *c.n* fruit of the oak(1).

acoustic /əˈkʊstɪk/ *adj* of or referring to sound or hearing.

acoustically *adv.*

acoustics *n* 1 *u.n* science of sound. 2 *p.l.n* qualities of a building etc that affect how well sounds can be heard in it.

acquaint /əˈkwɪnt/ *tr.v* **acquaint** /əˈkeɪnt/ *s.o*

with s.t. make oneself/s.o familiar with s.t.; give oneself/s.o information about s.t.

acquaintance *n* 1 *u.n* (often (have) some etc — with s.t.) knowledge that one has gained (about s.t.). 2 *c.n* person one has met but is not (yet) a friend. *a passing acquaintance* person one has met but only for a short time. **make s.o's acquaintance; make the acquaintance of s.o** meet s.o (and get to know her/him).

acquainted *adj* (often — with s.o) in a state of knowing each other (or s.o).

acquiesce /ˈækwɪˈes/ *intr.v* (formal) agree; give in: *He acquiesced and said he would come.*

acquiescent *adj.*

acquire /əˈkwɪə/ *tr.v* gain, get, obtain(1), (s.t.): *acquire a good knowledge of French.*

acquired *adj* gained through one's own efforts: *an acquired taste.*

Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome /əˈkwɑːəd ɪˈmjuːn dɪˈfɪʃənsɪ ˈsɪndrəm/ *u.n* (abbr AIDS) disease passed from person to person through the blood or sexual intercourse and causing the body to stop being able to resist diseases.

acquirement *n* (also **acquisition** /əˈkwɪˈzɪʃən/) 1 *u.n* fact or act of acquiring (s.t.). 2 *c.n* thing acquired (⇒ acquire).

acquisitive /əˈkwɪzɪtɪv/ *adj* (often derog) who likes to acquire a lot of things.

acquisitively *adv. **acquisitiveness** *u.n.**

acquit /əˈkwɪt/ *tr.v* (-tt-) (often — s.o of s.t.) (usu in a court of law) declare that (s.o) is not guilty (of s.t.).

acquittal *c/u.n.*

acre /ˈeɪkə/ *c.n* unit of measure of area equalling 4840 square yards(1) or about 4000 square metres. ⇒ hectare.

acres /ˈeɪkrɪz/ *u.n* area of land measured in acres.

acid /ˈækrɪd/ *adj* 1 having a sharp, bitter smell or taste. 2 (derog) (of a person, her/his way of speaking etc) sharp and unpleasant.

acrimony /ˈækrɪməni/ *u.n* (of an argument, a way of speaking etc) bitterness; annoyance.

acrimonious /ˈækrɪˈməniəs/ *adj* full of acrimony.

acrimoniously *adv.*

acrobat /ˈækrəˌbæt/ *c.n* person who performs difficult gymnastic(1) acts, e.g. in a circus.

acrobat *adj* of or like an acrobat.

acrobat *adv.*

acrobatics *n* 1 *u.n* skill of an acrobat. 2 *p.l.n* acts performed by an acrobat.

across /əˈkrɒs/ *adv* 1 from one side to the other; from one corner to the opposite one; in a direction forming a cross: *This river is deep; how do we get across? 2 (often — from s.t.) on the other side: My house isn't on this side of the road; it is across from here. get/put s.t. across (to s.o) ⇒ get, put. five metres across* five metres etc measured from one side to the other.

▷ *prep* 3 from one side of (s.t.) to the other; from one corner of (s.t.) to the opposite one; in a direction forming a cross with (s.t.): *How do we get across this road safely? ⇒ across(1). 4 (often — s.t. from s.t.) on the other side of (s.t.): My house is across the road from the post office. ⇒ across(2). across country ⇒ country. come/run across s.o/s.t ⇒ come, run. cut across s.t ⇒ cut. from across s.t*

from the other side of s.t. *That cat is from across the river.*

across-the-board attrib.adj so as to affect everybody/everything: *an across-the-board increase in taxes.*

acrylic /'ækrlɪk/ adj made by man from acrylic acid (a kind of liquid that is used to make synthetic cloth, plastics (3) or resins (2)).

act /ækt/ c.n 1 thing that one does; action; deed: *It would be a kind act to let that sick pupil go home.* 2 (often with capital A) one of the main parts into which a play is divided: *Act 1 of Shakespeare's 'Hamlet'.* ⇒ **scene** (1). 3 one of the parts of a show, e.g. in a circus. 4 (often with capital A) law passed by parliament etc. 5 (derog; informal) pretence: *That little boy hasn't really got a headache; it's just an act to get out of work.* (catch s.o.) *in the act (of doing s.t.)* (catch s.o.) while he/she is actually doing s.t. usu s.t. bad. *get in on the s.o.'s act (informal)* manage to share s.t. that s.o. else is doing, usu in such a way that one gains from this. *put on an act* pretend. Compare **act** (5,9).

▷ v 6 intr.v do s.t.; perform an action: *Unless we act quickly it will be too late.* 7 intr.v be an actor/actress in a play. 8 tr.v act (7) as (s.o.) in a play: *Carol is acting Juliet in our school play.* 9 tr/intr.v (derog) behave as if one were acting (7,8) (a part) in a play: *Don't pay any attention to John's complaints; he's just acting (the hurt husband).* ⇒ overact. **act as s.o./s.t.** do the job, duties, of s.o./s.t. **act for s.o.** represent s.o., e.g. in a law case. **act s.t. out** express s.t., e.g. what one is feeling, in actions not words. **act up (informal)** behave badly. **act (up) on s.o./s.t.** (e.g. of a medicine) have an effect (1) on s.o./s.t. **act (up) on s.t.** do what is suggested by s.o./s.t.

'acting attrib.adj doing the duties of the person whose name follows: *the acting manager.*

action /'æksjən/ n 1 c.n thing done; deed; act (1). ⇒ inaction. 2 def.n (often the — of s.t.) way s.t., e.g. the brakes of a car, act (6); way of doing s.t. 3 c.n (often the — of s.t.) parts of a clock etc that move. 4 c.n (often the — of s.t.) effect, workings, (of s.t.): *Chlorophyll is produced in plants by the action of light.* 5 c.n (often an — for s.t.) (law) case (6). 6 c./u.n fight (ing) in a war etc: *killed in action.* 7 c.n events in a film, book etc. 8 def.n (informal) excitement; interest: *Don't stay here; come out into the streets where the action is: bring s.t. into action* start using s.t. *go into action* start fighting, working. *in action* (a) busy doing s.t. (b) taking part in a battle. *out of action* no longer working, often because of damage. *put s.o./s.t. out of action* stop s.o./s.t. working: *An electric fault put our computer out of action.* *set s.t. in action* start s.t. working: *You set the machine in action by pressing this button.* *swing into action* begin doing s.t. quickly and efficiently. *take action* begin to act (8). *take action against s.o./s.t.* start to do s.t. against s.o./s.t. *take evasive action* ⇒ evasive.

'actionable adj (law) that gives a good case for starting an action (5): *an actionable statement.*

activate /'æktɪveɪt/ tr.v make (s.t.) active; put (s.t.) into operation: *activate a machine.*

activation /'æktɪveɪʃən/ u.n.

active /'æktɪv/ adj 1 who/that is working, able and/or very willing to work: *Peter is a very active*

member of our club. Opposite inactive (1,2). 2 that is (still) able to produce certain results: *an active volcano* (i.e. one that can still erupt (1)). Opposite inactive (3); extinct (2). 3 (grammar) (of a verb) the subject (4) of which does the action: *In 'I saw him', the verb is active; in 'I was seen by him' it is passive (3).* **under active consideration** ⇒ consideration.

▷ def.n 4 (grammar) (verb in the) active voice.

'active 'service' u.n (often on —) taking part in fighting as a member of the armed services.

'active 'voice' def.n. (grammar) form of a verb in a sentence used when the subject (4) does the action, e.g. *'My brother took the photograph.'* *'Who broke the window?'* ⇒ passive voice.

'actively adv.

'activist c.n person who takes an active (1) part in s.t., often politics.

'activity n (pl -ies) 1 u.n fact of being active (1).

2 c.n thing in which one is active (1). 3 c.n (often pl) (often the — of s.o.) action; deed.

'act of 'God' c.n natural happening such as a storm or earthquake that cannot be prevented.

actor /'æktə/ c.n man or boy who acts (7) in a play.

actress /'æktɪs/ c.n woman or girl who acts (7) in a play.

actual /'æktʃʊəl/ adj real; really existing: *the actual cost.* **in (actual) fact** ⇒ fact.

'actually adv 1 really; truly: *I don't believe anything actually happened.* 2 although it may seem strange: *I actually saw a small boy with white hair yesterday!*

actuary /'æktʃʊəri/ c.n (pl -ies) person whose job is to work out risks using statistics (1) and then advise insurance companies how much to charge for them.

actuate /'æktʃʊeɪt/ tr.v cause (s.t.) to start working: *Pressing this button actuates the bell.*

acumen /'ækjʊ:mən/ u.n (formal) ability to understand things quickly and well.

acupuncture /'ækjupʌŋktʃə/ u.n act. process, system, of putting fine needles into the skin to cure diseases.

acute /ə'kju:t/ adj 1 (of pain etc) very strong or severe. 2 dangerously great: *an acute lack of engineers.* 3 (of the brain, hearing etc) very sharp and efficient: *Many animals have an acute sense of smell.* 4 (of an illness) quickly reaching a severe state. ⇒ chronic. 5 (of a sound) unpleasantly high in pitch (4). 6 (of an angle in geometry) less than 90°. Compare obtuse (3).

'acute, 'accent' c.n kind of accent that is on the e's in French 'été'. ⇒ circumflex, grave.

'acutely adv. **'acuteness** u.n.

ad /æd/ c.n (informal) advertisement (2).

AD /eɪ'di:/ abbr Anno Domini: 1066 AD. Compare BC.

adamant /'ædəmənt/ adj absolutely determined; not willing to change at all.

'adamantly adv.

Adam's apple /'ædəmz 'æpl/ c.n part of the front of a man's throat that sticks out in a lump and moves up and down when one swallows or speaks.

adapt /ə'dæpt/ v 1 tr/intr.v — (oneself/s.o./s.t.) to s.t.) (cause (oneself/s.o./s.t.) to) fit, become more suited to, new conditions: *The young adapt to change easily.* 2 tr.v — (circum — s.t. (from s.t.) for (to) s.t.)