

MACMILLAN
English
DICTIONARY

FOR ADVANCED LEARNERS
OF AMERICAN ENGLISH

麦克米伦高阶美语词典

(英语版)

外语教学与研究出版社

FOREIGN LANGUAGE TEACHING AND RESEARCH PRESS

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序 言

《麦克米伦高阶英语词典》发行甫一载,《麦克米伦高阶美语词典》作为其姊妹篇即接踵问世。这是适应当前美国英语在全球范围内影响日益扩大的现实而为的。外语教学与研究出版社及时将此美语版在大陆发行,也正是出于同一考虑。

实际上,《麦克米伦高阶英语词典》(下简称《英语版》)并不只是一本英国英语词典。它不仅在释义中反映了某些词语在英、美语义中的差别,还包括了相当数量的美国英语词语(注明 *Am E* 或 *mainly Am E*)。非但如此,澳大利亚等国英语在其中也有一定反映。正如词典首席顾问迈克尔·霍伊先生在其《前言》中所说,它是一本“世界英语词典(dictionary of world English)”。

既如此,为何又有《麦克米伦高阶美语词典》(以下简称《美语版》)?这一问题,只需比较一下这一对姊妹词典的异同就可明白。

《美语版》保留了其姐的全部丽质,但却自有丰姿。她是一本名副其实的“美国英语”词典。

首先应当看到,语言是文化的反映。一本美国英语词典的选词和释义,必然反映美国文化和英国文化在共性中的差异。例如,有些东西,主要是英伦三岛的事物,像 *luncheon voucher*, *cook-chill*, *Laura Ashley*, *Madeira cake* 等词在《美语版》中就没有了。*apple pie* 一词在两版中都有,但在《美语版》的释义中,就增加了 *as American as apple pie* 这一成语,并解释说:“*something as American as apple pie has its origins in the U.S. or has qualities that are thought to be typical of the U.S. or of American people*(像苹果饼一样美国式的事物是指起源于美国或具有典型的美国或美国人的特征的事物)”,尽管英国人常抱怨说美国人偷走了他们的苹果派却说成是自己的!

其次,两种文化中中共有的事物,但说法不同。英国人称 *dinner lady* 的,美国人叫 *lunch lady*; 给家中老人单住的偏宅,英国人叫 *granny flat*, 美国人叫 *in-law apartment* (当然也给爷爷、奶奶住)。顺便说一下,在美国,你倘准备搬家,说:“*I have to change a flat*”,人家就会以为你有一个瘪了气的轮胎要换啦。此外,既然是美国英语词典,当然会包括大量只在美国生活中使用的词语。例如, *hot dog* 当然已融入英国英语,但 *corn dog* (一种外面粘上玉米粉的热狗)则是美语新词。至于像 *chickenshit* 这样的骂人话,更是《美语版》独有的了。

由于文化的不同,两个版本的插图也有许多区别。例如 *house* 的插图,就反映了两国一般民居在结构上的不同和名称上的差别。关于高速公路和立交桥的插图,也反映了结构和名称上的差异。有趣的是,英语中的立交桥 *flyover* 一词,在美语中是指“(飞行表演中飞经观众头顶上空的)编队飞行”(美国人把立交桥叫 *overpass*)。

我在《英语版》的中文序言中提到该词典的一大特色,即“语言提示”。在《美语版》

中,其内容大体相同,但某些部分因美国英语的特点而有所更改。特别值得一提的是,《美语版》的“语言提示”中增加了“大学作文 (College Composition)”一节,专门叙述在美国大学中如何使学生通过写作(称为“纸上思维(thinking on paper)”)来培养思维分析能力。这一节为《美语版》增色不少。

至于美国英语与英国英语在发音上的差别,则是利用注音符号加以区别的。美国英语中许多单词词尾的 /r/ 音,都在注音符号的尾部加上 /r/。而美国语音与英国语音在单词重音上的差别,也都一一注明。如necessarily一词,在英音中重音落在第一音节,而在美音中重音则落在第三音节。

综上所述,可以看出,《麦克米伦高阶美语词典》对于美国英语爱好者、希望掌握美国英语的学习者、以及以美国英语为交际工具的各类从业人员来说,是一本必要的工具书。而对于探究美、英英语异同的研究者,更有重要的参考价值。

是为序。

陈琳
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FOREWORD

PROFESSOR MICHAEL HOEY
Chief Adviser

WHEN I WAS ABOUT 12, I decided to write my own dictionary. I found a loose-leaf binder and patiently wrote dictionary entries on obscure words, which I stored in the binder. My dictionary never became very large and after a while I turned to making a football scrapbook like most other children of my age, but for a few months I put some effort in my attempt to outdo the *Oxford English*. You might imagine from this that I was showing a precocious interest in dictionary-making and an early aptitude for lexicography. Perhaps it was indeed an early sign of my interest in language, but it certainly did not reveal any early aptitude. Indeed almost every strategy I adopted for the creation of that dictionary was the wrong one for the job.

In the first place, I started with the most obscure words; early entries I remember writing were for *widdershins*, *gyre*, and *perne*. What I did not realize was that it is often possible to guess the meaning of rare words from their context and that they have in any case little impact on the overall intelligibility of what one is reading (and they will almost always occur in writing). It is, oddly, more likely to be the common words that cause the greater problems and over which a good dictionary has to take special care. The reason is that common words are often affected by the situation in which they are used, and they shift in meaning in subtle and unpredictable ways depending on the words they accompany. They are the words that you need to look up when they do not seem to have their normal meaning.

Take a word like *conventional*, for example. If you knew the word *conventional* in its social sense of “usual,” “normal,” or “customary,” and you saw or heard the words *conventional oven* in connection with a recipe, you would have a rough idea of what is meant but you would be likely to suspect that the writer or speaker meant something more precise than “a usual oven.” You might therefore want to look the word up in order to find out how it is being used in this context. The dictionary you are looking at (unlike my childhood effort) has taken great care over the definition (or more accurately, the definitions) of words like *conventional*. If you

look *conventional* up in this dictionary, you will find that the first example tells us that a *conventional oven* is an oven that operates in the traditional way as opposed to a *microwave oven*, which does not use an external heat source. Notice that the information is actually contained in the example, not in the definition. Examples are drawn or adapted from real usage but they are carefully chosen to give extra information about the way a word is used. That way the dictionary can pack in more information about the commoner words.

Sometimes a word combines with another word to make a phrase that has a distinct meaning of its own. So *conventional*, for example, combines with *medicine* and *war* to create new and quite specific meanings: *conventional medicine* is science-based Western medicine as opposed to Chinese medicine or so-called alternative medicines, and *conventional war* makes no use of nuclear weapons or biological weapons (nor interestingly, I suspect, swords and bows and arrows). When a word occurs in such phrases, they are either indicated in the dictionary entry or they have entries to themselves.

Words like *conventional* are a great deal more useful to the advanced learner of English than words like *widdershins*, not least because if they are used they will be immediately understood. They are however a great deal more difficult to learn (and they are a great deal more difficult to define). Because of the multiplicity of uses that many common words have, the *Macmillan English Dictionary* provides simple indexes, or “menus,” to the longer entries, which will help you to get more quickly to the sense of the word you need; indexes like these are an innovation in dictionary making and we believe that they will make using the dictionary a great deal easier.

It will be apparent from everything that I have said that the *Macmillan English Dictionary* is a rich resource of information about words such as *conventional*. It will help you find the right word for your purpose and should reduce the number of occasions when you accidentally use the wrong expression. But, just because it has a

lot to say about the common words, this does not mean that it neglects the rarer words. From time to time you are bound to encounter uncommon words that you need to look up; this dictionary will not normally let you down, although it does not provide definitions of words as rare (and as useless) as *widdershins*, *gyre*, and *perne*. The vocabulary is therefore divided into two groups—common words that you may need to use yourself and that you are bound to encounter in a range of rather different contexts, and rarer words that you are not likely to need to use yourself but that need a brief definition when they are met in books or talk.

Concentrating on the rare words was not my only childhood mistake when I attempted to create my own dictionary. A more serious one was that I arrived at my definitions by looking at the definitions of other dictionaries. I reworded them of course—even at the tender age of 12, I was intuitively aware of the dangers of plagiarism—but I saw my role as one of collating the wisdom of previous lexicographers. Of course that way there is room for little new wisdom. Perhaps shockingly, until 20 years ago my practice would not have been out of place in many dictionary teams. Lexicographers would draw on a mixture of previous practice, intuitions, and half-remembered examples, supported by chance encounters with the word in print. With the advent of large corpora and the development of powerful computer software capable of exploring those corpora, dictionary-making has changed beyond all recognition. The lexicographers who worked on the *Macmillan English Dictionary* had the opportunity of examining hundreds and in some cases thousands of instances of a word in use. From these instances they could work out what a word really meant in contemporary English, rather than what it was supposed to mean. Take the example I gave above of the use of *conventional* in the phrase *conventional oven*. It may seem obvious that a *conventional oven* is one that is not a microwave oven, but only once it has been pointed out. If the lexicographers who worked on this dictionary had relied on intuition, they might easily have forgotten this use of the word, and of course if they had relied on previous dictionaries they could easily have missed it because many of those dictionaries were prepared before the microwave oven came into popular use.

As a 12-year-old, I could not have known that computers would one day revolutionize the way dictionaries were made. Even so, I showed no great prescience in the way I decided which words went into my dictionary. Apart from rarity, the other factor that dictated whether a word entered my dictionary was where it was found. Only words that appeared in literary texts qualified. The words *gyre* and *perne*, for example, came from Yeats. (I was a dreadful child.) Again, the *Macmillan English Dictionary* is very differently constituted. Insofar as it is possible, this volume aims to reflect accurately the state of the contemporary language. That means that the words in it are described as they are used in journalism, popular fiction, letters, business manuals, and of course, most importantly of all, speech. My dictionary was like every other dictionary that I had ever seen at the age of 12, a dictionary of *written* English. This dictionary on the other hand is a dictionary of spoken as well as written English. If you use it well, you should end up speaking like a native speaker, not a native writer!

My juvenile dictionary was limited in yet another way. All the books that supplied me with the words I was trying to define were from the British Isles. Indeed, apart from being grateful that westerners were in English, I suspect I felt that it was a matter of no importance that the United States spoke English. The *Macmillan English Dictionary* makes no such mistake. More than any Advanced Learners' dictionary before, it seeks to represent the English of the world and treats American and British English as being of equal importance. Depending where you are reading this, you may be looking at an American edition where words used only in the U.K. are defined more briefly or, if they are unlikely to be encountered outside the U.K., not at all. Alternatively you may be looking at the British edition where the same principle operates in reverse. Either way, you will find far more coverage of English words spoken in other countries than is usually the case, with Australian English, for example, well represented in the word list.

There can be no doubting the correctness of this decision. English is no longer any country's property but has become a true *lingua franca*, and it is appropriate that the first major English dictionary of the 21st century is a dictionary of world English. If you work with this dictionary, it will help you become a citizen of the world.

INTRODUCTION

MICHAEL RUNDELL

Editor-in-Chief

AT THE BEGINNING OF 2001, there was a lot of discussion of Stanley Kubrick's famous movie: How close had we come to the world portrayed in *2001: A Space Odyssey*? In particular, would computers soon be able to understand human language and hold conversations with us? Though we have not reached that point yet, advances in language technology have been rapid and impressive, and this has transformed the process of creating dictionaries.

There has never been a more exciting time to produce a new dictionary. Everything is changing, and expanding: the English language itself, the technology that helps us to describe it, and the needs and goals of people learning and teaching English.

The 1980s saw the development of the first large corpora of English text. Twenty years on, the use of the corpus as the primary data source for dictionaries has become standard practice, and the quality, range, and sheer volume of available corpus resources has increased dramatically. This means we are in a better position than ever before to provide a description of English that reliably corresponds to the way that people speak and write the language.

Along with all these benefits come fresh challenges. While the amount of data at our disposal continues to grow, the physical size of printed dictionaries remains more or less constant. So it is more important than ever that dictionary-makers have a clear idea of what dictionary-users really need. And the advantage of creating a completely *new* dictionary is that it gives us the opportunity to ask fundamental questions (why do learners consult dictionaries, and what can we do to meet their needs more effectively?) and to adapt our methods to changing circumstances.

What, then, are the requirements of a good learners' dictionary? Briefly, it should include the right information, the information should be easy to find and—once found—it should be easy to understand and easy to use. Ensuring that we cover the “right” information calls, first, for careful analysis of all the available linguistic data. A large and diverse corpus is an essential basis for this operation, but it is only the starting point. Intelligent data-extraction software enables us to get maximum value from the corpus, and our editorial team has benefited from a collaboration with the University of Brighton's Information Technology Research Institute. The resulting “Word Sketches,” which provide a rich account of the collocational and syntactic behavior of the core vocabulary of English, have enabled us to describe these features in greater depth than ever before.

The next challenge is to make the most appropriate selection from all this data. We have been guided here by research into dictionary-users' needs and skills, taking account especially of the differences between the *receptive* and *productive* needs of advanced learners. One of the major innovations of the *Macmillan English*

Dictionary is to make a clear distinction between the core vocabulary of English—which many users will need to “encode” as well as “decode”—and the tens of thousands of less frequent words that many users will never even encounter, and few will ever need to use productively. Drawing on reliable word-frequency information, we have identified a central core of around 7,500 words that are most likely to be needed by students working in both receptive *and* productive modes. These headwords—words such as *absorb*, *barrier*, *credit*, *decision*, and *exclusive*—appear in red type with a “star rating” to show their frequency, and the explanations are broken up into easy-to-read paragraphs. For “productive” vocabulary of this type, advanced learners need a wide range of information: not only about meaning, but also about how words combine (their collocational and syntactic behavior), what registers they usually appear in, and what they tell us about the speaker's attitude. Conversely, for very infrequent (or “receptive”) words—such as *amplitude*, *balustrade*, *canonize*, *deleterious*, and *emanate*—the primary need is for a simple and clear explanation of meaning. Consequently most of these entries are very short. This “dual-track” approach has great benefits for the user: productive vocabulary is described in depth, while the brevity of the “receptive” entries enables us to include much more vocabulary of this type.

Another of the *Macmillan English Dictionary's* innovations is that two similar but separate editions have been created from the same database: one for learners whose main target variety is American English, the other for learners of British English. The differences are small but significant: the vocabulary and contexts of example sentences sometimes differ between the two versions, while styles of spelling, punctuation, and phraseology reflect the conventions of one variety or the other. The result is that a user of either edition will know that the dictionary was specially written for her or him.

There is a great deal more that is new and special about the *Macmillan English Dictionary*: a fresh approach to describing the meanings of complex words, using broad “meaning-clusters,” each with sub-senses; innovative usage notes on topics such as metaphor and academic writing skills; and a section of special features on issues such as pragmatics, managing conversation, and the avoidance of offense. And much more.

The *Macmillan English Dictionary* is the product of good linguistic data, leading-edge software, and a coherent, learner-based philosophy. Above all, however, it is the product of high-quality people. While technology plays a major part, dictionaries are not written by computers, but by highly skilled editors. It has been a privilege to work with such a talented and creative team of lexicographers, and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking them all for producing such an excellent book. I hope you enjoy the results of their hard work and find our dictionary a pleasure to use.

USING YOUR DICTIONARY

Finding a Word

Some words have more than one entry because they belong to a different word class although they are spelled the same. The small number at the end of the headword tells you that there is more than one entry for this word.

ac-id¹ /'æsid/ noun ★★

1 [C/U] a chemical substance with a pH value (=a measure used in chemistry) of less than 7: *hydrochloric acid* — compare **ALKALI**

2 [U] *informal* the illegal drug LSD

ac-id² /'æsid/ adj **1** very sour: *ACIDIC: Add more sugar if it tastes too acid.* **2** containing acid or consisting of an acid: *ACIDIC: These plants prefer an acid soil.* **3** an acid remark or acid humor shows criticism in a way that is clever but cruel: **ACERBIC**

Compound words are separate entries in the alphabetical list.

acid house noun [U] a style of **HOUSE** music that developed in the U.S. in the mid-1980s and became very popular in the U.K. in the late 1980s where it was played at **RAVE** parties

Some words are shown at the end of the entry for the word from which they are derived. These words can be understood by reading the definition for the main entry.

a-cid-ic /ə'sɪdɪk/ adj **1** containing acid: *acidic soil* **2** very sour: *a very unpleasant acidic taste*

a-cid-i-fy /ə'sɪdɪfaɪ/ verb [I/T] to become an acid, or cause a substance to become an acid — **a-cid-i-fi-ca-tion** /ə'sɪdɪfaɪ k'eɪʃn/ noun [U]

There is a list of word classes on the inside front cover.

bat² /bæt/ verb **1** [I/T] to hit the ball with a bat in a game such as baseball or **CRICKET** **1a.** [I] in baseball or cricket, the team that is **batting** is trying to score points by hitting the ball **2** [T] to hit something small that is flying through the air in order to stop it landing on you: *He was trying to bat the flies away with his newspaper.*

Some words are often used in idioms or other fixed expressions. These expressions are shown at the end of the main entry. Look for fixed expressions at the entry for the first main word in the expression.

bat your eyes/eyelashes to open and close your eyes very quickly several times, intending to be attractive to someone

go to bat for sb *informal* to give someone your support and help

not bat an eye *informal* to not be shocked, worried, or upset by something

Phrasal verbs are shown after the entry for the main verb.

bat a round phrasal vb [T] to discuss ideas or plans in an informal way

Finding the Meaning of a Word

Many words have more than one meaning.

When meanings are very different, they are shown as separate senses with numbers.

dol-ly /'dɒli/ noun [C] **1** a flat structure with wheels for moving heavy loads or for supporting a movie camera **2** *informal* a **DOLL** **3** a wooden stick used for

When meanings are closely related, they are shown as subsenses with letters.

ad-dict-ed /ə'dɪktəd/ adj unable to stop taking an illegal or harmful drug: **+to** *He admitted he was addicted to cocaine.* **a.** enjoying a particular activity very much and spending as much time as you can doing it: **+to** *I don't want the kids getting addicted to stupid TV programs.*

Some words have many different meanings, and so the entries can be long. Entries with five or more meanings have a "menu" at the top to make it easier to find the meaning you are looking for.

bleed/blɪd/ (past tense and past participle **bled**/bled/) verb ★

1 when blood flows out

4 take liquid/gas from sth

2 when color spreads

5 take blood from sb

3 make sb pay money

1 [I] to have blood flowing from your body, for example from a cut: *I scraped my knee and it's bleeding.* **♦♦from** *He was bleeding from a wound in his shoulder.* **♦ bleed heavily/profusely** *The victim was dumped by a roadside, bleeding profusely.* **♦ bleed to death** (=die from losing blood) *She would have bled to death if we hadn't found her.*

2 [I] if the color in clothing, paper, etc. bleeds, it accidentally spreads

All the definitions are written using a carefully selected "defining vocabulary" of 2,500 words so that it is easy to understand the definitions. There is a list of these words at the end of the dictionary.

Any word in a definition that is not from this list, and that is not the entry immediately before or after the one you are looking at, is shown in CAPITAL LETTERS. You can find its meaning elsewhere in the dictionary.

Finding Out More About a Word

The International Phonetic Alphabet shows you how a word is pronounced. A list of the symbols used is given at the end of the dictionary.

When British and American pronunciations are very different, both are given.

You can find the pronunciations for compound entries at the main entry for each of the words in the compound.

Stress marks tell you which part of a compound to stress when you are saying it.

Irregular inflections are shown.

Dots show where a word is divided into syllables.

Some words are printed in red with a star rating to show their frequency. For example, a word with one star is fairly common and a word with three stars is one of the most basic words in English. This helps you to identify the words that you are most likely to need.

Italic words (called "labels") show which part of the English-speaking world a word is used in, or tell you whether it is used in informal contexts, specialized contexts, etc. Lists of these labels are given at the end of the dictionary.

Sometimes a word that is used only in British English has an exact equivalent in American English. These equivalents are shown at the end of a definition.

Example sentences in *italic* show you how a word is used in context.

Information about collocation—how words combine and which structures can be used with a word—is shown in **bold** and is followed by an example sentence.

When a word has many collocations, these are shown in a box at the end of the entry with the sense number that they refer to.

corporate raider noun [C] *business* a person or organization that tries to take control of a company by buying a large number of its **SHARES**

com-merce /'kɑ:mɜ:s/ noun [U] ★★ the activity of buying and selling goods and services: *TRADE: the needs of industry and commerce*

lab-o-ra-to-ry /'læbrə:tɔ:ri/ *Br E* /lə'brɒrət(ə)ri/ noun [C] ★★ a building or large room where people do scientific and medical experiments or research: *our new research laboratory* **a.** [only before noun] working in, used in, or done in a laboratory: *a laboratory assistant* ♦ *laboratory*

cabin crew noun [C] the people on an airplane whose job is to take care of the passengers

do¹ /du/ (3rd person singular **does** /weək dəz; strong dəz/, past tense **did** /dɪd/, past participle **done** /dʌn/) verb ★★★

con-vince /kən'vɪns/ verb [T] ★★★
1 to make someone believe that something is true:

blank¹ /blæŋk/ adj ★★
1 showing no emotion or no sign of understanding

em-bar-rass /ɪm'berəs/ verb [T] ★
1 to make someone feel nervous, ashamed, or stupid

bus¹ /bʌs/ noun [C] ★★★
1 a large road vehicle with a lot of seats which you pay to travel on, especially one that takes you fairly short distances and stops frequently: **by bus** *The children go to school by bus.* ♦ **take/catch a bus** *We took a bus downtown.* ♦ **miss the bus** (=not reach it before it leaves) *If we don't leave soon, we'll miss the last bus.* **1a.** a large road vehicle that you pay to travel in over long distances. *Br E usually coach* — *picture* → *c1*
2 *computing* a set of wires that send information from one part of a computer system to another

egg-plant /eg.plænt/ noun [C/U] *Am E* a vegetable with a smooth, dark purple skin. *Br E aubergine* — *picture* → *c11*

ba-sis /'beɪsɪs/ (plural **bas-es** /'beɪsɪz/) noun [C] ★★★
1 a particular method or system used for doing or organizing something: **on a...basis** *workers who are employed on a seasonal or temporary basis* ♦ *Tickets will be sold on a first-come, first-served basis.* **1a.** used for giving the reason why something is done: **on the basis of sth** *Don't make your decision on the basis of cost alone.* ♦ *He declined to say on what basis bail was refused.* ♦ **on the basis that** *Most councillors supported the proposal on the basis that the city needed new jobs.* **1b.** used for saying how often something happens: **on a daily/monthly/annual etc. basis** *Safety equipment was checked on a daily basis.* ♦ *It's a violent city, with murders occurring on a regular basis.*
2 the important ideas, facts, or actions from which something can develop: **+of** *Bernard's work forms the basis of all modern physiology.* ♦ **+for** *The agreement between the parties will provide the basis for future negotiations.*

Words frequently used with basis

verbs	constitute, create, establish, form, lay, provide, serve as	2
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Information is provided to help you to learn more about how a word is used.

Both **above** and **over** can be used to mean "at a higher level than something": *the light above/over the door*.
Use **above** when something is not directly over something else: *on the hillside above the river*.
Use **over** when something moves or stretches across the space above something: *flying over Miami ♦ the bridge over the river*.
Use **over** when something covers something else: *She put a scarf over her hair*.

Hints are given to help you to avoid common errors.

If you take something that someone offers you or if you allow something to happen, you **accept** it: *We accepted her offer of help. ♦ They accepted the court's decision*.
If you say that you are willing to do something, you **agree** to do it: *She agreed to work over the weekend. ♦ We agreed to help*.
You **accept** something, but you **agree** to do something.

There are notes that tell you about the origin of a word.

Cin-der-el-la /sɪndə'relə/ noun [C usually singular]
1 someone or something that has good qualities but is treated badly or ignored: *Elementary education has long been the Cinderella of the educational system*. **2** [only before noun] relating to someone who suddenly becomes rich, famous, or successful

Cinderella is the main character in a famous children's story. She is a poor girl, badly treated by her stepisters but, in the end, thanks to the power of magic, she is able to marry the rich attractive Prince Charming.

Expanding Your Vocabulary

There are many ways that you can use this dictionary to expand your vocabulary.

Some definitions introduce you to related words.

ad-dress¹ /ə'dres; 'ædres/ noun [C] ★★★

1 the name of the place where you live or work, including the house or office number and the name of the street, area, and town. It may also include a set of numbers, called a **zip code** in American English and a **postcode** in British English: *I'll need your name and*

Sometimes the opposite of a word is shown.

o-be-di-ent /oʊ'bidɪənt/ adj ★ doing what a person, law, or rule says you must do: *The soldiers stood at attention disciplined, and obedient*. —opposite **DISOBEDIENT**

Some definitions give you synonyms.

book-ing /'bʊkɪŋ/ noun [C] ★★

1 an arrangement to buy a travel ticket, stay in a hotel room, etc. at a later date: **RESERVATION**: *Increasingly, travelers are using the Internet for both information and bookings. ♦ make a booking* You can make a booking on the phone with a credit card.

Sometimes you are told to look at another word in the dictionary to compare it with the entry.

hard-back /'hɑrd bæk/ noun [C/U] a book that has a hard cover: *a hardback copy of his book ♦ Her first novel sold over 40,000 copies in hardback*. —compare **PAPERBACK**, **SOFTBACK**

NUMBERS THAT ARE ENTRIES

000 /ˈtrɪpl'oo/ in Australia, the telephone number that you use in an emergency to call the police, the fire department, or an AMBULANCE

0800 num-ber /oo eɪt 'hændrəd ,nʌmbər/ noun [C] in the U.K., a telephone number beginning with 0800 that is free to use and is usually for calling business services. The company you are calling pays for the call.

0898 num-ber /oo eɪt 'naɪn eɪt ,nʌmbər/ noun [C] in the U.K., a telephone number beginning with 0898 that is expensive to use and is usually for calling adult entertainment services such as CHAT LINES

1 /wʌn/ abbrev used in e-mails and TEXT MESSAGES to replace "one": *NET (=anyone)*

1040 form /ten 'fɔrti ,fɔrm/ noun [C] a form used by people in the U.S. when they are calculating how much tax they have to pay on the money that they have earned

1099 /ten naɪnti 'naɪn/ noun [C] in the U.S., a document people send to the IRS (=the U.S. tax department) that gives details of the money that they have earned during the year other than their salary

12 /twelv/ in the U.K., a number given to a movie or video that should only be watched by children who are at least 12 years old

1471 /wʌn fɔr sev'n 'wʌn/ in the U.K., a telephone number that you can call to find out which was the last telephone number to call you

15 /fɪftɪn/ in the U.K., a number given to a movie or video that should only be watched by children who are at least 15 years old

18 /eɪ'tɪn/ in the U.K., a number given to a movie or video that should only be watched by people who are at least 18 years old

1800 num-ber /wʌn eɪt 'hændrəd ,nʌmbər/ in Australia, a telephone number beginning with 1800 that is free to use and is usually for calling business services. The company you are calling pays for the call.

18-wheel-er /eɪtɪn 'wi:lər/ noun [C] *Am E* a large truck that has 18 wheels

190 num-ber /wʌn naɪn 'oo ,nʌmbər/ noun [C] in Australia, a telephone number beginning with 190 that is expensive to use and is usually for calling adult entertainment services such as CHAT LINES

2 /tu/ abbrev to or too: used in e-mails and TEXT MESSAGES: *it's up 2 U (=it's up to you) ♦ me 2 (=me too) a.* used for replacing "to-" in other words: *2day (=today)*

20/20 vi-sion /ˌtwenti ,twenti 'vɪʒn/ noun [U] the ability to see normally without wearing glasses

2.1 /tu'wʌn/ noun [C] in the U.K. and Australia, the second-highest grade for an UNDERGRADUATE degree from a university, lower than a **first** but higher than a **2.2**

2.2 /tu'tu/ noun [C] in the U.K. and Australia, the third-highest grade for an UNDERGRADUATE degree from a university, lower than a **2.1** but higher than a **third**

.22 /ˌtwenti 'tu/ noun [C] a type of gun that shoots small bullets

24/7 /ˌtwenti fɔr 'sev'n/ adv *informal* all the time: *He thinks about her 24/7.*

3-D /θri'di/ adj a 3-D movie, picture, etc. looks as if it has length, depth, and width

4 /fɔr/ abbrev for: used in e-mails and TEXT MESSAGES: *4 U (=for you) a.* used for replacing "fore" in other words: *B4 (=before)*

401(k) /fɔr oo wʌn 'keɪ/ noun [C] in the U.S., a special account in which people can save some of the money they earn for their RETIREMENT without paying taxes on it

404 /fɔr oo 'fɔr/ adj *very informal* if someone is 404 they are completely confused and have no idea about what to do

From the number of the error message on a Web browser when a Web site cannot be found.

411 /fɔr wʌn 'wʌn/ **1** in the U.S., the telephone number that you use to call DIRECTORY ASSISTANCE **2 the**

411 *Am E very informal* information about a particular situation: *What's the 411 on Sue's new boyfriend?*

4x4 /fɔr baɪ 'fɔr/ noun [C] a FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE vehicle

45 /fɔrti faɪv/ noun [C] an old type of record, usually with only one song on each side

.45 /fɔrti faɪv/ noun [C] a PISTOL (=small gun)

4-F /fɔr 'ef/ adj if someone is listed **4-F**, they are not allowed to serve in the U.S. military

4-H /fɔr 'eɪtʃ/ a U.S. organization that teaches practical skills to young people, especially skills relating to farming

4WD abbrev a FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE vehicle

\$64,000 question, the /ˌsɪkstɪfɔrθooʊznd dɔlə

'kwɛstʃ(ə)n/ noun a question that is the most important and most difficult to answer concerning a particular problem or situation

From a popular U.S. TV game show in the 1950s called *The \$64,000 Question* on which people could win up to \$64,000 by answering more and more difficult questions correctly.

8 /eɪt/ abbrev used in e-mails and TEXT MESSAGES to replace "ate" or "eat": *GR8 (=great) ♦ C U L8R (=see you later)*

800 num-ber /eɪt 'hændrəd ,nʌmbər/ noun [C] in the U.S., a telephone number beginning with 1-800 that is free to use and is usually for calling business services. The company you are calling pays for the call.

86 /eɪtɪ'sɪks/ verb [T] *Am E informal* to quickly get rid of someone or something that is not wanted

900 num-ber /naɪn 'hændrəd ,nʌmbər/ noun [C] in the U.S., a telephone number beginning with 1-900 that is expensive to use and is usually for adult entertainment services such as CHAT LINES

911 /naɪn wʌn 'wʌn/ in the U.S., the telephone number that you use in an emergency to call the police, the fire department, or an AMBULANCE

999 /naɪn naɪn 'naɪn/ in the U.K., the telephone number that you use in an emergency to call the police, the fire department, or an AMBULANCE

Roman Numerals

Roman numerals were used in ancient Rome to represent numbers. They are still sometimes used today, for example on clocks and watches and in official documents.

I	one	XVII	seventeen
II	two	XVIII	eighteen
III	three	XIX	nineteen
IV	four	XX	twenty
V	five	XXI	twenty-one
VI	six	XXX	thirty
VII	seven	XL	forty
VIII	eight	L	fifty
IX	nine	LX	sixty
X	ten	LXX	seventy
XI	eleven	LXXX	eighty
XII	twelve	XC	ninety
XIII	thirteen	C	one hundred
XIV	fourteen	CC	two hundred
XV	fifteen	D	five hundred
XVI	sixteen	M	one thousand

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Aa

A

a¹ /eɪ/ (plural **a's**) or **A** (plural **As**) noun **1** [C/U] the first letter of the English alphabet. **A** is a **vowel**. **2** **A** [C/U] the sixth note in the musical **SCALE** of C major **3** **A** [C/U] a mark that a teacher gives to a student's work to show that it is excellent **4** **A** [U] a common **BLOOD TYPE** from **A** to **B** from one place to another: *What's the cheapest way of getting our products from A to B?* → **A-BOMB**, **A-LINE**, **A-LIST**, **A TO Z**

a² /weɪk ə; strɒŋ eɪ/ or **an** /weɪk ən; strɒŋ æn/ determiner ★★★

A or **an** is used as an **indefinite article**, usually followed by a singular countable noun.

A is used when the next word begins with a consonant.

An is used when the next word begins with a vowel sound.

When a word begins with the letter "u" that is pronounced /ju:/, the word is treated as starting with a consonant: *a university*.

When a word begins with a silent "h," it is treated as starting with a vowel: *an hour*.

The names of the letters **f**, **h**, **l**, **m**, **n**, **r**, **s**, and **x** begin with vowel sounds, so abbreviations that begin with one of these letters are treated as starting with a vowel: *an X-ray* ♦ *an SUV*.

1 used when you are mentioning a person or a thing for the first time, or when the person listening to you does not already know about them: *I have an idea.* ♦ *There's a concert on Sunday night.*

2 used when you mean any person or thing of a particular type, but you are not referring to one specifically: *You need a dictionary.* ♦ *I don't have an umbrella.* ♦ *Children must be accompanied by an adult.*

3 used when you say what class, type, or group someone or something belongs to, or what job someone has: *Ruth's father was a lawyer.* ♦ *He's a liar and a cheat.* ♦ *Greece has been a republic since 1973.*

4 used before a singular noun that represents every person or thing of a particular type: *A dog needs regular exercise.* ♦ *A molecule consists of two or more atoms.*

5 used when you are referring to a person or thing as one of several: *I want you to meet a friend of mine.* ♦ *He's a member of the team.*

6 used in expressions of quantity such as "a lot," "a few," or "a great deal": *a lot of money* ♦ *a few friends* ♦ *We all appreciate a little encouragement.*

7 used in numbers and measurements to mean "one," as in "a thousand" or "an hour": *a million dollars* ♦ *a hundred years ago* ♦ *a minute or two*

8 used in phrases showing how much something costs, how often it happens, how fast it goes, etc.: *Meetings are held four times a year* (=four times every year). ♦ *Peaches are 99 cents a pound* (=each pound costs 99 cents). ♦ *The car was traveling at 90 miles an hour.*

9 used before a noun that means a substance, product, food, etc. when referring to a particular type of it: *Brie is a soft creamy cheese.* ♦ *Plants won't grow in a soil that contains too much lime.*

10 used before the name of some drinks to mean a cup or glass of that drink: *I'll just have a beer, thanks.* ♦ *Would you like a cola?*

11 used before a noun that means a particular quality or feeling when the quality or feeling is described in some way: *Sales staff must have a good working knowledge of French.* ♦ *They fought back with a fierce determination that surprised the invaders.*

12 used before a noun that is formed from a verb and means a single action of that verb: *Can I have a try?* ♦ *Let's take a walk around the garden.*

13 used before a noun that expresses your feelings about a situation: *It's a relief to know they're safe.* ♦ *What a shame he couldn't be there to receive the prize!*

14 used before the name of a particular day, season, or holiday to mean one particular Tuesday, summer, Christmas, etc.: *It was a bitterly cold winter.* ♦ *She was born at six o'clock on a Sunday morning.*

15 used before a person's name when you do not know

anything about them: *There's a Mr. Alex Murray asking to see you.* **15a.** used before the name of a famous artist to mean a picture by that artist: *The gallery has recently acquired a Picasso.* **15b.** used before a family name to mean a member of that family: *Remember you're an Osborne – it's a name to be proud of.* **15c.** used before the name of a famous person to mean someone else with similar abilities, a similar appearance, or a similar personality: *Already he is being hailed as a young Albert Einstein.*

A. abbrev amp

a- /ə; eɪ/ prefix without or not; used with some adjectives and adverbs: *atypically* (=not typically) ♦ *asexual* (=not sexual)

A&E /eɪ ənd 'i/ noun [C/U] *Br E* an **EMERGENCY ROOM** in a hospital

AA /eɪ 'eɪ/ **ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**

A.A. /eɪ 'eɪ/ noun [C] **Associate of Arts**: a degree given by a U.S. **COMMUNITY COLLEGE** to students who have finished a two-year course of study

AAA, the /trɪpl 'eɪ/ the **American Automobile Association**: a U.S. organization for car drivers that gives its members information on traveling and helps them if their car stops working

aah /ɑ/ interjection used for showing that you are happy, satisfied, or surprised: *Aah, the food smells wonderful!*

AAP, the /eɪ eɪ 'pi/ the **Association of American Publishers**: a group whose members are the most important U.S. book publishers

aard-vark /'ɑrd,vɑrk/ noun [C] a southern African animal with a long nose and a long sticky tongue that eats **ANTS**

aargh /ɑr/ interjection used, often in a joking way, for showing that you are very annoyed or shocked by something: *Aargh! Not this again!*

AARP, the /eɪ eɪ ɑr 'pi/ the **American Association of Retired Persons**: an organization that offers help and services for its members, who are at least 50 years old

a-back /ə'bæk/ adv **be taken a back** to be shocked or surprised, especially by something someone says or does to you: *Bill was taken a back by the girl's directness.*

ab-a-cus /'æbəkəs/ noun [C] an object used for counting or doing simple calculations, consisting of a frame with small balls in a row

a-ban-don /ə'bændən/ verb [T] ★★★

1 leave sb

2 leave a place

3 leave sth somewhere

4 stop doing/planning sth

5 stop supporting an idea

+ PHRASES

1 to leave someone when you should stay with them and take care of them: *His mother abandoned him when he was five days old.* **1a.** to stop supporting or helping someone: *Hardy felt that he had been abandoned by all his followers.* **1b.** informal to suddenly leave someone that you are with: *I'm sorry I abandoned you like that.*

2 to leave a place, especially because it is difficult or dangerous to stay there: *Most of the villagers have abandoned their homes and fled.* ♦ *The coastal settlements were abandoned in the 19th century.*

3 to leave something in a place, especially because you are in a hurry or are trying to escape: *The stolen car was abandoned only five miles away.* ♦ *a pile of abandoned rifles*

4 to stop something that you are doing or planning to do, especially because it is too difficult to continue: *After 20 lessons I finally abandoned my attempt to learn to drive.* ♦ *George almost persuaded me to abandon my studies and join him.* **4a.** to stop behaving or talking in a particular way, because it does not help you to achieve what you want: *She abandoned caution and began scrambling down the cliff.* ♦ **abandon all/any pretense** (=stop trying to pretend something) *By 1978, they had abandoned all pretense of democratic principles.*

5 to stop believing or supporting an idea: *Despite current problems, they have not abandoned their commitment to the peace process.* ♦ *By this time, the steady state theory of the universe had been largely abandoned.*

abandon (all) **hope** to stop believing or hoping that something will happen: *The family had abandoned all hope of finding him alive.*

abandon ship **1** to leave a ship or boat because it is dangerous to stay **2** to leave an organization because you think it will fail

abandon yourself to sth literary to feel an emotion so strongly that you do not think about anything else — **a-ban-don-ment** noun [U]

Words frequently used with abandon

nouns	belief, claim, commitment, concept, idea, policy, principle	5
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a-ban-don² /ə'bændən/ noun with **abandon** in an uncontrolled way, as if you do not care what the result will be: *The kids were splashing on paint with abandon.* ♦ with **reckless/gay abandon** *This year holiday shoppers are spending money with reckless abandon.*

a-ban-doned /ə'bændənd/ adj **1** left empty or no longer used: *an abandoned farm* **2** left alone by someone who should stay with you and take care of you: *an abandoned child*

a-base /ə'beɪs/ verb *formal* **abase yourself** to behave in a way that makes other people respect you less — **a-base-ment** noun [U]

a-bashed /ə'bæʃt/ adj embarrassed or ashamed about something you have done

a-bate /ə'beɪt/ verb [I] *formal* to gradually become less serious or extreme: *The fighting shows no sign of abating.*

a-bate-ment /ə'beɪtmənt/ noun [U] *formal* a reduction in something harmful or unpleasant: *noise/pollution abatement*

ab-at-toir /ə'bætwaɪər/ noun [C] *Br E* a SLAUGHTERHOUSE

ab-ness /ə'beɪs/ noun [C] a woman who is in charge of a CONVENT (=a religious community of women)

ab-bey /ə'bi/ noun [C] a large church with buildings attached where a group of MONKS or NUNS live or used to live

ab-bot /ə'bɒt/ noun [C] a man who is in charge of an abbey

ab-bre-vi-at-ed /ə'brɪvɪeɪtɪd/ adj shorter because some parts have been removed: *an abbreviated version of the text* — **ab-bre-vi-ate** verb [T]

ab-bre-vi-a-tion /ə'brɪvɪ'eɪʃn/ noun [C] ★ a short form of a word or phrase: *MIA is an abbreviation for "Missing in Action."*

ABC /eɪ bi 'si/ **1** American Broadcasting Corporation: one of the major television broadcasting companies in the U.S. **2** Australian Broadcasting Corporation: one of the major television companies in Australia

ABC's /eɪ bi 'siz/ noun [plural] the letters of the English alphabet or basic reading skills, especially when learned by young children: *She's learned to say her ABC's.*

the **ABC's** of sth the basic or most important facts of a subject or activity: *the ABC's of physics*

ab-di-cate /ə'bɪdɪkeɪt/ verb **1** [I/T] if a king or queen abdicates, he or she formally gives up power **2** [T] *formal* to stop accepting a particular responsibility or obligation that you have: **abdicate (your) responsibility** *The government cannot abdicate responsibility for national security.* — **ab-di-ca-tion** /ə'bɪdɪ'keɪʃn/ noun [C/U]

ab-do-men /ə'bɒdəmən/ noun [C] **1** *formal* the front part of your body below your waist **2** *technical* the back part of the three parts into which an insect's body is divided

ab-dom-i-nal /ə'bɒdɪnəl/ adj in, or happening in, the abdomen: *abdominal muscles* ♦ *abdominal pain*

ab-duct /ə'bɒdʌkt/ verb [T] to take someone away from their home, family, etc. using force: *KIDNAP: He was abducted at gunpoint.* — **ab-duc-tion** /ə'bɒdʌkʃən/ noun [C/U]

ab-duc-tor /ə'bɒdʌktər/ noun [C] **1** someone who abducts someone: *Her abductors are demanding a \$1 million ransom.* **2** *technical* a muscle that pulls a part of your body away from its normal position, for example one that raises your arm

ab-er-rant /ə'berənt/ adj *formal* not normal or not what you usually expect: **ABNORMAL**

ab-er-ra-tion /ə'bɒ'reɪʃn/ noun [C/U] something that is not normal or not what you would usually expect: *a genetic aberration* **a** a short time when someone behaves in a very strange or careless way: *He dismissed the defeat as a temporary aberration.*

a-bet /ə'bet/ verb [T] *formal to help or encourage someone to do something immoral or illegal → **aid**²*

a-bey-ance /ə'beɪəns/ noun *formal* in **abeyance** not happening until later or not being used at the present time

ab-hor /ə'bɒr/ verb [T] *formal* to hate something very much, especially when you think it is immoral: *She abhors violence.*

ab-hor-rence /ə'bɒrəns/ noun [U] *formal* the feeling that you have when something offends you a lot or you think it is immoral

ab-hor-rent /ə'bɒrənt/ adj *formal* if something is abhorrent to you, you dislike it very much, usually because you think it is immoral: **+to** *Racism is abhorrent to the majority of people.*

a-bide /ə'baɪd/ verb [I] an old word meaning "to stay or live somewhere"

can't abide sth to dislike something very much. It is more usual to say that you **can't stand** something: *I can't abide their chatter.*

abide by phrasal vb [T] [**abide by sth**] to follow a rule, decision, or instruction: *They promised to abide by the rules of the contest.*

ab-iding /ə'baɪdɪŋ/ adj [only before noun] *formal* used for describing a feeling, interest, or belief that you have had for a long time and that is not likely to change

a-bil-i-ty /ə'bilɪti/ noun [C/U] ★★

1 something you are capable of doing: **ability to do sth** *Tiredness can seriously impair your ability to drive.*

1a. skill you have at a particular type of work, educational subject, etc.: *Managers have different talents and abilities.* ♦ **+in** *The tests were designed to assess the students' ability in oral comprehension.*

2 the quality of being able to do a particular job or activity well: *Abraham Lincoln was a politician of great ability.* ♦ *Our courses cater for different levels of ability.*

to the best of your ability as well as you are able: *Just try to do the job to the best of your ability.*

-ability /ə'bilɪti/ suffix used with adjectives ending in "-able" to make nouns meaning a particular quality: *suitability* ♦ *dependability*

ab-ject /ə'bɪdʒekt/ adj *formal* complete: used for emphasizing how bad, unpleasant, or severe a situation or condition is: *abject poverty* — **ab-ject-ly** adv

ab-jure /ə'bɪdʒʊr/ verb [T] *very formal* to make a public promise to give up something such as a belief or activity — **ab-ju-ration** /ə'bɪdʒʊ'reɪʃn/ noun [U]

a-blaze /ə'bleɪz/ adj [never before noun] **1** burning with a lot of flames: **set sth ablaze** (=start something burning) *Within minutes, the whole building had been set ablaze.* **2** *literary* bright and full of light or color **3** *literary* showing strong emotion, especially excitement or anger

a-ble /eɪbl/ adj ★★★ intelligent or good at doing something: *She is a very able driver.* ♦ *an academically able child*

be able to do sth **1** used for saying that it is possible for someone to do something. Forms such as **have been able to** and **will be able to** are sometimes considered as tenses of the verb **can**. **2** to have a particular physical or mental skill: *I'd love to be able to sing like you.* ♦ *She's barely able to read or write.* **3** to succeed in doing something on a particular occasion: *As far as I have been able to find out, he has no criminal convictions.* ♦ *Barely able to stand, John staggered into the room.* **4** to have enough money, time, or freedom to do something: *They're able to buy whatever they want.* ♦ *I don't know if I'll be able to come.*

-able /əbl/ suffix **1** used with many verbs to make adjectives describing something that can be done: *enjoyable* (=that people can enjoy) ♦ *breakable* (=that is easy to break) **2** used with some nouns to make adjectives describing a quality something or someone has: *knowledgeable* ♦ *comfortable*

able-bodied /eɪbl 'bɒdɪd/ adj physically strong and healthy