

Longman Synonym Dictionary

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Longman 

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INTRODUCTION

THOSE WHO WORK WITH LANGUAGE know that there is no such thing as a true 'synonym'. Even though the meanings of two words may be the same — or nearly so — there are three characteristics of words that rarely coincide: frequency, distribution, and connotation. *Panthera leo* and *lion*, *cucurbit* and *cucumber*, *sodium carbonate* and *washing soda* have quite different frequencies in English. We all know that a *house* is not a *home*, that not all *women* are *ladies*, that not all *men* are *gentlemen*; at a more subtle level, we soon learn the differences between *motherly* and *maternal*, *fatherly* and *paternal*, *brotherly* and *fraternal*. These are connotative differences.

It is a curiosity of English that it continuously acquires words from other languages to expand its vocabulary. Even if a new coinage or a loanword from another language starts out with 'exactly' the same meaning as an existing word in English, often the meanings begin to drift apart before very long, one acquiring quite different frequency, distribution, and connotation from the other. Another remarkable fact about English is that it retains so many of the words developed in its vocabulary. Some words do become obsolete and are dropped forever, but most remain and develop nuances that expand our opportunities for expression and expressiveness.

For these reasons, a synonym dictionary must be used with caution. Even though two words may be similar in meaning, the substitution of one for the other may not always be appropriate, and the writer's intent may be ill served by failure to select the *mot juste*. *The Longman Synonym Dictionary* contains more words than any book of its kind — more than 1,000,000. Sometimes, it will be consulted to find a word that will lend variety to the user's language; at other times it will be consulted to remind the user of the temporarily lost word or expression that was 'right on the tip of my tongue'. In either case, it should be used with understanding.

Every effort has been made to render this book as accurate, as complete, and as easy to use as possible. Inevitably, users may disagree with the treatment given to a particular word. In that case, they are urged to consult a major dictionary where they are likely to find fuller information on the word than *The Longman Synonym Dictionary* can be expected to offer. The nature of language and the behaviour of words defy precision in the preparation of a work like *The Longman Synonym Dictionary*. The editors have often had to make admittedly arbitrary decisions on word inclusion and placement. It is to be hoped, however, that among the many related words offered, users will find several that suit their subject and context.

Laurence Urdang
Editor in Chief

HOW TO USE THIS DICTIONARY

The *Longman Synonym Dictionary* follows dictionary format. Entries are arranged alphabetically, with all appropriate parts of speech included under a single headword. Homographs – words spelt identically but of different origins – are entered separately with an identifying superior number.

Word listings have been organized numerically according to definition and major semantic groups; further subgroups are shown by the use of semicolons.

Usage levels are indicated by appropriate labels, such as *Slang* and *Informal*; technical or specialized words are identified by a field label such as *Chemistry* and *Nautical*. Further information (*enclosed in parentheses*) is often given to help identify usage.

All usage information appears before the word to which it applies, and applies only to that word immediately following, unless otherwise clearly indicated (e.g. *Both Inf., All Sl.*). Foreign words and phrases as yet unassimilated into English are appropriately labelled and italicized.

In most cases, usage or technical labels have been written in full (e.g. *Archaic, Literary*). Common and easily understood abbreviations that have been employed are listed below. The labels *Informal* and *Slang*, when written in full before an entire listing, refer to the entry headword, rather than to the synonyms that follow. When abbreviated (*Inf.* or *Sl.*), the labels, like others in *The Longman Synonym Dictionary*, refer to the following word.

A

aback, *adv.* 1. fearwards, to or in the rear, back, toward the back, behind, backwards, hindwards; *Naut.* abaft, *Naut.* aft, *Naut.* astern, *Naut.* sternwards; retrogressively, regressively, retrogradingly; *Fig.* aloof, *Fig.* at a distance.

2. taken aback surprised, startled, astonished, shocked, astounded, stupefied; flabbergasted, stunned, bewildered, amazed, thunderstruck, dumbfounded; perplexed, confounded, nonplussed, disconcerted, discomposed, discomfited, *Inf.* thrown off guard, *Inf.* floored.

abandon¹, *v.* 1. forsake, desert, leave behind, throw over, jilt, run out on, *Inf.* leave flat, turn one's back on; ignore, cut off, neglect, ostracize; leave, depart, quit, go away from, vacate, evacuate.

2. discard, cast off, jettison, throw away, get rid of, toss out, throw out, (*of cards*) throw in, *Inf.* ditch, *Inf.* chuck.

3. discontinue, give up, retire from, withdraw from, stop, end, cease; throw up, lose hope of, despair of; forbear, desist from, drop; forgo, do or go without, dispense with, waive, lay aside.

4. repudiate, reject, disown, renounce, wash one's hands of; renege, forswear, disavow, disclaim, recant, (*usu. under oath*) abjure; bail out, bow out, pull out of, *Inf.* back out of, back-pedal, *Inf.* back away from or off from, *Inf.* cop out; betray, turn traitor, *Sl.* sell down the river, *Sl.* rat or rat on; defect, apostatize.

5. relinquish, abnegate, let go, deliver up, turn over to; surrender, concede, yield, submit, *Sl.* throw in the towel or the sponge; resign, abdicate, give up.

6. (*of oneself*) give way to, lose oneself in, yield to; indulge, gratify, wallow in, carouse, dissipate.

abandon², *n.* 1. lack of restraint or self-control, unrestraint, lawlessness, surrender to impulse; licentiousness, wantonness, dissipation, profligacy; intemperance, incontinence, *Obs.* immoderation.

2. enthusiasm, spirit, élan, animation; verve, dash, life, vigour, ardour, *It.* *brio*; spontaneity, impetuosity, freedom.

abandoned, *adj.* 1. forsaken, deserted, neglected; relinquished, given up, left behind, *Naut.* (*of a ship*) ahull; discarded, rejected, cast off or away or aside; shunned, scorned, outcast, forlorn, *Poetic.* lorn; bereft, adrift, alone, solitary, lonely, desolate; destitute, desperate, helpless, hopeless, wretched, mournful, unfortunate, friendless.

2. unrestrained, uncontrolled, unconstrained, licentious; shameless, dissolute, loose, wanton, dissipated, profligate, reprobate, depraved, lewd, impure, unchaste; immoral, wicked, accursed, flagitious, vicious,

corrupt; sinful, bad, unprincipled, dishonourable, disreputable; lost, irreclaimable, irreformable, incorrigible, unrepentant, hardened.

abandonment, *n.* 1. desertion, forsaking, rejection; defection, heresy, apostasy, recreance, recreancy; neglect, negligence, dereliction; departure, decampment, evacuation.

2. relinquishment, abnegation, resignation, abdication, *Archaic.* demission; renunciation, repudiation, disavowal, recantation, denial, (*under oath*) abjuration, backpedalling.

3. surrender, yielding, nonresistance.

abase, *v.* 1. degrade, debase, vitiate, demean, discredit, demote; depose; devalue, reduce, lower, depress; humiliate, humble, mortify, bring low, take down, bring or take down a peg.

2. disgrace, dishonour, shame; slander, calumniate, asperse, denigrate, malign, vilify, vituperate, revile, smirch, besmirch, smear; belittle, deprecate, deflate, disparage, depreciate, downgrade, *Inf.* put down, *Inf.* play down.

abasement, *n.* 1. degradation, depravation, debasement, vitiation, deterioration, degeneration; devaluation, downfall, fall, descent, lowering, reduction, detrusion, depression; humiliation, humble pie, mortification, deflation; humility, humbleness, meekness, servility, lowliness, abjectness, submission, resignation, self-abasement, prostration.

2. disgrace, shame, dishonour, disrepute, obloquy, ingloriousness; infamy, ignominy, baseness, vileness, turpitude, meanness, despicableness, contemptibleness.

abash, *v.* disconcert, discomfit, take aback, ruffle, discompose; embarrass, chagrin, discountenance, put out of countenance, shame, put to shame, make ashamed, humiliate, mortify, humble, put down, take down, disgrace, cause to lose face; nonplus, confound, confuse, bewilder, astonish, dumbfound, perturb; dismay, dishearten, daunt, intimidate, cow, browbeat, overawe, overwhelm.

abashed, *adj.* 1. disconcerted, nonplussed, taken aback, out of countenance, discomfited, dumbfounded, chagrined; dismayed, daunted, cowed, intimidated, awestruck, overawed, subdued, timid, timorous.

2. embarrassed, ashamed, humiliated, mortified; shamefaced, shy, bashful, self-conscious, retiring, withdrawn.

abashment, *n.* awe, dismay, consternation, confusion, discomfiture; embarrassment, mortification, shame, humiliation, chagrin, vexation; shyness, bashfulness, self-consciousness.

abate, *v.* 1. reduce, diminish, decrease, lower, lessen, attenuate, weaken, bate; alleviate, mitigate, allay, palliate, assuage, relieve; mollify, soften, pacify, appease; quiet, calm, tranquilize, soothe, *Sl.* simmer down; moderate, temper, *Archaic.* attempt; quell, slake, blunt, dull.

2. subside, let up, intermit, cease; decline, fall off, taper off, wane, fade away, ebb, slacken.

3. deduct, subtract, allow; discount, mark down, cut back; rebate, remit, pay back.

4. omit, Teave out, skip, pass over, eschew, avoid.

abatement, *n.* 1. reduction, lessening, let-up, moderation, tempering; decrease, fall-off, diminution, remission; alleviation, mitigation, assuagement, relief, palliation, mollification, softening; waning, fading, ebb, decline, subsidence; weakening, attenuation.

2. suppression, check, control, curb, limitation, restraint; stoppage, termination, arrestment, abolition, eradication, elimination, extermination, extinguishment; quashing, quelling, crushing; prohibition, prevention, repression.

3. deduction, reduction, allowance; markdown, cut-back, discount, write-off.

abattoir, *n.* slaughterhouse, slaughterpen, shambles, butchery, *Obs.* butcher-row.

abbé, *n.* ecclesiastic, clergyman, cleric, man of the cloth; abbot, prior, monk, friar, monastic, celibate; priest, padre; pastor, curate; minister, divine. See also **clergyman**, **ecclesiastic**, **priest**.

abbey, *n.* monastery, religious house, priory, cloister, coenoby, friary; convent, nunnery; seminary.

abbot, *n.* general, superior, head, officer, provincial, abbé, *Eastern Ch.* archimandrite; conventual, monk, monastic, coenobite, friar, brother; ecclesiastic, churchman, cleric, priest.

2. abbess, prioress, mother superior, mother general, mother vicar.

abbreviate, *v.* shorten, reduce, *Obs.* breviate; contract, cut, cut down, cut short, crop, clip; retrench, curtail, lessen; shrink, constrict, narrow, condense, compress; abridge, abstract, brief, synopsis, summarize, digest.

abbreviated, *n.* 1. brief, abstract, synopsis, outline, sketch; précis, prospectus, résumé, syllabus, conspectus, compendium, epitome, survey, summary; digest, abridgment.

2. lessening, shortening, condensing, condensation, compressing, compression, contracting, contraction, curtailing, curtailment, reducing, reduction; decrease, cutting down or short, retrenchment, cropping, clipping, shrinking, narrowing; abstracting, abstraction, summarizing, summarization.

abdicate, *v.* 1. resign, renounce, give up claim or right to, *Law.* disclaim, lay down, part with, retire from, vacate, abnegate, *Chiefly Scot.* demit; relinquish, let go, deliver up, hand over, turn over; surrender, yield, cede, give way.

2. abandon, forsake, desert, leave behind, turn one's back on, ignore, neglect; give up, quit, drop, throw over, cast aside.

3. repudiate, reject, disown, wash one's hands of; refuse, decline, forgo, do without.

abdication, *n.* 1. resignation, resigning, renunciation, renouncing, retirement, retiring, abnegation, *Archaic.* demission.

2. relinquishment, abandonment, surrender, yielding, ceding, cession; transfer, transferral, transference, handing over.

3. repudiation, rejection, disowning, disclamation; deserting, desertion.

abdomen, *n.* 1. belly, stomach, *Inf.* tummy, gut,

Sl. breadbasket, *Scot. and North Eng.* wame; paunch, potbelly, *Inf.* bay window, *Inf.* corporation, *Sl.* pot, *Sl.* beerbelly, *Sl.* spare tyre, *Obs.* gorbelly; colonic cavity, intestinal cavity; visceral cavity, *Anat.*, *Zool.* venter, ventral region, ventricular cavity, *Anat.* epigastrium; pouch, (*of birds*) gizzard, (*of birds*) crop, craw, maw, ingluvies, (*of birds*) proventriculus, (*both of ruminating animals*) first stomach, rumen.

2. intestines, bowels, colons, (*of swine*) chitterlings; innards, inwards, insides, vitals, viscera, (*of animals*) entrails, *Inf.* gizzard, *Sl.* guts.

abdominal, *adj.* intestinal, visceral, splanchnic; gastric, stomachic, stomachal, stomachical, *Anat.* coeliac, ventral, ventricular.

abdominous, *adj.* 1. potbellied, round-bellied, big-bellied, *Sl.* beer-bellied, large-bellied, great-bellied, *Obs.* gorbellied; paunchy, *Inf.* bay-windowed, *Inf.* corporational; obese, fat, corpulent, overweight, *Scot.* fodge; chubby, tubby, pudgy, plump; round, rounded out, rotund, portly.

2. full, bulging, protuberant, bloated, distended; swollen, turgid, tumid; puffy.

abduct, *v.* 1. (*usu. of persons*) carry off, rape, seize, steal, make off or away with; kidnap, *Sl.* snatch, seize as hostage, hold for ransom; run off with, spirit away, steal away; lay hold of, lay hands on; (*usu. in reference to military service*) impress, press, conscript, *Naut.* shanghai, crimp.

2. commandeering, take over by force, hijack, skyjack, pirate; expropriate, appropriate, misappropriate, arrogate; wrest from, usurp, accroach; help oneself to, make free with.

3. *Usu. Physiol.* abduce, draw away, take away.

abduction, *n.* 1. (*all of persons*) robbery, theft, capture, seizure, rape; kidnapping, child-stealing; impressment, conscription; (*both of animals*) petnapping, dognapping.

2. commandeering, hijacking, skyjacking, air piracy; expropriation, arrogation, misappropriation.

abductor, *n.* thief, robber, crook, rapist; kidnapper, petnapper; skyjacker, hijacker, air or sky pirate.

aberrant, *adj.* 1. deviate, deviant, divergent, wayward, devious; erroneous, mistaken; deviating, diverging, departing, divagating, digressing, lapsing, wandering, rambling, straying, roving.

2. anomalous, anomalistic, abnormal, irregular, variable; odd, peculiar, curious, queer, incongruous, strange, errant, bizarre, weird; unconventional, uncommon, unusual, offbeat, out of the ordinary, eccentric, *Inf.* quirky, original, singular, exceptional, individual; extraordinary, egregious, remarkable, astonishing; monstrous, unnatural, freakish, *Inf.* freaky, heteroclitite, heteroclitical, heteromorphic, heteromorphous, miscreated, malformed, deformed, misshapen, misshaped, teratoid, teratological, teratogenic; epicene, androgynous, hermaphroditic, hermaphroditical.

3. perverse, perverted, corrupt, corrupted, twisted, *Inf.* kinky; depraved, degenerate, degenerated, deteriorated, vitiated, debased, abased.

4. vague, unsound, senile, *Sl.* not all there.

aberration, *n.* 1. deviation, divergence, departure, divarication, divagation, digression, declination, declension; lapse, irregularity, incongruity; waywardness; aberrance, aberrancy; wandering, straying, rambling, deviating, diverging, departing, divagating, digressing.

2. anomaly, abnormality, abnormity, variation; oddity, peculiarity, curiosity, quirk, eccentricity; nonconformity, unconformity, unconventionality, exception, singularity, singularity, bohemianism; strangeness, bizarreness, oddness, curiousness, queerness, freakishness, *Inf.* freakiness; freak, freak of nature, mutant, deformity, abortion, malformation, miscreation, mon-

ster, monstrosity, teratogeny, *Biol.* teratism, heteroclite; hermaphrodite, epicene, androgyne.

3. untruthfulness, falseness, mendacity; misrepresentation, falsification, distortion, deception, subreption, fraud, sophistry; falsehood, fallacy, lie, untruth, sophism; falsifying, misrepresenting, lying, deceiving, twisting, distorting; perversion, corruption, depravity, depravation, degeneration, degeneracy, depredation, decadence, deterioration, vitiation, debasement, abasement.

4. derangement, mental disorder; vagary, unsoundness, senility; illusion, delusion, fancy, unreality, dream world, hallucination; monomania, alienation, self-deception; mania, craze, obsession, infatuation, fixation.

abet, *v.* 1. encourage, prompt, urge, spur, goad, prod, egg on; incite, instigate, provoke, foment; stimulate, animate, whet, inspire, embolden; excite, arouse, inflame, fire, fire up, stir up, *Inf.* psych up. 2. support, advocate, patronize, back, endorse, sanction, approve, countenance; promote, further, forward, advance, favour, foster; help, aid, assist, subsidize, underwrite, second; uphold, maintain, sustain, succour; cooperate with, connive at, scheme for, befriend.

abettor, *n.* 1. encourager, prompter, urger, spurrier, inciter, instigator, provoker, fomentier; stimulator, animator, inspirer; exciter, arouser, rouser, rabble-rouser, inflamer, demagogue.

2. helper, aide, assistant, adjutant, coadjutant, coadjutor, coadjutress or coadjutrix, attendant, auxiliary; second, henchman, right hand, right-hand man; colleague, comrade, associate, consociate, companion, partner; cooperator, conniver, participant, participator; confederate, accomplice, accessory, partner in crime. 3. supporter, advocate, adviser, patron, patronizer, backer, endorser, upholder, sanctioner, approver; follower, disciple, adherent; agent, promoter, furtherer, advancer, favourer; subsidizer, underwriter, maintainer, sustainer.

abeyance, *n.* 1. suspension, intermission, interruption, cease, cessation, discontinuation, remission; deferment, deferral, postponement, delay; lull, waiting period; waiting, reserve, reservation; inaction, dormancy, latency, quiescence.

2. in **abeyance** in cold storage, on ice, hanging fire, in a holding pattern, abeyant.

abeyant, *adj.* 1. suspended, deferred, postponed, put off; tabled, shelved, set aside; inactive, static, stationary, resting, dormant, latent, quiescent; expectant, waiting.

2. See **abeyance** (def. 2).

abhor, *v.* 1. abominate, execrate, loathe, shudder at; despise, detest, feel aversion toward, hate, dislike; view with horror, shrink from; be nauseated by, not be able to stomach.

2. disdain, scorn, condemn, spurn, look down upon, shun.

abhorrence, *n.* 1. loathing, abominating, execration, hatred, hate, detestation, odium; repugnance, aversion, hostility, enmity, animosity, animus, antipathy; horror, revulsion, disgust, noisomeness.

2. disdain, scorn, contempt.

abhorrent, *adj.* 1. loathsome, abominable, execrable, heinous, atrocious, hateful, detestable, odious; repulsive, repellent, offensive, revolting, invidious; obnoxious, repugnant, disgusting, rank, noisome, distasteful, disagreeable; horrible, horrifying, hideous, shocking; nauseating, sickening; unpleasant, displeasing.

2. loath to; averse to, opposed to, against, resistant to.

3. remote from, distant from, removed from, outside of.

abidance, *n.* 1. compliance, observance, acquiescence, submission, obedience; cooperation, assent, concession, consent.

2. conformity, conventionality, accordance, accord, congruity, harmony, affinity, similitude.

3. abidingness, perseverance, persistence, steadfastness, tenacity, pertinacity, *Inf.* stickability; permanence, constancy.

abide, *v.* 1. remain, continue, stay, stop, tarry, rest, sit, lie, keep.

2. live, dwell, reside, lodge, sojourn; *Archaic.* bide, house, take up quarters, pitch tent, settle, anchor, put down roots, plant oneself.

3. last, endure, survive, outlive, persist, persevere, exist; be steadfast, be constant, be immovable, be immutable, be indestructible, be permanent.

4. await, expect, wait for, be in store for, anticipate, attend.

5. endure, bear, tolerate, stomach; put up with, stand, suffer, brook, bear with.

6. accept, acquiesce in, consent to, be in line with.

7. **abide by** a. comply with, observe, obey, acknowledge, agree to, submit to, conform to. b. discharge, carry out, fulfil; keep faithful to, persist in, hold to, stand by, adhere, stick to or with.

abiding, *adj.* eternal, unending, everlasting, immortal; unchanging, unchangeable, indestructible, indissoluble, immutable, changeless; durable, stable, lasting, constant, permanent; inherent, indwelling.

ability, *n.* 1. capacity, capability, potential, potentiality; potency, power, strength; aptitude, intelligence, ingenuity, brilliance, cleverness, smartness, aptness, wit, mother wit, mind for, understanding; faculty, talent, gift, genius, facility, endowment, flair, bent, turn, knack, forte, strong point; inclination, proclivity, propensity.

2. competence, competency, adequacy, sufficiency, capableness, adeptness, proficiency, know-how, savoir faire; mastery, master hand, expertness, efficiency, efficacy; skill, skilfulness, dexterity, adroitness, address, deftness; qualification, readiness, knowledge.

3. **abilities** aptitudes, understandings, powers, strengths; faculties, talents, gifts, parts, *Obs.* intellects; skills, accomplishments, attainments.

abject, *adj.* 1. degrading, debasing, humiliating, humbling, mortifying; poor, beggarly, paltry, sorry, sad, pathetic, pathological, piteous, pitiful, pitiable; shabby, shoddy, dirty, scruffy, scrubby, scurvy; miserable, squalid, stark, destitute, hopeless, oppressed, brought low.

2. base, base-spirited, base-minded, vile, low, low-minded, debased, depraved, degraded, unprincipled, immoral, profligate; evil, bad, wrong, ignoble; contemptible, despicable, reptilian, sordid, foul, infamous, ignominious, odious, opprobrious, obnoxious, detestable, execrable, rank, degenerate, corrupt, vicious, reprehensible, unmentionable, heinous, atrocious, flagitious, iniquitous, *Archaic.* facinorous.

3. obsequious, *Obs.* obsequent, slavish, servile, toadyish, sycophantic, sycophantical, sycophantish, flattering, fawning, truckling, ingratiating, *Sl.* bootlicking; obseant, prostrate, on one's knees; grovelling, cringing, crawling, crouching, snivelling, cowering.

abjectness, *n.* 1. humbleness, poorness, beggarliness, paltriness, patheticness, pitifulness, pitiableness; shabbiness, shoddiness, dirtiness, scrubbiness, scruffiness, scurviness; miserableness, squalidness, starkness, hopelessness, oppressiveness; abjection, degradation, debasement, humiliation, humbling, mortification; misery, squalor, destitution, oppression.

2. baseness, vileness, lowness, depravity, unprincipledness, immorality, profligacy, profligateness; evilness, badness, wrongness, arrantness, nefariousness; mean-

ness, villainy, villainousness, ignobility, ignobleness; contemptibility, contemptibleness, despicability, despicableness, detestability, detestableness, sordidness, infamy, infamousness, ignominy, ignominiousness, odium, odiousness, opprobrium, opprobriousness, execrability, degeneracy, degeneration, corruptedness, corruptness, corruption, viciousness, reprehensibility, reprehensibleness, heinousness, atrociousness, flagitiousness, iniquity, iniquitousness, *Archaic*. facinorousness.

3. obsequiousness, slavishness, servility, servileness, toadyishness, sycophancy, flattery, fawning, truckling, ingratiating, *Sl*. bootlicking; obeisance, prostration, falling on one's knees; grovelling, cringing, crawling, crouching, snivelling, cowering.

abjuration, *n*. 1. renunciation, renouncement, retraction, disclamation, disclaiming; disavowal, denial, recantation, recall, taking back.

2. repudiation, *Law*. disaffirmation, reversal, revocation, repeal; rejection, discarding, disowning; abnegation, refusal, self-denial.

abjure, *v*. 1. renounce, repudiate, disdain, forswear; abandon, desert, forsake, relinquish, give up, reject, discard, disown.

2. renege, take back, go back on, apostatize, depart from; recall, retract, recant, revoke, withdraw.

3. avoid, shun, eschew; forgo, *Inf*. swear off, stay away from, have nothing to do with, *Inf*. have no truck with.

ablaze, *adj*. 1. burning, blazing, on fire, afire, fiery; flaming, aflame, flaring, ignited.

2. gleaming, glowing, aglow, glaring; brightly lit, lighted, alight, luminous, illuminated; radiant, brilliant, incandescent; shimmering, twinkling, flashing, flickering, glittering, sparkling, fluttering.

3. excited, exhilarated, enlivened, inspired, animated, enthusiastic, eager; stimulated, aroused, intensely desirous, intense; ardent, fervent, fervid, perfervid, impassioned, passionate, frenzied.

4. very angry, irate, wrathful, wroth, incensed; enraged, raging, infuriated, infuriate, furious; ranting, raving, vehement, fuming; heated, worked up, flared up; vexed, irritated, piqued, chafed, galled, riled, nettled, offended.

able, *adj*. 1. competent, capable, adequate, equal to, *Inf*. up to, proficient, efficient; qualified, skilled, practiced, experienced, *Fr. au fait*, fit, fitted; powerful, potent, strong.

2. superior, expert, *Inf*. topnotch, topflight, top drawer, first-rate, *Inf*. crack, *Sl*. crackerjack, *Sl*. on the ball; talented, gifted, adept, skilful, dextrous, adroit, deft; smart, clever, ingenious, brilliant, inventive; intelligent, sagacious, learned, knowledgeable, versed.

3. apt, facile, accomplished, finished, polished, masterful, masterly; effective, striking, telling, revealing.

able-bodied, *adj*. healthy, in good health, fit, physically-fit, in good condition, sound, in fine fettle, able, athletic, *Inf*. in good shape, *Inf*. in shape; robust, vigorous, full of vigour, hearty, hardy, hale, hale and hearty, lusty, strong and healthy, bursting with health or vigour, *Scot.*, *North Eng.* and *Irish Eng.* sonsy; stout, staunch, stanch, firm, sturdy, burly, tough, iron, *Inf*. tough as nails, *Inf*. hard as rock; stalwart, rugged, hefty, husky, solid, well-knit; muscular, brawny, strapping, broad-shouldered, powerfully-built, *Derg*. muscle-bound; powerful, potent, mighty, all-powerful, herculean, *Literary*. puissant.

ablution, *n*. 1. cleansing, purification, purifying, depuration, depurating, purge, purging, mundifying, epuration, lustration, lustrating; decontamination, decontaminating, depollution, depolluting, sanitization,

sanitizing, antiseptis; baptizing, baptism, *Eccles*. baptism, christening, aspersion, aspersing, *Rom. Cath. Ch.* Asperges, sprinkling, besprinkling, holy water sprinkle, morning star, affusion; immersion, submergence, dunking, *Archaic*. dipping.

2. holy water, *Eccles*. laver, *Eccles*. chrism; rinse, rinsings.

3. washing, wash, bathing, bath, lavation, lavage, *Archaic*. laving, cleaning, deterging, shampooing, shampoo, scrubbing, scrub, scrub-up; showering, shower, dousing, rinsing, rinse, flushing; abstersion, wiping, sponging, scouring.

abnegate, *v*. 1. renounce, resign, abdicate; deny oneself, sacrifice, forgo, abstain from, forbear, refrain from; reject, refuse, decline, turn down, do or go without.

2. relinquish, give up, surrender, yield; concede, acquiesce, submit.

abnegation, *n*. 1. renunciation, resignation, abdication; self-denial, sacrifice, abstinence, forbearance; rejection, refusal, declining, declination.

2. relinquishment, giving up, surrender, yielding; conceding, acquiescence, submission, submitting.

abnormal, *adj*. 1. anomalous, anomalistic, irregular, variable; deviate, deviant, aberrant, divergent, heterodox, heretical, wayward; deviating, diverging, departing, digressing, lapsing, wandering, straying, rambling, roving.

2. strange, odd, peculiar, queer, offbeat, curious, quizzical, erratic, eccentric, weird, bizarre, *Inf*. quirky; unconventional, uncommon, unusual, unique, rare, extraordinary, exceptional, singular, individual; monstrous, unnatural, freakish, grotesque, heteroclit, heteroclitical, *Inf*. freaky.

3. huge, enormous, stupendous, colossal, immense, mammoth, gargantuan, gigantic, vast.

abnormality, *n*. 1. anomaly, aberration, perversion; oddity, peculiarity, curiosity, rarity; monster, monstrosity, mutant, freak, heteroclit, malformation, miscreation, abortion, deformity.

2. deviation, aberrance, aberrancy, irregularity, variation, abnormality, divergence, digression, *Rare*. anomalism; unconformity, unconventionality, uncommonness, unusualness, uncommonality, singularity, singularity, exception; eccentricity, idiosyncrasy, quirk, hobby-horse; strangeness, oddness, queeriness, bizarreness.

aboard, *adv*. 1. on board, on deck, on ship, on board ship, on shipboard, all aboard, in or on the vessel, topside, before the mast; on; in, inside, inside of, within.

2. alongside, beside, along the side, by the side of, close to the side, to the side, off to the side, flush with, next to; abreast, side by side, cheek by cheek, cheek by jowl, board by board.

3. *Baseball Slang*. on base, on the basepaths, on, *Sl*. on the pond.

—*prep*. 4. aboard of, on; in, into, to; inside, inside of, within.

abode, *n*. 1. home, domicile, dwelling, dwelling place, dwelling house, residence, residency, habitation, habitancy, *Scot.* and *North Eng.* bigging, *Scot.* howff; lodging, lodgings, lodging place, lodgement or lodgment, nest, roost, perch; quarters, living quarters, rooms, accommodation, housing, roof over one's head, *Inf*. pad, *Inf*. crash pad, *Chiefly Brit.* *Inf*. diggings, *Brit.* *Inf*. digs; apartment, flat, tenement, *Brit.* chambers, *Chiefly Brit.* maisonette; penthouse, townhouse; mobile home, caravan, motor caravan, trailer; address, location, situation, whereabouts, place.

2. mansion, palace, palatial or stately dwelling, *Fr*.

hôtel, It. palazzo, villa, chateau, castle, Chiefly Brit. hall, Archit. folly, Sl. spread; manor, manor house, estate, country estate, country home, country house, country seat, house and grounds, house and lot, Brit. Dial. toft, demesne, Law. messuage; farm, farmstead, grange, farm-house, Archaic. farmhold, Brit. croft, Brit. homecroft, Scot. and North Eng. steading; ranch, rancho, rancheria, hacienda; plantation.

3. cottage, cot, bungalow, bower, cabin, log cabin, blockhouse, *Brit. Dial. cote, Scot. but and ben; hut, shed, shack, shanty, Scot. bothy; hovel, hole, dump, sty, pigsty, tumbledown shack, wretched hut, mean dwelling, miserable quarters.*

4. hearth, hearthstone, hearth and home, hearthside, fireside, fireplace, chimney corner, *Brit. Dial. ingle, Brit. Dial. ingleside, Chiefly Brit. inglenook; homestead, household, family, family circle, domestic circle, bosom of one's family, seat of one's affections, home sweet home, Inf. place where one hangs one's hat.*

5. residence, residency, habitation, habitancy, inhabitation, inhabitaney, commorancy, domiciliation; sojourn, sojournment, sojourning, stay, stop, stop-over, stop-off.

abolish, v. 1. annul, nullify, disannul, disestablish, declare null and void, make void, quash; repeal, revoke, retract, rescind, abrogate; reverse, countermand, cancel, *Law. nol-pros; invalidate, vacate, vitiate; do away with, cut out, remove, put an end to, terminate, make an end of, dispense with; supersede, overthrow, subvert, set aside, repudiate.*

2. annihilate, eradicate, expunge, extirpate, obliterate; raze, demolish, exterminate, ravage, devastate, batter down, stamp out, crush out; extinguish, destroy, eliminate, quash, squelch, suppress.

abolition, n. 1. annulment, nullification, disannulment, voidance, *Law. defeasance, disestablishment, abolishment; revocation, repeal, rescinding, rescission, abrogation; recantation, retraction, withdrawal; reversal, countermand, counterorder, cancellation; invalidation, vitiation; termination, removal, dissolution; overthrow, subversion, repudiation.*

2. annihilation, obliteration, eradication, extirpation, extinction; devastation, razing, ravaging, demolition, destruction; extinguishment, elimination, suppression.

abominable, adj. 1. abhorrent, loathsome, execrable, despicable, heinous, odious, detestable, hateful; damnable, accursed, cursed, ignominious, reprehensible, deplorable, infamous.

2. repugnant, repulsive, revolting, repellent, offensive, noisome, obscene, frightful, disgusting, rank, atrocious; horrid, horrible, hideous, villainous; nauseous, nauseating, sickening; squalid, sordid; unpleasant, unlikely, disagreeable, *Brit. Inf. beastly.*

3. inferior, poor, bad, appalling, imperfect, defective, faulty, *Inf. not up to snuff; vile, base, sorry.*

abominate, v. abhor, loathe, execrate, despise, detest, hate, feel intense aversion toward, feel hostile toward, not be able to bear or abide; shudder at, shrink from, recoil from, blench from; feel repugnance toward, feel disgust toward, feel distaste for; dislike, mislike, disrelish, disfavour.

abomination, n. 1. abhorrence, loathing, loathsomeness, execration, detestation, odiousness; hatred, hate, aversion, enmity, hostility, animosity, animus, antipathy; *Fr. bête noire, bugbear; damnation, curse.*

2. depravity, perversion, obscenity, atrocity; defilement, foulness, uncleanness; repugnance, disgust, repulsion, offence, torment, plague, annoyance, nuisance, infliction; ignominy, villainy, evil, wickedness; corruption, corruptness, pollution; disgrace, shame.

aboriginal, adj. 1. native, indigenous, endemic, endemical, domestic, enchorial, autochthonous, autoch-

thonal, autochthonic, primal, original, primordial; primeval, prehistoric, preadamite, noachian, noachic, noachical, antediluvian, antiquated, age-old, old; primary, prime, earliest, first, primitive, pristine, simple, elementary.

—*n.* 2. autochthon, native. See **aborigine**.

aborigine, n. native, local, indigene, autochthon, aboriginal, *Australian Inf. boong; primitive, original, settler, pioneer, Australian. bushman, original inhabitant, first resident; ancient, prehistoric man, antediluvian, preadamite, cave-man, troglodyte.*

abort, v. 1. miscarry, deliver prematurely, develop incompletely.

2. fail, fall short, not reach, be deficient, be insufficient; terminate, end, cease, stop, check, arrest, quell, put down; frustrate, thwart, circumvent, contravene, obstruct, interfere, inhibit, hinder, intercept, prevent, preclude; checkmate, nullify.

abortion, n. 1. miscarriage, premature birth, premature labour, untimely birth, premature delivery, unnatural birth, arrested development; aborticide, feticide, forced birth.

2. failure, nonsuccess, nonfulfilment, defeat, vain attempt; fizzle, fiasco, no-go, blunder, disappointment; frustration, thwarting, circumvention, contravention, obstruction.

3. monstrosity, miscreation, *Biol. teratism; malformation, deformity, monster, freak, mutant, oddity, curiosity, lusus naturae.*

abortive, adj. 1. unsuccessful, vain, futile, useless, bootless, profitless, unavailing; worthless, nugatory; ineffective, inoperative, ineffectual; fruitless, unproductive, sterile, barren, impotent.

2. rudimentary, imperfectly developed; immature, incomplete, stunted; failing, miscarrying; not viable, untimely, premature.

abound, v. 1. overflow, overflow with, flood, spill over, overspill, overbrim; exuberate, superabound, know no bounds; abound with, burst with, bristle with, throng with, be alive with; clutter, crowd, jam, pack.

2. flourish, luxuriate, thrive; be rich in, be well supplied, be well furnished, lack nothing.

3. teem, swarm, overswarm, run over, overrun, run riot, run wild; overspread, spread over, overgrow, grow over; infest, plague, beset; multiply, increase, swell, proliferate, be prolific; stream, rain, flow, gush.

abounding, adj. 1. rich, lavish, luxuriant, rank, profuse, prodigal, prolific, exuberant, superabundant; abundant, bountiful, bounteous, copious, plentiful, plenteous, fat, unstinted; ample, sufficient, enough, more than enough, *Inf. plenty.*

2. full, filled, abrim, *Archaic. fraught; rife, replete, flush, well-supplied, abundantly-supplied; overflowing, overspilling, running over with, bursting, bristling, thick, thick with; teeming, teeming with, swarming, swarming with, crawling, crawling with, alive with. Sl. lousy with; crowded, crowding, thronged, thronging, jammed, packed, Inf. jam-packed.*

about, prep. 1. concerning, concerned with, touching, dealing with, regarding, *in or with regard to, anent, respecting, with respect to, referring to, with reference to, of; relating to, in relation to, relative to, connected or associated with; engaged in, involved in, busy with.*

2. near, nearby, nigh, close by; close to, neighbouring, adjacent; in, inside, within; on, upon; with, beside.

3. around, surrounding, circumjacent, rounding, encircling, circling, encompassing, circumfluent; enfolding, enwrapping, wrapped around, enveloping.

4. on the verge or brink of, ready to, prepared to,

preparing to, soon to.

5. throughout, all over, in all parts, over, through.

—*adv.* 6. approximately, roughly, generally, more or less, or so, all but, nearly, in the neighbourhood of, in the vicinity of, close to; virtually, almost, well-nigh, nearing, approaching.

7. nearby, close by, hereabouts, not far off.

8. in the reverse or opposite direction, halfway around, 180°, backwards.

9. to and fro, here and there, hither and thither, hither and yon, far and wide, helter-skelter.

10. around, in circumference, perimetrically, peripherally.

—*adj.* 11. astir, stirring, up and around; moving, in motion, active.

12. in existence, existing, alive, living; happening, going on, going, in the air, current, prevailing, prevalent, widespread.

about-face, *n.* 1. reversal, turnabout, turnaround, rightabout, switch, volte-face, *Inf.* flip-flop, *Inf.* a 180°; backtracking, back-peddalling; change of heart, second thoughts, *Inf.* a different tune or song; tergiversation.

2. retraction, retraction, withdrawal, recantation, palinode, abjuration; repudiation, renunciation, defection, bolting, going over, apostasy.

—*v.* 3. turn around, do an about face; back down or out of, renege, backtrack, backpedal, shift one's ground, *Inf.* flip-flop, do a flip-flop, do an about-face, *Inf.* do a 180°, sing a different song or tune; change one's mind, tergiversate.

4. retract, disavow, recant, unsay, withdraw, take back, *Inf.* eat or swallow one's words; deny, gainsay, renounce, forswear, abjure; repudiate, disclaim, disown.

above, *adv.* 1. overhead, over one's head, on a higher place, at a higher place, in a higher place; atop, at the top, on the top; aloft, high up, up in the air or sky, far above the ground; skywards, towards the sky; in or to heaven, on high, in the firmament, in the celestial heights.

2. superior, upper, higher in rank or authority greater, mightier, more powerful; more elevated, loftier.

3. more, greater, larger, higher in quantity or number; more abundant, in excess, excessive, over and above, above and beyond.

4. before, earlier, foregoing, preceding, precedent; antecedent, preventive, prior, anterior; above-mentioned, aforesaid, aforesaid, above-mentioned, above-stated; previously, formerly, in a former part.

—*prep.* 5. atop of, on top of, aloft of, in a higher place than, to a higher place than, at a higher place than; over, on, upon, reaching higher than.

6. in excess of, exceeding, in surplus of, over and above, above and beyond; more than, greater than, larger than.

7. beyond, surpassing, exceeding, transcending, overpassing, superior in rank or standing to; higher in authority to, more elevated than, loftier than, greater than, mightier than, more powerful than.

8. not subject to, not liable to, not exposed to, not put through, not submitted to; not vulnerable to, not susceptible to, not in danger of; not open to, not amenable to, not willing to, not agreeable to; not capable of, not able to.

9. averse, opposed to, in opposition to, contrary to, counter to; against, versus, resistant to; disinclined to, unwilling to, reluctant to, loath to.

10. rather than, in preference to, in favour of.

11. north of, north from, northward of, northward from; towards the north; northwards, northerly,

northwardly.

12. **above all**, first and foremost, in the first place, most important of all, before anything else, before anything; principally, chiefly, paramountly, supremely, pre-eminently; especially, particularly, peculiarly, expressly; mainly, primarily, essentially, mostly, predominantly.

—*adj.* 13. written above, above-mentioned, above-stated, aforesaid, aforementioned, aforesaid; afore-named, aforegiven, aforecited; already stated, previously described, described above, indicated earlier, previously indicated or specified; earlier, foregoing, preceding, precedent, former; antecedent, previous, preventive, prior, anterior.

—*n.* 14. above-written, above-mentioned, above-stated, aforesaid, aforementioned, aforesaid; afore-named, aforecited, aforegiven.

15. heaven, firmament, sky, space, infinity; celestial expanse, the vault of heaven, the canopy of heaven; abode of God and angels, our Father's house, Abraham's bosom, heavenly kingdom, heavenly city; next world, world beyond the grave, happy hunting grounds, paradise.

aboveboard, *adv.* 1. overtly, openly, in open sight, in the open, out in the open, in full view, in plain view, publicly, in public, in public view, for all to see; on the table; before one's eyes, *Inf.* under one's nose; to one's face, face to face, man to man, heart to heart.

2. candidly, frankly, forthrightly, directly, straightforwardly; explicitly, unequivocally, undisguisedly, plainly, in plain words or English, with no nonsense, all joking aside; outspokenly, freely, boldly, unreservedly, unrestrainedly, unconstrainedly, uninhibitedly, unshrinkingly.

3. truly, truthfully, veraciously; guilelessly, ingenuously, sincerely, artlessly, naively, simply, undeceptively, undeceitfully, undeceivingly, without artifice.

4. honestly, uprightly, upstandingly; honourably, respectfully, fairly, decently, justly.

—*adj.* 5. open, open and aboveboard, straight, square, square-dealing, fair and square; legitimate, up and up, *Sl.* on the up-and-up, on the level, no-nonsense; honourable, respectable, reputable, creditable, estimable.

6. candid, frank, forthright, direct, straightforward, straight-from-the-shoulder, man-to-man, heart-to-heart; plain, plain-spoken, plain-speaking, downright, outright, explicit, unequivocal, unambiguous, undisguised, *Inf.* flat-footed; outspoken, free, free-spoken, free-speaking, unreticent, bold, unreserved, unrestrained, unconstrained, unchecked, unabashed, uninhibited, unshrinking.

7. guileless, ingenuous, sincere, genuine, artless, naive, simple, transparent, undeceptive, undeceitful, undeceiving, undissembling; true, truthful, veracious.

8. honest, upright, upstanding; fair, honourable, decent, just.

abracadabra, *n.* 1. incantation, chant, magic formula, magic word, invocation, conjuration; mumbo-jumbo, hocus-pocus, open-sesame; charm, spell, rune, *Scot.* cantrip; sorcery, magic, apotropism.

2. gibberish, jabber, Jabberwocky, chatter, prattle, cackle, gibber; babble, babblement, prate, tattle, twaddle; patter, gabble, blather, rapid and inarticulate talk; jargon, gobbledegook; nonsense, balderdash, balderal, babbling, *Fr.* bavardage; humbug, flummery, *Sl.* bunk, rubbish, *Inf.* rot, *Sl.* garbage, stuff and nonsense, fudge, foolishness, rigmarole or rigamarole, amphigory; poppycock, *Inf.* fiddle-faddle, *Inf.* piffle, drivel, *Inf.* bosh, *Inf.* kibosh, *Inf.* flapdoodle.

abrade, *v.* 1. erode, wear, wear down or away,

wash away, corrode, fret, gnaw, fray, *Inf.* frazzle, graze, chafe; levigate, file, triturate, grind, whet, sand, sandpaper, pumice, rub, rub down, scour; smooth, polish, wax, burnish, buff, shine.

2. grate, rasp, scrape, scrape off, excoriate.

abrasion, *n.* 1. rub, fret, fray, *Inf.* frazzle; scrape, scratch, graze, scuff, sore, *Both Path.* canker, ulcer.

2. erosion, eroding, wearing, wearing down or away, detrition, attrition, abrading, corrosion, corroding; fretting, gnawing, fraying, chafing; grinding, whetting, filing, sanding, pumicing; friction, rubbing, rubbing down, scouring; smoothing, polishing, burnishing, buffing, shining; grating, rasping, scrape, scraping, excoriation.

abrasive, *n.* 1. abradant, emery, emery cloth, emery board, pumice, pumice stone, pumicer, rouge, sand, sandpaper, steel wool; file, rasp, whetstone, grindstone, millstone; cleanser, scouring powder, scouring pad, rubbing compound; polish, wax, burnisher, buffer, buff stick, buff wheel.

—*adj.* 2. erodent, erosive, attritional, attritive, eroding, wearing, corrosive, abradant, abrading; fretting, gnawing, fraying, chafing; rough, coarse, ragged, jagged, sandpaper; harsh, grating, rasping.

abreast, *adv.*, *adj.* 1. beside, side by side, by the side of, adjacent to, next to, next door to, cheek by jowl, close at hand, aligned, in alignment, on a line with, in one line; bow to bow, stem to stem.

2. *Usu.* **abreast of or with** a. equally advanced, alongside, up to the same plane, on a par, parallel, matched, even, tied, equal, alike. b. informed, knowledgeable, *Inf.* up on, *Inf.* on top of.

abridge, *v.* 1. shorten, contract, cut down, abbreviate, condense, compress, concentrate; abstract, summarize, brief, synopsis, digest, epitomize.

2. reduce, retrench, decrease, diminish, lessen, shrink, narrow, subtract, subduct, curtail; truncate, cut, cut off, cut back, cut short, slash, clip, shear, shave, trim, prune, pare down, lop, lop off, dock.

3. deprive, cut off, divest, dispossess, debar, disinherit, shut off, shut out, bereave, despoil, strip.

abridgment, *n.* 1. digest, epitome; compendium, survey, synopsis, abstract, summary, précis, conspectus, prospectus; syllabus, résumé, brief, outline, sketch.

2. shortening, contraction, contracting, cutting down, abbreviation, abbreviating, condensation, condensing, compression, compressing, concentration, concentrating; reduction, reducing, retrenchment, retrenching, decrease, decreasing, lessening, shrinkage, shrinking, narrowing, bridging, subtraction, subtracting, subduction, subducting, curtailing; obtruncation, detruncation, truncation, cut, cutting off or back or short, slashing, clipping, shearing, shaving, trimming, pruning, nipping, lopping, lopping off, docking.

3. deprivation, divestiture, dispossession, debarring, disinheriting, shutting off, cutting off, shutting out, bereavement, despoiling, stripping.

4. compactness, tightness, narrowness, narrow straits, squeeze, tight squeeze, bind, confined or restricted space, confinement; restriction, limitation, curtailment; loss, shortage, diminution.

abroad, *adv.* 1. in foreign parts, out of the country, overseas, on the continent, U.S. in Europe, beyond the seas; wandering, travelling, holidaying, vacationing, on one's travels; distant, afar off.

2. away, about, out, out of doors, out of the house, not at home, in the open air, gone out; not present, absent, elsewhere, yonder.

3. spread around, in circulation, at large, astir, before the public, publicly.

4. broadly, widely, far and wide, expansively, extensively, unrestrainedly; everywhere, all over, ubiquitously.

5. wide of the mark, wide of the truth, in error, off the scent, off the course, without the last clue; puzzled, bewildered, at one's wit's end, abstracted, preoccupied, perplexed.

abrogate, *v.* 1. abolish, repeal, revoke, reverse, rescind; annul, disannul, nullify, declare null and void, render null and void, void, avoid; quash, invalidate, vitiate, vacate, disenact, disestablish; cancel, discharge; supersede, set aside, discontinue, *Law.* nopropros, suspend, stop, cease.

2. recant, retract, abjure, unsay, recall; take back; withdraw, undo, renege; renounce, relinquish, abnegate, repudiate, deny, disclaim, disavow; countermand, counterorder, overrule, override; veto, negate.

3. terminate, dissolve, put an end to, bring to an end, do away with, destroy; throw overboard, write off, put aside, get rid of.

abrogation, *n.* 1. repeal, abolition, abolishment, revocation, reversal, rescinding, rescindment, rescission; annulment, annulling, disannulment, nullification, voidance, avoidance, *Law.* defeasance; quashing, invalidation, vitiation, *Obs.* vacatur, disenactment, disestablishment, setting aside; cancellation, discharge; suspension, *Law.* nolle prosequi, discontinuance, cessation.

2. recantation, retraction, retractation, abjuration, recall; taking back, withdrawal, undoing, *Cards.* renege; renouncement, renunciation, relinquishment; abnegation, repudiation, denial, disclaimer, disavowal; countermand, counterorder, overruling, overriding; veto, negation.

3. termination, dissolution, putting an end to, bringing to an end, doing away with, destruction; writing off, putting aside, getting rid of.

abrupt, *adj.* 1. sudden, quick, hasty, instantaneous, rapid, swift, hurried; headlong, rash, precipitate, out-of-hand, unseasonable, ill-timed; unexpected, unforeseen, unanticipated, unlooked for, unannounced.

2. curt, brusque, blunt, gruff, short, broken off; rude, impolite, discourteous, uncivil, ungracious, unceremonious.

3. discontinuous, broken, disconnected, uneven, jerky, angular, rough, irregular, jagged, zigzag, craggy; cramped, harsh, stiff, (*as style*) inelegant.

4. steep, sheer, sharp, precipitous, declivitous, acclivitous.

abscess, *n.* ulcer, ulceration, noma, fester, festering, gathering, gumboil, parulis, tubercle, *Obs.* apostem or apostome or apostume or aposthume, *Obs.* apostemation, *Archaic.* impostume or imposthume; canker, lesion, chancre, chancroid, soft chancre, simple chancre; boil, blain, furuncle, furunculus, carbuncle, pustule, pimple, papule, papilla, pock, wen, whelk, *Rare.* bleb, *Archaic.* botch; sore, open or running sore, gall, excoriation; whitlow, agnail.

abscond, *v.* 1. flee, bolt, elope, escape, fly, take flight, take to flight, take wing, *Sl.* wing it, *Inf.* beat it, *Inf.* skip out, *Inf.* skip town, *Inf.* skidaddle, *Sl.* vamoose or vamoose, *Sl.* light out; run, run away, run off, take to one's heels, make a quick exit, *Rare.* fugitate, *Inf.* take off, *Inf.* clear out, *Inf.* make tracks, *Inf.* cut out, *Inf.* cut and run, *Inf.* fly the coop, *Sl.* split, *Sl.* scam, *Sl.* blow, *Sl.* hightail it, *Sl.* lam or take it on the lam; retreat, withdraw, decamp, desert, abandon, take oneself off, take French leave, quit the scene, make a getaway, beat a retreat, beat a hasty retreat, run for it, turn tail, show the heels, show a clean pair of heels; leave, depart, exit, *Euph.* leave without saying good-bye, *Brit. Sl.* bugger off.

2. make off, pull out, absquatulate or absquatulate, give or take leg-bail, *Sl.* bail out, *Fig.* take the money and run; sneak off or away, creep off or away, steal off or away, slink off or away, slip away, slither away, skulk away, slide off, *Sl.* duck off, *Brit. Sl.* mizzle; vanish, disappear, do the disappearing act, *Inf.* make oneself scarce, *Brit. Sl.* do a moonlight flit; evade, dodge, elude, bilk, give [s.o.] the slip, lose [s.o.], *Sl.* duck and run, *Sl.* ditch [s.o.], *Sl.* shake [s.o.] off.

absence, *n.* 1. nonattendance, nonresidence, nonappearance.

2. unavailability, lack, need, want, deficiency, default; dearth, paucity, scarcity; privation, destitution; emptiness, negation, void, vacuum, vacuity, vacancy.

absent, *adj.* 1. not present, out, off, away, abroad, elsewhere; nonattendant, nonresident, not at home; lost, astray, flown, missing, AWOL.

2. lacking, wanting, nonexistent, deficient.

3. inattentive, absent-minded, preoccupied, absorbed; unthinking, thoughtless, unconsidering, blank, oblivious, heedless; distracted, lost, listless, unconscious, unaware; woolgathering, musing, dreamy, faraway, removed.

—*v.* 4. remove oneself, retire from, withdraw oneself, stay away from, decamp, abscond; play truant, skip, not show up, fail to appear, cut, ignore; shirk, evade, vacate, slip away.

absentee, *n.* deserter, truant, fugitive, exile, renegade, runaway; shirker, slacker, skulker, malingerer, quitter, backslider.

absenteeism, *n.* chronic absence, truancy, cutting, skipping, hooky or playing hooky; dereliction, delinquency, neglect, avoidance, evasion, shirking; desertion, sneaking out, French leave.

absently, *adv.* inattentively, abstractedly, distractingly; musingly, dreamily, listlessly; forgetfully, thoughtlessly, heedlessly, inadvertently; absent-mindedly, unmindfully, negligently; carelessly, sloppily, indifferently.

absent-minded, *adj.* 1. musing, meditative, meditating, cogitative, cogitating; contemplative, contemplating, pondering, brooding, mulling over, ruminant, ruminative, ruminating, chewing, chewing one's cud, deliberating, reflective, reflecting; pensive, thoughtful, thinking, cerebral, bemused, lost in thought, in a brown study, *Archaic.* museful; daydreaming, dreaming, dreamful, dreamy, stargazing, gazing out of the window, in the clouds, in a trance, napping, sleeping, asleep; absent, withdrawn, remote, removed, distant, faraway, away, wandering, *Sl.* not at home, *Sl.* out of it.

2. abstracted, preoccupied, rapt, absorbed, immersed, engrossed, lost in, wrapped up, consumed, concentrating, occupied, busy; distracted, diverted, distraught, inattentive, unattentive, inadvertent, deaf, unheeding, unheeding, heedless; oblivious, unaware, unconscious, unmindful, insensible, blind; forgetful, forgetting, apt to forget, Lethied, amnesic, *Chiefly Southern U.S.* disremembering; scatterbrained, rattlebrained.

absolute, *adj.* 1. perfect, complete, entire, whole, comprehensive, total, ideal, consummate; full, plenary; uncut, solid, undivided, exhaustive, undiminished; pure, clean, clear, faultless, flawless, unadulterated; uncorrupted, untinged, untainted, unblemished, unmixed, unmingled, unblended, uncombined, undiluted, unalloyed; genuine, unaltered, essential, real; plain, simple, regular, unadorned, stark.

2. outright, downright, out-and-out, straight-out, all-out, across-the-board; sheer, utter, unmitigated; unqualified, categorical, unconditional, unconditioned, unreserved, implicit; unrestricted, unlimited, total; un-

hampered, unimpeded, unbounded; free, self-determined, self-sufficing; irrepressible, uncontrollable.

3. autocratic, dictatorial, totalitarian, despotic; tyrannous, tyrannical, arbitrary, fascist; authoritative, magisterial, monarchical; sovereign, supreme, lordly, almighty, imperial; domineering, dogmatic, doctrinaire, controlling, commanding, peremptory; demanding, exacting, pressing, imperious, overbearing, imperative; unrestrained, self-willed, arrogant, haughty.

4. positive, determinate, certain, veritable, unequivocal, unambiguous, explicit, express; sure, confident, unquestionable, conclusive; official, confirmed, authoritative; demonstrable, demonstrated, apodictic, indubitable, undoubted; settled, fixed, definite, decided, decisive, pronounced; true, actual, factual, accurate, reliable.

5. ultimate, omnipotent, almighty, all-powerful, infallible, infinite; autonomous, self-existent, independent; self-evident, axiomatic, assumed, understood, accepted, given, manifest; intrinsic, inherent, essential, innate, ingrained, fundamental.

absolutely, *adv.* 1. completely, wholly, fully, entirely; totally, nothing short of, unqualifiedly, utterly; categorically, unconditionally, unreservedly, implicitly, purely, clearly.

2. positively, certainly, veritably, unquestionably, unequivocally, unambiguously, explicitly; inalienably, officially, authoritatively, incontestably; demonstrably, demonstratedly, indubitably, undoubtedly, decidedly, decisively, perforce; definitely, precisely, exactly, surely, assuredly, conclusively, really, in reality, indeed; actually, factually, accurately, reliably; in fact, in truth, truly, verily; patently, manifestly; intrinsically, inherently, essentially, innately, fundamentally; ultimately, infinitely, infallibly.

—*interj.* 3. naturally, of course, without a doubt, that's right, yes indeed, yes indeed; to be sure, sure thing, *Inf.* you bet, *Inf.* you bet your life, *Inf.* roger, good enough, all right.

absoluteness, *n.* 1. certainty, certitude, sureness, surety, assurance, assuredness, infallibility; positiveness, definiteness, actuality, substantiality, reality; accuracy, correctness, rightness; exactness, exactitude, preciseness, precision; perfection, faultlessness, flawlessness, ideality.

2. independence, self-determination, autonomy, supremacy, sovereignty; unlimitedness, unrestrained power, arbitrariness, despotism, absolutism. See **absolutism**.

absolution, *n.* 1. forgiveness, forgiving, excuse, excusing, shriving, making allowances for; condonation, condoning, overlooking, disregarding, ignoring; acquittal, acquittance, acquitting, comburgation, exculpation, exculpating, clearance, clearing, proof of innocence, removal of guilt; pardon, pardoning, amnesty, remission, remitting, reprieve, reprieving, respite, exoneration, exonerating, warrant, warranting, justification, justifying, vindication, vindicating, righting, avenging.

2. liberation, liberty, liberating, freedom, freeing, setting free, letting go, letting out; emancipation, emancipating, deliverance, delivery, delivering, *Theol.* saving; loosening, disenthralment, disenthraling, unbinding, unfettering; release, releasing, discharge, discharging, dismissal, dismissing; exemption, exempting, indemnity, immunity, impunity, *Rom. Cath. Ch.* dispensation, *Archaic.* franchise.

absolutism, *n.* sovereignty, supremacy, absoluteness; arbitrariness, imperiousness, domination, iron rule; authoritarianism, dictatorship, autocracy, autarchy, despotism, dictatorship, tyranny, totalitarianism, monarchy; Hitlerism, Stalinism, Caesarism, Bonapartism, imperialism, czarism, kaiserism.

absolve, *v.* 1. forgive, excuse, shrive, make allowances for; condone, overlook, disregard, ignore, pay no attention to; acquit, exculpate, clear, prove innocent, uphold innocence, remove guilt; pardon, amnesty, remit, respite, relieve, grant a stay of execution; exonerate, warrant, justify, vindicate, right.

2. liberate, emancipate, free, set free, let go, let out, deliver, ransom, *Both Theol.* save, redeem; loose, loosen, disenthral, unbind, untie, unfetter, unshackle, unchain, unhandcuff, unbridle, unyoke, unmuzzle, *Archaic.* untruss; release, discharge, let off, dismiss, *Inf.* let off the hook; exempt, dispense with, except, exclude, *Rom. Cath. Ch.* dispense.

absorb, *v.* 1. suck up, draw up or in, take up or in, osmose; drink up or in, imbibe; sponge, sponge up, soak up, blot up, sop up; *Physical Chem.* adsorb, gather or gather in.

2. consume, devour, swallow up, digest, engorge, eat up, gobble up; incorporate, assimilate, appropriate, embody, co-opt; engulf, inundate, deluge, swamp, submerge; destroy, overwhelm, whelm, overcome.

3. mesmerize, hypnotize, fix, arrest, rivet, fascinate, enwrap, enthrall, grip, hold, hold spellbound, *Sl.* grab; preoccupy, occupy or seize the mind, engross or engage wholly.

4. (*all of a person's time*) occupy, fill, fill up, take up, use up; monopolize, tie up.

5. understand, comprehend, apprehend, conceive, *Scot.* ken, fathom, follow, *Sl.* dig, *Sl.* savvy; grasp, seize, get the idea, *Inf.* get the picture, *Inf.* get the drift, *Sl.* get, *Inf.* catch on; master, learn; utilize, put to use, make use of, employ.

6. pay for, meet or cover the cost, bear the expense or cost, pay the bill, *Inf.* foot the bill.

absorbed, *adj.* 1. rapt, engrossed, immersed, lost in, buried, deep into [s.t.], wrapped up, *Inf.* into [s.t.]; busy, involved, engaged, occupied, employed; concentrating, focusing, pensive, cerebral, thoughtful, thinking, lost in thought, bemused, musing, *Archaic.* museful; meditative, meditating, contemplative, contemplating, cogitative, cogitating, reflective, reflecting.

2. preoccupied, obsessed, *Sl.* hung up; distracted, diverted, distraught; oblivious, absent-minded.

absorbent, *adj.* porous, spongy, spongy, *Rare.* spongy, permeable, pervious; retentive, absorptive, *Physical Chem.* adsorbent; thirsty, bibbing, bibulous, imbibitory; recipient, receptive, assimilative, digestive; soaking, blotting, sponging, absorbing, sorbefacient, imbibing; resorbent.

absorbing, *adj.* 1. fascinating, captivating, spellbinding, exciting, riveting; interesting, winning, pleasing, engaging, charming, amusing, entertaining, occupying, diverting, distracting; attention-getting, arresting, attracting.

2. preoccupying, obsessional, obsessive, monopolizing; engrossing, immersing, enwrapping, deep.

absorption, *n.* 1. sucking up, drawing up or in, taking up or in, osmosis; drinking up or in, imbibition; sponging, sponging up, soaking up, blotting up, sopping up; digestion, ingestion, ingurgitation; *Physical Chem.* adsorption.

2. consuming, consumption, devouring, engorgement, eating up, gobbling up; incorporation, incorporating, assimilation, assimilating, appropriation, appropriating, embodiment, embodying, insculcation; engulfment, engulfing, inundation, inundating, swallowing up; destroying, overwhelming, overcoming.

3. preoccupation, prepossession, obsession, engrossment, rapt or complete attention, deep or profound thought; concentration, occupation, monopolization;

involvement, immersion; thoughtfulness, pensiveness, intentness, engagement; abstraction, abstractedness, musing, reverie, trance, brown study.

abstain, *v.* 1. refrain from, forbear, desist from, restrain from, hold back from voluntarily; give up, *Inf.* swear off, quit, renounce, resolve or promise to give up; discontinue, stop, cease; let alone, keep one's hands off, turn aside from, hold off from, resist.

2. be teetotal, fast, take the pledge, *Sl.* be on the wagon or water wagon.

3. keep in check, curb, curtail, control; withhold from, deny, abnegate, suppress, repress; refuse, decline, rebuff, reject, spurn; avoid, eschew, shun.

abstainer, *n.* teetotaler, nephalist, nondrinker, water-drinker, hydropot; temperance advocate, prohibitionist, *U.S. Inf.* dry, blue-ribboner, blue-ribbonist, blue-ribbonite; puritan, ascetic; Rechabite, Encratite.

abstemious, *adj.* 1. habitually abstinent, nonindulgent, moderate, temperate; teetotal, nondrinking, sober, not intoxicated or drunk, prohibitory, *U.S.* dry, blue-ribbon; continent, celibate, fasting, dieting; puritanical, puritanlike, austere, self-mortifying, self-depriving; ascetic, self-denying, self-abnegating; refraining, forbearing, desisting, self-restrained, self-controlled.

2. sparing, saving, frugal, thrifty, chary; conservant, conservational, careful, unwasteful, economical, prudent, provident; scrimping, penny-pinching, parsimonious, penurious; miserly, niggardly, stingy, cheap, tight, tight-fisted, close-fisted.

abstemiousness, *n.* 1. teetotalism, nephalism, temperance, sobriety, soberness; prohibition, blue-ribbonism; Rechabitism.

2. habitual abstinence, abstention, nonindulgence, moderation, continence, celibacy, fasting; Puritanism, austerity, self-mortification, self-deprivation; asceticism, self-denial, self-abnegation; refrainment, refraining, forbearance, desistance; restraint, self-restraint, restraining from, control, controlling, self-control; holding off, resisting, resistance.

3. sparingness, frugality, frugalness, thrift, thriftiness, husbandry; careful management, conservation; conserving, saving, economizing, economy; scrimping, penny-pinching, parsimony, parsimoniousness, penuriousness; niggardliness, tightness, tight-fistedness, close-fistedness, stinginess, miserliness, cheapness.

abstention, *n.* holding off, refraining, abstinence. See **abstinence** (defs. 1-3).

abstinence, *n.* 1. teetotalism, nephalism, temperance, sobriety, soberness; prohibition, blue-ribbonism; Rechabitism.

2. abstention, nonindulgence, abstemiousness, moderation, continence, celibacy, fasting; Puritanism, austerity, self-mortification, self-deprivation; asceticism, self-denial, self-abnegation; refrainment, refraining, forbearance, desistance; restraint, self-restraint, restraining from.

3. giving up, *Inf.* swearing off, renouncing, renouncement, renunciation; letting alone, keeping one's hands off, turning aside from, holding off, resisting, resistance; checking, check, curb, curbing, curtail, curtailment, cutting down on; controlling, control, self-control, withholding; suppressing; suppression, repressing, repression; refusal, declining, rebuff, rejection, spurning; avoidance, eschewing, shunning.

4. frugality, frugalness, thrift, thriftiness; husbandry, careful management, conservation; conserving, saving, economizing, economy; sparingness, scrimping, penny-pinching; parsimony, parsimoniousness, penuriousness, niggardliness, stinginess, miserliness, cheapness.

abstinent, *adj.* abstemious, temperate, sparing. See **abstemious** (defs. 1-3).

abstract, *adj.* 1. theoretical, pure, unapplied; conceptual, ideational, notional, abstracted, metaphysical; ideal, transcendental, imaginary, visionary, immaterial, impractical, spiritual, intellectual, (*of art*) non-representational; general, non-particular, not concrete, indefinite.

2. difficult, abstruse, obscure, recondite, profound; enigmatical, mysterious, dark, hidden, remote, incomprehensible; subtle, refined, attenuated, rarefied.

—*n.* 3. summary, epitome, synopsis, compendium, symposium, compilation, digest, conspectus; condensation, abridgment, reduction, compression, abbreviation; analysis, recapitulation; résumé, brief, précis; outline, *Fr. aperçu*, sketch, review, syllabus, prospectus; docket, bulletin, minute; extracts, fragments, cuttings, *analec*tis, clippings, citations.

4. essence, quintessence, pith, heart, core, kernel, marrow, substance; generality, universality; main, common run, average.

—*v.* 5. remove, take away, draw away, detach, separate, disunite, dissociate, disjoin.

6. isolate, prescind, consider by itself; take out of context, view partially, look at one-sidedly; distinguish, discriminate, deduct, analyze.

7. divert, distract, engross, preoccupy.

8. steal, rob, appropriate, take away, seize, purloin, embezzle, plagiarize.

9. summarize, outline, epitomize, synopsis; abridge, abbreviate, shorten, condense, contract, compress, prune, curtail, cut down.

abstracted, *adj.* 1. pensive, thoughtful, thinking, cerebrational, lost in thought, bemused; intent, concentrating, focusing; cogitative, cogitating, deliberative, deliberating, meditative, meditating, contemplative, contemplating, reflective, reflecting; musing, pondering, wondering about, *Archaic*. museful; ruminative, ruminant, ruminating, chewing, chewing one's cud, brooding, mulling over, in a brown study.

2. preoccupied, rapt, absorbed, immersed, engrossed, lost in, consumed, wrapped up, occupied, busy; oblivious, unaware, unconscious, unmindful, insensible, blind; distracted, diverted, distraught, inattentive, unattentive, inadvertent, deaf.

3. absent-minded, dreaming, dreamful, dreamy, napping, sleeping, asleep; daydreaming, stargazing, gazing out of the window, in the clouds, in a trance; absent, withdrawn, remote, removed, distant, far-away, wandering, *Sl.* not at home, *Sl.* out of it.

abstraction, *n.* 1. generality, concept, conception, idea, notion, presumption, supposition, hypothesis, theory; quixoticism, visionary notion, impractical notion, vague representation, daydream, pipe dream.

2. disconnection, isolation, disjunction, partial consideration, taking from context; withdrawal, separation, removal.

3. absent-mindedness, inattention, engrossment, preoccupation, inattentiveness, distraction, absorption; brown study, musing, pensiveness, thoughtfulness, raptness, reverie; aloofness, self-communing.

abstruse, *adj.* profound, deep, esoteric, recondite, abstract; impenetrable, incomprehensible, uncomprehensible, past or beyond comprehension, unknowable, inscrutable, unfathomable, incognizable, indecipherable, undecipherable, beyond understanding; mystic, mystical, cabalistic, occult, supernatural, preternatural, otherworldly, supermundane; mysterious, inexplicable, unexplainable, insoluble, insoluble, unaccountable, *Obs.* inextricable; puzzling, enigmatic, enigmatical; dark, obscure, dim, vague, nebulous.

abstruseness, *n.* profundity, profoundness, depth, deepness, esotericism, esoterism, esotery, reconditeness, abstrusity, abstractness; impenetrability, impenetrableness, incomprehensibility, incomprehensibleness, inscrutability, inscrutableness, unknowableness, unknowability, indecipherability, indecipherableness; mysticity, mysticality, mysticness, cabalism, occultness, supernaturalness, preternaturalness, otherworldliness; mysteriousness, inexplicability, inexplicableness, unexplainableness, insolubility, insolubility, insolubleness; darkness, obscurity, obscureness, dimness, vagueness, nebulousness; obfuscation, obscurantism.

absurd, *adj.* 1. ridiculous, silly, foolish, *Sl.* cock-eyed, childish, tomfoolish; ludicrous, nonsensical, senseless, poppycockish, amphigoric; asinine, idiotic, *Inf.* moronic, pointless, inanè, fatuous, stupid; crazy, mad, wild, insane, demented, daft, *Inf.* daffy, peculiar, unusual, anomalous, strange, odd; empty-headed, harebrained, unintelligent, thoughtless, *Inf.* dumb, dull-witted; funny, laughable, risible, derisible, humorous, droll, comical, farcical.

2. unreasonable, irrational, illogical, meaningless, extravagant, preposterous; imaginary, fantastic, fabulous, illusory, illusive, chimerical; incredible, inconceivable, unimaginable, unthinkable; unbelievable, hard to believe, beyond belief, implausible, untenable, unheard of; doubtful, doubtable, dubitable, questionable.

3. untrue, fallacious, impossible, sophistic, incorrect, erroneous; self-contradictory, paradoxical, inconsistent.

4. inappropriate, improper, incongruous, impractical, unwise, ill-considered, ill-suited, ill-advised; egregious, glaring, flagrant, arrant.

absurdity, *n.* 1. ridiculousness, ridiculosity, silliness, foolishness, folly, childishness, tomfoolery, absurdness; ludicrousness, nonsense, nonsensicalness, nonsensicality, senselessness; amphigory, bosh, poppycock, drivel, gibberish, balderdash, fiddle-faddle; babble, twaddle, prattle; pointlessness, inanity, fatuity, fatuousness, stupidity, bêtise; asininity, idiocy, imbecility; craziness, madness, wildness, insanity, daftness; peculiarity, unusualness, strangeness, oddness; empty-headedness, unintelligence, *Inf.* dumbness, dullness; funniness, humour, joke, comicality.

2. unreasonableness, irrationality, illogic, illogicality, meaninglessness, extravagance, preposterousness; incredibility, inconceivableness, unimaginableness, unbelievableness, implausibility, untenableness, questionableness.

3. untruth, lie, delusion, illusion; self-contradiction, paradox, inconsistency, incongruity, incongruousness; error, fallacy; sophistry, *Logic.* paralogism, *Logic.* hysteron proteron.

abundance, *n.* 1. plenty, plenitude, bounty, cornucopia, horn of plenty, endless supply, *Scot.* scouth or skouth, *Scot. and North Eng.* routh; amplitude, ampleness, fullness, plenteousness, plentifulness, bountifulness, copiousness; richness, exuberance, luxuriance, lavishness; teemingness, rankness, prodigality.

2. quantity, quantities, volume, mass, fund, mine, store; lot, lots, heap, heaps, mountain, mountains, stack, stacks, pile, piles, load, loads, mess, full measure, good or great deal, quite a little, *Sl.* scads; *All Inf.* ton, tons, bag, bags, barrel, barrels, gob, gobs, oodles, *Chiefly Brit.* lashings.

3. excess, surplus, surfeit, oversupply, overflow, nimety, superfluity; glut, plethora, overabundance, superabundance, supersaturation; riot, landslide, bonanza, flood, heap, profusion.

4. generosity, generousness, liberality, liberalism, lib-

eralness, bountifulness, bounteousness, munificence.

5. affluence, wealth, wealthiness, prosperity, prosperousness; opulence, opulency, comfort; money, riches, fortune, treasure; means, resources, wherewithal.

abundant, *adj.* 1. plentiful, plenteous, plenitudinous, *Inf.* plenty, fat, bountiful, bounteous, copious, ample, more than enough; big, large, great, huge, bumper; immeasurable, unmeasured, inexhaustible, bottomless, unstinted; much, many, numerous, *Inf.* two a penny, *Inf.* for the asking; in quantity or quantities, in plenty, *Inf.* aplenty, *Inf.* galore.

2. rich, lavish, luxuriant, rank, thriving, profuse, prodigal, exuberant, superabundant; fruitful, fertile, fecund, productive, prolific, proliferous.

3. full, filled, chock-a-block, *Brit. Inf.* chocker, *Inf.* chock-full, jammed, packed, *Inf.* jam-packed, *Archaic.* fraught; rife, replete, well-supplied, well-provided, well-furnished, well-stocked; abounding, overflowing, overspilling, spilling over, running over, bursting, bristling, thick, thick with; rampant, teeming, teeming with, swarming, swarming with, crawling, crawling with, alive with, *Sl.* lousy with.

4. excessive, extravagant, superfluous, overabundant, oversufficient.

5. generous, liberal, munificent, beneficent.

6. affluent, wealthy, prosperous, fat; opulent, luxurious.

abuse, *v.* 1. misuse, misemploy, misapply, misappropriate; wrong, aggrieve, disrespect, *Sl.* do [s.o.] dirty, *Sl.* kick [s.o.] around; profane, pervert, prostitute; exploit, impose upon, take advantage of, walk all over [s.o.].

2. mistreat, maltreat, mishandle, ill-use, ill-treat, bullyrag; manhandle, maul, batter, *Sl.* knock around or about; beat, beat up, pound, thrash, hit, strike, *Archaic.* belabour; harm, damage, bruise, wound, hurt, pain, injure; persecute, torment, agonize, torture, rack, *Sl.* give [s.o.] the works.

3. revile, vituperate, oppugn, assail, belabour, lash, rail against, inveigh against, *Inf.* sail into, *Inf.* jump down [s.o.'s] throat, *Archaic.* clapperclaw; tongue-lash, curse, execrate, imprecate, anathematize; upbraid, objurgate, excoriate, flay, fulminate against, lambaste; berate, censure, reproach, rebuke, reprove, *Sl.* strafe; vilify, traduce, asperse, calumniate, impugn, slur, malign, defame, denigrate, slander, libel, backbite, bespatter; denounce, decry, disparage, discredit, depreciate, deprecate, belittle, minimize, run or put down, *Inf.* knock; scorn, deride, gibbet, ridicule, mock, lampoon, pasquinade, make fun of.

4. rape, ravish, outrage, violate, molest, deflower, *Obs.* devirginate, *Obs.* constuprate, *Obs.* stuprate, *Archaic.* harrow; assault, attack, *Archaic.* insult.

—*n.* 5. misuse, misemployment, misapplication, misappropriation; exploitation, imposition.

6. revilement, vituperation, assaillment, belabouring; curse, execration, imprecation, malediction, anathematization; ribaldry, scurrility, billingsgate; invective, railing, fulmination, upbraiding, objurgation, contumely, berating, scolding, tongue-lashing; censure, reproach, rebuke, reproof; vilification, impugnement, traducement, aspersion, calumny, calumny, obloquy, slur; maligning, defamation, denigration, slander, libel, *Inf.* backbiting; diatribe, tirade, philippic, denunciation, disparagement, discrediting, depreciation, deprecation, insinuation, belittlement, minimization; scorn, derision, ridicule, mockery.

7. misusage, ill-use, ill-usage, mishandling, mistreatment, maltreatment, ill-treatment; manhandling, mauling, battery, beating, thrashing, child abuse, wife-beating; harming, damage, hurting, injury; persecu-

tion, tormenting, torturing.

8. corruption, wrongdoing, misdeed, fault, *Both Law.* malfeasance, misfeasance, *Chiefly Law.* malversation.

9. rape, ravishment, violation, molestation, defloration, deflowering, devirgination, *Obs.* constupration, *Obs.* stupration; assault, attack, *Archaic.* insult.

abusive, *adj.* 1. affronting, insulting, offensive, off-putting, unbearable, insufferable, intolerable, *Brit. Inf.* beastly, *Archaic.* affrontive; fulminatory, objurgatory, objurgative, contumelious; indecent, vulgar, obscene, lewd, licentious; smutty, filthy, dirty, nasty, foul, vile; ribald, scurrilous, thersitical, foul-mouthed.

2. calumnious, calumnitry, aspersive, slurring, maligning, defamatory, denigrating, slanderous, libellous; vituperative, invective, denunciatory, denunciative, disparaging, depreciatory, depreciative, deprecative, deprecatory, deprecating, derogatory, derogative, belittling; derisive, scornful, mocking.

3. cruel, brutal, brutish, ruthless, mean, harsh, rough; injurious, harmful, hurtful, torturous, tormenting, persecutory.

4. corrupt, venal, crooked, *Law.* malfeasant; misapplied, inappropriate, improper, unauthorized, unjustified, unwarranted, undue; exploitative, exploitative, taking advantage.

abut, *v.* 1. join, adjoin, conjoin, connect, impinge; butt, touch, reach, kiss; juxtapose, meet end to end, border.

2. border on or upon, verge upon, lean on or upon or against; end at, finish at, stop at.

3. support, prop, prop up, bolster, bolster up, hold up, uphold, bear, bear up, upbear, keep up.

abutment, *n.* 1. buttress, bulwark, support, stay, brace, prop, shore, shoulder; wall, retaining wall, supporting wall, thrust wall; jetty, breakwater, pier buttress.

2. junction, connection, apposition, joint; juxtaposition, adjacency, union, contact; contiguity, contiguity, abuttal; conjunction, attachment, adhesion, cohesion.

abuttal, *n.* 1. border, boundary, bound, confine; bourne, terminus, termination, limit; edge, fringe, skirt, verge; abutments, boundaries, bounds, limits, confines, pale, perimeter.

2. adjacency, juxtaposition, contiguity, contiguousness; union, conjunction, convergence, confluence; meeting, joining, bordering, edging.

abutting, *adj.* adjacent, next to, *Inf.* right next to, *Inf.* next door; contiguous, bordering, edging, skirting; joining, adjoining, conjoining, touching, meeting, converging.

abysmal, *adj.* immeasurable, unfathomable, unfathomed, fathomless, bottomless, boundless, endless, infinite; deep, profound, abyssal; cavernous, yawning, gaping, plunging; great, vast, immense, enormous, huge, prodigious, stupendous.

abyss, *n.* 1. void, gulf, gap, bottomless pit, abysm, yawning abyss; cavity, hole, pit, depth, shaft; gorge, canyon, ravine, chasm; cleft, fissure, crevice, crevasse; the deep, the depths, ocean depths, bottomless depths.

2. profundity, profoundness, *Archaic.* profound, deepness; impenetrability, impenetrableness, incomprehensibility, incomprehensibleness, inscrutability, inscrutableness, unknowableness; mysticity, mysticity, mysticalness, cabalism, occultness.

3. (all in ancient cosmogony) a. chaos, primal chaos, pandemonium, discord, confusion; b. hell, inferno, infernal pit, Hades, perdition; netherworld, underworld, lower world, bowels of the earth.

academic, *adj.* 1. educational, educatory, instruc-

tional, pedagogical, academical; collegiate, college, university, scholastic, school; formal, institutional.

2. *All U.S.* humanistic, classical, philosophical, scientific, cultural; humanities, liberal arts, literature, language, fine arts, philosophy, natural or social science.

3. theoretical, hypothetical, abstract, notional, idealistic, speculative, *Archaic*. speculative; unrealistic, impractical, ivory-towerish, utopian, visionary, starry-eyed, quixotic, chimerical; irrelevant, nongermane, beside the point, immaterial, inappropriate, useless, vain.

4. learned, scholarly, erudite, lettered, literary, well-read, studious, *Derog.* bookish; cultured, artistic, *Inf.* arty, *Inf.* longhair or longhaired; well-educated, conversant, versed, well-versed, knowledgeable; intellectual, cerebral, brainy, highbrow or highbrowed; pedantic, pedagogical, professorial, donnish, pompous.

5. conventional, conforming, traditional, orthodox; standard, accepted, ordinary, usual; tradition-bound, rule-bound, uncreative, unimaginative, literal; prosaic, commonplace, trite, stale, hackneyed; vapid, empty, dull, boring.

—*n.* 6. scholar, student, pupil, collegian; professor, doctor, master, tutor, fellow, *Brit.* don, instructor, preceptor, lector, lecturer, docent, teacher, pedagogue, educator; schoolman, scholastic, academician, academe, gownsman.

7. savant, pundit, man of letters, one of the cognoscenti, one of the literati, member of the intelligentsia; intellectual, thinker, *Rare, Derog.* phrontist, literate, bibliophile; aesthete, *Inf.* longhair, bluestocking; pedant, pettifogger, hairsplitter; bookworm, highbrow, *Inf.* egghead, *Inf.* walking encyclopædia, *Inf.* know-it-all.

academician, *n.* fellow, scholar, savant, man of letters, artist, scientist, member of an academy. See **academic** (defs. 6, 7).

academy, *n.* 1. secondary school, high school, *Brit.* grammar school, (in France) lycée; preparatory school, *Inf.* prep school, *U.S.* private school, *Brit.* public school, boarding school, day school, seminary, institute, finishing school; classical school, Latin school, (in Germany) gymnasium.

2. school, college, university, educational establishment, *Disparaging*. phrontistery or phrontisterion; conservatory, polytechnic.

3. learned association or institution, athenaeum, fellowship of artists or scientists; club, coterie, circle.

4. cognoscenti, literati, intelligentsia, standard-setters, pace-makers, leaders, avant-gardists, trend-setters; *Usu.* *Disparaging*. the establishment, *Inf.* the powers-that-be.

accede, *v.* 1. (*usu. fol. by to*) assent, consent, grant, allow, let, permit, approve of, go along with.

2. concede, acquiesce, yield, submit, comply, adhere, conform.

3. (*usu. of an office, title, or position*) attain, assume, succeed to, enter upon, inherit; arrive at, reach, come to.

accelerate, *v.* 1. advance, promote, further, forward, help onward, facilitate; progress, succeed, thrive, prosper, flourish, grow; develop, improve, increase, add to, augment.

2. hasten, hurry, hustle, precipitate, antedate, *Archaic*. dispatch; expedite, speed or step up, quicken, urge on or forward, press or move forward; drive, incite, goad, spur, stimulate, energize, impel, compel, force, push on.

3. speed up, increase in speed or velocity, move or go faster, *Sl.* jazz up; pick up, *Sl.* open up, skyrocket,

rise; (*all of an engine*) gun, *Sl.* give the gun, race, *Inf.* rev up, *Sl.* vroom, *Sl.* step on the gas.

4. concentrate, intensify, compress, contract, compact; boil down, reduce, abbreviate, skim, gloss over, pass over.

acceleration, *n.* 1. speeding up, speed-up, increase in speed or velocity, *Sl.* jazzing up; picking up, *Sl.* opening up, skyrocketing, rising; (*all of an engine*) gunning, *Sl.* giving the gun, racing, *Inf.* revving up, *Sl.* vrooming, *U.S.* *Sl.* giving the gas, *Sl.* stepping on the gas.

2. hastening, hurrying, hustling, precipitation, antedating; expedition, speed, promptness, dispatch; stepping up, quickening; urging on, pressing forward, driving; incitement, incitation, prompting, stimulation, energizing; advance, advancement, furtherance, promotion, movement forward, facilitation.

accent, *n.* 1. emphasis, stress, accentuation, syllable stress, primary or secondary or tertiary stress, weak stress; attack, delivery, force of utterance; cadence, beat, rhythm, rhythm pattern, rhythmical emphasis, *Music*. rhythmical accentuation, *Music*. arsis or upbeat, *Music*. thesis or downbeat, *Pros.* ictus, prominent pulsation.

2. mark, accent mark, stress mark, character, symbol; diacritic, diacritical mark, tilde, circumflex, circumflex mark, cedilla.

3. pitch, timbre, tone, tone of voice, voice; intonation, intonation pattern, inflection, modulation; mood, tenor, significance.

4. pronunciation, articulation, enunciation, vocalization, utterance; speech pattern, manner of speaking, mode of expression.

5. regional accent, foreign accent; drawl, twang, brogue, burr, broad accent or speech; *Brit.* received standard, public school accent.

6. accents, language, speech, speaking, talk, talking, words, discourse; chatter, palaver, prattle, *Inf.* gab, *Sl.* yakketty-yak.

—*v.* 7. accentuate, stress, emphasize, lay stress or emphasis upon, give emphasis to, punctuate; underline, underscore, point up, italicize, call attention to; feature, highlight, spotlight, give prominence to; intensify, strengthen, deepen, heighten.

accentuate, *v.* stress, emphasize, lay stress or emphasis upon, give emphasis to, punctuate; underline, underscore, italicize, point up, call attention to; feature, highlight, spotlight, give prominence to; intensify, strengthen, deepen, heighten.

accept, *v.* 1. receive, take, gain, acquire, get, secure, come by.

2. accede to, acquiesce in, assent to, submit to, abide by, comply with, go along with; be in line with; agree to, take [s.o.] up on [s.t.], say "yes" to.

3. undertake, assume, take on, tackle, be willing to bear, become responsible for; begin, commence, enter upon, set about.

4. accommodate oneself to, reconcile oneself to, resign oneself to; suffer, endure, bear, tolerate, brook, take patiently, abide, accept, stand, withstand, submit to, put up with; swallow, digest, stomach, pocket; face the music, take one's medicine, take it.

5. adopt, avow, confirm, believe, acknowledge, *Inf.* swallow, *Inf.* buy, go for; assume, credit, regard, esteem, value; understand, absorb, apprehend, perceive, penetrate, recognize; construe, interpret, put a sense upon.

acceptable, *adj.* 1. worthy, deserving, competent, good enough; meritorious, estimable, praiseworthy, laudable, commendable, admirable, creditable; suitable, fit, seemly, proper, decorous; appropriate, apt, apposite, apropos; meet, due, just, right, fitting, befitting;