

CHAMBERS TWENTIETH CENTURY DICTIONARY

Edited by A M Macdonald BA(Oxon)

W & R Chambers

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Publisher's preface

Chambers Twentieth Century Dictionary has always faithfully reflected changes in a living language. Now the pace of change has increased rapidly, for many diverse influences are at work, and a new version has had to be prepared.

There have been revolutionary developments in the sciences and technology, and the influence of mass media has made new scientific and technical terms no longer the monopoly of the specialist. The hitherto somewhat rigid barrier between formal and colloquial English is collapsing to such an extent that some contemporary fiction is virtually unintelligible to those without a wide colloquial vocabulary. Again, the hitherto largely artificial gulf between 'English' and 'American English' is being bridged. At the same time Britain's closer ties with Europe are increasing the number of foreign words and phrases likely to be encountered by the reader of English.

As the 1970s dawned, it became clear that our normal continuous and painstaking revision of the existing text was inadequate for modern needs. A fundamental reappraisal was begun.

This, then, is the first entirely new edition of the *Twentieth Century Dictionary* in twenty years. For many years the most comprehensive dictionary designed for general use, it has now been brought fully abreast of the 1970s in its coverage of everyday language and affairs.

The continuing aim is to provide, in convenient and easily legible form, a comprehensive vocabulary aid for the present-day reader, speaker and writer of English. We have retained all the features which have made the *Twentieth Century Dictionary* the valued companion of the literary reader and writer, but the whole work has been thoroughly re-examined. To a large extent, however, we have concentrated on recording the changes taking place in contemporary English.

This new edition is almost one-fifth longer than its predecessor. In part this is due to the increased size of type: the main reason for the greater length, however, is the vast amount of additional material.

Many of the words and phrases added such as *fibre optics*, *free-rider*, *genetic engineering*, *hologram*, *jet set*, *patrial*, *running mate*, *solar noise*, *value-added tax* and *velodrome* are new. Other, older words (and these form a very important category) have recently acquired new and highly specialised meanings which have been added in this edition: for example, *capsule*, *core*, *dish*, *gay*, *gutsy*, *kitsch*, *module*, *stewardship*, *underground*, and *viable*.

This new edition is catholic and broadminded in its noting of colloquialisms and slang terms, as these may now be considered an integral part of spoken and written English. For example, definitions are given of such words as *drop out*, *hang-up*, *switched on*, *turn on*, *uptight* and *whizz-kid*.

Examples of the large number of foreign words and phrases appearing in the main text are *actualités*, *antipasto*, *apparatchik*, *batterie de cuisine*, *gesellschaft* and *souk*. American words in current use are no longer denied full acceptance by being glossed 'U.S.' and American spellings such as the following are given as alternatives: *defence*, in U.S. *defense*; *anaesthesia*, in U.S. *anesthesia*; *manoeuvre*, in U.S. *maneuver*; *moulding*, in U.S. *molding*.

Other distinguishing features are the detailed etymologies, the pronunciation guides, the appendices, the idiomatic turns of speech and, last but not least, the literary words from the sixteenth century onwards which have for so long made *Chambers Twentieth Century Dictionary* the chosen companion of the omnivorous general reader as well as the crossword addict's favourite tool.

Many hundreds of new words and meanings from many sources have been collected by the dictionary staff, but we are indebted also to scores of users of the dictionary who have sent in words and lists of words. We value greatly the interest they have shown.

The excellence and comprehensive nature of the *Twentieth Century Dictionary* still owes much to the sure foundations laid by three former Editors: Rev. Thomas Davidson, William Geddie MA BSc and John M. Dickie MA. The immense task of preparing this new edition has been directed throughout by Miss A. M. Macdonald BA whose experience of dictionary making is probably unrivalled. Her knowledge, advice and help have always been readily given to her colleagues, among whom Mrs E. Kirkpatrick MA and Miss P. Kerr MA have been the principal assistant editors. To all of them we, the publishers, wish to express our appreciation.

Notes to the user of the dictionary

The Arrangement of Entries

(1) In order to save space, words from the same root have often been grouped together under a headword, but cross-references have been included where these seemed necessary. Thus, we have given '**patrology**' (see **patristic**), but not '**coolness**' (see **cool**'). Where elementary word-building is concerned, we have sometimes left the reader to make words for himself. Nowadays most adjectives can be used to make nouns in **-ness**, but we do not claim to have given a noun in **-ness** with every possible adjective. Similarly, we have not always noted that a present participle in **-ing** can be made from a verb and used also as an adjective or noun.

(2) Derivatives are not listed in crude alphabetical order but in a more logical form. The direct derivatives, i.e. the headword with an inseparable suffix, come first. These are followed by compound words beginning with the headword and then by phrases containing the headword. In each of the three groups terms appear in alphabetical order.

Labels

(3) The position of the classifying or descriptive labels attached to words and meanings is significant. A label relating to *grammatical form* appears before the word or meaning to which it applies. A label relating to *classification* (e.g. *coll.*, *slang*, *obs.*, *chem.*, *elect.*, *psych.*) precedes the list of meanings where it applies to all the meanings given. Where a label applies to only one meaning of a word it immediately follows that meaning.

Key to Pronunciation

The key to the long vowels and diphthongs (appearing at every opening of the dictionary) is:

fāte, fār; mē, hūr (her); mine; mōte, fōr; mūte; mōōn, fōōt

Neutral vowels in unaccented syllables are usually represented by *a*, as *el'ə-mənt*, *ran'dəm*.

The consonants need little explanation.

- dh** is used for the initial sound of **then**
- zh** is used for the sound of **s** in **pleasure**

gz is used for the sound of **x** in **example**
(h)w is used for the sound of **wh** in **when**
 (the use of parentheses round **h** shows the two possible pronunciations)
hh is used for any open guttural (Scots or German) as in **loch**
ngg is used for the sound of **ng** in **linger**
ngk is used for the sound of **nk** in **monkey**

For those who desire it, a detailed chart of pronunciation is given over-leaf.

Etymologies

The etymology is given in square brackets at the end of each article. The sign — is to be read 'derived from'. Whatever follows after a semicolon is not the source of the word but a word from the same ultimate source.

A point to note is that German nouns have not been given the initial capital letter, as in an English dictionary the capital might mislead.

Literary Words

In cases where the use of a word by a particular author is the main reason for its inclusion, the author is usually named. Often, however, the word is found also in other writers of the same period. Scots words have been included because they were used by eighteenth- and nineteenth-century writers who are generally regarded as being in the mainstream of English literature.

Detailed chart of pronunciation

Respelling is a rough method of showing pronunciation compared with the use of phonetic symbols, but it has two merits—it is intelligible to a large number of people who do not know phonetic symbols, and it allows for more than one interpretation so that each user of the dictionary may choose a pronunciation in keeping with the rest of his speech.

Vowels and Diphthongs in Accented Syllables

Sound		Examples	Pronunciation
<i>ā</i>	as in (1)	fate	<i>nām, ād, rān</i>
	(2)	bare	<i>tār, wār, hār, ār</i>
<i>ā</i>	(1)	father	<i>grās, pāth</i>
	(2)	far	<i>hārm, hārt, pām</i>
<i>a</i>	"	sat	<i>bād, hav</i>
<i>ē</i>	(1)	me	<i>lēn, kēl, dēn, chēf, sēz</i>
	(2)	fear	<i>gēr, shēr, hēr, bēr</i>
<i>e</i>	"	pet	<i>red, thrēd, sed, ber'i</i>
<i>i</i>	(1)	mine	<i>sīd, shī, dī, hīt</i>
	(2)	sire	<i>hīr, bīr</i>
<i>i</i>	"	bid	<i>pīn, bīz'i, hīm</i>
<i>ō</i>	(1)	mote	<i>bōn, rōd, jō, lō, dō</i>
	(2)	more	<i>fōr, sōr, flōr, pōrt</i>
(For alternative pronunciation of port, more, etc., see <i>ō</i>)			
<i>o</i>	"	got	<i>shot, shon</i>
<i>ō</i>	(1)	all	<i>hōl, lōn, fōl, bōt</i>
	(2)	for	<i>swōrm, pōrt, mōr</i>
(For alternative pronunciation of port, more, etc., see <i>ō</i>)			
<i>ōō</i>	(1)	moon	<i>fōol, sōō</i>
	(2)	poor	<i>bōōr, fōōr</i>
<i>ōō</i>	"	foot	<i>gōōd, fōōl, wōōd</i>
<i>ū</i>	(1)	mute	<i>tūn, dū, nūt, vū</i>
	(2)	pure	<i>en-dūr</i>
<i>u</i>	"	bud	<i>run, luv</i>
<i>ū</i>	"	her	<i>hūrd, būrd, wūrd, ab-sūrd'</i>
<i>ow</i>	(1)	house	<i>mōwnl, frown</i>
	(2)	hour	<i>sowr</i>
<i>oi</i>	"	boy	<i>tōi, bōi, sōil</i>

Vowels in Unaccented Syllables

Neutral vowels in unaccented syllables are usually shown by means of a turned *e* or schwa—

e.g. *el'ā-mənt, in'fənt, ran'dəm, pre'shəs* (precious), *nā'char* (nature)

In certain cases, the unaccented vowel is more exactly represented by the symbol *i*—

e.g. *ē'vil, bi'hōld', bles'id, man'ij, di-menz'*

Consonants

Sound		Examples	Pronunciation
ch	as in	church	<i>much, mach, lunch (or lunsh)</i>
d	"	dog	<i>a-dō', dū</i>
dh	"	then	<i>fā'dhər</i>
f	"	fade	<i>fānt, fāz, ruf</i>
g	"	game	<i>gold, gārd, gāst'li</i>
gz	"	example	<i>hgz-akt'</i>
h	"	home	<i>hap'i</i>
hh	"	loch	<i>kor'a-nūhh, lep'ra-khōn</i>
(h)w	"	white	<i>(h)wāl, (h)wich</i>
j	"	jack, gentle, ledge, region	<i>jak, jen'ti, lej, rē'jən</i>
k	"	king	<i>kēp, kat, kār'as (kār')</i>
ks	"	six	<i>laks, veks</i>
kw	"	queen	<i>kwil, kwu-far'</i>
ng	"	sing	<i>fling, long'ing</i>
ngg	"	finger	<i>sing'gi, long'gar, lang'gar</i>
ngk	"	monkey	<i>prē'singkt, a'ungkt</i>
s	"	sad	<i>sōlt (solt), slt'i, sār'kit, sēn, mas</i>
sh	"	ship	<i>shin, mō-shēn', shōōr, lunsh (or lunch), āsh-i-at'ik (or ā-zhi-at'-ik)</i>
th	"	thin	<i>thrē</i>
y	"	yes	<i>yung, bast'yən, kwest'yən</i>
z	"	zebra	<i>zōō, wor, rōdz</i>
zh	"	pleasure	<i>azh'ar (or ā'thūr), mez'h'ar, kō-zhā, ā-zhi-at'ik (or āsh-i-at'ik)</i>

Additional Sounds in Foreign Words

Sound		Examples	Pronunciation
e	as in	père	<i>mem, metr'</i>
a	"	deux	<i>fə, pə</i>
æ	"	fleur	<i>kær, kær</i>
ü	(1) Fr. sur	luminaire	<i>lū-mēn-er</i>
	(2) Ger. über	Führer	<i>fu'rər</i>
	(nearly ē)		

Nasalised vowels

ā	"	blanc	sang, temps, dent	<i>sā, tā, dū</i>
ē	"	main	faim, vin, plein	<i>fē, vē, plē</i>
ī	"	mon	tomber, long, sonde	<i>tī-bā, fī, sīd</i>
ē	"	lundi	humble, un	<i>ēbl, ā</i>

An apostrophe is used to mark such pronunciations as *t'h* (where the sound is two separate consonants). It is also used in words such as *timbre (tēbr')*.

List of abbreviations used in the dictionary

abbrev.	abbreviation	dial.	dialect(al)	med.	medicine
abl.	ablative	Dict.	Dictionary	metaph.	metaphysics
acc.	according	dim.	diminutive	meteor.	meteorology
accus.	accusative	dub.	doubtful	mil.	military
adj(s).	adjective(s)	E.	East	Milt.	Milton
adv(s).	adverb(s)	econ.	economics	min.	mineralogy
aero.	aeronautics	e.g.	(<i>L. exempli gratia</i>) for example	mod.	modern
agri.	agriculture			mus.	music
alch.	alchemy	elect.	electricity	myth.	mythology
alg.	algebra	entom.	entomology	N.	North
anat.	anatomy	erron.	erroneous(ly)	n(i).	noun(s)
anc.	ancient(ly)	esp.	especially	nat. hist.	natural history
ani.	antiquities	etym.	etymology	naut.	nautical
anthrop.	anthropology	facet.	facetiously	neg.	negative
aor.	aorist	fam.	familiar, family	neut.	neuter
app.	apparently	fem.	feminine	nom.	nominative
approx.	approximately	fig.	figurative(ly)	n.pl.	noun plural
arch.	archaeology	fl.	floruit	n.sing.	noun singular
archaeol.	archaeology	fol.	followed, following	N.T.	New Testament (A.V.)
archit.	architecture	fort.	fortification	North.	Northern
arith.	arithmetic	freq.	frequentative	obs.	obsolete
astrol.	astrology	fut.	future	opp.	opposed, opposite
astron.	astronomy	gen.	genitive	opt.	optics
at. numb.	atomic number	gen(er).	generally	org.	organic
attrib.	attributive(ly)	geog.	geography	orig.	original(ly), origin
augm.	augmentative	geol.	geology	O.S.	Old Style
A.V.	Authorised Version	geom.	geometry	O.T.	Old Testament (A.V.)
		ger.	gerundive	p.	participle
B.	Bible (A.V.)	gram.	grammar	p.adj.	participial adjective
biol.	biology	her.	heraldry	paint.	painting
book-k.	book-keeping	hist.	history	palaeog.	palaeography
bot.	botany	hort.	horticulture	pa.p.	past participle
		hyperb.	hyperbolically	part.	participle
c.	(<i>L. circa</i>) about	i.e.	(<i>L. id est</i>) that is	pass.	passive
cap.	capital	illit.	illiterate	pat.	past tense
cent.	century	imit.	imitative	path.	pathology
cf	(<i>L. confer</i>) compare	imper.	imperative	perf.	perfect
chem.	chemistry	impers.	impersonal(ly)	perh.	perhaps
cog.	cognate	incl.	including	pers.	person(al)
coll.	colloquial(ly)	indic.	indicative	petr.	petrology
collec.	collective(ly)	infin.	infinitive	px.	prefix
comp.	composition	inten(s).	intensive	phil(os).	philosophy
compar.	comparative	interj(s).	interjection(s)	philol.	philology
conj(s).	conjunction(s)	interrog.	interrogative(ly)	phon.	phonetics
conn.	connected, connection	intrans.	intransitive	phot.	photography
		irreg.	irregular(ly)	phys.	physics
contr.	contraction, contracted, contraction	lit.	literal(ly)	physiol.	physiology
cook.	cookery	log.	logic	pl.	plural
corr.	corruption, corresponding	mach.	machinery	poet.	poetical
crystal.	crystallography	masc.	masculine	pol. econ.	political economy
dat.	dative	math.	mathematics	pop.	popular(ly)
demons.	demonstrative	mech.	mechanics	poss.	possessive, possibly
der.	derived				
derog.	derogatory, derogatorily				

<i>Pr. Bk.</i>	Book of Common Prayer	<i>rel. rhet.</i>	related, relative rhetoric	<i>term. theat.</i>	termination theatre, theatrical
<i>pr. p.</i>	present participle	<i>R. V.</i>	Revised Version	<i>theol. trans.</i>	theology transitive, translation
<i>prep(s).</i>	preposition(s)	<i>S.</i>	South	<i>trig. TV</i>	trigonometry television
<i>pres.</i>	present	<i>sculp.</i>	sculpture	<i>ult.</i>	ultimately
<i>pret.</i>	preterite	<i>Shak.</i>	Shakespeare	<i>usu.</i>	usually
<i>print.</i>	printing	<i>sig.</i>	signifying	<i>vb(s).</i>	verb(s)
<i>priv.</i>	privative	<i>sing.</i>	singular	<i>v(s).i.</i>	verb(s) intransitive
<i>prob.</i>	probably	<i>specif.</i>	specifically	<i>voc.</i>	vocative
<i>pron(s).</i>	pronoun(s)	<i>Spens.</i>	Spenser	<i>v(s).t. vulg.</i>	verb(s) transitive vulgar
<i>pron.</i>	pronounced, pronunciation	<i>subj.</i>	subjunctive	<i>W.</i>	West
<i>prop.</i>	properly	<i>suff.</i>	suffix	<i>zool.</i>	zoology
<i>pros.</i>	prosody	<i>superl(s).</i>	superlative(s)		
<i>psych.</i>	psychology	<i>surg.</i>	surgery		
<i>q.v., qq.v.(pl.)</i>	which see	<i>s.v.</i>	(<i>L. sub verba</i>) under the word		
<i>R.C.</i>	Roman Catholic	<i>telecomm.</i>	telecommunications		
<i>redup.</i>	reduplication, reduplicated	<i>teleg.</i>	telegraphy		
<i>refl(ex).</i>	reflexive				

<i>A.F.</i>	Anglo-French	<i>Heb.</i>	Hebrew	<i>O.H.G.</i>	Old High German
<i>Afri.</i>	Afrikaans	<i>Hind.</i>	Hindustani	<i>O.Ir.</i>	Old Irish
<i>Amer.</i>	American	<i>Hung.</i>	Hungarian	<i>O.N.</i>	Old Norse
<i>Angl.</i>	Anglian	<i>Ice(I).</i>	Icelandic (Modern)	<i>O.N.Fr.</i>	Old Northern French
<i>Ar.</i>	Arabic	<i>Ind.</i>	Indian	<i>O.Sax.</i>	Old Saxon
<i>Austr.</i>	Australian	<i>Ir.</i>	Irish	<i>Pers.</i>	Persian
<i>Bar.</i>	Bavarian	<i>It.</i>	Italian	<i>Peruv.</i>	Peruvian
<i>Beng.</i>	Bengali	<i>Jap.</i>	Japanese	<i>Pol.</i>	Polish
<i>Bohem.</i>	Bohemian	<i>Jav.</i>	Javanese	<i>Port.</i>	Portuguese
<i>Braz.</i>	Brazilian	<i>L.</i>	Latin	<i>Prov.</i>	Provençal
<i>Bret.</i>	Breton	<i>L.G., L.Ger.</i>	Low German	<i>Rom.</i>	Roman
<i>Celt.</i>	Celtic	<i>Lith.</i>	Lithuanian	<i>Russ.</i>	Russian
<i>Chin.</i>	Chinese	<i>L.L.</i>	Low or Late Latin	<i>S.Afr.</i>	South African
<i>Copt.</i>	Coptic	<i>M.Du.</i>	Middle Dutch	<i>Sans.</i>	Sanskrit
<i>Corn.</i>	Cornish	<i>M.E.</i>	Middle English	<i>Scand.</i>	Scandinavian
<i>Dan.</i>	Danish	<i>Mex.</i>	Mexican	<i>Scot.</i>	Scottish (Broad Scots)
<i>Du.</i>	Dutch	<i>M.Flem.</i>	Middle Flemish	<i>Sinh.</i>	Sinhalese
<i>Egypt.</i>	Egyptian	<i>M.Fr.</i>	Middle French	<i>Slav.</i>	Slavonic
<i>Eng.</i>	English	<i>M.H.G.</i>	Middle High German	<i>Sp.</i>	Spanish
<i>Finn.</i>	Finnish	<i>M.L.G.</i>	Middle Low German	<i>Sw.</i>	Swedish
<i>Flem.</i>	Flemish	<i>Nornt.</i>	Norman	<i>Turk.</i>	Turkish
<i>Fr.</i>	French	<i>Norw.</i>	Norwegian	<i>U.K.</i>	United Kingdom
<i>Fris.</i>	Frisian	<i>O.E.</i>	Old English	<i>U.S.</i>	United States (often includes Canadian)
<i>Gael.</i>	Gaelic	<i>O.Fr.</i>	Old French	<i>W.</i>	Welsh
<i>Ger.</i>	German	<i>O.Fris.</i>	Old Frisian	<i>W.S.</i>	West Saxon
<i>Gmc.</i>	Germanic				
<i>Goth.</i>	Gothic				
<i>Gr.</i>	Greek				

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A

A, a, ā, n. the first letter in our alphabet, as in the Roman, etc. (see *aleph*, *alpha*); in music, the major sixth of the scale of C: of first class or order, or of a class arbitrarily designated **A**: see *blood-group*: designating the principal series of paper sizes, ranging from A0 (841 × 1189 mm.) to A10 (26 × 37 mm.): as a mediaeval Roman numeral **A** = 50 or 500; **Ā** = 5000.—**Ā** (*ā wun*), the symbol for a first-class vessel in Lloyd's Register: hence first-rate; **A'** = bomb, atomic bomb; **A'** = effect (see *alienation*); **A'** = level (*n.*, *adj.*), (examination at end of school course) demanding an advanced knowledge of a school subject: a pass in an **A**-level (advanced); **A'** = road, a trunk or a principal road.
a, ā, also (esp. emphatic) *adj.* the indefinite article, a broken down form of an used before a consonant sound. [O.E. *ān*, one.]
A, ā, ȁ, (*diac.*) *pron.* a monophthongised form of *I*.
a, ā, ȁ, (*diac.*) *pron.* he: she: it: they. [O.E. *hē*, *he*, *hēo*, she, *hie*, they.]
a, ā, ȁ, Scots and Northern form of *all*.—*pron.* a'body, everybody.—*adv.* a'gate, every way.—*body* a'thing, everything.—*adv.* a'where, everywhere.
a, ā, a reduced form of the O.E. prep. *an*, *on*, *on*, *in*, chiefly used in composition as a prefix, as abroad, asleep, occasionally used separately as a preposition; as *once a year*.
ā, a form of the Latin prep. *ab*, from, of, as in Thomas à Kempis (Thomas from Kempen).
aardvark, *ār'vārk* (S.Afr.), *ār'd'vārk*, *n.* the anteater, a South African edentate. [Du. *aarde*, earth, *varck* (how *varcken*), pig.]
ardwolf, *ār't'volf* (S.Afr.), *ār'd'wōlf*, *n.* the earth-wolf, a hyena-like South African carnivore. [Du. *aarde*, earth, *wolf*, wolf.]
Aaronic, -al, *ā-rō'n'ik*, -al, *adis.* pertaining to Aaron, the Jewish high-priest: pontifical.—Aaron's beard, a saxifrage, grown dangling from pots: the great St John's wort: ivy-leaved toadflax, or other plant; Aaron's rod, mullein, golden-rod, or other plant, with tall straight flowering stem.
aasvogel, *ās'fōl* (S.Afr.), *ās'fō-gəl*, *n.* a South African vulture. [Du. *aas*, carrion, *vogel*, bird.]
Ab, ab, n. the eleventh civil, fifth ecclesiastical month of the Jewish Calendar (parts of July and August). [Syriac.]
ab, ab, pfx. used to indicate a centimetre-gram-second electromagnetic unit (e.g. *abamperes*, *abvolt*, equivalent respectively to 10 amperes, 10⁻⁸ volts). [Absolute.]
aba, abba, ā'ba, or *abaya*, *a-bā'ya*, *n.* a Syrian cloth, of goat's or camel's hair, usually striped: an outer garment made of it. [Ar. *ābā*, *ābāya*.]
abaca, ā-bā-kā, *n.* a plantain grown in the Philippine Islands: its fibre, called Manila hemp. [Tagalog.]
aback, ā-bak', *adv.* backwards: said of sails pressed backward against the mast by the wind (*naut.*)—hence (*fig.*) taken aback, taken by surprise. [O.E. *on bæc*, on back.]
abactinal, ab-ak'ti-nal, ab-ak'ti-nal, (*zool.*) *adj.* remote from the actinal area: without rays.—*adv.* abactinally.
abactor, ab-ak'tor, *n.* cattle thief. [L.L.]
abacus, ab'ak-us, *n.* a counting-frame: a level tablet on the capital of a column, supporting the entablature (*archit.*)—*pl.* *ab'aci* (-*ci*). [L. *abacus*—Gr. *abax*, *akos*.]
āte, fā, mē, hū (het); *mine; mōte, fōr; mūte; mōm, fōr; then* (then)

Abaddon, ā-bad'an, n. Apollyon: hell (*Mitt.*). [Heb. *abadōn*, from *abad*, to be lost.]
abait, ā-bā't, (*naut.*) *adv.* and *prep.* behind. [Prep. a and O.E. *befian*, after—pfx. *be-*, *astan*. See *ast*.]
abalone, ā-bā-lō'nā, n. the sea-ear, especially a richly coloured kind found on the Pacific coast of North America. [Uncertain origin.]
abandon, ā-ban'dan, v.i. to give up: to desert: to yield (oneself) without restraint: to give up all claims to: to banish (*Shak.*)—*n.* (sometimes as *Fr. ā-bā-dō*) condition of letting oneself go: careless freedom of action.—*v.i.* *aband*, to abandon (*Spens.*)—*adj.* *abandoned*, completely deserted: given up, as to a vice: profligate: very wicked.—*adv.* *abandonedly*.—*ns.* *abandonnee* (*law*), an insurer to whom a wreck has been abandoned; *abandonment*. [O.Fr. *abandoner*, to put at one's disposal or in one's control (*abandon*), or to the ban; see *han*.]
ā bas, ā bā, interj. (Fr.) down, down with!
abase, ā-bās, v.i. to lower: to cast down: to humble: to degrade.—*adj.* *abased*, lowered.—*n.* *abassement*. [O.Fr. *abaissier*, to bring low—L. *ad*, to, L.L. *bassus*, low.]
abash, ā-bash, v.i. to strike with shame: to put out of countenance: to astound: to confound.—*adj.* *abashed*; *abashless*, shameless: *unabashed*.—*n.* *abashment*. [O.Fr. *esbahir*—pfx. *es-* (L. *ex*, out), *bahir*, to astound—interj. *bah*.]
abask, ā-bāsk', adv. in genial warmth. [*bask*.]
abate, ā-bāt', v.i. to demolish (*obs.*): to put an end to (*law*): to nullify, to bring down (*law*): to lessen: to deduct (with *of*): to mitigate: to blunt: to curtail (*Shak.*): to except (*Shak.*)—*v.i.* to grow less: to subside: to be abated (*law*).—*adj.* *abatable*; *abated*, blunted: diminished: lowered: subdued: beaten down or cut away, as the background of relief.—*n.* *abatement*, the act or process of abating: the sum or quantity abated: state of being abated: the abandonment of an action, or the reduction of a legacy (*law*): a supposed mark of dishonour on a coat of arms (*her.*)—apparently never actually used. [O.Fr. *abaire*, to beat down—L. *ab*, from, and L.L. *battere*, for L. *battere*, to beat.]
abate, ā-bāt', v.i. and *v.t.* (*refl.*) to intrude on a freehold, and take possession before the heir.—*ns.* *abatement*; *abate'or*. [O.Fr. *embaire*, to thrust in.]
**abatir, ā-bat'is, ā-bat'is, -is (*fort.*) *n.* a rampart of felled trees, branches outward.—*pl.* *abat'(is)* (-*is*). [Fr.; see *abat* (1).]
abat-jour, ā-bā-zhō'r, (Fr.) a skylight: a screen or shutter.
abattoir, ā-bā-twā'r, n. a public slaughterhouse. [Fr.; see *abate* (1).]
abatir, ā-bat'is, (Fr.) cast down, dejected.
abature, ā-bā-chor, n. the trail through underwood beaten down by a stag. [Fr.; see *abate* (1).]
abat-voix, ā-bā-vōd, (Fr.) a sounding-board.
abaxial, ab-ak'si-al, (bot.) *adj.* away from the axis. [Pfx. *ab-* and *axis*.]
abaya: See *aba*.
abb, ab, n. properly woof- or weft-yarn, but sometimes warp-yarn. [O.E. *āb*, *āwēb*—pfx. *ā*, out, *wēb*, web.]
abba, ā'ā, n. father (applied to God) (N.T.): a Syriac or Coptic bishop. [Aramaic word**

abbā retained in the Greek N.T. and its translations.]

abba. See *aba*.

abbacy, ab'-si, n. the office or jurisdiction of abbot: the time during which one is abbot: an abbey.—*adj.* **abbatial** (*ab'-shl*), pertaining to an abbey, abbot or abness. [App. orig. Scot.: L.L. *abbatia*, abbey.]

Abbasid(e), a-bas'id, -id, ab'-sid, -sid, n. any member of the later (750-1543) of the two great dynasties of caliphs, descendants of *Abbas*, uncle of Mohammed.

abbé, ab'a, n. a courtesy title for a priest, an ecclesiastic in minor orders, or for a tutor or holder of a benefice, even if a layman. [Fr., orig. abbot.]

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

abbey, ab'i, n. a convent under an abbot or abness, or (loosely) a prior or prioress: the church now or formerly attached to it: a name often retained by an abbatial building that has become a private house.—*pl.* **abbeyes**.—*ab'ey-counter, -piece*, a pilgrim's token, evidence of a visit to an abbey; *ab'ey-laird* (*hist.*), a debtor in sanctuary in the precincts of Holyrood Abbey; *ab'ey-lubber*, a lazy monk—a term much used by the Reformers. [O.Fr. *abbaye* (Fr. *abbaye*)—L.L. *abbatia*. See *abba* (1), *abbacy*.]

abbot, ab'ot, n. a male head of an abbey:—*fem.* *abbess*.—*n.* **abbotship**.—*abbot of unreason*, a lord of misrule or mock abbot in mediaeval revels. [L.L. *abbas*, *abbatis*—Aramaic *abbā*; see *abba* (1).]

abbreviate, a-bré-vi-āt, v.t. to shorten: to contract: to abridge.—*adj.* **shortened**.—*ns.* **abbreviation**, an act of shortening: a shortened form: part of a word written or printed for the whole; *abbréviator*.—*adj.* **abbréviatory** (*-tor-i*).—*n.* **abbréviature** (*obs.*), an abbreviation: an abridgment. [L. *abbreviare*, *-ātum*—*ab*, intens., *brevis*, short.]

ABC, ā-bē-sē', also (obs.) abcee, absey, ab'si, n. the alphabet, from its first letters: a first reading-book: hence first rudiments: anything arranged alphabetically, as an acrostic, a railway guide.—*absey book* (*Shak.*), a primer or hornbook.

Aberdeen, ab-dé-ri-an, adj. of *Abdera*, a town in Thrace, the Gotham of the ancients, and birthplace of Democritus, 'the laughing philosopher'.—*Also n.*—*n.* **Abderite** (*ab-dar-it*), a native or citizen of *Abdera*: a simpleton, Gothamite.

abdicant, ab'di-kānt, v.t. and *v.i.* formally to renounce or give up (office or dignity).—*adj.* **abdicable**; *abdicant*.—*n.* **abdicantion**. [L. *ab*, from or off, *dicare*, *-ātum*, to proclaim.]

abdomen, ab'da-men, ā-dū-men, n. the belly: in mammals, the part between diaphragm and pelvis: in arthropods, the hind-body.—*adj.* **abdominal** (*-dom*).—*adv.* **abdominally**.—*adj.* **abdominous**, pot-bellied. [L. *abdomen*, *-inis*.]

abduce, ab-dūs, v.t. an earlier form of *abduct*.—*adj.* **abducant**, drawing back: separating.—*v.t.* **abduct** (*-dūkt'*), to take away by fraud or violence: to kidnap.—*ns.* **abduction** (*-dūkt'shan*), the carrying away, esp. of a person by fraud or force: separation of parts of the body after a wound or fracture (*surg.*): muscular action drawing one part away from another: a syllogism whose minor premise is only probable (*log.*); *abductor*, one who abducts: a muscle that draws away. [L. *abducere*—*ab*, from, *ducere*, *ductum*, to draw, lead.]

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

abear, a-bār, v.t. to bear, comport, behave (*obs.*): to endure or tolerate (*dial.*). [O.E. *āberan*.]

abecedarian, ā-bi-sē-dā-ri-an, adj. pertaining to the ABC: rudimentary: arranged in the

manner of an acrostic.—*n.* a learner of the ABC, a beginner: a teacher of the ABC: an Anabaptist of a sect that rejected all learning. [ABC.]

abed, a-bed', adv. in bed. [Prep. *a*, and *bed*.]

abeigh, a-bēh', (Scot.) adv. aloof. [Origin obscure.]

abele, a-bēl', ā'b'l, n. the white poplar-tree. [Du. *abeel*—O.Fr. *abel*, *aubel*—L.L. *albellus*—L. *albus*, white.]

Aberdeen, ab-ar-dēn', sometimes *ab'*, *adj.* of or originating in *Aberdeen* or *Aberdeenshire*.—*n.* (in full *Aberdeen terrier*) a coarse-haired kind of Scottish terrier.—*adj.* **Aberd' nian**, of *Aberdeen*: (*traditionally*) parsimonious.—*Also n.*—*Aberdeen Angus* (*ang'gus*), a breed of polled cattle descended from *Aberdeenshire* humbles and *Angus* doddies.

aberdine, ab-ar-di-vin', n. a bird-fancier's name for the siskin. [Ety. uncertain.]

Aberdonian. See *Aberdeen*.

Aberglaube, ab-ar-glow'ba, (Ger.) superstition. *Abernethy biscuit, ab-ar-neh'i, -nēh'i, or ab',* a hard biscuit, apparently originally with caraway seeds. [Poss. after Dr John *Abernethy* (1764-1831), who was interested in diet.]

aberrate, ab-ar-āt, v.i. to wander or deviate from the right way.—*ns.* **aberrance** (*-er*), **aberrancy**.—*adj.* **aberrant**, wandering: having characteristics not strictly in accordance with type (*bot., zool.*).—*n.* **aberration** (*-ar*), deviation from the usual, normal, or right: wandering of the intellect, mental lapse: non-convergence of rays, owing to difference in refrangibility of different colours (*chromatic aberration*) or to difference of focus of the marginal and central parts of a lens or mirror (*spherical aberration*): an apparent displacement of a star, owing to the finite ratio of the velocity of light to that of the earth (*aberration of light*). [L. *aberrare*, *-ātum*—*ab*, from, *errare*, to wander.]

abet, a-bet', v.t. to incite by encouragement or aid (used chiefly in a bad sense): to back up (*Spens.*): to make good.—*pr.p.* *abetting*; *pa.p.* *abetted*.—*n.* (*Spens.*) **abetting**.—*ns.* **abetment**; **abetment**. [O.Fr. *abeter*—*ā* (L. *ad*, to), and *beter*, to bait; see *bait*.]

ab extra, ab eks'tra, (L.), from the outside.

abeyance, ā-bā-ans, n. state of suspension or temporary inactivity: state of being without a claimant (as a peerage).—*Also abey'ancy*. [O.Fr. *abeyance*—*ā* (L. *ad* to), and *beer*, *baer*, to gape, open wide; origin uncertain.]

abominable. See *abominable*.

abhor, ab-hōr', v.t. to shrink from with horror: to detest: to loathe: to protest against, to reject (*Shak.*): to fill with horror (*Shak.*).—*pr.p.* **abhorring**; *pa.t.* and *pa.p.* **abhorred**.—*ns.* **abhorrence** (*-hor*), extreme hatred: a thing abhorred; **abhor'ency** (*obs.*).—*adj.* **abhorrent**, detesting; repugnant: strongly opposed: out of keeping; detestable; detested.—*adv.* **abhor'ently**.—*ns.* **abhor'or**, one who abhors (*cap., hist.*); a member of the court party in England in 1679, who abhorred the Petitioners, a Tory; **abhor'ing**, repugnance: an object of abhorrence. [L. *abhorre-re*—*ab*, from, and *horre-re*, to bristle, shudder.]

Abib, ā-bib, n. earlier name for *Nisan*. [Heb. *ābīb*, lit. an ear of corn.]

abide, ā-bid', v.t. to bide or wait for: to meet, face, sustain: to endure: to tolerate.—*v.i.* to remain: to dwell or stay: to conform, adhere (with *by*).—*pa.t.* **abode**, also **abided**, *Spens.* **abid'**; *pa.p.* **abode**, **abid'ed**, also **abid'den**.—*n.* **abid'ance**.—*adj.* **abid'ing**, continual, permanent.—*n.* a continuance (*arch.*).—*adv.* **abid'ingly**. [O.E. *ābīdan*—*plx.* *ā*, and *bīdan*, to wait.]

abide, ā-bid', (Shak.; Milt.) v.t. to aby. [*aby*, confounded with *abide* (1).]

à biento!, a byē-tō, (Fr.) see you again soon.
Abies, ab'ī-ēs, n. the genus of the true firs. [L.]
abigail, ab'ī-gāl, n. a lady's-maid. [From *Abigail*, in Beaumont and Fletcher's *Scornful Lady*, or I Sam. xxv.]
ability, a-bil'ī-ti, n. quality or fact of being able: power (physical and mental): strength: skill. [O.Fr. *ableté* (Fr. *habileté*), remodelled on its source, L. *habilitās*, -ātis—*habēre*, to have, hold; see *able*.]
ab initio, ab in-ish'ī-tō, -it'ī-tō, (L.) from the beginning.
ab intra, ab in'tra, (L.) from the inside.
abiogenesis, a-bi-ō-jen'ī-sis, or a-bi-, n. the origination of living by non-living matter, spontaneous generation—*adj.* abiogenetic (*-ji-net'ik*).—*adv.* abiogenetically.—*n.* abiogenist (*-o-j'a-nist*), a believer in abiogenesis. [Coined by T. H. Huxley in 1870; Gr. *a-*, neg., *bios*, life, *genesis*, birth.]
abiturient, ab-it'ū-ri-ent, n. in Germany, a pupil leaving school for a university. [Mod. L. *abituriens*, -entis, pr.p. of *abiture*, desiderative of L. *abire*, to go away—*ab*, from, *ire*, to go.]
abject, ab-jekt', v.t. to throw or cast down or away (*obs.*)—*adj.* abject, cast away: mean: worthless: grovelling: base.—*n.* an outcast: a base slave: one in more servile subjection than a subject.—*n.* abjection, abjectness: casting forth: forcible expulsion of spores (*bot.*).—*adv.* abjectly.—*n.* abjectness. [L. *abjicere*, *abjunctum*—*ab*, from, *jacere*, to throw.]
abjoin, ab-join', (*bot.*) v.t. to cut off by forming a septum.—*n.* abjunction (*-jun'k-shən*). [L. *ab*, from, *join*, junction.]
abjure, ab-jūr', v.t. to renounce on oath or solemnly: to recant: to repudiate.—*ns.* abjuration; abjur'er. [L. *ab*, from, *jurare*, -ātum, to swear.]
ablation, ab-lak-tā'shən, n. a weaning: grafting by inarching. [L. *ab*, *lactare*, to suckle—*lac*, milk.]
ablation, ab-lā'shən, n. removal: decrease by melting, evaporation, weathering.—*ads.* ablatively (*-lā-tiv'ly*); ab'lative (*-lā-tiv*), pertaining to ablation: in or belonging to a case which in Indo-Germanic languages originally expressed direction from, or time when, later extended to other functions (*gram.*).—*n.* the ablative case: a word in the ablative.—*adj.* ablatival. [L. *ab*, from, *latum*, used as supine of *ferre*, to take.]
ablaunt, ab'lowt, ab'lowt, (*philol.*) n. a variation in root vowel as in *sing*, *sang*, *song*, *sumg*, explained by former accentuation—also called gradation. [Ger. *ab*, off, *laut*, sound.]
ablaze, a-blāz', *adv.* and *adj.* in a blaze, on fire: gleaming brightly. [Prep. *a*, and *blaze*.]
able, a-bl', *adj.* having enough strength, power or means (to do a thing): skilful.—*v.t.* to enable (*obs.*): to warrant (*Shak.*).—*adj.* able-bodied, *etc.* of a strong body: free from disability, *etc.*: robust.—*adv.* a'bly; a'blyness (*l'bliz*) or yibbles (*yib'le*), perhaps (Scot.)—*able seaman*, able-bodied seaman (abbrev. A.B.), one able to perform all the duties of seamanship and having a higher rating than the ordinary sailor. [See *ability*.]
able, a-bl', *adj.* suff. capable of being.—Also -ible.
abiet, ab'it, n. the bleak. [Fr. *ablette*—L.L. *a(l)bulā*, dim. of *alba*, white.]
abloom, a-blōm', *adv.* and *adj.* in a blooming state. [Prep. *a*, on, and bloom.]
ablow, a-blō', *adv.* and *adj.* in a blowing state. [Prep. *a*, and blow.]
ablush, a-blush', *adv.* and *adj.* in a blushing state. [Prep. *a*, and blush.]
ablation, a-blō'shən, n. (often in *pl.*) act of washing, esp. the body: ceremonial washing: (*sing.*) the wine and water used to rinse the chalice, drunk by the officiating priest.—*adj.*

ablu'tionary. [L. *ablūtio*, -ōnis—*ab*, away, *luere*, to wash.]
abnegate, ab-ni-gāt', v.t. to deny: to renounce.—*ns.* abnegation; abnegator. [L. *ab*, away, *negare*, to deny.]
abnormal, ab-nōr'ml, *adj.* not normal.—*ns.* abnormalism; abnormality (*-nōr-mal'ī-ti*).—*adv.* abnormally.—*n.* abnormity.—*adj.* abnormous (*rare*). [Fr. *anormal*—L.L. *anormalus*—Gr. *anōmalos* (see *anomaly*); influenced by L. *norma*, rule, and *ab*, from.]
aboard, a-bōrd', -bōrd', *adv.* or *prep.* on board: in or into a ship, railway train, *etc.*: alongside. [Prep. *a*, on, and board.]
abode, a-bōd', n. a dwelling-place: stay.—*v.t.* and *v.i.* *pa.t.* and *pa.p.* of *abide*.
abode, a-bōd', n. a presage.—*v.t.* (*Shak.*) to presage.—*n.* abode'ment (*obs.*), a foreboding: an omen. [O.E. *ābodian*, to proclaim; cf. *bode*, forebode.]
aboideau, aboiteaus, ā-bwā-dō', -tō', n. a tide-gate. [Canadian Fr.]
a'bodey. See *a'*.
ab officio et beneficio, ab o-fish'ī-tō (-fik') et ben-e-fish'ī-tō (-fik'), (L.L.) from office and benefice—of a clergyman suspended.
aboil, a-boil', *adv.* and *adj.* in a boiling state. [Prep. *a*, on, and boil.]
abolish, a-bol'ish, v.t. to put an end to.—*adj.* abolishable.—*ns.* abolishment (*rare*); abolition.—*ads.* abolitionist, abolitionary.—*ns.* abolitionism; abolitionist, one who seeks to abolish anything, esp. slavery. [L. *abolere*, -itum, partly through Fr. *abolir*.]
abolla, ab-of'ā, n. a Roman military cloak. [L.]
abomasum, ab-ō-mā'səm; n. the fourth or true stomach of ruminants, lying close to the omasum.—Also *abomā'sus*. [L. *ab*, away from, *omāsum*, tripe, paunch (a Gallic word)]
abominate, a-bom'in-āt', v.t. to abhor: to detest.—*adj.* abominable, hateful: detestable.—An old spelling is *abhom'inable*, to agree with a fancied derivation from Lat. *ab homine*—*n.* abom'inableness.—*adv.* abominably.—*ns.* abomination, extreme aversion: an object of detestation; abom'inator.—abominable snowman, a mythical hairy manlike creature supposed to live in the snows of Tibet. [L. *abomināri*, -ātus, to turn from as of bad omen; see *omen*.]
à bon droit, a bō drwā, (Fr.) with justice.
à bon marché, a bō mar-shā, (Fr.) at a good bargain, cheap.
abonement, a-bon-mā, (Fr.) subscription.
aboral, ab-ō'ral, -ō', (*zool.*) *adj.* away from the mouth. [L. *ab*, from, and *oral*.]
aboard, a-bōrd', -bōrd' (*arch.*), v.t. to accost.—*n.* approach. [Fr. *aborder*—*a bord*, to the side.]
aboard, a-bōrd', -bōrd' (*Spens.*) *adv.* astray. [Perh. for *abroad*.]
ab origine, ab ō-rī'jīn-ē, -rēg'-in-e, (L.) from the very first, from the source.
aborigines, ab-ō-rī'jīn-ēz, n. *pl.* the original or native inhabitants of a country. *A sing.* formed by dropping *s* is used esp. of aboriginal Australians.—*aborigine* (ab-ō-rī'jīn-ē)—also *aborigin* (-bōr'), -ine, -ea.—*adj.* aboriginal, earliest, primitive, indigenous.—*n.* one of the aborigines.—*ns.* aboriginalism, due recognition of native peoples; aboriginality (*-al'ī-ti*), fact of being aboriginal.—*adv.* aboriginally. [L. *aborigines*—*ab*, from, *origo*, -inis, beginning.]
abort, a-bōrt', v.i. to miscarry in birth: to be arrested in development at an early stage: to come to nothing.—*v.t.* to cause to abort: to check at an early stage: to stop (*e.g.* flight of rocket) in emergency before completion of mission.—*n.* an instance of abortion (*esp.* of rocket).—*adj.* abortifacient (*-i-fā'shənt*, -sh'ant), causing abortion.—*ns.* means of causing abortion.—*ns.* aborticide (*-i-sid*), foeticide; abort'ion,

the premature expulsion of an embryo or a foetus, or the procuring of this, esp. in the first three months of pregnancy: arrest of development: the product of such arrest: anything that fails in course of coming into being: a misshapen being or monster; abortionist, one who procures abortion.—*adj.* abortive, born untimely: unsuccessful: brought forth in an imperfect condition: checked in development.—*adv.* abortively.—*n.* abortiveness.—contagious abortion, contagious bacterial infections of cattle and of horses, causing abortion. [*L. abortiri, abortus*—*pf.* *ab-*, reversing the meaning, *oriri*, to rise.]

abought, *abōt*, *pa.t.* and *pa.p.* of *aby*.

aboulia, *aboulia*, *a-bōū-lī-a*, *-bōw*, *-bū*, *n.* loss of will-power. [*Gr. a-*, priv., *boulē*, will.]

abound, *a-bōund*, *v.i.* to be in great plenty: to be rich (with *in*): to be filled (with *with*).—*adj.* abundant.

[*O.Fr. abunder*—*L. abundāre*, to overflow—*ab*, from, *unda*, a wave.]

about, *a-bōwt*, *prep.* round on the outside of

around: here and there in: near in place, time, size, etc.: on the person of; connected with; concerning: engaged in.—*adv.* around: halfway round, in the opposite direction (e.g. *to face about*): nearly: here and there: on the opposite

tack: in motion or activity.—*about-face*, (orig. used in U.S. as command) act of turning

to face in the opposite direction: complete change of opinion, attitude, etc.—Also *v.i.*—

Also *about-turn*—*prep.* *about's* (*Spens.*), about.

—*v.t.* and *v.i.* *about-ship*, to put (the ship) on

the opposite tack.—*n.* *about-sledge*, a heavy

blacksmith's hammer.—*about* to (do, etc.),

on the point of (doing, etc.); be about, to be

astir: to be on the point (of doing something;

with *infin.*); bring about, to cause to take place;

come about, to happen in the course of time;

go about, to prepare to do; put about (see *put*);

turn about, alternately: in rotation. [*O.E.*

anbūtan—*on*, in, *būtan*, without—*be*, by, *ūtan*,

orig. a locative—*ū*, out.]

above, *a-bōv*, *prep.* over: in or to a position

higher than that of: beyond in degree, amount,

number, importance, etc.: too magnanimous or

proud for:—*adv.* overhead: in a higher position,

order, or power: in an earlier passage: in

heaven.—*adj.* mentioned, stated, or given in an

earlier passage.—*adj.* above-board, open, with-

out deception; above-ground, alive: not buried;

above-mentioned; above-named.—above oneself,

elated; conceited. [*Late O.E. ābūfan*—*O.E. ā*,

on, *būfan*, above—*be*, by, *ūfan*, above.]

ab ovo, *ab ō vō*, *-vō*, (*L.* 'from the egg') from the

beginning. See *Quotations from Latin*.

abracadabra, *ab-rā-kā-dab-rā*, *n.* a magic word,

written in amulets: a spell or conjuring word:

gibberish. [*Found in a 2nd-cent. poem by Q.*

Serenus Sammonicus.]

abrade, *a-brād*, *v.t.* to wear down or off.—*adj.* and

n. *abradant*, abrasive. [*L. ab*, from, *rādere*,

rāsum, to scrape.]

Abraham-man, *ā-brā-hām-man*, *Abrah-man*, *ā-*

brām-man, *n.* originally a Bedlam inmate let out

to beg: a sturdy beggar, esp. one shamming

insanity (*arch.*)—to sham Abraham, to feign

sickness. [*Said to be from an Abraham Ward*

in old Bedlam, London.]

abraid, *abrade*, *a-brād*, or (*Spens.*) *abray*, *a-brā*,

obs. v.t. to awake, rouse.—*v.i.* to start: to awake.

[*O.E. ābregdan*—intens. *pf.* *ā*, and *bregdan*;

see *braid* (1).]

abram, *ā-brām*, (*Shak.*) *adj.* *ag obs.* form of

aburn.

abranchiate, *a-brang-ki-āt*, *adj.* without gills.

[*Gr. a-*, priv., *branchia*, gills.]

abrazion, *ā-brā-zhōn*, *n.* wearing away: a worn-

down or grazed place.—*adj.* *abrazive* (*-iv*, *-iv*),

tending to abrade (also *fig.*)—*n.* a substance

used to remove matter by scratching and grind-

ing. [*See abraide*.]

à bras ouverts, *a-brā-sō-ver*, (*Fr.*) with open arms.

abraxas, *a-braks-as*, *n.* a mystic word, or a gem

engraved therewith, often bearing a mystical

figure of combined human and animal form, used

as a charm: (*cap.*) the genus of the gooseberry or

maggie moth. [*Said to have been coined by the*

2nd-cent. Egyptian Gnostic Basilides to express

365 by addition of the numerical values of the

Greek letters.]

abray. See *abraid*.

abreaction, *ab-rē-ak-shān*, (*psych.*) *n.* resolution of

a neurosis by reviving forgotten or repressed

ideas of the event first causing it. [*L. ab*, from,

and reaction.]

abreast, *a-brest*, *adv.* with fronts in line: side by

side: keeping pace with (with *of*), e.g. *abreast*

of the other car, the times. [*Prep. a*, on, and

breast.]

abrége, *a-brā-zhā*, (*Fr.*) abridgment.

abrickock, *ab-ri-kok*, an obs. form of apricot.

abridge, *a-brij*, *v.t.* to shorten: to epitomise: to

curtail.—*ns.* *abridge*; *abridg'ment* (sometimes

abridge'ment), contraction: shortening: a com-

pendium of a larger work: an epitome or

synopsis: (*prob.*) a pastime (*Shak.*). [*O.Fr.*

abregier (*Fr. abréger*)—*L. abbreviare*.]

abrim, *a-brim*, *adv.* and *adj.* in a brimming state,

up to the brim. [*Prep. a*, and brim.]

abroach, *a-brōck*, *adv.* and *adj.* in a condition to

let the liquor run out: in a state to be diffused,

afloat, astir. [*Prep. a*, and broach.]

abroad, *a-brōd*, *adv.* over a wide area: in full

breadth: out of doors: at large: in the field:

current: in or to another country: wide of the

mark: astray. [*Prep. a*, and broad.]

abrogate, *ab-rō-gāt*, *v.t.* to annul.—*n.* *abrogation*.

—*adj.* *abrogative*.—*n.* *abrogator*. [*L. ab*, away,

rogāre, *-ātum*, to ask, or to propose a law.]

Abroma, *a-brō-mā*, *n.* a genus of East Indian

sterculiaceae fibre-yielding trees. [*Gr. a-*, priv.,

brōma, food.]

abrooke, *a-brōok*, (*Shak.*) *v.t.* to brook, bear, or

endure. [*Pf.* *a-*, intens., and brook (2).]

abrupt, *a-brupt*, *adj.* truncated: as if broken off:

sudden: unexpected: precipitous: passing with

sudden transitions: (of manners) short, rude.—

n. (*Milt.*) an abyss.—*n.* *abruption* (*-shōn*), a

breaking off.—*adv.* *abruptly*.—*n.* *abruptness*.

[*L. abruptus*—*ab*, from, *rumpere*, ruptum, to

break.]

Abrus, *ā-bras*, *n.* a tropical genus akin to the bean,

to which crab's eyes belong.—*n.* *ā-bris*, a poison-

ous protein contained in its seeds. [*Gr. habros*,

graceful.]

abscissa, *ab-sēs*, *-sis*, *n.* a collection of pus in a

cavity. [*L. abscessus*—*abs*, from, *cēdere*,

cēsum, to go, retreat.]

abscind, *ab-sind*, *v.t.* to cut off.—*n.* *abscissa*

(*-sis*), also *absciss*, *abscissa* (*ab-sis*), the inter-

cept between a fixed point and the foot of an

ordinate: the x-co-ordinate in analytical geo-

metry:—*pl.* *abscissae* (*ab-sis*), *-sis*), *abscissas*,

ab-sis, *n.* *abscission* (*-sish-an*), act of cutting

off, or state of being cut off: a figure of speech

in which words demanded by the sense are

left unsaid, the speaker stopping short suddenly

(*rhet.*): organised shedding of a part by means

of an absciss layer (*bot.*): liberation of a fungal

spore by breakdown of part of its stalk (*bot.*).—

absciss layer (*bot.*), a layer of parenchymatous

cells through which a leaf, branch, or bark scale

separates off. [*L. abscindere*, *abscissum*, to cut

off—*ab*, from, *scindere*, to cut.]

abscond, *ab-skōnd*, *v.i.* to hide, or get out of the

way, esp. to escape a legal process.—*ns.* *abscond-*

ence; *abscond'er*. [*L. abscondere*—*abs*, from

or away, *condere*, to hide.]

absell, *ap-sil*, *ab-sil*, *v.i.* to let oneself down a rock

face using a double rope.—*n.* *absell'ing*. [Ger. *-ab*, down, *seil*, rope.]

absent, *ab'sent*, *adj.* being away: not present: inattentive.—*v.t.* (*ab-sent'*; usu. *refl.*) to keep away.—*ns.* absence, the state of being away or not present: want: non-existence: abstraction, inattention; *absentee*, one who is absent on any occasion: one who makes a habit of living away from his estate or his office; *absenteeism*, the practice of absenting oneself from duty, station, or estate.—*adv.* *ab'sently*, *adj.* *ab'sent-minded*, inattentive to surroundings: preoccupied.—*adv.* *ab'sent-mindedly*, *n.* *ab'sent-mindedness*. [L. *absēns*, *-sentis*, *pr.p.* of *absesse*—*ab*, away from, *esse*, to be.]

absente *reo*, *ab-sen'tē rē'ō*, *-te rā'ō*, (L.) in absence of the accused.

absey, *absey book*. See *ABC*.

absinth(e), *ab'sinth*, *n.* wormwood or other species of *Artemisia*: a liqueur containing (orig. at all events) extract of wormwood.—*adj.* *absinth'-iated*, impregnated with absinth. [Fr. *absinthe*—L. *absinthium*—Gr. *apsinthion*, wormwood.]

absit, *ab'sit*, (L.) *lit.* let him be absent—leave to pass one night away from college.—*absit invidia*, *ab'sit in-vi'd-i-a*, *-wid'*, may there be no ill will: no offence: *absit omen*, *ab'sit ō'men*, may there be no (ill) omen (as in a word just used).

absolute, *ab'sol-ūt*, *-ūt*, *adj.* free from limits, restrictions, or conditions: certain, positive: complete: unlimited: free from mixture: independent of relation to other things: peremptory: unrestricted by constitutional checks: out of ordinary syntactic relation (*gram.*): existing in and by itself without necessary relation to anything else (*philos.*): capable of being conceived independently of anything else.—*n.* (with *the*; often *cap.*) that which is absolute, self-existent, uncaused.—*adv.* *ab'solutely*, separately, by itself: unconditionally: positively: completely—as a colourless but emphatic affirmative (*-lōō'ti*, *-lū*).—*ns.* *ab'soluteness*; *absolutism*, release from punishment: acquittal: remission of sins, declared officially by a priest, or the formula by which it is expressed; *ab'solutism*, government, or theory of government, by a ruler without restriction: adherence to the doctrine of the Absolute; *ab'solutist*, a supporter of absolute government, or of a philosophy of the Absolute.—*Also adj.*—*adj.* *absolutory* (*ab-sol'ū-tōr-i*), of, or giving, absolution.—*absolute alcohol*, water-free alcohol; *absolute magnitude*, the magnitude that a star would have at a standard distance of 10 parsecs; *absolute music*, music which does not attempt to illustrate or describe—*opp.* to *programme music*; *absolute pitch*, the pitch of a note as determined by the number of vibrations per sec.: a sense of or memory for absolute pitch; *absolute temperature*, temperature measured on the Kelvin scale or Rankine scale; *absolute units*, those derived directly from fundamental units and not based on arbitrary numerical definitions; the internationally adopted fundamental units are the metre, kilogram, second, kelvin, ampere and candle; *absolute zero*, the zero of the absolute scale of temperature (approx. -273°C). [L. *absolutus*, *pa.p.* of *absolvēre*; see *absolve*.]

absolve, *ab-solv'*, *-solv'*, *v.t.* to loose or set free: to pardon: to give absolution to or for: to acquit: to discharge (with *from*): to accomplish, finish off (*Milit.*).—*Ab. absol'or*; *absolv'itor* (L. 3rd pers. imper. passive, let him be absolved), (Scotts law), a decision favourable to a defender. [L. *absolvēre*—*ab*, from, *solvēre*, to loose.]

absorant, *ab'san-ant*, *adj.* discordant: abhorrent: unnatural: contrary to reason (with *to* or *from*)—*opp.* to *consonant*. [L. *ab*, from, *sonāns*, *-antis*, *pr.p.* of *sonāre*, to sound.]

absorb, *ab-sōrb'*, *-zōrb'*, *v.t.* to suck in: to swallow up: to imbibe: to take in: to incorporate: to take up and transform (energy) instead of transmitting or reflecting: to engage wholly.—*n.* *absorbability*.—*adj.* *absorb'able*, *adj.* *absorbed*, swallowed up: entirely occupied.—*adv.* *absorb'edly*, *n.* *absorb'ency*.—*adj.* *absorb'ent*, absorbing: able to absorb.—*n.* that which absorbs.—*n.* *absorb'er*, that which absorbs: material for capturing neutrons without generating more neutrons (*nuc.*).—*adj.* *absorb'ing*, engrossing the attention.—*adv.* *absorb'ingly*.—*ns.* *absorptiometer* (*-sōrp-sht-ōm'i-tar*), an apparatus for determining the solubility of gases in liquids; *absorp'tion*, the act of absorbing: entire occupation of mind.—*adj.* *absorp'tive*, having power to absorb.—*ns.* *absorp'tiveness*, *absorp'tivity*.—*absorption bands*, lines, dark bands, lines, interrupting a spectrum, due to absorption of light in the medium traversed; *absorption spectrum*, a system of such lines and bands. [L. *ab*, from, *sorbēre*, *sorptum*, to suck in.]

absquatulate, *ab-skwōt'ū-lāt* (*facet.*; U.S.) *v.i.* to decamp: to squat.

abstain, *ab-stān'*, *v.t.* to hold or refrain (from).—*v.i.* (*Spens.*) to restrain—*ns.* *abstain'er*, one who abstains, esp. from alcoholic drinks; *abstention*, [Fr. *absténir*—L. *abs*, from, *tenēre*, to hold.]

abstemious, *ab-stē'mi-əs*, *adj.* temperate: sparing in food, drink, or enjoyments.—*adv.* *abstemiously*.—*n.* *abstemiousness*. [L. *abstēmius*—*abs*, from, *tēmētum*, strong wine.]

absterge, *ab-stūrg'*, *v.t.* to wipe: to cleanse: to purge.—*adj.* *absterge'nt*, serving to cleanse.—*n.* a cleansing agent.—*n.* *abster'sion*.—*adj.* *abster'sive*, having the quality of cleansing: purgative.—*Also n.* [L. *abstergere*, *-tersum*, to wipe away—*abs*, from, *tergere*, to wipe.]

abstinent, *ab'stin-ent*, *adj.* abstaining: temperate.—*ns.* *ab'stinence*, an abstaining or refraining, especially from some indulgence (with *from*); *ab'stinency*, the quality of being abstinent.—*adv.* *ab'stinently*. [L. *abstinēns*, *-entis*, *pr.p.* of *abstinēre*; see *abstain*.]

abstract, *ab-strakt'*, *v.t.* to draw away: to separate: to remove quietly: to purloin: to summarise: to separate by the operation of the mind, as in forming a general concept from consideration of particular instances.—*n.* (*ab'strakt*) a summary, abridgment: in *Shak. Ant.* and *Cleo.* III. vi., explained by some as an abridgment of time of separation—others conjecture *abstract*: that which represents the essence: an abstraction.—*adj.* (*ab'strakt*) *abstracted*: apart from actual material instances, existing only as a mental concept—*opp.* to *concrete*: away from practice, theoretical: (of terms) denoting a quality of a thing apart from the thing, as *redness*; representing ideas in geometric and other designs, not the forms of nature (*paint* and *sculp.*).—*adj.* *abstract'ed*, drawn off (with *from*): removed: absent in mind.—*adv.* *abstract'edly*.—*ns.* *abstract'edness*; *abstract'er*, *abstract'or*, one who makes abstracts (with or for a grade of Civil Service clerks); *abstract'ion*, act of abstracting: state of being abstracted: abstract quality or character: withdrawal from worldly things: absence of mind: a purloining: the process of abstracting by the mind; a thing existing only in idea: a theory, visionary notion: an abstract term; an abstract composition (*paint* and *sculp.*).—*adj.* *abstract'ional*.—*n.* *abstract'ionism*, one dealing in abstractions or unrealities.—*adj.* *abstractive*, able or tending to abstract: formed by or pertaining to abstraction.—*n.* anything abstractive: an abstract.—*adv.* *abstract'ly*.—*n.* *abstractness*.—*abstract of title*, summary of facts concerning ownership; in the abstract, as an abstraction: in theory. [L. *abs*, away from, *trahere*, *tractam*, to draw.]

Neutral vowels in unaccented syllables: *el'-man*; for certain sounds in foreign words, see p. viii