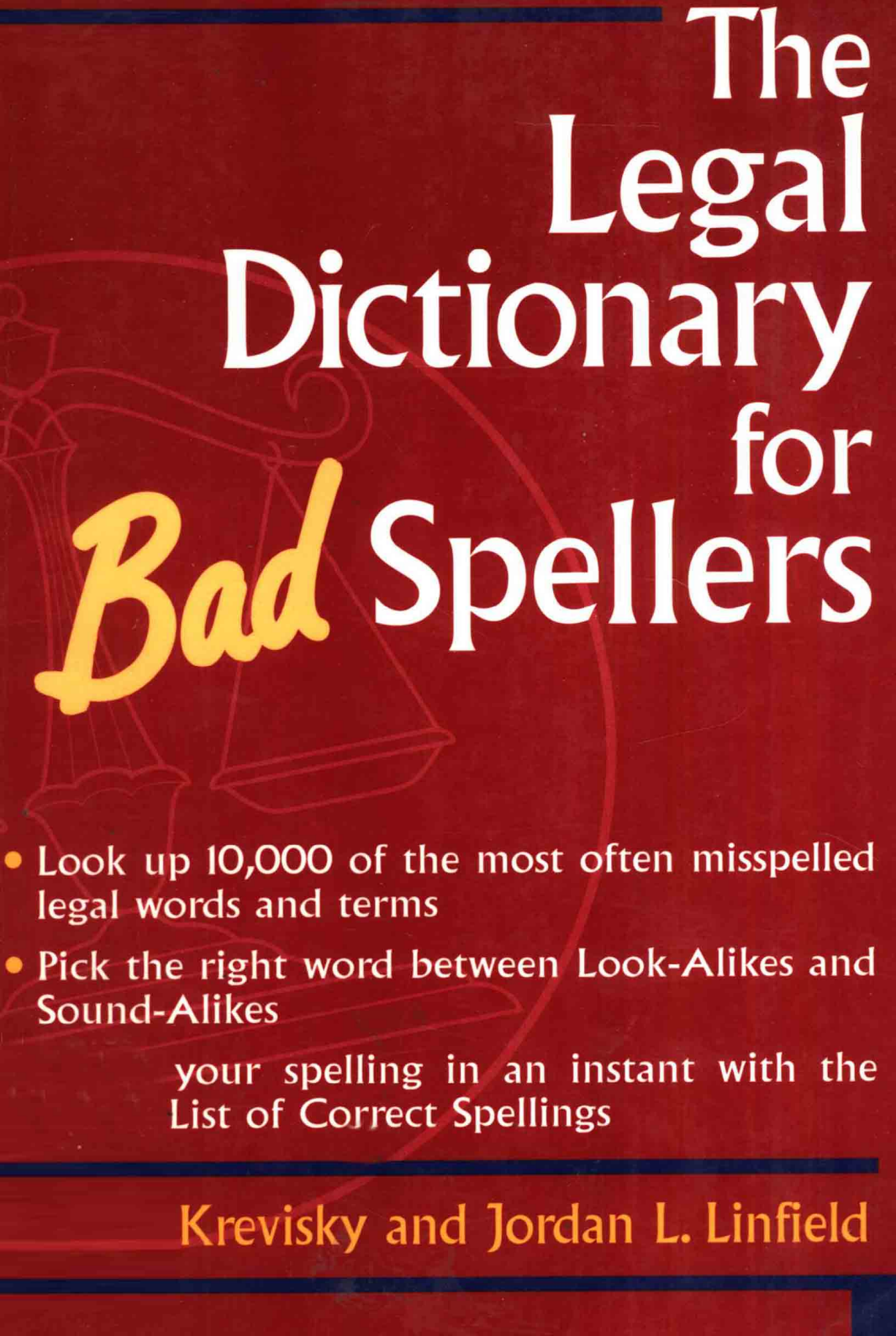




The Legal Dictionary for *Bad* Spellers

- Look up 10,000 of the most often misspelled legal words and terms
- Pick the right word between Look-Alikes and Sound-Alikes

your spelling in an instant with the
List of Correct Spellings

Krevisky and Jordan L. Linfield

The Legal Dictionary for Bad Spellers

Joseph Krevisky and Jordan L. Linfield

An Innovation Press Book



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Introduction

“If I don’t know how to spell the word, how can I find it in the dictionary?”

This lament has been the subject of cartoons, comic strips, columns by popular writers, TV sitcoms, and radio talk shows.

“It doesn’t look right.” Sound familiar? Most of us, regardless of age or education, face this problem sometimes, or often. Poor spelling has little to do with intelligence, level of schooling, family background, or heredity.

Presidents and princes; Ph.D.’s, L.L.D.’s, and J.D.’s; poets and professors all boast bad spellers within their groups. In fact, boast is often what these poor spellers do; they’re proud of it.

So what is the recurrent problem?

The major cause is the complex pattern of English spelling and pronunciation. For example, the same letter may be pronounced several different ways. Note the pronunciation of the letter *c*

in the word *cell* (pronounced as an *s*)

in the word *cause* (pronounced as a *k*)

in the word *judicial* (pronounced as *sh*)

in the word *cello* (pronounced as *ch*)

And sometimes it is silent, as in the words *yacht*, *Connecticut*, and *czar*. To add to the confusion, some words are spelled alike but pronounced differently. For example, *wound*, meaning injury, is pronounced “woond,” while *wound*, as in winding a clock, is pronounced “waund.” Some words are pronounced alike but are spelled and defined differently:

intercession and *intersession*

heroin and *heroine*

Some words are pronounced and spelled almost alike but are defined differently:

flagrant and *flagrante*

But even more complicated is our legal language, replete with Latin and Old English. Even fewer of us study Old English than Latin these days.

So what? After all, a computer spell-checker does the work; it will quickly spot a misspelled word and provide the correct spelling.

Or will it?

First, you must be sure—even with simple misspellings—that you choose the right word from the options offered by the PC.

Second, many spell-checkers do not include words that have come into our language recently, such as *fax* or *nymble*.

Third, and this is surprising, the typical computer spell-checker used in legal offices contains very few legal terms. You can find the word *worker*, but you are unlikely to find *workers' compensation*.

Above all, no computer can catch the difference between words that look alike or sound alike. Try finding the correct *their*, *there*, or *they're*; or having it distinguish between *garnish* and *garnishee*. The computer will provide the options, but the choice is thrown back to you.

And what to do when you don't have a PC handy—while traveling, in the library, or when the computer is down.

The Legal Dictionary for Bad Spellers solves these problems. It provides an extensive list of words that are typically misspelled, in alphabetical order by their misspellings. Look the word up by its misspelling and you will find the correct spelling alongside it. The misspelled words are listed by their obvious misspelling: for example, *sertiorari* for *certiorari*, *gury* for *jury*. More difficult words have several variant misspellings listed to increase your chances of finding them speedily.

The corpus of the dictionary, with its wide variety of misspellings, has been collected by the authors over years among legal-brief writers and proofreaders.

The Legal Dictionary for Bad Spellers also provides the only available list of legal look-alikes and sound-alikes, which are a source of increasing confusion in legal writing.

And, finally, there is a handy quick list of correct spellings for reference if you are reasonably sure of the spelling.

How to Use This Dictionary

The Legal Dictionary for Bad Spellers is arranged in three parts. Section 1 consists of words arranged alphabetically by their incorrect spellings, with the correct spelling in the opposite column. Section 2 comprises a list of words that look alike or sound alike, with brief definitions that illustrate the differences. Section 3 is the Quick List of Correct Spellings.

If you are reasonably sure of the spelling of a word, check it in the alphabetical Quick List of Correct Spellings. If you do not find it there, check Section 1, the list of incorrect spellings with their correct spellings alongside. Try the phonetic spelling: *reck* for *wreck*, for example. Once you have found the correct spelling, be sure to examine the entire correct word carefully; for while we emphasize misspellings at the beginnings of words, we also include standard middle and ending errors such as *ant* for *ent* (as in *dependant* for *dependent*) and *ent* for *ant* (as in *defendent* for *defendant*). When asterisks (**) appear next to the correct spelling of a word in either Section 1 or Section 3, the word should be checked in Section 2, as this is a word that looks like or sounds like another word and is apt to be misused.

Suppose, for example, you are not sure how to spell *duly*. You think it is spelled *dooly* or maybe *dully*. You look up both spellings in Section 3, the Quick List of Correct Spellings. You cannot find *dooly*, but you find *dully*. You go to Section 1, Words Arranged by Their Common Misspellings. You find the incorrect spelling *dooly* with its corresponding correct spelling, *duly***. The two asterisks alert you to check the look-alikes and sound-alikes, where you find the difference between *duly* and *dully*.

Contents

Introduction	vii
How to Use This Dictionary	ix
Section 1: Words Arranged by Their Common Misspellings	1
Section 2: Words Commonly Confused Because They Look Alike or Sound Alike	129
Section 3: Quick List of Correct Spellings	183

SECTION 1

**Words Arranged by Their
Common Misspellings**

A

abacy	abacacy	abbreviashun	abbreviation
abaitable newsence		abridge	abridge
.....	abatable nuisance	abroad	abroad
abaitment	abatement	abbrochement	abbroachment
abalition	abolition	or abroachment	
abandement	abandonment	abrupt	abrupt
ab anishio	ab initio	abbscond	abscond
abaration	aberration	abbscondor	absconder
ab auntiquo	ab antiquo	abbsolutely	absolutely
abayance	abeyance	abbsence	absence
abayence	abeyance	abbsentee	absentee**
abbaction	abaction	abbsint	absent
abandon	abandon	abbsolute	absolute
abandoned	abandoned	abbsolution	absolution
abb ante	ab ante	abbsolve	absolve
abbash	abash	abbsorbtion	absorption
abbate	abate	abbsque	absque
abbatement	abatement	abbstain	abstain
abbator	abator	abbstention	abstention
abbditorium	abditorium	abbstrack	abstract**
abbdomen	abdomen	abbstract of record	
abbduct	abduct		abstract of record
abbearance	abearance	abbstract of title	abstract of title
abb ekstra	ab extra	abbstraker ...	abstracter or abstractor
abberation	aberration	abbstrakshun	abstraction
abbet	abet	abbsurd	absurd
abbbhor	abhor	abbbuse	abuse
abbbhorrent	abhorrent	abbbuse of prosess	abuse of process
abbbide	abide	abbbusive	abusive
abbbility	ability	abbbut	abut
abb inishio	ab initio	abbbutals	abuttals
abbintra	ab intra	abbbuter	abutter
abbbjogenesis	abiogenesis	abbbutment	abutment
abbbjudication	abjudication	abbcense	absence
abbbjur	abjure**	abbcnt reo	absente reo
abbbjuration	abjuration	abbcerd	absurd
abbbnormal	abnormal	abdacate	abdicate
abbbode	abode	abdatorium	abditorium
abbbolish	abolish	abdecation	abdication
abbbominible	abominable	abelism	ableism
abbbon drot	à bon droit	abetor	abettor
abbb original	aboriginal**	abettor	abettor
abbbort	abort	abgekt	abject**
abbbortifacent	abortifacent	abguration	abjuration
abbbortion	abortion	abgure	abjure**
abbbortionist	abortionist	abjection overuled	
abbbortive	abortive		objection overruled
abbbove	above**	abjeration	abjuration

Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect	Correct
abjoor	abjure**	acknolege	acknowledge
ablegate	obligate	ackochement	accouchement
abliterate	obliterate	ackoelo usque	a coelo usque
abloquy	obloquy	ackomadation	accommodation
abnagate	abnegate	ackompany	accompany
abolishion	abolition	ackompliss	accomplice**
abovo	ab ovo**	ackontario	a contrario
abragate	abrogate**	ackord	accord
abragation	abrogation	ackordince	accordance
abreviate	abbreviate**	ackost	accost
abrige	abridge	ackount	account
abrigment	abridgment	ackounting	accounting
abrochement	abroachment	ackounts receivable	accounts receivable
or abbroachment		 accounts receivable	
absalute	absolute	ackrual method	accrual method
absenity	obscenity	ackrue	accrue
abserd	absurd	acksadental	accidental
absintee	absentee	ackseptance	acceptance
abskew	absque	acksepter	acceptor
abskew hock	absque hoc	acksesable	accessible**
abskond	abscond	acksess	access**
abstane	abstain	acksessability	accessibility
abstanence	abstinence	acksession	accession
abstraction of justice		acksessory	accessory
..... obstruction of justice		ackshalize	actualize
abstruction	obstruction	ackshual	actual
abucive tax shelter		ackshuate	actuate
..... abusive tax shelter		acksident	accident
a but	abut	aktionible	actionable
abuze	abuse	aktuary	actuary
abyuse	abuse	ackuiesence	acquiescence
abzolve	absolve	ackusation	accusation
acceed	accede**	ackused	accused
accep	accept**	ackusible	accusable
acesery	accessory	ackusor	accuser
accidently	accidentally	ackwaint	acquaint
accompanment	accompaniment	ackwaintince	acquaintance
acconwtility	accountability	ackwiesce	acquiesce
accrazy	accuracy	ackwit	acquit
accross	across	ackwittal	acquittal
accuman	acumen	aclaim	acclaim**
accumenical	ecumenical	aclamate	acclimate
accur	occur	acomodate	accommodate
acent	ascent**	acomplce	accomplice**
acer	acre	acord	accord
accessed	assessed	acost	accost
accessor	assessor	acount	account
acheive	achieve	accountant	accountant
ackceleration	acceleration	accountable	accountable
ackcentuate	accentuate	accountible	accountable

4

addvisidly	advisedly	Affrican-American	African-American
addvocate	advocate		African-American
ade and abet	aid and abet	affter	after
ademe	adeem	afiant	affiant
adenda	addenda	afileation	affiliation
adendum	addendum	afilliate	affiliate
adgist	agist**	afinity	affinity
adgust	adjust	afirm	affirm
adgustible	adjustable	afirmative action	affirmative action
adgustment	adjustment	afix	affix
adheer	adhere	aflict	afflict
adhock	ad hoc	aforce	afforce
adict	addict**	aformentioned	aforementioned
adicted	addicted	a forsheori	a fortiori
adiment	adamant	afraightment	affreightment
adiposer	adipocere	afranchise	affranchise
adjasent	adjacent	afray	affray
adjern	adjourn**	afront	affront
ad kulpam	ad culpam	aftamath	aftermath
adlay giary	adlegiare	aftanoon	afternoon
ad lytem	ad litem	aftarthought	afterthought
admended complaint	amended complaint	aftarwood	afterward**
.....	amended complaint	agency bond	agency bond
admended return	amended return	aggainst	against
adminition	admonition	aggalma	agalma
admission	admission	aggency	agency
adreseee	addressee	aggent	agent
adress	address	aggervated	aggravated
ad sentrum	ad centrum	aggio	agio
aduce	adduce**	aggnomanation	agnomination
adultry	adultery	aggnomin	agnomen
advakate	advocate	aggotage	agotage
advisery	advisory	aggragate	aggregate
aerport	airport	aggraphia	agraphia
aerspace	airspace	aggree	agree
aethos	ethos	aggreed	agreed
afadavit	affidavit	aggreemint	agreement
afair	affair**	aggreible	agreeable
afare	affaire**	aginst the law	against the law
afect	affect**	agism	ageism
afection	affection	agnet	agnate
afectus	affectus	agrabusiness	agribusiness
aferism	aphorism	agrafia	agraphia
affadavit	affidavit	agragate	aggregate
affirmation	affirmation	agrandize	aggrandize
afformentioned	aforementioned	aggravated	aggravated
afforsaid	aforesaid	agreeved party	aggrieved party
afforshiori	a fortiori	agregation	aggregation
afforthought	aforethought	agreser	aggressor
affoul of	afoul of	agresive	aggressive

agresion **aggression****
 agrieved **aggrieved**
 agust **adjust**
 ahere **adhere**
 aijus **aegis****
 air-aparent **heir apparent**
 ainess **heiress**
 airloom **heirloom**
 ajacent **adjacent**
 aje **age**
 ajective law **adjective law**
 ajenda **agenda**
 ajent **agent**
 ajewdicate **adjudicate**
 ajinsy **agency**
 ajister **agister or agistor****
 ajoin **adjoin****
 ajournment **adjournment****
 ajudge **adjudge**
 ajudicate **adjudicate**
 ajudicater **adjudicator**
 ajudication **adjudication**
 ajunct **adjunct**
 ajure **adjure****
 ajusted bases **adjusted basis**
 ajusted gross income
 **adjusted gross income**
 aker **acre**
 akkin **akin**
 akkwital **acquittal**
 akkwited **acquitted**
 ak lame **acclaim**
 aknew **anew**
 aknowledge **acknowledge**
 akomadate **accommodate**
 aksadent **accident**
 akseed **accede****
 akselerate **accelerate**
 aksept **accept****
 akseptible **acceptable**
 aksess **access****
 aksessery **accessory**
 akshawary **actuary**
 akshionible **actionable**
 akshul **actual**
 akshun **action****
 aksident **accident**
 aksidently **accidentally**
 aksiom **axiom**
 akt **act**

aktion **action****
 aktiviate **activate****
 aktus **actus**
 akwaint **acquaint**
 akwaintince **acquaintance**
 akwit **acquit**
 alabi **alibi**
 alacable **allocable**
 alagation **allegation****
 alagraph **allograph**
 alagy **allergy**
 alakation **allocation****
 alamenta **alimenta****
 alamony **alimony**
 Alan Rule **Allen Rule**
 alaquot **aliquot**
 alay **allay****
 alea **afia****
 aleamenter **alimenta****
 aleanate **alienate**
 aleanism **alienism**
 aleas **alias**
 aledge **allege**
 alegation **allegation****
 aleged **alleged**
 alegiance **allegiance**
 alement **ailment****
 alergy **allergy**
 aleviate **alleviate**
 alian **alien**
 alianage **alienage**
 alianate **alienate**
 aliance **alliance**
 aliatory **aleatory**
 alicable **allocable**
 alicution **allocation**
 aligiance **allegiance**
 alinement **alignment**
 alision **allision****
 alitter **aliter****
 aliviate **alleviate**
 alkiholic **alcoholic**
 alkohol **alcohol**
 allacrity **alacrity**
 alla giare **allegiare**
 allagy **allergy**
 allarm **alarm**
 allbeat **albeit**
 allcohol **alcohol**
 allea **alea****

Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect	Correct
alleanist	alienist	amakably	amicably
alleatory	aleatory	ambaguity	ambiguity
alledge	allege	ambalance	ambulance
alleinate	alienate	ambalate	ambulate
alleinor	alienor	ambegenic	ambigenic
allia	alia**	ambelence chaser	
alias	alias		ambulance chaser
alibi	alibi	amecks	AMEX
allien	alien	Ameracan	American
alienable	alienable	amertization	amortization
alienation	alienation	amikis kurea	amicus curiae
allieene	alienee	amiliaration	amelioration
allimenta	alimenta**	aminable	amenable
allimoney	alimony	aminible to law	amenable to law
allinment	alignment	aministrative law	
alliquot	aliquot		administrative law
alliter	aliter**	amissable	admissible
alli unde	aliunde	ammalgimation	amalgamation
aliunde	aliunde	ammalgum	amalgam
allive	alive	ammasculate	emasculate
allmaria	almaria	ammass	amass
all most	almost	ammbalatory	ambulatory
allogical	alogical**	ammbigguous	ambiguous
allott	allot**	ammbivilense	ambivalence
all teames hearez	ultimus haeres	ammblotic	amblotic
allter	alter**	ammbulence	ambulance
allteration	alteration**	ammeliorate	ameliorate
allter ego	alter ego**	ammenable	amenable
alternative minimum tax		ammend	amend**
.....	alternative minimum tax	ammendment	amendment
allternite	alternate	ammends	amends
although	although	ammenyouensis	amanuensis
allumna	alumna**	ammerce	amerce**
ally undi	aliunde	Ammerican	American
alocable	allocable	ammerse	amerce
alocation	allocation	ammertisable	amortizable
alodial	allodial	ammi	ami
alograph	allograph	ammicably	amicably
alokate	allocate	ammicus curea	amicus curiae
alonge	allonge	ammit	ambit
alot	allot**	ammnesty	amnesty
alotment	allotment	ammortize	amortize
allowance	allowance	ammotion	amotion**
alowe an appeal	allow an appeal	ammount	amount
alternative pleading		ammplification	amplification
.....	alternative pleading	ammputate	amputate
alude	allude***	among	among
alusion	allusion**	amplafy	amplify
aluvio marris	alluvio maris	ampyatation	amputation**
aluvion	alluvion**	anafradisiac	anaphrodisiac

Incorrect	Correct	Incorrect	Correct
analis	analysis**	anoyance	annoyance
anals	annals**	ansellary	ancillary
anamosity	animosity	anser	answer
anamus	animus	ansester	ancestor
anated	annotated	anshent	ancient
anaversery	anniversary	ansilery	ancillary
anceint	ancient	ansillery	ancillary
aneksation	annexation	antadate	antedate**
anerky	anarchy	antadote	antidote**
anex	annex	antasedent	antecedent
angagram	angiogram	antebiotic	antibiotic
angery	angary**	antedote	antidote**
angrily	angrily	antesedant	antecedent
anguish	anguish	antetakeover	antitakeover
anilize	analyze**	antetrust	antitrust
annabollic steroid	anabolic steroid	antimortum	ante mortem
annachronism	anachronism	antimates	ante natus
annagraph	anagraph	antinupshial	antenuptial
annalagous	analogous	anti status quo	ante status quo
annalize	analyze**	anual	annual**
annalogy	analogy	anuitant	annuitant
annasthesea	anesthesia	anuity	annuity
annatation	annotation	anulled	annulled
annathema	anathema	anulment	annulment
annatomical	anatomical	anurism	aneurism
anncestor	ancestor	anus mirabilis	annus mirabilis
anncellary	ancillary	anuties	annuities
annecdotal	anecdotal	apalogy	apology
annesthologist	anesthesiologist	aparatus	apparatus
annguish	anguish	aparel	apparel
annimosity	animosity	aparent	apparent
animus	animus	aparently	apparently
annomaly	anomaly	apeal	appeal
annserable	answerable	apear	appear
anntagonize	antagonize	apelate	appellate
anntecedent	antecedent	apelent	appellant
anntedate	antedate**	apellent	appellant
anntethisis	antithesis	apellite	appellate
annthrakosis	anthracosis	apend	append
anthroppometry	anthropometry	apendage	appendage
annticipation	anticipation	apendent	appendant
anntisipitory	anticipatory	apendses	appendices
ano Domino	anno Domini	apendix	appendix
anologous	analogous	apertain	appertain
anology	analogy**	apinage	apanage or appanage
anomolous	anomalous	aplacable	applicable
anonomous	anonymous	aplacant	applicant
anotated	annotated	aplacation	application
anounced	announced	aplicant	applicant
anouncement	announcement	aply	apply

<i>Incorrect</i>	<i>Correct</i>	<i>Incorrect</i>	<i>Correct</i>
apoint	appoint	arbitraitior	arbitrator
apointment	appointment	arbitter	arbitrer**
apointy	appointee	arearage	arrearage
aportion	apportion	areers	arrears**
aportionment	apportionment	areeway	areaway
aposite	apposite**	arender	a rendre
apostireori	a posteriori	arest	arrest
appaïs	a pais**	areway	airway
appartment	apartment	argament	argument
appeel	appeal	argoomentative	argumentative
appeerance	appearance	argueable	arguable
appertinance	appurtenance	argueing	arguing
appikal	apical	argyuable	arguable
applee	appellee	arival	arrival
appogee	apogee	arkives	archives
appogian tides	apogean tides	arms length	arm's length
appologia	apologia**	arogate	arrogate**
apposteriori	a posteriori	arogation	arrogation
apprachsia	apraxia	arrbitor	arbitrer**
apprender	a prendre	arrea	area**
appropo	apropos	arrere	arere**
apraisal	appraisal	arrgue	argue**
apraise	appraise**	arguendo	arguendo
apraisel	appraisal	arribitation	arbitration
aprehention	apprehension	artticle	article
apreori	a priori	arttificial persin	artificial person
aprize	apprise**	arsen	arson
aproach	approach	artaficial	artificial
aprobation	approbation	artafise	artifice
aproove	approve	artikle	article
apropreation	appropriation	asail	assail
apropriate	appropriate	asailant	assailant
aproval	approval	asailable	assailable
aproximate	approximate	asaled	assailed
aproxximate	approximate	asault	assault
apurtain	appertain	asay	assay**
apurtenance	appurtenance	asemble	assemble
aqo	a quo	asembly	assembly
acquire	acquire	asembly-man	assemblyman
aquit	acquit	asembly-woman	assemblywoman
araign	arraign**	asennt	ascent**
arainment	arraignment	asent	assent**
arangement	arrangement	asert	assert
aray	array	asesment	assessment
arbatrage	arbitrage	asesment of deficiency	assessment of deficiency
arbatrajure	arbitrageur	asesor	assessor
arbatramint	arbitrament	asess	assess**
arbatration	arbitration	asesser	assessor
arbatrery	arbitrary	asessible	assessable**
arbatrible	arbitrable		

asets	assets	atester	attestor
aseverration	asseveration	atipical	atypical
asfyxia	asphyxia	atorm	attorn
ashure	assure**	atorney	attorney
ashurence	assurance**	atorney at law	attorney at law
assign	assign	atrabution	attribution
assignee	assignee	atribute	attribute
asine	assign	atrition	attrition
asinement	assignment	atroshus assault	atrocious assault
asines	assigns	attackted	attacked
asis	as is	attrotious	atrocious
asist	assist	aturn	attorn
asistent	assistant	audater	auditor**
asize	assize	auidit	audit**
asizer	assiser or assisor	auiditer querela	audita querela
associate	associate	automobile	automobile
asociation	association	auter	autre**
assalt	assault	autharise	authorize
asscribe	ascribe	autharity	authority
assendants	ascendants	authenticity	authenticity
assertain	ascertain	author	author**
assertane	ascertain	auto-optic evidence	
assessory	accessory		autoptic evidence
assessory before the fact		auxiliary	auxiliary
.....	accessory before the fact	averrment	avermment
assinine	asinine	aversarial	adversarial
aspect	aspect	aversary proceeding	
assperse	asperse		adversary proceeding
asspursion	aspersion	avertion	aversion**
asstipulation	astipulation	avincullo matrimonio	
asume	assume		a vinculo matrimonii
asumsit	assumpsit	avisement	advisement
asumtion	assumption	avisery	advisory
asurance	assurance**	avocacy	advocacy
asurtion	assertion	avocate	advocate
atach	attach**	avoidince	avoidance
ataachment	attachment	avowch	avouch
atain	attain	avowel	avowal
atainder	attainder	avrage	average
ataint	attaint	avrage daily volume	
atak	attack**		average daily volume
atendent	attendant	avvails	avails
atennenis annus	a teneris annis	avvatar	avatar
aterm	a terme	avvenge	avenge
atern	attorn	avver	aver**
aterney	attorney	avverse	averse**
aterney in fact	attorney in fact	avversio	aversio**
aterny genral	attorney general	avversion	aversion**
atest	attest	avvocacy	advocacy
atestation	attestation	avvoid	avoid**