

THE OXFORD
ILLUSTRATED
DICTIONARY

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THE OXFORD ILLUSTRATED DICTIONARY

TEXT EDITED BY

J. COULSON C. T. CARR
LUCY HUTCHINSON DOROTHY EAGLE

ILLUSTRATIONS EDITED BY
HELEN MARY PETTER

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DOROTHY EAGLE
WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF
JOYCE HAWKINS

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE ON THE SECOND EDITION

SINCE its publication in 1962 the Oxford Illustrated Dictionary has been reprinted three times, each time with additions and amendments. In this new edition it has been entirely revised and reset so as to include entries for words that have recently become established in current usage, and as far as possible an up-to-date record of developments in world affairs, institutions, and science and technology in everyday life. In the United Kingdom various changes have been taking place in the last few years; notably the adoption of decimal coinage, the gradual substitution of metric for imperial units of measurement, and the coming into force of the Local Government Act of 1972. At the time of going to press metrication is still at a transitional stage: metric measurements are in use in many departments of life, but not yet in all, and the dictionary reflects usage of 1974, which may alter within the next few years. Changes of nomenclature and function brought about by the Local Government Act apply to England and Wales as from April 1974; those for Scotland are due in May 1975; the reorganization of local government for Northern Ireland came into force in October 1973.

The publishers would like to thank the many correspondents who have offered suggestions and criticisms and others who have generously given advice when consulted on specialist matters. In particular they are grateful to Eric Bruton, F.B.H.I., F.G.A., Dr. R. B. Freeman, Anthony Hawksley, Des.R.C.A., F.R.S.A., R. B. Meirion-Williams, and T. A. Morris, B.M., B.Ch., for help with specific definitions; to Branches of the O.U.P. in various parts of the world for critical advice on local matters; to N. S. Doniach for revision of the etymologies of Arabic, Hebrew, Persian, and Sanskrit words; and to Mrs. J. M. Wilson for reading proofs.

Many illustrations have been altered and modernized and a number of new ones have been added. John Brennan of Oxford Illustrators Ltd. undertook the necessary research and made the drawings. Material supplied by British Leyland Motor Corporation Ltd. (p. 552), Eric Bruton, F.B.H.I., F.G.A. (p. 347), Andrew J. Campbell (p. 589), Robert Goble & Son (pp. 154, 818), Ministry of Defence (p. 726), and J. M. Surman, R.I.B.A. (p. 22; also architectural details in general), is gratefully acknowledged.

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE ON THE FIRST EDITION

SOME years before the last war it had become clear that there was a demand for a dictionary which would combine the essential features of an encyclopaedia and of a dictionary in the ordinary sense; that is to say, a work which would deal not only with words and phrases, but also with the things for which these words and phrases stand. The general reader would thus be able to find within a single pair of covers two types of information for which he would ordinarily have to consult at least two different books.

Mrs. J. Coulson was asked to draw up a plan for a reference book on these lines and one where the factual character of much of the information would be emphasized and the exposition aided by a copious use of illustration. The plan and specimens were approved and the work of building up the material was far advanced when towards the end of the war Mrs. Coulson was obliged for family reasons to abandon it. In 1945 Professor C. T. Carr of St. Andrews University took over the task of completing the text and revising it. By 1952, however, his academic duties had become too heavy for him to continue and the late Miss Lucy Hutchinson, who had already been called in to help with the problems of illustration, took over the whole dictionary, and in 1956 Miss H. M. Petter became responsible for the illustrations. When Miss Hutchinson died in 1959, at a tragically early age, the whole book was in galley proof. The task of seeing it through the press was undertaken by Mrs. Dorothy Eagle.

The publishers would like to express their gratitude to all these editors. They are grateful also to Mrs. Mary Alden who read the proofs at galley stage and to Mr. J. M. Wyllie who gave much helpful criticism in the early stages of the book's preparation.

It is not possible to make more than a general acknowledgement of help received from many other quarters, but the publishers would like to express particular thanks to the following for help on specialized and technical matters: Miss R. J. Bannister, Mr. J. S. P. Bradford, Dr. C. J. Danby, Dr. T. K. Derry, Dr. R. B. Freeman, Commander D. H. Fryer, R.N. (Rtd), Dr. L. L. Hammick, Mr. E. N. Hamnett, Mrs. J. M. Harrison, Dr. B. M. Hobby, Mr. G. T. Hollis, Dr. D. H. Howling, Dr. W. O. James, Dr. R. H. Kay, Professor K. Kirkwood, Mr. G. E. Middleton, Mr. T. A. Morris, Mr. D. Maddison O'Brien, Mr. J. F. R. Peel, Dr. G. Rushworth, Dr. J. Sanders, Professor R. S. Sayers, Mr. W. F. Snook, Dr. J. M. K. Spalding, Dr. J. S. Weiner, Mr. J. S. de Wet, Dr. K. C. Wheare, Mr. M. J. White, Professor B. S. Yamey, Professor O. L. Zangwill.

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They are grateful also to many people who have supplied material from which drawings have been made, including the following: Sir William Arrol & Co. Ltd.; the Birmingham Assay Master; the Trustees of the British Museum; John Broadwood & Sons Ltd.; J. & P. Coats Ltd.; Commonwealth Bureau of Horticulture; Controller of H.M.S.O.; Crown Copyright; De Havilland Aircraft Co. Ltd.; Director-General of Artillery, Ministry of Supply; East Malling Research Station; Educational Productions Ltd.; English Electric Co. Ltd.; C. & J. Hampton Ltd.; Imperial War Museum; London School of Weaving; Joseph Lucas Ltd.; Museum of English Life, Reading; Museum of the History of Science, Oxford; Nuffield Organization; Public Record Office, c. 220/15/8/mem. 33; Smiths Clocks and Watches Ltd.; Sperry Gyroscope Co. Ltd.; R. H. Walker & Son Ltd.; Westland Aircraft Ltd. Illustrations have been based on figures from the following books: Léon Bertrand, *The Fencer's Companion*, Gale & Polden; I. E. S. Edwards, *The Pyramids of Egypt*, Penguin Books; Singer, Holmyard, Hall, and Williams, *A History of Technology*, Clarendon Press; J. Z. Young, *The Life of Vertebrates*, Clarendon Press; *The Book of the Motor Car*, Naldrett Press.

October 1962

PREFACE

ACCORDING to the distinction used by H. W. Fowler in the preface to the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*, a dictionary normally takes the uses of words and phrases as such for its subject-matter and is concerned with giving information about the things for which these words and phrases stand only so far as correct use of the words depends upon knowledge of the things. In an encyclopaedia, on the other hand, the emphasis will be much more on the nature of the things for which the words and phrases stand.

This book attempts to combine in a form that can be handled conveniently the essential features of dictionary and encyclopaedia. Where things are more easily explained by pictures or diagrams than by words, illustration has been used to help out definition. As the dictionary thus becomes the first Oxford English dictionary to make use of illustration (apart from the *Oxford Dictionary of Nursery Rhymes* where illustration is used for a different purpose and in a different way), it has been given a title which distinguishes it from the rest of the family by its most conspicuous feature.

VOCABULARY

The general reader for whom the book is intended may not always have another dictionary or encyclopaedia at his ready disposal and so the vocabulary has been chosen with an eye to the needs of one who may require either type of information. Information about words, however, is more often sought by the average user of a reference book than information about things and the vocabulary has therefore been based on that of the *Concise Oxford Dictionary* and the definitions retain its historical ordering. Familiar words are less fully treated, however, and the phrases illustrating such words have been more sparingly used so as to obtain a wider scope for the treatment of things.

The vocabulary should thus be adequate for the reader who consults the book for ordinary dictionary purposes. But it also contains terms in everyday use which would be excluded from an ordinary dictionary because of their technical and scientific character or which would be very briefly dealt with; familiar words in semi-technical use (e.g. *vertical trust*, *combine*, etc.); the names of famous people (e.g. statesmen, explorers, inventors, artists, and writers), historical, contemporary, or fictitious; and the names of important places and events.

Special pains have been taken to ensure that scientific and technical terms are up to date and accurate in selection and in definition and at the same time intelligible to the user, but the present pace of development in science and technology is so swift that no reference book which deals with them in even the

PREFACE

most general way can ever be completely up to date: between the time the book is compiled and its publication new words and senses will have come into use and existing words and senses will have acquired fresh shades of meaning or become obsolescent.

In order to keep the book within reasonable compass obsolete words and phrases have been omitted except for a few which some special interest has made it desirable to retain.

ILLUSTRATIONS

So far as possible the illustrations have been planned to support the function of the text and each of them is independent and self-explanatory: each is intended to show the meaning of a word or indicate the character of the thing for which the word stands. To avoid wasteful repetition many subjects have been grouped together, especially where the members of the group help to explain one another: the picture of a machine, for example, will not only illustrate the machine itself but will exhibit the nature of its parts, and their relation to one another and to the whole. In some cases the illustrations demonstrate how things work, but only where this helps to define the words. Historical development may also be indicated where this information is an essential part of the definition, for instance costume may be dated, although it is not the intention to illustrate the history of costume.

The subjects chosen for illustration are those which can be defined more clearly by this means than verbally. Words are often best defined in general terms but a drawing has to be of a particular thing and therefore gives an example of the particular use of the word rather than a generalized statement. Thus the human body has been chosen to show the different bones of the skeleton, although the same terms are used for comparable bones in other vertebrates.

The subjects are limited to those of general interest, but very familiar words are not illustrated. Space has not permitted the illustration of every subject and therefore examples with a wide range of reference have usually been chosen; thus the zoological drawings are intended to illustrate one particular example from each order.

ABBREVIATIONS

Abbreviations in current use appear in their alphabetical place in the body of the text to save a separate alphabet. But there is a separate list of those abbreviations used in the dictionary itself.

ETYMOLOGY

For the sake of space derivations have been omitted with a few exceptions. These occur where the etymology is especially interesting or unexpected

(e.g. *penicillin*, *derrick*), or when a thing has been named after its inventor or place of origin (e.g. *Fortin barometer*, *Borstal*). In these cases the etymology is given in square brackets at the end of the entry.

CROSS-REFERENCES

Where a word is given in small capitals in a definition, this indicates that reference to the word in its alphabetical place will provide further information (e.g. *INSULIN* in the entry for *pancreas*) or discuss the term which is given in comparison or contradistinction (e.g. *NOBLE* or *PRECIOUS* metals as opposed to *base* metals). Where something is illustrated as part of a composite picture the reference is usually given in round brackets (e.g. *aileron* . . . (ill. *AEROPLANE*)).

PRONUNCIATION

The pronunciation indicated represents the standard speech of southern England.

1. **Accent.** The accentuation mark ' is placed after the vowel or vowel sound in the stressed syllable.

2. **Phonetic system.** Where the pronunciation of a word or part of a word cannot be shown by the ordinary spelling and markings, a phonetic spelling is given in round brackets immediately after the black-type word. The phonetic scheme is as follows:

CONSONANTS: b; ch (*chin*); d; dh (*dhe* = the); f; g (*go*); h; j; k; l; m; n; ng (*sing*); ngg (*finger*); p; r; s (*sip*); sh (*ship*); t; th (*thin*); v; w; y; z; zh (*vizhon* = vision).

ñ indicates French nasalization of preceding vowel.

The symbol χ represents the ch in *Bach*, *loch*, pronounced as a guttural sound or as k.

VOWEL COMBINATIONS:

ā ē ī ō ū ȳ (mate mete mite mote mute moot)

ǎ ě ĭ ǒ ů ȳ (rack reck rick rock ruck rook)

ār ēr īr ūr (mare mere mire mure)

ār ēr ōr (part pert port)

ah aw oi oor ow (bah bawl boil boor brow)

Vowels and combinations (as *er*) printed in italic within the brackets indicate vague sounds frequently indistinguishable from each other.

Vowels marked ˘ may be pronounced either way, e.g. **pǎ' triot** (pā- or pǎ-).

3. **Pronunciation without respelling.** As far as possible pronunciation is shown without respelling by placing symbols over the words (e.g. **ā, ě, ār, ēr, ȳ**, etc.) in the black type. Unmarked vowels in the black-type words indicate vague sounds.

(a) The ordinary spelling often coincides with the phonetic system described in paragraph 2.

(b) The following additional symbols are used in the black type:

\acute{e} = \bar{i} (nā'kéd, rēly', cō'llége, přívět)

\acute{ir} , \acute{ur} = \acute{er} (bīrth, būrn)

\acute{y} , \acute{y} = \bar{i} , \bar{i} (īmplý', sū'nný)

\acute{yr} = \bar{ir} (lyre)

(c) Final e when unmarked is mute, i.e. not to be pronounced. Thus **āpe** is to be pronounced $\bar{ā}p$. Where final e is pronounced, it is marked as in **rě'cipè**. Where e is mute in the headword it is mute also (unless marked) in derivatives placed in the same entry, e.g. **bāre**, **bār'elý**, **bār'eněss**.

(d) A doubled consonant is pronounced as single (**sī'llý**, **mā'nnish**) unless indicated as in **plai'něss** (-n-n-).

(e) The following letters and combinations have the usual values in English spelling which are shown alongside them:

Vowel Combinations

ae = \bar{e} (aegis)

ai = \bar{a} (pain)

air = \bar{ar} (fair)

au = \bar{aw} (maul)

ay = \bar{a} (say)

ea, ee = \bar{e} (mean, meet)

ear, eer = \bar{er} (fear, beer)

ei = \bar{e} (ceiling)

eu, ew = \bar{u} (feud, few)

ey = \bar{i} (donkey)

ie = \bar{e} (thief)

ier = \bar{er} (pier)

oa = \bar{o} (boat)

ou = \bar{ow} (bound)

our = \bar{ower} (flour)

oy = \bar{oi} (boy)

Consonants

c is hard and = \bar{k} (cob, cry, talc) *but*

c before **e, i, y**, is soft and = \bar{s} (ice, icy, city)

ck = \bar{k} (back)

dġ before **e, i, y**, = \bar{j} (judgement)

ġ before **e, i, y**, is soft and = \bar{j} (age, gin, orgy)

n before **k, hard c, q, x** = \bar{ng} (zinc, uncle, tank, banquet, minx)

ph = \bar{f} (photo)

qu = \bar{kw} (quit)

tch = \bar{ch} (batch)

wh = \bar{w} or \bar{hw} (when)

x = \bar{ks} (fox)

Thus in **ġem** the pronunciation of \bar{g} is not marked because it comes under the rule above for soft \bar{g} , but **ġēt** is followed by (ġ-) to show that here exceptionally \bar{g} before **e** is hard as in *go*.

The following combinations have the values shown:

-age = $\bar{-ij}$ (garbage)

-al, -el preceded by $\bar{d, n, t}$ = $\bar{-l}$ (Handel, mental)

-en, -ent preceded by $\bar{d, t}$, = $\bar{-n}$, $\bar{-nt}$ (madden, fatten, student)

-nch when final = $\bar{-nsh}$ or $\bar{-nch}$ (trench)

-ous = $\bar{-us}$ (furious)

-sion after consonants = $\bar{-shon}$ (passion, tension)

| | |
|--|---|
| - sion after vowels = -zhon (divi- sion) | - tual , - tue , - ture = -chōōal, -chōō, -cher as well as -tūal, -tū, -tūr, esp. in common words |
| - sm = -zm (atheism, spasm) | |
| - tion = -shon (salvation) | |

SWUNG DASH (∼)

The 'swung dash' or 'tilde' is frequently used to save space in the body of the entry. It represents the headword (or a derivative of the headword printed in black type in the same entry) when this is repeated as a different part of speech or when it is used in combination with another word, either hyphenated or detached (but not when it has become part of a complete new word). For example, in the article **pitch**¹ *n.* we have ∼ *v.t.* when the headword becomes a new part of speech, and ∼ *black* and ∼ *pine* when it is in combination (but *pitchblende* as a whole word). The addition of an initial letter to the swung dash indicates a change from a small letter in the headword to a capital or vice versa (e.g. *F*∼ in the article **flood** represents the Flood recorded in Genesis).

ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE DICTIONARY

(Abbreviations in general use have entries in the main text)

- abbrev./iation, -iated
abl./ative
abs./olute(ly)
acc./ording
accus./ative
act./ive
adj(s)., adjective(s)
adv(s)., adverb(s)
aeron./autics
AF, Anglo-French
Afr./ican
alg./ebra
allus./ive(ly)
Amer./ican
anal./ogy
anat./omy
Anglo-Ind./ian
anon./ymous
antiq./uities
anthrop./ology
app./arently
Arab./ic
Aram./aic
arbitr./ary
archaeol./ogy
archit./ecture
arith./metic
assim./ilated
assoc./iated
astrol./ogy
astron./omy
at. wt, atomic weight
attrib./utive(ly)
augment./ative
Austral./ian
av./oirdupois
- b./orn
back form./ation
bibl./ical
bibliog./raphy
biochem./istry
biol./ogy
Boh./emian
bot./any
Br./itish
Braz./ilian
Bulg./arian
Burm./ese
Byz./antine
- c./entury
Camb./ridge
c./irca
cap./ital
Celt./ic
cf., compare
Ch./urch
chem./istry
Chin./ese
chronol./ogy
cinemat./ography
cogn./ate
collect./ive(ly)
colloq./uial(ly)
com./mon
comb./ination
commerc./ial
comp., compar./ative
compl./ement
conch./ology
confus./ion
conj., conjunction, conjugation
conn./ected
constr./uction
contempt./uous(ly)
contr./action
cop./ulative
correl./ative
corresp./onding
corrupt./ion
cryst./allography
cu./bic
- d./ied
Dan./ish
dat./ive
demonstr./ative
deriv./ative
derog./atory
dial./ect
dict./ionary
diff./erent
dim./inutive
diplom./acy
dist./inct, -inguished
distrib./utive
Du./tch
dub./ious
- E., east(ern)
eccles./iastical

- ecol./ogy
 econ./omics
 Egyptol./ogy
 E. Ind., East Indian (i.e. of the East Indies)
 elect./ricity
 ellipt./ic
 embryol./ogy
 emphat./ic(ally)
 eng., engin./eering
 Engl., England, English
 entom./ology
 erron./eous(ly)
 esp./ecial(ly)
 ethno./ogy
 etym./ology
 euphem./ism
 Eur./ope(an)
 exagg./eration
 exc./ept
 exch./ange
 excl., exclamation, exclusive
 expr./essing etc.
- f./from
 facet./ious etc.
 fam./iliar etc.
 fem./inine etc.
 fig./urative etc.
 Fl./emish
 foll./owing (word)
 footb./all
 fort./ification
 Fr./ench
 freq./uent(ly)
 frequent./ative(ly)
 fut./ure (tense)
- Gael./ic
 gen., general(ly), genitive
 geog./raphy
 geol./ogy
 geom./etry
 Ger./man
 Gr., Greek
 govt., government
 gram./mar
- Heb./rew
 her./aldry
 Hind./ustani
 hist./orical, history
 hort./iculture
- i., intransitive
 Iceland./ic
 ill./ustration
 ill./iterate
 imit./ative
 imp., imper./ative
 imperf./ect
- impers./onal
 impropr./er(ly)
 incl./uding, inclusive
 Ind./ian (i.e. of the Indian sub-continent)
 ind., indicative, indirect
 indecl./inable
 indef./inite
 inf./initive
 infl./uence(d)
 instr./umental (case)
 int./erjection
 interrog./ative(ly)
 intrans./itive
 Ir./ish
 iron./ically
 irreg./ular(ly)
 It., Ital./ian
- Jap./anese
 Jew./ish
 joc./ular(ly)
- L, Latin
 lang./uage
 l.c., lower case
 LG, Low German
 lit./eral(ly)
 Lith./uanian
 LL, late Latin
- magn./etism
 manuf./acture
 masc./uline
 math./ematics
 MDu., Middle Dutch
 ME, Middle English
 mech./anics
 med./icine
 med.L, medieval Latin
 metall./urgy
 metaph./or(ically)
 metaphys./ics
 meteor./ology
 Mex./ican
 MG, Middle German
 MHG, Middle High German
 mil./itary
 min./eralogy
 MLG, Middle Low German
 mod./ern
 morphol./ogy
 mus./ic
 myth./ology
- N., north(ern)
 n./oun
 N. Amer., North America(n)
 nat. hist., natural history
 naut./ical
 nav./al
 nec./essary, -essarily

- neg./ative(ly)
 neut./er
 nom./inative
 Norm./an
 north./ern
 Norw./egian
 ns., nouns
 N.T., New Testament
 num./eral

 obj./ect
 obl./ique
 obs./olete
 obsolesc./ent
 occas./ional(ly)
 OE, Old English
 OF, Old French
 OHG, Old High German
 OIr., Old Irish
 OLG, Old Low German
 ON, Old Norse
 onomat./opoeic
 ophthalm./ology
 opp., (as) opposed (to), opposite
 ord./inary, -inarily
 orig./inal(ly)
 ornith./ology
 O.T., Old Testament

 p./age
 paint./ing
 palaeog./raphy
 palaeont./ology
 parenth./etic(ally)
 parl./iament(ary)
 part./iciple, -icipial
 pass./ive(ly)
 past t./ense
 path./ology
 pedant./ic(ally)
 perf./ect (tense)
 perh./aps
 Pers./ian
 pers./on(al)
 Peruv./ian
 pharm./acy, -acology
 philol./ogy
 philos./ophy
 phon., phonet./ics
 phot., photog./raphy
 phr./ase
 phrr., phrases
 phys./ics
 phys. chem., physical chemistry
 physiol./ogy
 pl./ural
 pluperf./ect
 poet./ical
 Pol./ish
 pol./itics etc.
 pol. econ., political economy

 pop./ular(ly)
 Port./uguese
 poss./essive
 pp., pages
 pr./onounced
 prec., (the) preceding (word)
 pred./icate, -icative
 pref./ix
 prep./osition(al)
 pres./ent (tense)
 pret./erite
 print./ing
 prob./able, -ably
 pron., pronoun,
 pronounced, pronunciation
 prop./er(ly)
 pros./ody
 psych., psychol./ogy
 psychoanal./ysis

 railw./ay
 R.C., Roman Catholic
 ref./erence
 refl./exive(ly)
 rel./ative
 repr./esent
 rhet./oric
 Rom./an
 Russ./ian

 S., south(ern)
 S. Afr., South African
 Sansk./rit
 Sax./on
 Sc./ottish
 Scand./inavian
 sculp./ture
 sent./ence
 Serb./ian
 sing./ular
 Slav./onic
 sociol./ogy
 sp./elling
 Span./ish
 spec./ial(ly)
 specif./ic(ally)
 sport./ing
 Stock Exch., Stock Exchange
 subj., subject, subjunctive
 superl./ative
 surg./ery
 surv./eying
 Swed./ish
 syn./onym

 tech./nical(ly)
 teleg./raphy
 term./ination
 Teut./onic
 theatr./ical

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| theol./ogy | vbl, verbal |
| trans./itive | vbs., verbs |
| transf., in transferred sense | v.i., verb intransitive |
| transl./ation | voc./ative |
| trig./onometry | v.r., verb reflexive |
| Turk./ish | v.t., verb transitive |
| typ./ography | vulg./ar(ly) |
| U.K., United Kingdom | W., west(ern) |
| ult./imate(ly) | w./ith |
| unexpl./ained | W Afr., West African |
| Univ./ersity | wd, word |
| Univv., Universities | wds, words |
| U.S., United States | W. Ind., West Indian (i.e. of the West Indies) |
| usu./al(ly) | |
| v./erb | yr(s), year(s) |
| var., variant, various | |
| varr., variants | |
| v. aux., verb auxiliary | zool./ogy |

This dictionary includes some words which are, or are asserted to be, proprietary names or trade marks. Their inclusion does not imply that they have acquired for legal purposes a non-proprietary or general significance nor any other judgement concerning their legal status. In cases where the editor has some evidence that a word is used as a proprietary name or trade mark this is indicated by the reference [trade-name], but no judgement concerning the legal status of such words is made or implied thereby.

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A

Many abbreviations, especially those consisting of initial letters, may be written with or without points.

A, a (ā). 1. 1st letter of modern English and ancient Roman alphabet, descended, through Greek and Latin, from first letter, *aleph* (א), of Hebrew and Phoenician alphabets, in English representing orig. a low-back-wide vowel sound and now a number of vowel sounds. 2. 1st in series, order, or class, esp. (alg. etc.) first known quantity. 3. *A*, (mus.) 6th note of natural scale (C major); scale or key with this note for tonic. 4. *A. 1.*, applied in Lloyd's Register to ships in first-class condition in respect of both hull (designated by A) and equipment (1); hence, first-class, prime, perfect.

A *abbrev.* Adult (i.e. that may contain material unsuitable for children, of cinema film); alto; ampere(s); Australian (in \$A, Australian dollars).

a, an (*a, an*; *emphat.*, ā, ān) *adj.* (the indefinite article) One; some, any; (in, to, for) each.

Å *abbrev.* Ångström(s).

a- *prefix.* 1. Or., in, at. 2. (also an-) Without, not.

A.A. *abbrev.* Anti-aircraft; Automobile Association; *AA*, (of cinema film) for exhibition only to persons over 14 years.

A.A.A. *abbrev.* (U.S.) Agricultural Adjustment Administration; Amateur Athletic Association; Automobile Association of America.

Aachen (ahχ-). (Fr. *Aix-la-Chapelle*) Ancient city of Germany near Belgian and Dutch borders, scene of coronation of German kings until 16th c.

A. and M., A. & M. *abbrev.* (Hymns) Ancient and Modern.

aardvark (ār-) *n.* S. Afr. ant-eating quadruped (*Orycteropus afer*) with long extensible tongue. [Du., = 'earth-pig']



AARDVARK

aardwolf (ār'dwōlf) *n.* (pl. -ves). Carnivorous mammal (*Proteles cristatus*) resembling the hyena.

Aaron (ār'on). Brother of Moses and traditional founder of Jewish

priesthood; ~'s beard, (see Ps. 133: 2) any of various plants, esp. a St. John's wort (*Hypericum calycinum*); ~'s rod, (see Numbers 17: 8) plant with tall flowering stem, esp. a mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*).

aasvogel (ah'sfōgl) *n.* Any of several large S. Afr. vultures. [Du., = 'carrion-bird']

ab-, abs- *prefix.* Off, away, from.

A.B. *abbrev.* Able seaman.

ā'ba, ā'bba, abay'a *ns.* Sack-like outer garment worn by Arabs.

abā'ck *adv.* Backwards; taken ~, (of ship) with square sails pressed back against the mast by the wind; (fig.) surprised, disconcerted.

ā'bacus *n.* (pl. -cuses or -ci). 1. Frame for arithmetical calculation with balls sliding on wires, used before the adoption of the nine figures and zero, and still in China etc. and in elementary teaching.

2. (archit.) Upper member, often a square flat slab, of capital, supporting architrave (ill. ORDER).

Abā'ddon. Hebrew name of APOLLYON.

aba'ft (-bah-) *adv.* On or towards stern of ship. ~ *prep.* Aft of, behind.

ābalō'né *n.* (U.S.) Haliotis.

abā'ndon *v.t.* Give up, surrender, forsake. ~ *n.* Careless freedom.

abā'ndonment *n.* **abā'ndoned** (-nd) *adj.* (esp.) Profligate.

abā'ndonee' *n.* Underwriter to whom salvage of wreck is abandoned.

abā'se *v.t.* Humiliate, lower, make base. **abā'serment** *n.*

abā'sh *v.t.* Embarrass, confound.

abā'te *v.* Diminish, make or become less; lower; deduct (part of price); (law) quash (action), end (nuisance). **abā'tement** *n.*

ā'batis, abā'ttis *n.* (mil.) Obstacle of felled trees with branches pointing outwards.

ā'battoir (-twār) *n.* Slaughterhouse.

abaya: see ABA.

A'bba¹ (ā-). Used (in ~, *Father*) in invocations to God; title of bishops in Syriac and Coptic Churches. [Aram. = 'father']

abba²: see ABA.

ā'bbacý *n.* Office, jurisdiction, or tenure of abbot or abness.

A'bbas¹ (ā-; *or* abah's) (566-652). Uncle of Muhammad.

A'bbas² (ā-; *or* abah's), 'the

Great'. Shah of Persia; reigned 1587-1628.

A'bbasid (ā-; *or* abah'-) *n.* Member of dynasty of caliphs ruling in Baghdad 750-1258, claiming descent from **ABBAS**¹.

abbā'tial (-shal) *adj.* Of an abbey, abbot, or abness.

ā'bbé (-ā) *n.* Frenchman entitled to wear ecclesiastical dress, esp. without official duties.

ā'bbess *n.* Female superior of community of nuns, in those orders in which monks are governed by abbots.

Abbevi'llian (ābv-) *adj.* & *n.* (Culture) of the earliest palaeolithic period in Europe, represented by the remains found at Abbeville, N. France (formerly called **CHELLEAN**).

ā'bbey *n.* Body of monks or nuns governed by an abbot or abness; monastic buildings; church or house once an abbey or part of it.

A'bbey Thé'atre (ā-, -er). Irish national theatre, located since 1904 in Abbey St., Dublin.

ā'bbot *n.* Superior of community of monks (now chiefly in Benedictine and Augustinian orders), usu. elected by the monks for life or period of years, and freq. holding certain episcopal rights; ~ *of misrule:* see MISRULE. [Aram. *abba* father]

abbré'viāte *v.t.* Shorten, contract (esp. word, by writing part for the whole). **abbré'viā'tion** *n.*

A B C *n.* Alphabet; rudiments of subject; alphabetical railway time table.

ā'bdicāte *v.* Renounce, relinquish, (esp. crown) formally or by default. **ā'bdicā'tion** *n.*

ā'bdomēn (*or* ābdō'-) *n.* 1.

(anat.) Part of body between diaphragm and floor of pelvis, containing digestive and other organs.

2. (zool.) Hinder part, not bearing walking limbs, of insects, spiders, etc. **ābdō'minal** *adj.* **ābdō'minally** *adv.* (Illustration, p. 2.)

ābdū'cent *adj.* (anat., of muscles) Drawing back.

ābdū'ct *v.t.* Take away (esp. woman) by force or fraud; (of muscle etc.) draw limb from normal position. **ābdū'ction**, **ābdū'ctor** *ns.*

abea'm *adv.* On a line at right angles to ship's or aircraft's length; opposite the middle of ship's or aircraft's side (ill. **BEARING**).

ābécédār'ian *adj.* 1. Arranged alphabetically, as the 110th Psalm.