



THE CONCISE AMERICAN HERITAGE DICTIONARY

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DICTIONARY

THE CONCISE AMERICAN HERITAGE DICTIONARY



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The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language

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PREFACE

The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, edited by William Morris, presented several innovations in lexicography, principally in the areas of design and illustrations, guidance on matters of usage, and etymology. This edition, prepared by the staff of the American Heritage Dictionary, is an independent reference work embodying in smaller form the innovations of the parent book. It is also available in paperback form published by Dell Publishing Co. Inc. The design of this edition is adapted to present fine illustrations, maps, and charts in full-column or full-page width throughout the Dictionary. Usage notes derived from the deliberations of the American Heritage Panel on English Usage over a period of four years are included in the text. Etymologies are given throughout, and many of the words of the native Old English vocabulary are traced to their prehistoric origins in a short Appendix of Indo-European roots following the main body of the Dictionary. Above all, the definitions have been selected, and rewritten or edited, to be as accurately lucid and useful as possible.

Guide to the Dictionary

The Main Entry

The main entry is the word or phrase one looks up in the Dictionary. It is printed in boldface type a little to the left of the rest of the type.

Two or more entries that are identical in spelling but have different etymologies are entered separately; each entry bears a superscript number.

baste¹

baste²

baste³

The entry word, whether a solid word, syllabicated word, hyphenated compound, or phrase, is alphabetized as if it were written solid.

wa-ter

Water Bearer

wa-ter-borne

water buffalo

Abbreviations are alphabetized in the same sequence as words.

Syllabication

An entry word is divided into syllables by centered dots.

rep-re-sen-ta-tion

In a phrasal entry, words that appear as separate entries are not syllabicated.

die-sel engine

Engine is a separate entry, **diesel** is not.

However, when principal parts of regular verbs appear as parts of phrasal entries, they are *not* syllabicated.

Variants

If two or more different spellings of a single word are entered, they are set in boldface type and are treated in two ways:

(1) A variant may follow the main entry, separated from it only by a comma. This indicates that the two forms are used almost equally frequently.

ax, axe

(2) When one spelling is distinctly preferred, the variant is introduced by the word "Also."

me-di-e-val . . . Also **me-di-ae-val**.

A large class of variants consists of spellings preferred in British English and sometimes used in American English. Such variants as **colour** and **centre** are labeled *Chiefly Brit.* The variant **-ise**, which occurs in many British spellings where American has **-ize** (for example, **realize, realise**), is not given unless it is also a common American variant.

VII

When a word that has a variant occurs in a compound, the variant is not repeated at the compound; for example, the variant **colour** is given at **color**, but it is not repeated at **colorblind** and other compounds.

A variant spelling that would, if entered, fall within five entries of the preferred spelling is not entered separately.

Apart from variant spellings, which are given at the beginning of an entry, there are often two or more distinct words or phrases that have identical meaning. These alternate names for the same thing are treated as follows:

(1) The alternate name is a main entry, and the preferred form is given in the definition.

ad-ju-tant . . . *n.* 1. . . . 2. A stork, the marabout.

darning needle. 1. . . . 2. A dragonfly.

bi-car-bon-ate of soda. **Sodium bicarbonate.**

In the last case, because the main entry is a phrasal compound, it is set in boldface type; this indicates that the entry for the preferred form is to be found in its proper alphabetical order in the letters.

(2) The main entry is fully defined; if the alternate name is mentioned, it is treated as a regular synonym, i.e., it appears in lightface roman type.

Sodium bicarbonate. A white . . . ; bicarbonate of soda.

(3) If the alternate name applies only to a single sense of the definition, it is entered just after the proper part-of-speech label or definition number.

mu-si-cal . . . *adj.* . . . —*n.* **musical comedy.** A play . . .

an-ise . . . *n.* 1. A plant having aromatic licorice-flavored seeds. 2. Also **an-i-seed** . . . The seeds, used as a flavoring.

In these particular cases, **musical comedy** and **aniseed** will not be entered separately because they would fall within five entries of the main entry.

Inflected Forms

Inflected forms regarded as being irregular or offering possible spelling problems are entered in boldface type, usually in shortened form, immediately following the part-of-speech label or the numbered sense of the definition to which they apply.

base . . . **baser, basest.**

well . . . **better, best.**

fly . . . **flew, flown, flying.**

Regular inflections are normally not entered. For the purposes of this Dictionary, regular inflections include:

1. Plurals formed by suffixing **-s** or **-es**. The regular plural is shown, however, when there is an irregular variant plural or when the spell-

ing of the regular plural might present difficulty, as with words ending in *-o*.

cac-tus . . . *pl. -ti (-ti') or -tuses.*

to-ma-to . . . *pl. -toes.*

pi-an-o . . . *pl. -os.*

2. Past tenses and past participles formed by suffixing *-ed* with no other change in the verb form, as **marked**, **parked**, etc.

3. Present participles formed by suffixing *-ing* with no other change in the verb form, as **marking**, **parking**, etc.

4. Present-tense forms, with the exception of such highly irregular forms as **is**, **has**, etc.

5. Comparatives and superlatives formed by suffixing *-er* and *-est* with no other change in the positive form of the adjective and adverb, as **taller**, **tallest**, etc.

The inflected forms of verbs are given in the following order: past tense, past participle (if it differs from the past tense), and present participle.

fly . . . **flew**, **flown**, **flying**.

Alternate inflected forms are given and labeled.

Irregular inflected forms that would fall within five entries of the main entry are not entered separately; in such cases they are pronounced at the main entry. If, however, they fall more than five entries from the main entry (i.e., the infinitive form of a verb, the singular of a noun, etc.), they are separately entered, pronounced, and identified by italicized abbreviations as a part or parts of a verb, comparative of an adjective, plural of a noun, etc.

Order of Definitions

When an entry has multiple numbered definitions, these are ordered by a method of synchronic semantic analysis intended to serve the convenience of the general user of the Dictionary. The numerical order does not indicate the historical sequence in which the senses developed. The first definition, then, is not necessarily the earliest sense of the word, though it may be. Rather, the first definition is the central meaning about which the other senses can most logically be organized. The organization seeks to clarify the fact that, despite its various meanings, the entry is a single "word" and not a number of separate words that happen to be spelled the same way.

Numbers and Letters

When an entry has more than one definition, these are numbered in sequence. In a combined entry (one in which the entry word belongs to more than one part of speech), the definitions are numbered in separate sequences beginning with 1. after each part of speech.

be-hind . . . *adv.* 1. In, to, or toward the rear . . . 2. In a place . . . 3. In arrears; late. —*prep.* 1. At the back of . . . 2. On the further side of . . .

When a numbered definition has two or more closely related senses, these are marked **a.**, **b.**, etc.

lat-i-tude . . . *n.* 1. . . . 2. . . . 3. **a.** The

angular distance N or S of the equator, measured in degrees along a meridian. **b.** A region considered in relation to this distance.

When a general definition is further qualified by several specific meanings, the letters **a.**, **b.**, etc., are used.

card¹ . . . *n.* 1. A small, flat piece of stiff paper or thin pasteboard with numerous uses: **a.** One of a set . . . **b.** A post card. **c.** One bearing . . .

Numbered Boldface Definitions Plurals

If a noun has, in addition to its ordinary sense, a sense or senses in which it often appears in the plural, this fact is indicated as follows:

ground . . . *n.* 1. . . . 4. Often **grounds**. The foundation or basis . . .

If a noun is *always* used in the plural or if the plural form takes a singular verb, the plural form appears in boldface before the definition and the parenthetical grammatical note.

com-mon . . . *adj.* 1. Belonging equally to all; joint . . . —*n.* 1. A tract of land . . . 2. **Commons**. The lower house of Parliament . . .

gut . . . *n.* 1. . . . 4. **guts**. *Slang.* Courage; fortitude.

a-cous-tic . . . *adj.* Also **a-cous-ti-cal**. Pertaining to sound . . . —*n.* **acoustics**. 1. (*takes sing. v.*) The scientific study of sound. 2. (*takes pl. v.*) The total effect . . .

Combined Upper-case and Lower-case Forms

When upper-case and lower-case words of the same spelling have the same etymology, both forms are usually included in the same entry.

If the lower-case form is a common word with a specific upper-case sense, the lower-case form is the main entry. Most upper-case and lower-case combinations are of this sort.

sav-ior . . . *n.* Also **sav-iour**. 1. One who . . . 2. **the Savior**. Christ.

If, on the other hand, the upper-case form is the original sense and is still current, it is the main entry.

A-pol-lo . . . *n.* 1. Greek sun god, patron of . . . 2. **apollo**. Any young man . . .

The word "Often" immediately following a boldface number indicates that a word is often or usually upper-case (or lower-case) in that sense.

cock-ney . . . *n.* 1. Often **Cockney**. A native of . . . 2. The dialect . . .

Part-of-Speech Labels

The italicized labels below, which follow the pronunciation of the entry word, are used to indicate parts of speech.

<i>n.</i>	noun
<i>adj.</i>	adjective
<i>adv.</i>	adverb
<i>pron.</i>	pronoun
<i>conj.</i>	conjunction
<i>prep.</i>	preposition
<i>v.</i>	verb
<i>interj.</i>	interjection
<i>comb. form.</i>	combining form

The following additional italicized labels are used to indicate inflected forms:

<i>fem.n.</i>	feminine noun
<i>pl.</i>	plural
<i>sing.</i>	singular
<i>pres.p.</i>	present participle
<i>p.t.</i>	past tense
<i>p.p.</i>	past participle
<i>compar.</i>	comparative
<i>superl.</i>	superlative

Part-of-Speech Labels in Combined Entries

In combined entries, the part-of-speech labels that follow the first one are preceded by a dash. Such labels precede all elements that apply to that part of speech, and may be followed by any elements (pronunciation, other labels, etc.) that can appear immediately following the main-entry word, its pronunciation, etc.

ad-lib . . . *v.* -libbed, -libbing. To improvise . . . — *n.* Something ad-libbed . . .

If, however, a language, status, or field label applies to a whole entry, the label precedes all part-of-speech labels.

mug² . . . *Slang. n.* 1. The face . . . 2. . . — *v.* mugged, mugging. 1. . .

Verbs

Parentheses are used to indicate a direct object or an intransitive sense in which the object of the verb is included.

ad-min-is-ter . . . *v.* 1. To manage. 2. **a.** To give (a drug) remedially. **b.** To dispense (a sacrament) . . .

Parentheses are also used around a final preposition to indicate that a verb can be used either transitively or intransitively in that sense, i.e., that it can be followed by a direct object or that its object may be omitted entirely.

kink . . . *n.* 1. A small, tight . . . — *v.* To form kinks (in).

Idioms

Many entry words are commonly used in phrases the meaning of which is not clear from the meanings of the separate words. Except as noted, such phrases are defined at the entry for the most significant word in the phrase. The phrase is introduced by a boldface dash and is set in boldface type. Phrases such as **water buffalo**, made up of an attributive

(adjective or noun) plus a noun, are separate main entries. Verb phrases that form nouns are also separate main entries; for example, **make up** is a separate entry because of the noun **make-up**.

Main Entry Words Having Meaning Only in a Phrase

A certain small class of words has current meaning only in phrasal combinations and is so treated.

a-back . . . *adv.* — **take aback**. To startle; confuse.

re-ly . . . *v.* -lied, -lying. — **rely on** (or **upon**).
1. To depend. 2. To trust confidently.

Usage Labels

Usage labels are restrictive labels that serve to warn the reader that a term is not properly available for use in all contexts. A usage label applies only to the definition or definitions that follow it. A single entry may have standard (unlabeled) definitions and any combination of labeled definitions.

Informal signifies "cultivated colloquial," that is, the speech of educated persons when they are more interested in what they are saying than in how they are saying it. *Informal* terms are also used in writing that seeks the effect of speech, but they are not used in formal writing.

Slang does not define a level of speech, as does *Informal*, but a style having features that are usually not hard to identify. Slang may occur in all but the most formal language and remain slang. A primary rule to distinguish it from nonstandard speech is that a slang term may not be used merely to indicate the meaning of a word; it always carries some deliberately informal connotation in addition and suggests some intention—however dully conceived—of rhetorical effect, such as incongruity, hyperbole, irreverence, etc.

Nonstandard, unlike *Informal* and *Slang*, indicates usages that are widespread but not acceptable. It includes forms such as "ir-regardless" and "ain't."

Obsolete (*Obs.*) is for obsolete words, few of which are entered; in order to be entered an obsolete term must have appeared in standard literature either frequently or prominently. (A distinction must be made between a term for an obsolete thing and a term that is itself obsolete. The former is not labeled, but the historical situation is explained in the definition, e.g., "An 18th-century hat . . .")

Archaic is used for terms that were once common and continue to have some use, but are now used only to suggest an earlier style. The label does not suggest a date beyond which a word cannot be found, merely that when it is found in a contemporary context, it is readily identifiable as belonging to a style of language no longer in general use.

Rare terms were never common. The label does not imply *Archaic*; a rare term may be of recent coinage. The label is not used for terms whose use is rare because of the limita-

tion of their application, such as abstruse technical terms; it is confined to general terms for which more common synonyms are available.

Poetic is used for such locutions as a shortening (*o'er*) that is or was common in poetry but was never common in prose.

Regional is used for terms that are not common to American speech in general but exist in more than one locality.

Other Labels

Important words belonging to major English dialectal areas of the U.S. or outside the U.S. are so labeled.

Etymologies

Etymologies appear in square brackets following the definitions. [?] indicates "of obscure origin." The symbol < is used to mean "from" and is often an indication that transitional stages have been omitted in order to give a concise history of the word. The etymologies of most basic words are given, with particular emphasis on native words (i.e., words derived from Old English) having their origins in Indo-European. Many of these cross-refer to the Appendix, which begins on page 807.

The abbreviations used in etymologies usually appear as main entries in their proper alphabetical order; they are all listed in "Abbreviations and Symbols used in Etymologies," on page XII.

Field Labels

An italicized word or abbreviation denoting a specific subject and preceding a definition indicates a specialized sense not identical with any other sense the word may have apart from the labeled field.

Abbreviations

Abbreviations are included as main entries in the vocabulary.

Pronunciation

Pronunciation is given for all main entries and for other forms as needed. It is indicated in parentheses following the form to which it applies.

The set of symbols used is designed to enable the reader to reproduce a satisfactory pronunciation with no more than quick reference to the key. All pronunciations given are acceptable in all circumstances. When more than one is given, the first is assumed to be the most common, but the difference in frequency may be insignificant.

It is obvious that Americans do not all speak alike. It is equally obvious, nevertheless, that Americans can understand one another, at least on the level of speech sounds. In fact, the differences among the major regional varieties of American speech are such that for most words a single set of symbols can represent the pronunciation found in each

regional variety, provided the symbols are planned for the purpose stated above: to enable the reader to reproduce a satisfactory pronunciation. When a single pronunciation is offered in this Dictionary, the reader will supply those features of his own regional speech that are called forth by his reading of the key. Apart from regional variations in pronunciation, there are variations among social groups. The pronunciations recorded in this Dictionary are exclusively those of educated speech. In every community, educated speech is accepted and understood by everyone, including those who do not themselves use it.

Pronunciation Key

A shorter form of this key appears across the bottom of each pair of facing pages. The symbols marked with an asterisk are discussed in this guide.

spellings	AHD
pat	ă
pay	ā
care	*ār
father	ä
bib	b
church	ch
deed, milled	d
pet	ē
bee	ē
fife, phase	f
gag	g
hat	h
which	hw
pit	*ī
pie, by	i
pier	*īr
judge	j
kick, cat, pique	k
lid, needle	*l (nēd'l)
mum	m
no, sudden	*n (sūd'n)
thing	ng
pot, *horrid	ō
toe, *hoarse	ō
caught, paw, *for	ô
noise	oi
took	ōō
boot	ōō
out	ou
pop	p
roar	*r
sauce	s
ship, dish	sh
tight, stopped	t
thin	th
this	th
cut	ū
urge, term, firm, word, heard	*ūr
valve	v
with	w
yes	y
zebra, xylem	z
vision, pleasure, garage	zh
about, item, edible, *o	
gallop, circus	
butter	*or

FOREIGN

French <i>ami</i>	ä
French <i>feu</i>	œ
German <i>schön</i>	ü
French <i>tu</i>	ü
German <i>über</i>	
German <i>ich</i>	kh
Scottish <i>loch</i>	
French <i>bon</i>	ɲ
French <i>compiegne</i>	y' (kôn-pyën'y')

STRESS

Primary stress '	bi-ol' o-gy (bī-ōl' a-jē)
Secondary stress '	bi' o-log' i-cal (bī' a-lōj' i-kal)

Explanatory Notes

a: This nonalphabetical symbol is called a *schwa*. The symbol is used in the Dictionary to represent only a reduced vowel, i.e., a vowel that receives the weakest level of stress (which can be thought of as no stress) within a word and therefore nearly always exhibits a change in quality from the quality it would have if it were stressed, as in *telegraph* (tēl' a-gräf') and *telegraphy* (tə-lēg' rā-fē). Vowels are never reduced to a single exact vowel; the schwa sound will vary, sometimes according to the "full" vowel it is representing and often according to its phonetic environment.

i: This symbol is used to represent the second vowel in *artist* (är'tist), a vowel that has been only partially reduced and therefore cannot be represented by the schwa. The choice between schwa (ə) and "breve i" (i) to represent reduced vowels is arrived at through a complex set of considerations. In nearly every case in which (i) appears, there is also a variant pronunciation closer to (ə). As long as reduced vowels receive no stress, the surrounding sounds will lead the reader to produce either (ə) or (i), according to his regional speech pattern.

/y/: The y between virgules indicates that the sound is present in the pronunciation of some speakers and absent from the pronunciation of others, as in the word *duty*, where two pronunciations may occur, (dōō'tē) and (dyōō'tē). In this Dictionary both pronunciations are represented in (d/y/ōō'tē).

är These symbols represent vowels that have been altered by a following *r*. This situation is traditionally exemplified by the words *Mary*, *merry*, and *marry*. In some regional varieties all three are pronounced alike: (mēr'ē). However, in a broad range of individual American speech patterns cutting across regional boundaries, the three words are distinguished. It is this pattern that the Dictionary represents, thus: *Mary* (mār'ē), *merry* (mēr'ē), *marry* (mār'ē). Some words, however, are heard in all three

pronunciations, indistinctly grading one into another. For these words the Dictionary represents only (är), for example, *care* (kär), *dairy* (där'ē).

In words such as *hear*, *beer*, and *dear*, the vowel could be represented by (ē) were it not for the effect of the following *r*, which makes it approach (i) in sound. In this Dictionary a special symbol (ir) is used for this combination, as in *beer* (bīr).

There are regional differences in the distinctions among various pronunciations of the syllable *-or*. In pairs such as *for*, *four*; *horse*, *hoarse*; and *morning*, *mourning*, the vowel varies between (ō) and (ō). In this Dictionary these vowels are represented as follows: *for* (fōr), *four* (fōr, fōr); *horse* (hōrs), *hoarse* (hōrs, hōrs). Other words for which both forms are shown include those such as *more* (mōr, mōr) and *glory* (glōr'ē, glōr'-).

Another group of words with variations for the *-or* syllable includes words such as *forest* and *horrid*, in which the pronunciation of *o* before *r* varies between (ō) and (ō). In these words the (ōr) pronunciation is given first: *forest* (fōr'ist, fōr'-).

The symbol (ūr) used in *her* (hūr), *fur* (fūr), etc., has a regular regional variant that is not separately recorded. In one pattern the effect of the *r* is heard simultaneously with the vowel; in the other some, but not all, such syllables are heard with a vowel like ū or ə before the onset of the *r*.

Syllabic Consonants

There are two consonants that are represented as complete syllables. These are *l* and *n* (called *syllables*) following stressed syllables ending in *d* or *t* in such words as *bottle* (bōt'l), *fatal* (fāt'l), *button* (būt'n), *ladle* (lād'l), and *hidden* (hid'n). Syllabic *n* is not shown after a syllable ending in *-nd* or *-nt*: *abandon* (ə-bān'dan), *mountain* (moun'tān); but syllabic *l* is shown in that position: *spindle* (spind'l).

Stress

In this Dictionary, stress, the relative degree of loudness with which the syllables of a word (or phrase) are spoken, is indicated in three different ways. An unmarked syllable has the weakest stress in the word. The strongest stress is marked with a bold mark ('). An intermediate level of stress, here called *secondary*, is marked with a similar but lighter mark (').

Words of one syllable show no stress mark, since there is no other stress level to which the syllable is compared.

The pronunciations are syllabicated for clarity. Syllabication of the pronunciation does not necessarily match the syllabication of the entry word being pronounced. The former follows strict, though not obvious, phonological rules; the latter represents the established practice of printers and editors.

ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS USED IN ETYMOLOGIES

abbr., abbreviation
abl., ablative
acc., accusative
Afr., African
Afrik., Afrikaans
Algon., Algonquian
aor., aorist
Ar., Arabic
Aram., Aramaic
Assyr., Assyrian
aug., augmentative
Av., Avestan
Brit., British
Bulg., Bulgarian
Cant., Cantonese
Celt., Celtic
Chin., Chinese
Corn., Cornish
CRom., Common Romance
Dan., Danish
dat., dative
dial., dialectal
dim., diminutive
Dravid., Dravidian
Du., Dutch
Egypt., Egyptian
Eng., English
Esk., Eskimo
etym., etymology
expr., expressive
F., French
fem., feminine
Frank., Frankish
freq., frequentative
Fris., Frisian
fut., future
G., German
gen., genitive
Gk., Greek
Gmc., Germanic
Goth., Gothic
Heb., Hebrew
Hitt., Hittite
Hung., Hungarian

Icel., Icelandic
IE., Indo-European
imit., imitative
Ind., Indic
Ir., Irish
Iran., Iranian
It., Italian
Ital., Italic
Jap., Japanese
L., Latin
Latv., Latvian
LG., Low German
LGk., Late Greek
Lith., Lithuanian
LL., Late Latin
Mand., Mandarin
masc., masculine
MDu., Middle Dutch
ME., Middle English
Medit., Mediterranean
Mex., Mexican
MGk., Medieval Greek
MHG., Middle High German
ML., Medieval Latin
MLG., Middle Low German
Nah., Nahuatl
neut., neuter
NF., Norman French
NL., New Latin
nom., nominative
Norw., Norwegian
OCS., Old Church Slavonic
OE., Old English
OF., Old French
OHG., Old High German
OIr., Old Irish
OIt., Old Italian
ON., Old Norse
ONF., Old North French
OP., Old Persian
OProv., Old Provençal
orig., originally
OS., Old Saxon

OSpan., Old Spanish
OSwed., Old Swedish
part., participle
perf., perfect
perh., perhaps
Pers., Persian
Phoen., Phoenician
pl., plural
Pol., Polish
Port., Portuguese
poss., possibly
pp., past participle
pres., present
prob., probably
pron., pronoun
Prov., Provençal
prp., present participle
pt., past tense
redupl., reduplicated
refl., reflexive
Rum., Rumanian
Russ., Russian
Scand., Scandinavian
Scot., Scottish
Sem., Semitic
sing., singular
Sk., Sanskrit
Slav., Slavic
Span., Spanish
superl., superlative
Sw., Swedish
Tag., Tagalog
Tam., Tamil
Tokh., Tokharian
trans., translation
Turk., Turkish
var., variant
VL., Vulgar Latin
W., Welsh
Yidd., Yiddish
<, from
[?], Of obscure origin
*****, unattested

Aa

a, A (ā) *n.* 1. The 1st letter of the English alphabet. 2. The 1st in a series. 3. The highest grade in quality.

a 1. are (measurement). 2. *Phys.* atto-.

A 1. acre. 2. ammeter. 3. ampere. 4. area. 5. The 6th tone in the scale of C major.

a. 1. acceleration. 2. acre. 3. acreage. 4. adjective. 5. anonymous. 6. answer. 7. are (measurement).

A. 1. acre. 2. alto. 3. America; American. 4. answer.

a (ə; emphatic ā) *indef. art.* 1. **a.** —Used before a noun to indicate nonspecific membership in a class or category: *a generous man*. **b.** —Used before a plural noun with an intervening adjective: *a few phrases*. 2. **a.** Similar; like: *birds of a feather*. **b.** Any: *not a drop left*. 3. —Used prepositionally to indicate *in* or *for* each: *take one a day*. 4. —Used before nouns that begin with a consonant sound: *a book*. [*< OE ān, one. See oino-.*]

a⁻¹. *comb. form.* Without, not, or opposite to: *amoral*. [*< Gk an, not.*]

a⁻². *comb. form.* 1. On or in: *aboard*. 2. In the act of: *a-fishing*. 3. In the direction of, situated at, or toward: *astern*. [*< OE an, on, ON.*]

a⁻³. *comb. form.* 1. Up, out, or away: *awake*. 2. Intensified action: *amaze*. [*< OE ā-*]

a⁻⁴. *comb. form.* Of or from: *anew*. [*< OE of, of.*]

AA Alcoholics Anonymous.

A.A. Associate in Arts.

AAA 1. American Automobile Association. 2. antiaircraft artillery.

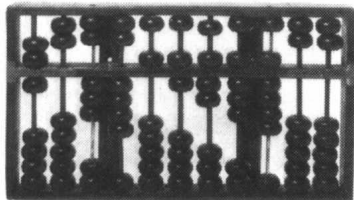
aard-vark (ārd'vārk') *n.* A burrowing African mammal having large ears and a long snout. [*Obs Afrik, "earth-pig."*]

ab. about.

A.B. Bachelor of Arts.

a-back (ə-bāk') *adv.* —*take a-back.* To startle; confuse.

ab-a-cus (āb'ə-kəs) *n., pl. -cuses* or *-ci* (-sī'). A manual computing device consisting of a



abacus

frame holding parallel rods strung with movable counters. [*< Gk abax, slab.*]

a-baft (ə-bāft', ə-bāft') *adv.* Toward the stern. —*prep.* Toward the stern from. [*< ON + OE bæftan, behind.*]

ab-a-lo-ne (āb'ə-lō'nē) *n.* A marine mollusk having a large, ear-shaped shell. [*Amer Span abulón.*]

a-ban-don (ə-bān'dən) *v.* 1. To give up; forsake. 2. To desert. 3. To desist from. —*n.* A complete surrender of inhibitions. [*< OF (metre) a bandon, "(to put) in one's power."*]

—**a-ban'don-er** *n.* —**a-ban'don-ment** *n.*

a-ban-doned (ə-bān'dənd) *adj.* Shameless; immoral. —**a-ban'doned-ly** *adv.*

a-base (ə-bās') *v.* abased, abasing. To humble; humiliate. —**a-base'ment** *n.* —**a-bas'er** *n.*

a-bash (ə-bāsh') *v.* To make ashamed or uneasy; embarrass; disconcert. [*< OF esbahir, to gape at.*]

—**a-bash'ment** *n.*

a-bate (āb'ā, ā-bā') *v.* abated, abating. 1. To reduce in amount, degree, or intensity; lessen. 2. To put an end to. [*< OF abattre, to beat down.*]

—**a-bat'a-ble** *adj.* —**a-bat'er** *n.*

a-bate-ment (āb'āt'mənt) *n.* 1. Diminution in degree or intensity. 2. The amount abated; reduction.

ab-bé (āb'ā, ā-bā') *n.* In France, a title given to a priest.

ab-bess (āb'is) *n.* The female superior of a convent of nuns.

ab-bey (āb'ē) *n., pl. -beys.* 1. A monastery or convent. 2. An abbey church. [*< LL abbātia < abbās, ABBOT.*]

ab-bot (āb'ət) *n.* The superior of a monastery. [*< OE abbod < LL abbās < Aram abbā, father.*]

—**ab'bot-ship** *n.*

abbr. abbreviation.

ab-bre-vi-ate (ə-brē've-āt') *v.* -ated, -ating. To make shorter, esp. to reduce to an abbreviation. [*< LL abbreviāre, to shorten.*]

—**ab-bre-vi-a'tor** (-ā'tar) *n.*

ab-bre-vi-a-tion (ə-brē've-ā'shən) *n.* 1. The act or product of abbreviating. 2. A shortened form of a word or phrase, as *Mass.* for *Massachusetts*.

ab-di-cate (āb'dī-kāt') *v.* -cated, -cating. To relinquish (power or responsibility) formally. [*L abdicāre, to disclaim.*]

—**ab'di-ca'tion** *n.*

ab-do-men (āb'də-mən, āb-dō'mən) *n.* The part of the mammalian body between the thorax and the pelvis. [*L abdōmen, belly.*]

—**ab-dom'i-nal** (-dōm'ə-nəl) *adj.*

ab-duct (āb-dūkt') *v.* To carry off by force; kidnap. [*L abducere.*]

—**ab-duc'tion** *n.* —**ab-duc'tor** *n.*

a-beam (ə-bēm') *adv.* At right angles to the keel of a ship.
a-bed (ə-bēd') *adv.* In bed.
ab-er-ra-tion (ăb'ə-ră'shən) *n.* 1. Deviation or departure from the normal, the typical, or the expected. 2. *a.* Blurring or distortion of an image. *b.* A defect, as in a mirror or lens, causing such distortion. [*< L aberrare, to go astray.*] —**ab-er-rant** *adj.*
a-bet (ə-bēt') *v.* abetted, abetting. 1. To encourage; incite. 2. To assist. [*< OF abeter, to entice.*] —**a-bet-ment** *n.* —**a-bet'tor**, **a-bet'ter** *n.*
a-bey-ance (ə-bā'əns) *n.* The condition of being temporarily set aside; suspension. [*< OF abeance, desire < abaer, "to gape at."*]
ab-hor (ăb-hôr') *v.* -horred, -horring. To dislike intensely; loathe. [*< L abhorrere, to shrink from.*] —**ab-hor-rence** (-hôr'əns, -hôr'əns) *n.*
ab-hor-rent (ăb-hôr'ənt, -hôr'ənt) *adj.* Disgusting; loathsome. —**ab-hor-rent-ly** *adv.*
a-bide (ə-bid') *v.* abode or abided, abiding. 1. To be in store for; await. 2. To tolerate; bear. 3. To remain; last. —**abide by.** To conform to; comply with. [*< OE ābidan.*]
Ab-i-djan (ăb'ī-jăn') *n.* The capital of the Ivory Coast. Pop. 258,000.
a-bil-i-ty (ə-bil'ə-tē) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. The quality of being able to do something; power to perform. 2. A skill or talent. [*< L habilitas < habilis, ABLE.*]
ab-ject (ăb'jēkt', ăb-jēkt') *adj.* 1. Contemptible; mean; base. 2. Miserable; wretched. [*< L abjicere, to cast away.*] —**ab-ject-ion** *n.* —**ab-ject-ly** *adv.* —**ab-ject-ness** *n.*
ab-jure (ăb-jūr') *v.* -jured, -juring. 1. To recant solemnly. 2. To renounce under oath; forswear. [*< L abjurare.*] —**ab-jur'er** *n.*
abl. ablative.
ab-la-tion (ă-blă'shən) *n.* A wearing away; erosion. [*< L ablatus, "removed."*]
ab-la-tive (ăb'lă-tiv) *adj.* Designating a grammatical case indicating separation, direction away from, and sometimes manner or agency, found in some Indo-European languages. [*< L ablātivus, "expressing removal."*] —**ab'lă-tiv-al** (ăb'lă-tiv'vəl) *adj.* —**ab'lă-tive** *n.*
a-blaze (ə-blăz') *adj.* 1. On fire. 2. Radiant with bright color.
a-ble (ă'bal) *adj.* abler, ablest. 1. Having sufficient ability. 2. Capable or talented. [*< L habilis, manageable < habere, to handle.*] —**a-bly** *adv.*
-able, -ible. *comb. form.* 1. Susceptible, capable, or worthy of (the action of a verb or implied verb): **debatable**. 2. Inclined to (the nature of a noun or implied noun): **knowledgeable**.
a-ble-bod-ied (ă'bəl-bōd'ēd) *adj.* Physically strong and healthy.
able-bodied seaman. A merchant seaman certified for all seaman's duties.
ab-lu-tion (ă-blōō'shən) *n.* A washing of the body, esp. with religious connotation. [*< L abluerē, to wash away.*]
ab-ne-gate (ăb'ni-găt') *v.* -gated, -gating. To deny to oneself; renounce. [*L abnegare, to refuse.*] —**ab-ne-ga-tion** *n.*
ab-nor-mal (ăb-nôr'məl) *adj.* Not normal;

deviant. —**ab-nor-mal-ly** *adv.*
ab-nor-mal-i-ty (ăb'nôr-măl'ə-tē) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. An abnormal state or condition. 2. An abnormal phenomenon.
a-board (ə-bôrd', ə-bôrd') *adv.* On board a ship or other vehicle. —*prep.* On board of.
a-bode (ə-bôd') *p.t. & p.p.* of **abide**. —*n.* A dwelling place; home.
a-bol-ish (ə-bôl'ish) *v.* To put an end to; annul. [*< L abolere, to destroy.*]
ab-o-l-i-tion (ăb'ə-fish'ən) *n.* 1. An act of abolishing or the state of being abolished; annulment. 2. **Abolition.** The termination of slavery in the U.S. —**ab-o-l-i-tion-ar-y** *adj.*
ab-o-l-i-tion-ism (ăb'ə-fish'ən-iz'm) *n.* Advocacy of the abolition of slavery in the U.S. —**ab-o-l-i-tion-ist** *n.*
A-bomb (ă'bôm') *n.* An atomic bomb.
a-bom-i-na-ble (ə-bôm'ə-nə-bəl) *adj.* Detestable; loathsome. —**a-bom-i-na-bly** *adv.*
a-bom-i-nate (ə-bôm'ə-năt') *v.* -nated, -nating. To detest; abhor. [*L abominari, "to shun as a bad omen."*] —**a-bom-i-na-tor** *n.*
a-bom-i-na-tion (ə-bôm'ə-nă'shən) *n.* 1. A great dislike; loathing. 2. Something that elicits great dislike.
ab-o-rig-i-nal (ăb'ə-rīj'ə-nəl) *adj.* Native; indigenous. —*n.* An aborigine.
ab-o-rig-i-ne (ăb'ə-rīj'ə-nē') *n.* One of the original inhabitants of a region. [*< L Aboriginēs, name of a pre-Roman people.*]
a-bort (ə-bôrt') *v.* To terminate pregnancy or full development prematurely. [*L abortare, freq. of aboriri, to die, disappear.*] —**a-bor-tive** *adj.* —**a-bor-tive-ly** *adv.*
a-bor-tion (ə-bôr'shən) *n.* 1. Induced premature termination of pregnancy or development. 2. Something malformed or incompletely developed. —**a-bor-tion-al** *adj.*
a-bor-tion-ist (ə-bôr'shən-ist) *n.* One who performs illegal abortions.
a-bound (ə-bound') *v.* 1. To be great in number or amount. 2. To be fully supplied; teem. [*< L abundare, to overflow.*]
a-bout (ə-bout') *adv.* 1. Approximately; nearly. 2. Toward a reverse direction. 3. Aimlessly: *wander about*. 4. In the vicinity. —*prep.* 1. On all sides of. 2. Near to. 3. Here and there; in or on: *strolled about the grounds*. 4. Concerning. 5. Ready to commence: *about to leave*. —*adj.* Astir: *up and about*. [*< OE būtan. See ud-.*]
a-bout-face (ə-bout'fās') *n.* A reversal of orientation or attitude.
a-bove (ə-büv') *adv.* 1. Overhead: *the sky above*. 2. In heaven. 3. Upstairs. 4. In a higher place. 5. In an earlier part of a text. 6. In a higher rank or position. —*prep.* 1. Over. 2. Superior to: *Principles are above expediency*. 3. Beyond the level or reach of. 4. In preference to. —*n.* Something that is above. —*adj.* Appearing earlier in the same text. [*< OE abufan. See upo.*]
a-bove-board (ə-büv'bôrd', -bôrd') *adv.* Without deceit. —**a-bove-board'** *adj.*
abr. abridged; abridgment.
ab-ra-ca-dab-ra (ăb'ră-kă-dăb'ră) *n.* 1. A word held to possess supernatural powers to

- ward off disaster. 2. Jargon; gibberish. [*< LGk abrasadabra, a magic word.*]
- a-brade** (ə-brād') *v.* **abraded, abrading.** To wear away by friction. [*L abradere, to scrape off.*] —**a-brad'er** *n.*
- A-bra-ham** (ă-bră-hām'). The 1st patriarch and progenitor of the Hebrew people.
- ab-ra-sion** (ə-brā'zhən) *n.* 1. A wearing away by friction. 2. A scraped or worn area.
- ab-ra-sive** (ə-brā'siv, -ziv) *adj.* Causing abrasion. —*n.* An abrasive substance.
- a-breast** (ə-brēst') *adv.* Side by side. —**abreast** of (or with). Keeping up with.
- a-bridge** (ə-brīj') *v.* **abridged, abridging.** To reduce the length of; condense; shorten. [*< LL abbreviāre, ABBREVIATE.*] —**a-brid'ger** *n.* —**a-bridg'ment, a-bridge'ment** *n.*
- a-broad** (ə-brōd') *adv.* 1. Out of one's own country. 2. Out of doors. 3. Broadly; widely. [*ME abro(o)d, "broadly, widely scattered."*]
- ab-ro-gate** (ăb-rō-gāt') *v.* **-gated, -gating.** To put an end to; abolish; annul. [*L abrogāre.*] —**ab-ro-ga'tion** *n.* —**ab-ro-ga'tor** *n.*
- a-brupt** (ə-brūpt') *adj.* 1. Unexpectedly sudden. 2. Curt; brusque. 3. Jerky; disconnected: *abrupt, nervous prose.* 4. Steeply inclined. [*< L abrumper, to break off.*] —**a-brupt'ly** *adv.* —**a-brupt'ness** *n.*
- abs** 1. absolute; absolutely. 2. absolute temperature.
- ab-scess** (ăb'sēs') *n.* A localized collection of pus surrounded by inflamed tissue. [*L abscessus, "a going away."*]
- ab-scise** (ăb-siz') *v.* **-scised, -scising.** To cut off; remove. [*L abscindere.*] —**ab-scis'sion** (-sizh'ən) *n.*
- ab-scis-sa** (ăb-sis'ə) *n., pl. -sas or -scis-sae* (-sis'ē'). *Math.* The coordinate representing the distance of a point from the y-axis in a plane Cartesian coordinate system, measured along a line parallel to the x-axis. [*< L abscindere, ABBSCISE.*]
- ab-scond** (ăb-skōnd') *v.* To leave quickly and secretly and hide oneself. [*L abscondere.*] —**ab-scond'er** *n.*
- ab-sence** (ăb'səns) *n.* 1. The state of being away. 2. The time during which one is away. 3. Lack: *an absence of curiosity.*
- ab-sent** (ăb'sənt) *adj.* 1. Not present. 2. Not existent; lacking. 3. Inattentive. —*v.* (ăb-sənt'). To keep (oneself) away. [*< L abesse, to be away.*] —**ab-sent'ly** *adv.*
- ab-sen-tee** (ăb-sən-tē') *n.* One who is absent. —*adj.* Of or pertaining to one who is absent.
- ab-sen-tee-ism** (ăb-sən-tē'iz'm) *n.* Habitual failure to appear, esp. for work.
- ab-sent-mind-ed** (ăb'sənt-mīn'did) *adj.* Heedless of one's surroundings; preoccupied. —**ab-sent-mind-ed'ly** *adv.*
- ab-sinthe** (ăb'sinth) *n.* A strong green liqueur made from wormwood. [*< L absinthium, wormwood.*] —**ab-sin'thi-an** *adj.*
- ab-so-lute** (ăb'sə-lōōt') *adj.* 1. Perfect in quality or nature; complete. 2. Not mixed; pure. 3. a. Not limited by restrictions or exceptions; unconditional. b. Unqualified in extent or degree; total. 4. Not to be doubted or questioned; positive. 5. Lacking a particular gram-
- matical connection with other words in a sentence: *an absolute phrase.* [*< L absolvere, to free from, complete.*] —**ab'so-lute'ly** *adv.* —**ab'so-lute'ness** *n.*
- absolute value.** The numerical value of a quantity without regard to its sign.
- absolute zero.** The temperature at which substances possess minimal energy, equal to -273.15°C or -459.67°F.
- ab-so-lu-tion** (ăb'sə-lōō'shən) *n.* R.C.Ch. The formal remission of sin imparted by a priest as part of the sacrament of penance.
- ab-so-lut-ism** (ăb'sə-lōō'tiz'm) *n.* 1. Government in which all power is vested in the ruler. 2. The political theory reflecting this. —**ab'so-lut'ist** *n. & adj.* —**ab'so-lu-tis'tic** *adj.*
- ab-solve** (ăb-zōlv', -sōlv') *v.* **-solved, -solving.** 1. To set free from guilt, an obligation, etc.; acquit. 2. a. To grant a remission of sin to. b. To remit (a sin). [*< L absolvere, to free from.*] —**ab-solv'a-ble** *adj.*
- ab-sorb** (ăb-sōrb', -zōrb') *v.* 1. To take in through or as through pores or interstices; soak in or up. 2. To occupy the full attention of; engross. [*< L absorbere.*]
- ab-sorb-ent** (ăb-sōrb'ənt, ăb-zōrb'-) *adj.* Capable of absorbing something. —*n.* A substance that absorbs. —**ab-sorb'en-cy** *n.*
- ab-stain** (ăb-stān') *v.* To refrain from; forbear. [*< L abstinere, to hold (oneself) back.*] —**ab-stain'er** *n.*
- ab-ste-mi-ous** (ăb-stē'mē-əs) *adj.* Eating and drinking in moderation. [*L abstēmius.*]
- ab-sti-nence** (ăb'stə-nəns) *n.* 1. Restraint of one's desires. 2. A refraining from drinking alcoholic beverages or from eating certain foods. —**ab'sti-nent** *adj.*
- ab-stract** (ăb-strākt', ăb'strākt') *adj.* 1. Considered apart from concrete existence or a specification thereof. 2. Theoretical; not applied or practical. 3. Thought of or stated without reference to a specific instance. 4. *Fine Arts.* Having nonobjective design, form, or content. —*n.* (ăb'strākt'). 1. A summary. 2. Something abstract, as a term. —*v.* (ăb'strākt'). 1. To take away; remove. 2. To filch; steal. 3. (ăb'strākt'). To summarize. [*< L abstractus, "removed from (concrete reality)."*]
- ab-strac-tion** (ăb-strāk'shən) *n.* 1. The act or process of abstracting. 2. A product of this process; a general idea or word representing a physical concept. 3. Preoccupation. 4. An abstract work of art.
- ab-struse** (ăb-strōōs') *adj.* Difficult to understand; recondite. [*< L abstrudere, to hide.*] —**ab-struse'ly** *adv.* —**ab-struse'ness** *n.*
- ab-surd** (ăb-sūrd', -zūrd') *adj.* Ridiculously incongruous or unreasonable. [*< L absurdus.*] —**ab-surd'i-ty, ab-surd'ness** *n.* —**ab-surd'ly** *adv.*
- A-bu Dha-bi** (ă'bōō dă'bē). A sheikdom in E Arabia and capital of the United Arab Emirates. Pop. 46,400.
- a-bun-dance** (ə-būn'dəns) *n.* Also **a-bun-dan-cy** (-dən-sē). A great quantity; plentiful amount. [*< L abundāre, ABOUND.*] —**a-bun-dant** *adj.* —**a-bun'dant'ly** *adv.*
- a-buse** (ə-byōōz') *v.* **abused, abusing.** 1. To use wrongly or improperly. 2. To maltreat. 3. To

berate; insult. —*n.* (ə-byōōs'). 1. Misuse. 2. A corrupt practice or custom. 3. Maltreatment. 4. Insulting language. [*< L abūsus, a using up.*] —*a-bu'sive adj.* —*a-bu'sive-ly adv.*

a-but (ə-būt') *v.* **abutted, abutting.** To lie adjacent; border upon. [*< OF abuter, to buttress, put an end to.*] —*a-but'ter n.*

a-but-ment (ə-būt'mənt) *n.* 1. The act or process of abutting. 2. A structure that receives the thrust of an arch or bridge.

a-bysm (ə-biz'əm) *n.* An abyss. [*< LL abys-sus, ABYSS.*]

a-bys-mal (ə-biz'məl) *adj.* 1. Unfathomable; extreme. 2. Of or resembling an abyss. —*a-bys'mal-ly adv.*

a-byss (ə-bis') *n.* 1. a. The primeval chaos. b. The bottomless pit; hell. 2. Any immeasurably profound depth or void. [*LL abyssus.*]

a-byss-al (ə-bis'al) *adj.* 1. Abysmal. 2. Of or pertaining to the great depths of the oceans.

Ab-ys-sin-i-a (āb'ə-sin'ē-ə). Ethiopia. —*Ab'-ys-sin'ian adj. & n.*

ac alternating current.

Ac actinium.

a.c. before meals (NL *ante cibum*).

A.C. 1. alternating current. 2. before Christ (NL *ante Christum*).

a/c account; account current.

a-ca-cia (ə-kā'shə) *n.* 1. Any of various trees having tight clusters of small yellow or white flowers. 2. Any of several related trees. [*L.*]

acad. academic; academy.

ac-a-dem-ic (āk'ə-dēm'ik) *adj.* 1. Of or characteristic of a school. 2. Liberal or classical rather than technical or vocational, as studies. 3. Formalistic; conventional. 4. Theoretical; speculative. —*ac'a-dem'i-cal-ly adv.*

ac-a-de-mi-clan (āk'ə-də-mish'ən) *n.* A member of an association of scholars, artists, etc.

ac-a-dem-i-clism (āk'ə-dēm'ə-siz'əm) *n.* Also **a-cad-e-mism** (ə-kād'ə-miz'əm). Traditional formalism, especially in art.

a-cad-e-my (ə-kād'ə-mē) *n., pl. -mies.* 1. An association of scholars. 2. A school for special instruction. 3. A private secondary or college-preparatory school. [*< Gk Akadēmia, name of the place where Plato taught.*]

A-ca-di-a (ə-kā'dē-ə). 1. A French colony of E Canada that included Nova Scotia and New Brunswick. 2. A parish in S Louisiana settled by Acadian exiles. —*A-ca'di-an n. & adj.*

a-can-thus (ə-kān'thəs) *n., pl. -thuses or -thi (-thi')*. 1. A plant of the Mediterranean region having large, thistlelike leaves. 2. An architectural ornament representing these leaves. [*< Gk akantha, thorn.*]

a cap-pel-la (ā kə-pēl'ə). Without instrumental accompaniment. [It, "in the manner of the chapel (or choir)."]

acc. 1. acceleration. 2. account; accountant. 3. accusative.

ac-code (āk-sēd') *v.* **-coded, -coding.** 1. To give consent; agree. 2. To come into an office or dignity. [*< L accēdere, to approach, agree.*] —*ac-ced'ence (-sēd'əns) n.* —*ac-ced'er n.*

ac-cel-er-ate (āk-sēl'ə-rāt') *v.* **-ated, -ating.** To move or cause to move faster. [*L accelerāre.*] —*ac-cel'er-a-ble adj.* —*ac-cel'er-a-tive adj.*

ac-cel-er-a-tion (āk-sēl'ə-rā'shən) *n.* 1. The act of accelerating. 2. The rate of change of velocity with respect to time.

ac-cel-er-a-tor (āk-sēl'ə-rā'tər) *n.* Something that causes acceleration: **a.** The gas pedal of an automobile. **b.** A research device that accelerates charged particles.

ac-cel-er-om-e-ter (āk-sēl'ə-rōm'ə-tər) *n.* Any of various devices used to measure acceleration.

ac-cent (āk'sent') *n.* 1. *Ling.* The relative prominence of a syllable of a word by greater intensity, **stress accent**, or by modulation of pitch or tone, **pitch accent**. 2. Vocal emphasis given to a syllable, word, or phrase. 3. A characteristic pronunciation: *a Southern accent*. 4. A mark or symbol used to indicate the vocal quality of a particular letter: *an acute accent*. 5. A mark or symbol used to indicate the stressed syllables of a spoken word. 6. Rhythmical stress in verse or music. —*v.* (āk'sent', āk-sent'). 1. To stress the pronunciation of. 2. To mark with a printed accent. 3. To call attention to. [*< L accentus, accentuation, "song added to (speech)."*] —*ac-cen'tu-al adj.* —*ac-cen'tu-al-ly adv.*

ac-cen-tu-ate (āk-sen'chōō-āt') *v.* **-ated, -ating.** 1. To pronounce or mark with an accent. 2. To stress; emphasize. —*ac-cen'tu-a'tion n.*

ac-cept (āk-sēpt') *v.* 1. To receive (something offered) willingly or gladly. 2. To admit to a group or place. 3. To answer affirmatively. 4. *Comm.* To consent to pay, as by a signed agreement. [*< L acceptāre, freq of accipere, to receive, "take to oneself."*]

ac-cept-a-ble (āk-sēp'tə-bəl) *adj.* Satisfactory. —*ac-cept'a-bil'i-ty n.* —*ac-cept'a-bly adv.*

ac-cep-tance (āk-sēp'təns) *n.* 1. The act of accepting or state of being accepted or acceptable. 2. An accepted time draft or bill of exchange.

ac-cep-ta-tion (āk-sēp-tā'shən) *n.* The usual or accepted meaning, as of a word.

ac-cess (āk'sēs') *n.* 1. The act or means of approaching. 2. The right to enter or use. 3. A sudden outburst. [*< L accēdere, to near, approach.*]

ac-ces-si-ble (āk-sēs'ə-bəl) *adj.* 1. Easily approached or entered. 2. Easily obtained. —*ac-ces'si-bil'i-ty n.*

ac-ces-sion (āk-sēs'hən) *n.* 1. The attainment of rank or dignity. 2. An increase by means of something added. 3. Agreement; assent.

ac-ces-so-ry (āk-sēs'ər-ē) *n., pl. -ries.* Also **ac-ces-sa-ry.** 1. Something supplementary. 2. Something nonessential but useful. 3. One who though absent aids in or contributes to the commission of a crime. [*< ML accessor, helper, accessory.*] —*ac-ces'so-ri-ly adv.* —*ac-ces'so-ri-ness n.* —*ac-ces'so-ry adj.*

ac-cl-dence (āk'sə-dəns, -dēns') *n.* The area of grammar that deals with word inflections.

ac-cl-dent (āk'sə-dənt, -dēnt') *n.* 1. An unexpected and undesirable event. 2. Fortune; chance. [*< L (rēs) accidēs, "(a thing) happening."*]

ac-cl-den-tal (āk'sə-dēnt'əl) *adj.* Occurring unexpectedly or unintentionally. —*n. Mus. A*

ā pat/ā ate/ār care/ā bar/b bib/ch chew/d deed/ē pet/ē be/f fit/g gag/h hat/hw what/
i pit/i pie/ir pier/j judge/k kick/l lid, fatal/m mum/n no, sudden/ng sing/ō pot/ō go/

chromatically altered note not belonging to the key signature. —**ac-cl-den'tal-ly** *adv.*

ac-claim (ə-klām') *v.* 1. To applaud. 2. To salute or hail. —*n.* Enthusiastic applause. [*L acclamāre*, to shout at.] —**ac-claim'er** *n.*

ac-cla-ma-tion (āk'lā-mā'shən) *n.* 1. An enthusiastic oral vote of approval without formal ballot. 2. Applause of acceptance or welcome.

ac-cli-mate (ə-klī'mīt, āk'lā-māt') *v.* -mated, -mating. Also **ac-cli-ma-tize** (ə-klī'mā-tīz') -tized, -tizing. To accustom or become accustomed to a new environment or situation; adapt. —**ac-cli-ma'tion**, **ac-cli-ma-ti-za'tion** *n.*

ac-cliv-i-ty (ə-klīv'ə-tē) *n., pl. -ties.* An upward slope, as of ground. [*< L acclivis*, uphill.] —**ac-cliv'i-tous** *adj.*

ac-co-lade (āk'ə-lād', āk'ə-lād') *n.* 1. An embrace of greeting or salutation. 2. Praise; approval: *critics' accolades*. [*< Prov acolada*, an embrace.]

ac-com-mo-date (ə-kōm'ə-dāt') *v.* -dated, -dating. 1. To do a favor for; oblige. 2. To supply with. 3. To contain comfortably or have space for. 4. To adapt; adjust. 5. To settle; reconcile. [*L accommodāre*, to make fit.] —**ac-com'mo-da'tive** *adj.*

ac-com-mo-dat-ing (ə-kōm'ə-dā'ting) *adj.* Helpful and obliging. —**ac-com'mo-dat'ing-ly** *adv.*

ac-com-mo-da-tion (ə-kōm'ə-dā'shən) *n.* 1. The act or state of accommodating or being accommodated; adaptation. 2. Anything that meets a need; convenience. 3. **accommodations.** a. Lodgings. b. A seat, compartment, or room on a public vehicle. 4. *Comm.* A loan or other financial favor.

ac-com-pa-ni-ment (ə-kūmp'ə-nē-mənt, ə-kūmp'nē-) *n.* 1. Something that accompanies; concomitant. 2. A vocal or instrumental part that supports a solo part.

ac-com-pa-nist (ə-kūmp'ə-nīst, ə-kūmp'nīst) *n.* One who plays an accompaniment.

ac-com-pa-ny (ə-kūmp'ə-nē, ə-kūmp'nē) *v.* -nied, -nying. 1. To go along or occur with. 2. To perform an accompaniment to. [*< OF accompagnier*.] —**ac-com'pa-ni-er** *n.*

ac-com-plice (ə-kōm'plis) *n.* One who aids or abets a lawbreaker in a criminal act. [*< ME a complice*, a COMPLICE.]

ac-com-plish (ə-kōm'plish) *v.* To succeed in doing; bring to pass. [*< OF accomplir*, to complete.] —**ac-com'plish-er** *n.*

ac-com-plished (ə-kōm'plisht) *adj.* 1. Completed; done; finished. 2. Skilled; expert. 3. Sophisticated.

ac-com-plish-ment (ə-kōm'plish-mənt) *n.* 1. The act of accomplishing or of being accomplished; completion. 2. Something completed successfully. 3. Social poise.

ac-cord (ə-kōrd') *v.* To agree or be in agreement. —*n.* 1. Agreement; harmony. 2. A settlement, esp. of conflicting opinions between nations. [*< VL *accordāre*, "to be heart-to-heart with."] —**ac-cord'a-ble** *adj.*

ac-cord-ance (ə-kōr'dəns) *n.* Agreement; conformity. —**ac-cord'ant** *adj.*

ac-cord-ing-ly (ə-kōr'ding-lē) *adv.* 1. Correspondingly. 2. Consequently.

ac-cor-di-on (ə-kōr'dē-ən) *n.* A portable, bellows-operated musical instrument with a keyboard and metal reeds. [*< G Akkord*, agreement, "harmony."] —**ac-cor'di-on-ist** *n.*

ac-cost (ə-kōst', ə-köst') *v.* To approach and speak to first. [*< VL *accostāre*, to come alongside someone.] —**ac-cost'a-ble** *adj.*

ac-count (ə-kount') *n.* 1. a. A narrative of events. b. A written or oral explanation, as of blame. 2. a. A precise list of monetary transactions. b. Any detailed list. 3. A business relationship involving the exchange of money or credit. 4. Importance: *a man of some account*. —**on account**. In part payment of. —**on account of**. Because of. —**on no account**. Under no circumstances. —**take into account**. To take into consideration. —*v.* To consider or esteem. —**account for**. 1. To make or render a reckoning, as of funds received. 2. To be the explanation or cause of. 3. To be answerable for. [*< OF acompter*, "to count up to," reckon.]

ac-count-a-ble (ə-koun'tə-bəl) *adj.* Answerable. —**ac-count'a-bil'i-ty** *n.* —**ac-count'a-bly** *adv.*

ac-count-ant (ə-koun'tənt) *n.* An expert in accounting. —**ac-count'ant-ship** *n.*

ac-count-ing (ə-koun'ting) *n.* The bookkeeping methods involved in recording the business transactions and preparing the financial statements of a business.

ac-cou-ter (ə-kōō'tər) *v.* Also **ac-cou-tre**. To outfit and equip, as for military duty. [*F accouter*.]

ac-cou-ter-ment (ə-kōō'tər-mənt) *n.* Also **ac-cou-tre-ment**. 1. The act of accoutering. 2. **accouterments**. Extra equipment, as of a soldier; trappings.

Ac-cra (ə-krä', āk'rə). The capital of Ghana. Pop. 338,000.

ac-cred-it (ə-krēd'it) *v.* 1. To attribute to. 2. To authorize. 3. To certify as meeting a prescribed standard. 4. To believe. —**ac-cred'i-ta'tion** *n.*

ac-cre-tion (ə-krē'shən) *n.* 1. Any growth or increase in size, esp. by gradual external addition. 2. Something added to promote such growth. [*< L accrescere*, ACCRUE.]

ac-crue (ə-krōō') *v.* -crued, -cruing. 1. To come to someone or something as a gain or increment. 2. To increase by regular growth, as interest on capital. [*< L accrescere*, to increase.] —**ac-cru'al** *n.* —**ac-crue'ment** *n.*

acct. account.

ac-cul-tur-a-tion (ə-kül'chə-rā'shən) *n.* Modification of a primitive culture by contact with an advanced culture.

ac-cu-mu-late (ə-kyōōm'yə-lāt') *v.* -lated, -lat-ing. To amass or gather; mount up; collect. [*L accumulāre*.] —**ac-cu'mu-la'tion** *n.*

ac-cu-mu-la-tor (ə-kyōōm'yə-lā'tər) *n.* 1. One that accumulates. 2. A register or electric circuit that stores figures for computation.

ac-cu-ra-cy (āk'yər-ə-sē) *n.* Exactness; correctness.

ac-cu-rate (āk'yər-īt) *adj.* Having no errors; correct. [*< L accurāre*, to attend to carefully.] —**ac-cu-rate-ly** *adv.* —**ac-cu-rate-ness** *n.*

ac-curs-ed (ə-kūr'sid, ə-kūrst') *adj.* Also **ac-**

curst. 1. Under a curse. 2. Abominable. —**ac-curs'ed-ly** *adv.*

ac-cu-sa-tive (ə-kyōd'zə-tiv) *adj.* Of or pertaining to a grammatical case that indicates the direct object of a verb or the object of certain prepositions. [**< L (cāsus) accūsātivus, " (case) indicating accusation. "**] —**ac-cu'sa-tive** *n.* —**ac-cu'sa-tive-ly** *adv.*

ac-cuse (ə-kyōd'z) *v.* -cused, -cusing. 1. To charge (someone) with an error. 2. *Law.* To bring charges against (someone) for a misdeed. [**< L accūsāre, to accuse, "call to account."**] —**ac-cu'sa'tion** *n.* —**ac-cus'er** *n.*

ac-cus-i-om (ə-kūs'təm) *v.* To familiarize or become familiarized, as by constant practice.

ac-cus-tomed (ə-kūs'təmd) *adj.* 1. Usual; normal. 2. In the habit of.

ace (ās) *n.* 1. A playing card, die, or domino having one spot. 2. In racket games, a point scored by the failure of one's opponent to return a serve. 3. A fighter pilot who has shot down five or more enemy planes. 4. *Informal.* An expert in any field. —*adj. Informal.* First-rate; expert. [**< L ās, unit.**]

ace in the hole. A hidden advantage.

-aceous. *comb. form.* Of, pertaining to, or of the nature of: **farinaceous.** [**< L -āceus, "of a specific kind or group."**]

a-cerb (ə-sūrb') *adj.* 1. Sour; bitter; astringent. 2. Acid; sharp. [**L acerbus, sharp, bitter.**] —**a-cer'bly** *n.*

ac-er-bate (ās'ər-bāt') *v.* -bated, -batting. To vex; annoy. [**< L acerbus, ACERB.**]

ac-e-late (ās'ə-tāt') *n.* 1. A durable transparent film derived from cellulose and used esp. in packaging and photography. 2. Fibers or fabric derived from cellulose acetate.

a-ce-tic acid (ə-sē'tik). A clear, colorless, pungent organic acid, C₂H₄O₂, used in chemical synthesis and photography. [**< L acētum, vinegar.**]

a-cet-i-ly (ə-sēt'ə-fi') *v.* -fled, -flying. To convert to acetic acid or vinegar.

ac-e-tone (ās'ə-tōn') *n.* A colorless, extremely flammable liquid, C₃H₆O, used as a solvent.

ac-e-tyl-cho-line (ās'ə-tīl-kō'lēn', ə-sēt'l-) *n.* A white crystalline compound, C₇H₁₇NO₃, that transmits nerve impulses across intercellular gaps.

a-cet-y-lene (ə-sēt'l-ēn', -ən) *n.* A colorless, highly flammable gas, C₂H₂, used for metal welding and cutting.

a-ce-tyl-sal-i-cyl-ic acid (ə-sēt'l-sāl'ə-sīl'ik). Aspirin.

ache (āk) *v.* ached, aching. 1. To suffer a dull, sustained pain. 2. *Informal.* To yearn. —*n.* A dull, steady pain. [**< OE ācan.**]

a-chieve (ə-chēv') *v.* achieved, achieving. 1. To accomplish successfully. 2. To attain with effort. [**< OF achever, "to bring to a head."**] —**a-chieve'ment** *n.* —**a-chiev'er** *n.*

A-chil-lēs (ə-kīl'ēz). The hero of Homer's *Iliad*.

Achilles' heel. A small but mortal weakness.

Achilles' tendon. The large tendon running from the heel bone to the calf muscle.

ach-ro-mat-ic (āk'rə-māt'ik) *adj.* 1. Free of color. 2. Refracting light without spectral

color separation. —**ach'ro-mat'i-cal-ly** *adv.*

ac-id (ās'id) *n.* 1. *a.* Any of a large class of substances in aqueous solution capable of turning litmus indicators red, dissolving certain metals to form salts, reacting with bases or alkalis to form salts, or having a sour taste. *b.* A substance that ionizes in solution to give the positive ion of the solvent. *c.* A substance capable of giving up a proton. 2. *Slang.* A hallucinogen, LSD. —*adj.* Biting; ill-tempered: *an acid wit.* [**L acidus, sharp, sour < acēre, to be sour.**] —**a-cid'i-ty** *n.*

a-cid-i-ty (ə-sid'ə-fi') *v.* -fled, -flying. To convert to acid. —**a-cid'i-fi-a-ble** *adj.* —**a-cid'i-fi-ca'tion** *n.* —**a-cid'i-fi'er** *n.*

ac-i-do-sis (ās't-dō'sis) *n.* Pathologically high blood acidity.

acid test. A decisive, critical test of worth.

a-cid-u-lous (ə-sij'ōō-ləs) *adj.* Sour in feeling or manner. [**< L acidus, ACID.**]

-acious. *comb. form.* A tendency toward or abundance of something: **fallacious.**

-ac-ity. *comb. form.* A quality or state of being: **tenacity.**

ack. acknowledgment.

ack-ack (āk'āk') *n.* *Mil. Slang.* 1. Antiaircraft fire. 2. An antiaircraft gun.

ac-knowl-edge (āk-nōl'ij) *v.* -edged, -edging. 1. To recognize the existence or truth of. 2. To express gratitude for. 3. To report the receipt of. 4. *Law.* To accept or certify as legally binding. —**ac-knowl-edg'er** *n.* —**ac-knowl-edg-ment**, **ac-knowl-edge-ment** *n.*

ac-me (āk'mē) *n.* The point of utmost attainment. [**Gk akmé, point.**]

ac-ne (āk'nē) *n.* An inflammatory disease of the oil glands, characterized by pimples. [**< Gk akmé, eruption on the face, ACME.**]

ac-o-lyte (āk'ə-lit') *n.* 1. One who assists a priest at Mass. 2. An attendant or follower. [**< Gk akolouthos, follower, following.**]

A-con-ca-gua (ā'kōn-kā'gwā). The highest mountain (22,835 ft.) in the W Hemisphere, in Argentina.

ac-o-nite (āk'ə-nit') *n.* 1. A poisonous plant, the monkshood. 2. A medicinal preparation made from its roots. [**< Gk akoniton.**]

a-corn (āk'kōrn', ā'karn) *n.* The nut of the oak tree, having a cuplike base. [**< OE æcern. See ōg-.**]

a-cous-tic (ə-kōd'stik) *adj.* Also **a-cous-ti-cal** (-stī-kəl). Pertaining to sound, the sense of hearing, or the science of sound. —*n.* **a-coustics** (ə-kōd'stik). 1. (*takes sing. v.*) The scientific study of sound. 2. (*takes pl. v.*) The total effect of sound, esp. in an enclosed space. [**Gk akoustikos.**] —**a-cous-ti-cal-ly** *adv.*

acpt. acceptance.

ac-qualnt (ə-kwānt') *v.* 1. To make familiar. 2. To inform. [**< L accognōscere, to know perfectly.**] —**ac-qualnt'ed** *adj.*

ac-qualn-tance (ə-kwān'təns) *n.* 1. Knowledge about someone or something. 2. A person or persons whom one knows.

ac-qui-esce (āk'wē-ēs') *v.* -esced, -escing. To consent or comply passively. [**L acquiescere, to agree tacitly.**] —**ac-qui-es-cence** *n.* —**ac-qui-es-cent** *adj.* —**ac-qui-es-cent-ly** *adv.*

ā pai/ā ate/ār care/ā bar/b bib/ch chew/d deed/ē pet/ē be/f fit/g gag/h hat/hw what/
i pit/i pie/ir pier/j judge/k kick/l lid, fatal/m mum/n no, sudden/ng sing/ō pot/ō go/

- ac-quire** (ə-kwīr') *v.* **-quired, -quiring.** To gain possession of. [*< L acquirere, to add to, get.*] —**ac-quire-ment** *n.*
- ac-qui-si-tion** (āk'wə-zish'ən) *n.* 1. The act of acquiring. 2. Something acquired, esp. as an addition to an established group.
- ac-quis-i-tive** (ə-kwiz'ə-tiv) *adj.* Tending to acquire. —**ac-quis-i-tive-ness** *n.*
- ac-quit** (ə-kwit') *v.* **-quitted, -quitting.** 1. To clear of a charge. 2. To release from obligation. 3. To conduct (oneself). [*< VL *acquitare, "to bring to rest," set free.*] —**ac-quit-tal** (ə-kwit'l) *n.* *Law.* The judgment that a person is not guilty of a crime as charged.
- ac-quit-tance** (ə-kwit'əns) *n.* A release from an obligation.
- a-cres** (ā'kər) *n.* 1. A unit of area equal to 4,840 square yards. 2. *acres.* Property in the form of land. [*< OE ācer. See agro-.*] —**a-cres-age** (ā'kər-ij, ā'krīj) *n.*
- ac-rid** (āk'rid) *adj.* 1. Harsh in taste or smell. 2. Caustic in language. [*< L ācer, sharp, bitter.*] —**a-cri-d'i-ty** (ə-krid'ə-tē) *n.*
- ac-ri-mo-ny** (āk'rə-mō'nē) *n.* Animosity in speech or manner. [*L ācrimonia, sharpness < ācer, sharp.*] —**ac-ri-mo-ni-ous** *adj.* —**ac-ri-mo-nious-ness** *n.*
- acro-**, *comb. form.* A height, tip, or point. [*< Gk akros, topmost.*]
- ac-ro-bat** (āk'rə-bāt') *n.* One skilled in feats of agility and balance. [*< Gk akrobatēs, "one who walks on tiptoe."*] —**ac-ro-bat'ic** *adj.*
- ac-ro-bat-ics** (āk'rə-bāt'iks) *n.* (*takes sing. v.*) 1. The art of an acrobat. 2. Any manifestation of spectacular agility.
- ac-ro-ny-m** (āk'rə-nīm') *n.* A word formed from the initial letters of a name, as *WAC* for Women's Army Corps, or by combining initial letters or parts of a series of words, as *radar* for radio detecting and ranging.
- ac-ro-pho-bi-a** (āk'rə-fō'bē-ə) *n.* Abnormal fear of high places.
- a-crop-o-lis** (ə-kröp'ə-lis) *n.* 1. The fortified height or citadel of an ancient Greek city. 2. *Acropolis.* The citadel of Athens. [*Gk akropolis, "upper city."*]
- a-cross** (ə-krōs', ə-krōs') *prep.* 1. On, at, or from the other side of: *across the road.* 2. So as to cross; through: *draw lines across the paper.* 3. From one side of to the other: *a bridge across a river.* —*adv.* 1. From one side to the other: *The bridge swayed when he ran across.* 2. On or to the opposite side: *We came across by ferry.* [*< OF a croix, "in the form of a cross."*]
- a-cross-the-board** (ə-krōs'thə-bōrd', -bōrd', ə-krōs'-) *adj.* Including all categories or members.
- a-cros-tic** (ə-krōs'tik, ə-krōs'-) *n.* 1. A poem or series of lines in which certain letters, usually the first in each line, form a name or message. 2. A word square. [*Gk akrostikhis, "end-line."*]
- a-cryl-ic resin** (ə-kril'ik) *n.* Any of numerous polymers used to produce synthetic rubbers and lightweight plastics.
- act** (ākt) *n.* 1. The process of doing something. 2. Something that is done. 3. An enactment, as of a legislative body. 4. A major division of a play or opera. 5. A performance that forms part of a longer presentation, as in vaudeville. 6. *Informal.* A pose: *put on an act.* —*v.* 1. To perform the part of, as in a play. 2. To behave or comport oneself: *She acts like a lady.* 3. To be an actor. 4. To appear to be: *The dog acts friendly.* 5. To do something. 6. To function in a specific way. —**act up.** *Informal.* To misbehave or malfunction. [*< L āctus, pp of agere, to drive, do.*]
- ACTH** A pituitary hormone used to stimulate cortisone secretion. [*A(DRENO)C(ORTICO)-T(ROPIC) H(ORMONE).*]
- ac-tin** (āk'tin) *n.* A muscle protein, active with myosin in muscular contraction. [*< L āctus, an ACT.*]
- act-ing** (āk'ting) *adj.* Temporarily assuming the duties of another. —*n.* The occupation or performance of an actor.
- ac-ti-nide** (āk'ti-nid') *n.* Any of a series of chemically similar, mostly synthetic, radioactive metallic elements with atomic numbers ranging from 89 (actinium) through 103 (lawrencium).
- ac-tin-i-um** (āk-tin'ē-əm) *n.* *Symbol Ac* A radioactive metallic element found in uranium ores and used as a source of alpha rays. Atomic number 89, longest-lived isotope Ac 227. [*< Gk aktis, ray.*]
- ac-tion** (āk'shən) *n.* 1. The state or process of doing. 2. An act or deed. 3. A movement or manner of movement. 4. *actions.* Behavior or conduct. 5. The operating parts of a mechanism: *the action of a gun.* 6. The plot of a story or play. 7. A lawsuit. 8. Combat.
- ac-ti-vate** (āk'tə-vāt') *v.* **-vated, -vating.** 1. To set in motion. 2. To organize (a military unit). 3. To make active, reactive, or radioactive.
- ac-tive** (āk'tiv) *adj.* 1. In action; moving. 2. Capable of functioning. 3. Causing action or change. 4. Participating: *an active member of a club.* 5. Not passive or quiescent. 6. Characterized by energetic action. 7. Denoting that the subject of a sentence is performing or causing the action expressed by the verb: *active voice.* 8. Producing profit: *active accounts.* 9. *Mil.* On full duty and full pay. [*L āctivus < āctus, ACT.*]
- ac-tiv-ism** (āk'tiv-iz'm) *n.* A theory or practice based on militant action. —**ac-tiv-ist** *n.*
- ac-tiv-i-ty** (āk'tiv'ə-tē) *n., pl. -ties.* 1. The state of being active. 2. Energetic action. 3. A specified form of action, esp. one in the area of recreation. 4. The intensity of a radioactive source.
- act of God.** *Law.* An unforeseeable or inevitable occurrence, such as a tornado, caused by nature.
- ac-to-my-o-sin** (āk'tō-mī'ə-sin) *n.* A system of actin and myosin that with other substances constitutes muscle fiber.
- ac-tor** (āk'tər) *n.* A theatrical performer. —**ac-tress** (-trīs) *fem. n.*
- Acts of the Apostles.** Also *Acts.* The 5th book of the New Testament.
- ac-tu-al** (āk'chōō-əl) *adj.* 1. In existence; real. 2. Existing or acting at the present. [*< LL*

ō paw, for/oi boy/ou out/ō took/ōo coo/p pop/r run/s sauce/sh shy/t to/th thin/th the/ ũ cut/ūr fur/v van/w wag/y yes/z size/zh vision/ə ago, item, edible, gallop, circus/