

ROGET'S II

The New Thesaurus

Expanded Edition

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Expanded Edition

•By the editors of
The American Heritage Dictionary



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PREFACE

Roget's II: The New Thesaurus, an entirely new work, represents a significant change from traditional thesaurus making. The lexicographic staff of Houghton Mifflin Company, publishers of *The American Heritage Dictionary, Second College Edition*, has recognized the problems encountered by thesaurus users. Complex index referencing systems have burdened the user's search, and word groupings by vague meanings have confounded selection of suitable words. Consequently, *Roget's II* has been carefully prepared to provide rapid access to synonyms, which are grouped by precise meanings, facilitating the choice of appropriate words to express thoughts. Thousands of near-synonyms, near-antonyms, and antonyms have been added at appropriate entries as an additional feature felt to be helpful to writers searching for just the right word.

For ease of use and clarity in word selection *Roget's II* is organized in an innovative format. In the left-hand column of each page all entries are arranged in alphabetical order and are classified by part of speech. Every word is accurately defined, as is each sense of a word for which more than one meaning has been included. Sentences and phrases using the entry words in context provide guidance in usage. In the right-hand column synonyms, idioms, near-synonyms, near-antonyms, and antonyms are listed alphabetically within groups and are presented adjacent to each defined meaning of each discrete sense.

Secondary entries are included in the single alphabetical listing and are also precisely defined. They are directionally cross-referred to main entries with full synonym presentation. This efficient system eliminates the need for complicated indexes and redundant listings.

Since *Roget's II* defines all entry words and their corresponding synonyms, the work is self-contained. Therefore, the user does not need to verify a meaning by consulting a dictionary. Controversial synonyms are labeled, providing usage guidance.

It is intended that *Roget's II* be a source of appropriate words to express thoughts or ideas, guiding the user away from the common pitfall of selecting an unsuitable word. Consequently, only synonyms are *exhaustively* listed.

New computerized editing and typesetting technology have supplemented the traditional methods of lexicography in preparing *Roget's II*. The manuscript typesetting, alphabetizing, final cross-referencing, and accuracy-verification functions were accomplished by computer programs.

Research and investigation for this thesaurus began thirteen years ago. On the basis of experience gained during the preparation of the *American Heritage Dictionary*, it was believed that a new thesaurus could provide the user with the kind of clear guidance found in these dictionaries. The editor worked with consultant Robert Masters to explore new ideas for organization and presentation of synonyms. Houghton Mifflin's dictionary staff was also aided by the work of independent lexicographers in the development of this work.

An abiding objective of our word reference publishing is to provide authoritative information about our language and guidance in its effective use. We believe *Roget's II: The New Thesaurus* will serve the user well in selecting the right words to express thoughts precisely and to add colorful variety to expression.

INTRODUCTION

Roget's II: The New Thesaurus is a book devoted entirely to meaning. In contrast to the old-fashioned thesaurus, which groups undifferentiated words together with an undefined entry word, this book provides an analysis—a definition—of the meaning or meanings of each entry word in the book. Synonyms are grouped according to meaning. What, then, is meaning?

Meaning

The meaning of even a single word is rather more complex than one might imagine. The most obvious aspect of meaning is *denotation*, that is, the thing meant, the concept or object referred to. The denotation of the word *chair*, for example, is that it is a piece of furniture, that it has a seat, legs, a back, and often arms, and that one person can sit on it. So long as it has these features, a person can identify a chair as a chair irrespective of the fact that it may be big or small, made of chrome or wood, upholstered or caned—in short, no matter what other features it may have. Furthermore, a chair is distinct from all other pieces of furniture upon which one can sit. It is different from a stool because a stool is backless and armless. It is different from a couch, on which one or more may recline, and different from a chaise longue, which has a seat long enough to support the outstretched legs of the sitter. Thus the denotation of a word includes those features that are criterial and so serve to define and distinguish.

In addition to its denotation, a word may have a *connotation*, that is, the configuration of suggestive or associative implications constituting the general sense of an expression beyond its literal sense. Differences of style, expressiveness, and other characteristics such that a given term conveys a given denotation more—or less—formally, colorfully, humorously, and the like, constitute the connotations of the word. For example, both *mouth* and *trap* denote the opening in the body through which food is ingested. *Mouth*, however, is what might be called a neutral term; it conveys information but has no connotations. *Trap*, on the other hand, is a slang word and is often considered to be somewhat vulgar. An *alcoholic* drinks habitually and to excess, and the word is neutral; *lush*, however, is a slang term with pejorative overtones.

Words expressive of emotion frequently have connotations, but many that are not emotive also have them. Many sets of words of identical denotation participate in a spectrum of greater to lesser formality. For example, of the cluster *transpire*, *happen*, *occur*, *befall*, *betide*, *hap*, and *bechance*, all meaning “to take place, come to pass,” *transpire* is the most formal; *happen* and *occur* are neutral—nonconnotative; *befall* and *betide* have a somewhat archaic flavor; *hap* is archaic; and *bechance* is rare. All of these facts beyond the bare denotation of the terms constitute the connotations of these words. In *Roget's II* labels, such as *Informal*, *Regional*, and *Slang*, identify restrictions with respect to level or style of usage.

Two or more words may have the same denotation and connotation and yet differ in their *range of applicability*; that is, they cannot be used interchangeably in the same context. *Cancel* and *vacate*, both having the same denotation (“to annul or invalidate”) and both

being nonconnotative, can nevertheless not be used interchangeably, because *vacate* is a legal term. One might *cancel* a magazine subscription, but one would hardly *vacate* it. *Extension* and *production* both refer to the act of making something longer, but *production* is used only in geometry, whereas *extension* applies generally. *Slowly* and *adagio* have the same denotation, but *adagio* is a technical term in music. Terms of restricted range of applicability are identified in *Roget's II* by such labels as *Architecture*, *Mythology*, or *Journalism*.

Synonymy and Synonyms

Given the complexity of meaning, a person searching for an alternative word must be sure that the synonym chosen is accurate and precise. Because of its emphasis on the meaning or meanings of a word *Roget's II* is specifically designed to offer the user a choice of synonyms that lie within the denotative range of the word or sense of the word with which they correspond.

A *synonym* is a word that differs in form from but has a meaning identical or very similar to that of another word. It is often said that there is no such thing as an absolute synonym for any word, that is, a form that is identical in every aspect of meaning so that the two can be applied interchangeably. According to this extreme view the only true synonyms are terms having precisely the same denotation, connotation, and range of applicability. As it turns out, these so-called true synonyms are frequently technical terms and almost always concrete words coming from linguistically disparate sources. Good examples of such pairs are *celiac* (from Greek)/*abdominal* (from Latin) and *car* (from Latin)/*automobile* (from French). These meet the criteria for true synonymy: they have precisely the same denotations, connotations, and range of applicability, and they are used in identical contexts.

This view of synonymy is far too restrictive, however. In *Roget's II* synonymous terms are those having nearly identical denotations. English, because of its linguistic history and its large wordstock, is rich in such words. Speakers very often have a choice from among a set of words of differing origin but the same denotation. A man may be *bearded* (from Old English), *barbate* (from Latin), *bewhiskered* (from Scandinavian), or *whiskered* (from Scandinavian). One may go to the *shore* (from Middle Low German), the *coast* (from Latin), or the *littoral* (from Latin). One can refer to the sense of *hearing* (from Old English) or to the *acoustic* (from Greek), *auditory* (from Latin), *aural* (from Latin), or *auricular* (from Latin) sense. One can make clothing from *cloth* (from Germanic), *fabric* (from Latin), *material* (from Latin), or *textiles* (from Latin). The reason for choosing one of these words over another is frequently stylistic: one may prefer a simpler or a more complex word; one may prefer a more formal or a less formal term. But the fact that they share a denotation makes them synonymous and available as substitutes for words one has in mind so that one can be more precise, express oneself more colorfully, or avoid repetition. All of the terms included in the synonymies in *Roget's II* share the same denotation.

HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

The Entries

Roget's II: The New Thesaurus contains five kinds of entries introduced by boldface head words: main entries having synonym lists (and sometimes near-synonyms, near-antonyms, and antonyms), indented subentries in smaller type representing very close historical relatives and derivatives of the main entries, secondary entries referring you to the main-entry synonym lists, and directional cross-reference entries guiding you from secondary to primary variant spellings and from secondary entries to synonymized subentries.

fall *verb*

1. To move downward in response to gravity: *Apples fell from the tree.*

1. **Syns:** descend, drop.

fall down *verb*

Informal. To be unsuccessful.

FAIL.

fall off *verb*

1. To slope downward.

1. **DROP.**

fallacy *noun*

1. An erroneous or false idea: *an educational philosophy grounded on fallacy.*

1. **Syns:** erroneousness, error, fallaciousness, falsehood, falseness, falsity, untruth.

fall down *verb*

SEE fall.

falsity *noun*

1. An erroneous or false idea
2. Betrayal, esp. of a moral obligation.
3. An untrue declaration.

1. **FALLACY.**
2. **FAITHLESSNESS.**
3. **LIE² noun**

Entry Order

Main entries, secondary entries, and directional cross-references are listed alphabetically. For instance, the first entry in this book is **aback**. It is followed in turn by the separate entries **abandon**, **abandoned**, **abandonment**, **abase**, and **abash**.

Subentry order is as follows: two-word verbs derived from single-word verb head words usually appear as indented subentries directly under the base verbs. Two-word verb subentries are also alphabetized:

fall *verb*

fall down *verb*

fall off *verb*

fall on (or upon) *verb*

fall through *verb*

fall *noun*

Each of the two-word verb subentries shown above is also entered in directional cross-reference form at its own alphabetical place elsewhere in the book (see "Directional Cross-References").

Components of Main Entries

These are the components of a typical main entry:

destroy *verb*

1. To cause the complete ruin or wreckage of: *paintings destroyed by fire; drugs that destroyed her health; news that destroyed his hopes.*

1. **Syns:** demolish, destruct, dynamite, finish, ruin, ruinate (*Regional*), shatter, sink, smash, total, torpedo, undo, wrack, wreck. —*Idiom* put the kibosh on.

The head word (**destroy**) is followed on the same line by an italic part-of-speech label (*verb*). A boldface sense number (in this case 1.) appears in all multisense entries in the left-hand column beneath the head word, followed by a basic meaning element—a concise denotation of the sense shared by the head word and its synonyms. In this example the basic meaning element shared by **destroy** and its fourteen synonyms is "to cause the complete ruin or wreckage of." The basic meaning element is supplemented by at least one illustrative example showing a typical usage context for the head word and its synonyms. Definition 1 of the main entry **destroy** contains three italic examples: *paintings destroyed by fire*, *drugs that destroyed her health*, and *news that destroyed his hopes*. These examples show both concrete and figurative uses of **destroy**. The synonyms are all substitutable for the head word in the example.

In the right-hand column the appropriate sense number (1.) is followed by the italic boldface abbreviation **Syns**, which introduces the list of words synonymous with **destroy**: demolish, destruct, dynamite, finish, ruin, ruinate (*Regional*), shatter, sink, smash, total, torpedo, undo, wrack, and wreck.

When appropriate, idioms equivalent to the synonyms are shown at the ends of synonym lists. These idioms are phrases with a meaning identical to the basic meaning element shared by all the synonyms. In the entry shown here, "put the kibosh on" is an idiom that is equivalent to **destroy** and its fourteen synonyms.

Scattered throughout the text are thousands of carefully chosen near-synonyms, near-antonyms, and antonyms. Near-synonyms, introduced by the boldface italic head **Near-syns**, appear after the synonym lists to which they are related:

adventurous *adjective*

1. Taking or willing to take risks: *Adventurous pioneers settled the American West.*

1. **Syns:** adventuresome, audacious, enterprising, venturesome, venturous.
Near-syns: bold, brash, daredevil, daring, foolhardy, harebrained, impetuous, imprudent, madcap, rash, reckless.
Near-ants: cautious, reserved.
Ant: unadventurous.
2. DANGEROUS.

2. Involving possible risk, loss, or injury.

Near-synonyms are words that are closely related to the head words at which they appear; yet, they do not share with those head words irreducible elements of denotation, or meaning.

Antonyms, or words directly opposite in meaning to the head words at which they appear, are to be found, when applicable, at the ends of some entries or senses. Near-antonyms, words closely related to true antonyms, and having meanings nearly opposite those of the synonyms, appear, when applicable, throughout the text:

acknowledge *verb*

1. To recognize, often reluctantly, the reality or truth of: *He acknowledged his mistake.*
1. **Syns:** admit, allow, avow, concede, confess, fess up (*Slang*), grant, own (up).
- Near-ants:** disallow, disavow, disown, nix (*Slang*), reject; contradict, impugn, negate.
- Ant:** deny.
2. To express recognition of: *acknowledged his duty toward his family.*
2. **Syns:** admit, recognize.

The editors have made a special effort to include *only* those near-synonyms, near-antonyms, and antonyms most commonly sought by you, the readers. Inclusion of these new features in this revision is a response to requests from those of you who use our thesaurus.

Components of the Secondary Entries

Secondary entries contain head words, parts of speech, a definition or definitions, and small-capital cross-references to main entries:

ghoul *noun*

A perversely bad, cruel, or wicked person.

FIEND.

reprove *verb*

1. To castigate for the purpose of improving.
1. **CORRECT** *verb*.
2. To criticize for a fault or offense.
2. **CALL DOWN** at **call**.

Secondary entries enable you to locate the main entries where full synonym lists are entered. If you have the word *ghoul* in mind, for instance, but seek a different, better, or more colorful word, you look up **ghoul**. You see that it is cross-referred to the main entry **fiend**. When you turn to **fiend**, you find seven synonyms and one idiom from which to choose:

fiend *noun*

1. A perversely bad, cruel, or wicked person: *a fiend who tormented and killed his prisoners.*
1. **Syns:** archfiend, beast, ghou, monster, ogre, tiger, vampire. —*Idiom* devil incarnate.

If, on the other hand, you start with the word *reprove* in the sense meaning "to criticize another for a fault or offense," you will find the appropriate cross-reference entry at definition 2 of **reprove**, directing you to the subentry **call down** at the main entry **call**. And at **call down** there are sixteen synonyms and four idioms from which to choose:

call *verb*

call down *verb*

Informal. To criticize for a fault or offense: *got called down for failing to meet the deadline.*

Syns: admonish, bawl out (*Informal*), castigate, chastise, chew out (*Slang*), chide, dress down, lambaste (*Slang*), rap' (*Informal*), rebuke, reprimand, reproach, reprove, scold, tax, upbraid. —*Idioms* bring (or call or take) to task, haul (or rake) over the coals, let someone have it, rap on (or over) the knuckles.

Every synonym is entered at its own alphabetical place with a cross-reference to the appropriate main entry. Near-synonyms, near-antonyms, and antonyms—freestanding elements within entries—are not cross-referenced because it was felt that inclusion of such cross-references would needlessly clutter the text and possibly confuse the busy user.

Subentries

Only the closest historical relatives of head words are indented subentries. For instance, **abandon** *noun* is a subentry of the verb **abandon**, but **abandonment** is a separate entry. Two-

word verbs derived from single-word verbs are shown as subentries of the single-word verbs (as in the case of **call down** at **call**) unless the two-word verbs have themselves generated noun or adjective derivatives. In this case the two-word verb is the head word, and the derivative is its subentry. For example, **fade out** *verb* is a main entry followed by the subentry **fade-out** *noun*.

Directional Cross-References

Directional cross-references help you locate subentries of main entries and variant spellings that differ markedly from the spellings of primary variants. For example, **call down**, as noted above, is a subentry at **call**; hence **call down** is also entered in directional cross-reference form at its own alphabetical place in the overall C sequence:

call down *verb* SEE **call**.

By the same token the variant spelling **aeon** is shown at its own alphabetical place in the A sequence as:

aeon *noun* SEE **eon**.

Variants

Equal and secondary variants are tagged as such in the synonym lists. An equal variant is a spelling of a word that is just as acceptable as the primary spelling. Equal variants of synonyms and idioms in synonym lists are signaled by use of the italic connective *or*:

down-at-heel *or* down-at-the-heel

A secondary variant is a spelling that is less common than the primary form but nevertheless acceptable. Secondary variants are signaled in synonym lists by parentheses plus the italic connective *also*:

lese majesty (*also* lèse majesté)
dialogue (*also* dialog)

Some words have more than one variant. These, too, are shown:

naïve (*also* naïve, naïf, naïf)

All such variants are given at main- and secondary-entry head words in synonym lists.

When a single idiom can be worded in a variety of ways, the variant wordings are given parenthetically. For instance, the idiom in the synonym list at definition 4 of **fall** *verb* is: take a fall (*or* header *or* plunge *or* spill *or* tumble).

Homographs

A homograph is a word that is spelled the same as another word but that differs in meaning and origin and may differ in pronunciation or syllabication. Homographs are signaled by superscript numerals following the words to which they refer. Homograph numbers are used in head words, cross-references, and synonym lists:

fell ¹ <i>verb</i>	
1. To bring down, as with a saw or ax.	1. CUT <i>verb</i> .
.....
fell ² <i>adjective</i>	
Showing or suggesting a disposition to be violently destructive without scruple or restraint. FIERCE.
fell ³ <i>noun</i>	
The skin of an animal.	HIDE ² <i>noun</i> .

In the synonym lists at **cut**, **fierce**, and **hide**² the synonyms are styled as **fell**¹, **fell**², and **fell**³, respectively. Notice also that the cross-reference to **HIDE**² contains the proper homograph number for that main entry.

Labels

You don't need to consult a dictionary when you use *Roget's II* because all words requiring labels have been clearly tagged in synonym lists and in main and secondary entries. The kinds of labels used in this book are temporal labels (*Archaic*, *Obs.*), usage labels (*Informal*, *Slang*, and *Poetic*), dialect labels (such as *Regional* and *Chiefly Regional*), language labels (such as *French*, *Brit.*, and *Chiefly Brit.*), field labels (such as *Law* and *Motion Pic. & T.V.*), and status labels (such as *Rare*).

Archaic labels are used with words once common but now characteristic of a style no longer prevalent in spoken and written English. For example, *affright*, meaning "to fill with fear," is an archaic synonym of *frighten* and is labeled as such. *Obs.*, for "obsolete," indicates that a term is used only in quotation or intentional archaism. For instance, the obsolete term *affectionated*, meaning "feeling and expressing affection," is labeled (*Obs.*). *Roget's II* contains very few archaic and obsolete terms.

Usage labels such as *Informal*, *Slang*, and *Poetic* indicate various levels of usage and styles of expression that may or may not be appropriate in all contexts or situations. *Informal* generally applies to those words that are commonly used in the spoken language and in ordinary writing but that might not be considered appropriate in very formal or official context or circumstances. The word *chummy*, for example, carries an *Informal* label in the synonym list at **friendly**, and *dizzy*, meaning "given to lighthearted silliness," carries the same label when it appears in the synonym list at sense 1 of **giddy**. *Slang*, on the other hand, is a style of language characteristic of very casual speech. *Slang* comprises words and special senses of words denoting things in an exceptionally vivid, humorous, irreverent, or sarcastic manner. For example, in the synonym list at **die** the following terms bear *Slang* labels: *check out*, *croak*, *kick in*, and *kick off*. The label *Poetic* applies to words most often used in verse. An example of a term labeled *Poetic* is *aurora* when it is used to mean "dawn."

Dialect labels such as *Regional* and *Chiefly Regional* indicate that a term is indigenous to a particular geographic area. For example, the word *piece*, a synonym of **distance**, is used by speakers only in a limited part of the United States. Hence it carries the label *Regional*. The word *unluck*, meaning "misfortune," is labeled *Chiefly Regional* because it is used chiefly but not exclusively in the southern part of this country.

Language labels such as *Brit.* distinguish between British English and American English. Examples of British Commonwealth labels include: *bluebottle* (*Brit.*), a synonym at **police**; *bonny* (*Scot.*), a synonym at **beautiful**; *funk*² (*Chiefly Brit.*), a synonym at **cowardice**; and *bail*³ (*Austral.*), a synonym at **rob**. In a few instances idioms are labeled if they are clearly British; at definition 1 of **escape** *verb* the idiom "do a bunk" carries a *Brit.* label. In some cases *Slang* and *Regional* labels are combined with *Brit.* labels to show special usage levels and styles. For example, the adjective *chuffy*, meaning "glum," is labeled *Brit. Regional* because it occurs in certain provincial British dialects. And the verb *dip*, meaning "to pawn," is not only a Britishism; it is also considered a slang term in British English. Hence it is labeled *Brit. Slang*.

Some synonyms are labeled according to the fields of knowledge with which they are primarily associated. For instance, the word *dissolve* has a special meaning, "to make a film image disappear gradually." This sense is therefore labeled *Motion Pic. & T.V.* in the synonym list at sense 1 of **fade out** *verb*, a main entry also carrying this label. Another example is the sense of **competence** meaning "conferred power"—a sense carrying the label *Law*.

The status label *Rare* means that a term is seldom if ever used. The verb *discuss*, meaning "to eat," is an example of a synonym so labeled.

The eight parts of speech are labeled in italics and appear in all boldface entries and subentries.

Abbreviations Used in This Book

An alphabetical list of the abbreviations used in *Roget's II* along with their expansions is given below.

<i>Anat.</i>	Anatomy	<i>Med.</i>	Medicine
<i>Archit.</i>	Architecture	<i>Mil.</i>	Military
<i>Austral.</i>	Australian	<i>Motion Pic. & T.V.</i>	Motion Pictures & Television
<i>Biol.</i>	Biology	<i>Mus.</i>	Music
<i>Bot.</i>	Botany	<i>Myth.</i>	Mythology
<i>Brit.</i>	British	<i>Naut.</i>	Nautical
<i>Can.</i>	Canadian	<i>New Zeal.</i>	New Zealand
<i>Chem.</i>	Chemistry	<i>Obs.</i>	Obsolete
<i>Eccles.</i>	Ecclesiastical	<i>Path.</i>	Pathology
<i>Econ.</i>	Economics	<i>Phon.</i>	Phonetics
<i>Ed.</i>	Education	<i>Physiol.</i>	Physiology
<i>Eng.</i>	English	<i>Print.</i>	Printing
<i>esp.</i>	especially	<i>Psychoanal.</i>	Psychoanalysis
<i>Geol.</i>	Geology	<i>Psychol.</i>	Psychology
<i>Geom.</i>	Geometry	<i>Rhet.</i>	Rhetoric
<i>Gk.</i>	Greek	<i>Rom.</i>	Roman
<i>Hist.</i>	History	<i>Scot.</i>	Scottish
<i>Ir.</i>	Irish	<i>usu.</i>	usually
<i>Jour.</i>	Journalism	<i>Vet. Med.</i>	Veterinary Medicine
<i>Ling.</i>	Linguistics	<i>Zool.</i>	Zoology

A

aback *adverb*

Without adequate preparation.

abandon *verb*

1. To give up without intending to return or claim again: *abandoned his wife and children.*

2. To let (something) go.

3. To give up a possession, claim, or right.

4. To cease trying to accomplish or continue: *abandoned her studies for lack of funds.*

5. To yield (oneself) unrestrainedly, as to a particular impulse.

abandon *noun*

1. A complete surrender of inhibitions: *playing the flute with abandon.*

2. A careless, often reckless disregard for consequences: *rides his motorcycle with abandon.*

abandoned *adjective*

1. Having been given up and left alone: *an abandoned house.*

2. Lacking in moral restraint: *an abandoned brute.*

abandonment *noun*

1. The act of forsaking: *his abandonment of his family.*

2. A giving up of a possession, claim, or right.

3. A complete surrender of inhibitions.

abase *verb*

To deprive of esteem, self-worth, or effectiveness.

abash *verb*

To cause (a person) to be self-consciously distressed.

abashed *adjective*

Distressed and ill at ease.

abashment *noun*

Self-conscious distress.

abate *verb*

1. To grow or cause to grow gradually less.

2. To become less active or intense.

abatement *noun*

1. The act or process of decreasing.

2. An amount deducted.

3. The act or process of becoming less active or intense.

abbreviate *verb*

1. To make short or shorter.

UNAWARES.

1. **Syns:** desert³, forsake, leave¹, quit, throw over, walk out on.

Near-syns: cast (off or aside), drop, renounce, reject, repudiate; chuck¹ (*Informal*), discard, junk, scrap¹.

Ant: reclaim.

2. RELINQUISH.

3. ABDICATE.

4. **Syns:** desist, discontinue, forswear (*also* foreswear), give up, lay off (*Slang*), quit, renounce, stop, swear off (*Informal*). —*Idioms* call it a day, call it quits, hang up the fiddle, have done with, throw in the towel.

5. GIVE OVER at **give**.

1. **Syns:** abandonment, incontinence, unrestraint, wantonness, wildness.

2. **Syns:** heedlessness, thoughtlessness.

1. **Syns:** derelict, deserted, destitute (*Obs.*), forlorn, forsaken, lorn (*Poetic*).

2. **Syns:** dissolute, incontinent, licentious, profligate, unbridled, unconstrained, uncontrolled, ungoverned, uninhibited, unrestrained, wanton, wild.

1. **Syn:** desertion.

2. ABDICATION.

3. ABANDON *noun*.

HUMBLE *verb*.

EMBARRASS.

EMBARRASSED.

EMBARRASSMENT.

1. DECREASE *verb*.

2. SUBSIDE.

1. DECREASE *noun*.

2. DEDUCTION.

3. WANE *noun*.

1. SHORTEN.

abdicate

2. To make short or shorter by or as if by cutting.

abdicate *verb*

To give up a possession, claim, or right: *The queen abdicated the throne in 1948.*

abdication *noun*

A giving up of a possession, claim, or right: *her abdication of her responsibilities.*

abduct *verb*

To seize and detain (a person) unlawfully.

abecedarian also **abecedary** *noun*

One lacking professional skill and ease in a particular pursuit.

abecedary *noun***aberrance** or **aberrancy** *noun*

The condition of being abnormal.

aberrancy *noun***aberrant** *adjective*

1. Departing from the normal.
2. Straying from a proper course or standard.

aberration *noun*

1. The condition of being abnormal.
2. Serious mental illness or disorder impairing a person's capacity to function normally and safely.

abet *verb*

To give support or assistance.

abeyance also **abeyancy** *noun*

The condition of being temporarily inactive: *hold a decision in abeyance; cancer kept in abeyance with chemotherapy.*

abeyancy *noun***abeyant** *adjective*

Existing in a temporarily inactive and hidden form.

abhor *verb*

To regard with utter contempt and disdain.

abhorrence *noun*

1. Extreme hostility and dislike.
2. A feeling of fear and repugnance.

abhorrent *adjective*

So objectionable as to elicit despal.

abide *verb*

1. To put up with.
2. To remain in existence or in a certain state for an indefinitely long time.
3. To stop temporarily and remain, as if reluctant to leave.
4. To have as one's domicile, usu. for an extended period.
5. To continue to be in a place.

abide by *verb*

To act in conformity with.

abide by *verb***abiding** *adjective*

Existing or remaining in the same state for an indefinitely long time

ability *noun*

1. Physical, mental, financial, or legal power to perform: *had the ability to learn physics.*

2. **TRUNCATE.**

Syns: abandon, cede, demit, hand over, quitclaim, relinquish, render (up), renounce, resign, surrender, waive, yield.

Syns: abandonment, demission, quitclaim, renunciation, resignation, surrender, waiver.

KIDNAP.

AMATEUR.

SEE **abecedarian.**

ABNORMALITY.

SEE **abberance.**

1. ABNORMAL.

2. ERRANT.

1. ABNORMALITY.

2. INSANITY.

HELP *verb.*

Syns: dormancy, intermission, latency, quiescence (also quiescency), remission, suspension.

SEE **abeyance.**

LATENT.

DESPISE.

1. HATE *noun.*

2. HORROR.

FILTHY.

1. ENDURE.

2. ENDURE.

3. PAUSE *verb.*

4. LIVE¹.

5. REMAIN.

FOLLOW.

SEE **abide.**

CONTINUING.

1. **Syns:** ableness, capability, capacity, competence (also competency), faculty, might.

2. Natural or acquired facility in a specific activity:
has fine technical ability.

abjuration *noun*

A formal statement of disavowal.

abjure *verb*

To disavow (something previously written or said) irrevocably and usu. formally.

ablaze *adjective*

On fire.

able *adjective*

Having the ability to perform well: *an able attorney.*

able-bodied *adjective*

Physically strong and healthy: *able-bodied young men helping to move the furniture.*

ableness *noun*

Physical, mental, financial, or legal power to perform.

abnormal *adjective*

Departing from the normal: *an abnormal interest in bats.*

abnormality *noun*

The condition of being abnormal: *an abnormality in his vision.*

abode *noun*

A building or shelter where one lives.

abolish *verb*

1. To put an end to formally and with authority: *The Thirteenth Amendment abolished slavery.*

2. To destroy all traces of.

abolishment *noun*

An often formal act of putting an end to.

abolition *noun*

An often formal act of putting an end to: *the abolition of slavery.*

abominable *adjective*

1. Eliciting or deserving hate.
2. Too awful to be described.

abominate *verb*

To regard with extreme dislike and hostility.

abomination *noun*

1. Extreme hostility and dislike.
2. An object of extreme dislike.

2. **Syns:** adeptness, command, craft, expertise, expertism, expertness, knack, know-how (*Informal*), mastery, proficiency, skill.

Near-syns: adroitness, deftness, handiness; ingenuity, resourcefulness.

RETRACTION.

RETRACT.

BLAZING.

Syns: adept, au fait (*French*), capable, competent, good, proficient, qualified, skilled, skillful.

Near-syns: alert, clever, keen, proper, sharp; effective, effectual.

Ants: inept; unable.

Syns: strapping, sturdy.

ABILITY.

Syns: aberrant, anomalistic, anomalous, atypical (*also* atypic), deviant, deviate, deviating, deviative, divergent, preternatural, unnatural.

Near-syns: irregular, uncustomary, unrepresentative, unusual, untypical.

Ant: normal.

Syns: aberrance or aberrancy, aberration, anomalism, anomaly, deviance, deviancy, deviation, preternaturalness.

HOME.

1. **Syns:** abrogate, annihilate, annul, cancel, invalidate, negate, nullify, repeal, rescind, set aside, vitiate, void.

2. **ANNIHILATE.**

ABOLITION.

Syns: abolishment, abrogation, annihilation, annulment, defeasance, extinguishment, invalidation, negation, nullification, repeal, rescindment, rescission.

1. **HATEFUL.**

2. **UNSPEAKABLE.**

HATE *verb*.

1. **HATE** *noun*.

2. **HATE** *noun*.

aboriginal

aboriginal *adjective*

Belonging to one because of the place or circumstances of one's birth.

NATIVE *adjective*.

abort *verb*

To bring forth a nonviable fetus prematurely.

MISCARRY.

abound *verb*

To overflow with.

TEEM¹.

abounding *adjective*

Full of animation and activity.

ALIVE.

about *adverb*

1. In or toward a former location or condition.

2. Toward the back.

3. Near to in quantity or amount.

1. **BACK** *adverb*.

2. **BACKWARD** *adverb*.

3. **APPROXIMATELY**.

about-face *verb*

To turn sharply around.

DOUBLE *verb*.

abracadabra *noun*

1. Wordy, unclear jargon.

2. Esoteric, formulaic, and often incomprehensible speech relating to the occult.

1. **GIBBERISH**.

2. **GIBBERISH**.

abrade *verb*

To make (the skin) raw by or as if by friction.

CHAFE.

abridge *verb*

To make short or shorter by or as if by cutting.

TRUNCATE.

abridgment *noun*

A short summary prepared by cutting down a larger work.

SYNOPSIS.

abrogate *verb*

To put an end to formally and with authority.

ABOLISH.

abrogation *noun*

An often formal act of putting an end to.

ABOLITION.

abrupt *adjective*

1. Happening quickly and without warning: *his abrupt departure for New York*.

2. Rudely unceremonious: *gave an abrupt, barely civil answer*.

1. **Syns**: hasty, hurried, precipitant, precipitate, sudden.

2. **Syns**: blunt, brief, brusque, crusty, curt, gruff, short, short-spoken, snippety, snippy.

Near-syns: bluff, brisk, crisp, terse, sharp; impetuous, quick.

3. **STEEP**¹.

3. So sharply inclined as to be almost perpendicular.

abscond *verb*

To break loose and leave suddenly, as from confinement or from a difficult or threatening situation.

ESCAPE *verb*.

absence *noun*

1. Failure to be present: *his constant absence from meetings*.

2. The condition of lacking a usual or needed amount: *an absence of reliable information*.

1. **Syns**: absention, nonappearance, nonattendance.

2. **Syns**: dearth, default (*Obs.*), defect, deficiency, lack, miss (*Regional*), want.

absent *adjective*

1. Not present: *absent from her office*.

2. Deficient in a usual or needed amount: *junk foods in which nutrition is absent*.

3. So lost in thought as to be unaware of one's surroundings.

1. **Syns**: away, gone, missing, wanting.

2. **Syns**: lacking, wanting.

3. **ABSENT-MINDED**.

absentation *noun*

Failure to be present.

ABSENCE.

absent-minded *adjective*

So lost in thought as to be unaware of one's surroundings: *an absent-minded professor*.

Syns: absent, abstracted, bemused, distraught, faraway, inattentive, inconscious, preoccupied. —*Idioms* a million miles away, off in the clouds.