

Preface

This new member of the Oxford family of dictionaries has been prepared especially for those who need a compact, up-to-date guide to American English. It contains words and phrases likely to be met in reading and everyday life, including a number of slang, informal, and technical words and phrases. Names of states of the United States are included, as well as state capitals, terms used to designate the people of each state, and names of the provinces of Canada. Names of the countries of the world, including those not yet well known, are also given, as are names of the capital cities and the terms used to designate the people of each country.

We take this opportunity to express our gratitude to members of the Oxford Dictionary Department of the Oxford University Press for assistance of various kinds, particularly to Dr. John B. Sykes, Editor of the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*, Sixth Edition, and to Dr. Robert Burchfield, Chief Editor of the Oxford English dictionaries. We are grateful as well to members of the staff of Oxford University Press in New York, most particularly to Marjorie Mueller, Janice Lorimer, and Cecelia Carollo, for help in all stages of our work.

We wish also to express our gratitude to the many members of The Hudson Group dictionary staff who worked on the *Oxford American Dictionary*. In particular we wish to thank senior staff members Ernest S. Hildebrand, Jr., Margaret Huffman, Felice Levy, Lawrence T. Lorimer, and Gloria Solomon; associate staff members: Pamela Dupuis, Mary Egner, Richard Ehrlich, Raymond V. Hand, Jr., Joan Lizzio, David H. Scott, and Katherine G. Scott, and assistant staff members: Lee Jayne Ackerman, Christopher Carruth, Hayden Carruth, Cynthia Crippen, Peggy Daly, Patricia Farewell, Sandi Frank, Mary Matamore, Sheila McCaffrey, and Mary Racette.

Pleasantville, New York

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Introduction

Spelling

Some words have two or more acceptable spellings in common use, but few variant spellings are given in this dictionary. The aim is not to dictate the use of a particular spelling but to offer a standard form to those who seek one. When two spellings are equally common, the preferred one is given first.

Many spellings commonly used in Canada, such as *centre*, *cheque*, *colour*, and *programme*, are not included in this dictionary.

Syllabication

Entry words of more than one syllable are shown with syllables separated by a center dot:

fac·sim·i·le

The center dots show the possible division of a word in writing, typing, or printing. Entry words that are normally hyphenated do not have a center dot where the hyphen occurs. A stress mark appears in place of a center dot after a stressed syllable in a word listed within an entry when its pronunciation clearly resembles that of the word at the head of that entry:

ice'skat·er *n.*

Word Forms

Plurals of nouns, comparatives in *-er* and superlatives in *-est* of adjectives and adverbs, and inflected forms of verbs are given when they are irregular or when there might be uncertainty about the spelling. Where only two verb forms are given:

ad·mit (ad·mit) *v.* (ad·mit·ted, ad·mit·ting)

the first form is both the past tense (he *admitted* it) and the past participle (it was *admitted*). When three forms are given:

come (kum) *v.* (came, come, com·ing)
freeze (freez) *v.* (froze, fro·zen, freez·ing)

the first is the past tense (he *came*; it *froze*) and the second is the past participle (he had *come*; it had *frozen*).

For certain inflected verb forms, such as *traveled* and *traveling*, some newspapers, journals, and books will use *travelled* and *travelling*. Such variant spellings are not given here.

When an entry word, such as **la·bel** (lay-bĕl) *n.*, occurs unchanged as a second part of speech, such as **label** *v.*, the word is given the second or subsequent times without pronunciation or stress.

Symbols

The symbol ▷ introduces usage notes, comments on the meanings of words that are often confused (such as *gourmand* and *gourmet*), grammatical points (such as whether *data* and *media* are singular or plural), and information about the origins of words and phrases (such as *fifth column* and *sour grapes*). The symbol ▷ is also used to indicate that an entry is to be treated as a foreign word:

ibid. *abbr.* *ibidem*, = in the same book or passage
etc. ▷ Latin.

The symbol □ introduces phrases employing the entry word (such as *gain ground* and *gain time* after the definition of *gain*).

Usage Labels

Certain entries in this dictionary carry usage labels. One of these labels, *contemptuous*, indicates that use of the entry word implies contempt. Where an entry word (or one of its meanings) is labeled *informal*, the word (or the word in one of its meanings) is used in everyday speech but should not be used when speaking or writing formally.

slea·zy (slee-zee) *adj.* (-zī·er, -zī·est) (*informal*)
dirty and slovenly.

The label *old use* indicates that the entry word (or one of its meanings) is no longer appropriate in current speech or writing. The label *slang* indicates that the entry word (or one of its meanings) is to be avoided except in extremely informal circumstances.

Proprietary Names

Entries known to be trademarks or proprietary names are so designated in this dictionary. The presence or absence of such designations should not be regarded as affecting the validity of any trademark or proprietary name.

Pronunciation

Pronunciation is shown in parentheses just after the entry word. Syllables are separated by hyphens in pronunciations, and syllables spoken with the most stress are shown in boldface type:

cease-less (sees-lis) *adj.*
cloak-and-dag-ger (klohk-än-dag-ër)

Only one pronunciation is generally given. When two pronunciations are equally common, the preferred one is given first:

ha-rass (hä-rass, har-äs) *v.*

Only the stress is shown for a word listed within an entry when its pronunciation closely resembles that of the word at the head of the entry. In such cases syllables are separated by center dots, and the stressed syllable is followed by a stress mark:

com'pe·tent·ly *adv.*

Words of one syllable are shown unstressed:

vie (vi)

Pronunciation Key

a as in	act, bat, marry	ng as in	bring, singer, thank
ä as in	ago, suitable, metal	o as in	odd, box, hot
ah as in	father, calm	ö as in	official, lemon, ardor
ahr as in	arm, cart, bar	oh as in	oat, bone, sew
air as in	air, dare, scary	ohr as in	board, four, hoarse, adore
aw as in	all, walk, saw	oi as in	oil, join, toy
ay as in	age, came, say	oo as in	ooze, soon, too, rule
b as in	boy, habit, rib	oor as in	poor, tour, sure
ch as in	chin, teacher, beach	or as in	bored, for, horse, adorn
d as in	dog, ladder, head	ow as in	out, mouse, now
e as in	egg, bed, merry	p as in	pin, caper, cap
ě as in	taken, nickel, lawyer	r as in	red, carry, near
ee as in	eat, meat, see, key	s as in	sit, lesson, nice, cellar
eer as in	ear, beer, tier	sh as in	she, ashen, rush
f as in	fat, effort, puff	t as in	top, butter, hit
g as in	get, wagon, big	th as in	thin, method, path
h as in	hat, ahead	th as in	this, mother, breathe
hw as in	wheat, nowhere	u as in	up, cut, come
i as in	if, give, mirror	ü as in	suppose, circus, feature
ï as in	pencil, credible	ur as in	her, fir, burn, hurry
ı as in	ice, bite, fire, spy	uu as in	book, full, woman
j as in	jam, magic, edge	v as in	van, river, give
k as in	king, token, back	w as in	will, awoke, quick
l as in	leg, alley, tell	y as in	yes, you
m as in	me, common, him	z as in	zebra, lazy, tease
n as in	no, manner, tan	zh as in	vision, pleasure

Abbreviations

For the reader's convenience, few abbreviations are used in this dictionary. The following abbreviations are used throughout:

<p><i>abbr.</i> abbreviation <i>adj.</i> adjective <i>adv.</i> adverb <i>comb. form</i> combining form <i>conj.</i> conjunction <i>fem.</i> feminine <i>interj.</i> interjection <i>n.</i> noun</p>	<p><i>n. fem.</i> feminine noun <i>n. pl.</i> plural noun <i>n. sing.</i> singular noun <i>pl.</i> plural <i>poss.</i> possessive <i>pr.</i> pronounced <i>prep.</i> preposition <i>v.</i> verb</p>
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Abbreviations in general use (such as ft., R.C.Ch., and etc.) are defined in the dictionary itself.

Publisher's Note

From OED to OAD

To trace the ancestry of this latest Oxford dictionary, one must go back to a little town in southeast Scotland where James Murray was born on February 7, 1837. The son and grandson of tailors, he worked first as a schoolteacher and bank clerk before going on to become one of the greatest lexicographers of all time, the chief editor of the most famous of all dictionaries.

Murray demonstrated a remarkable mind from his earliest days, including an extraordinary capacity for learning languages. He knew the English alphabet by the age of eighteen months, and by the time he was seven he had begun, by comparing various editions of the Bible, to learn Greek, Latin, Hebrew, and Chinese. His insatiable hunger for knowledge led him to lifetime interests in geology and botany, and he identified, classified, and analyzed similarities and differences in rocks and plants with passionate exactitude. He simply never stopped learning, as he described in a letter to his son:

I employed all my leisure time . . . in learning everything that I could, learning as far as I could something about everything that I did not know, while also trying to learn everything that could be known about some things. . . .

Murray became a schoolteacher in 1854, when he was seventeen. From 1870 until 1885 he taught at Mill Hill School, near London. During this time he gained a reputation as a natural scientist and also became a leading scholar of philology, publishing pioneering papers on English dialects and on comparative and historical philology. He received an honorary LL.D from Edinburgh in 1874, entitling him to wear a cap and gown, which became his daily dress for the rest of his life. He also received honorary degrees from Cape Town, Dublin, and numerous other universities, including Oxford.

In 1857 the English Philological Society had come to a decision that was to prove fateful for Murray. The Society decided that all existing English dictionaries were incomplete and deficient and that the entire English language from Anglo-Saxon times onward must be reexamined. Using volunteer readers, the Society then plunged headlong into an erratic, often frenetic, twenty-two-year period of scouring ancient manuscripts as well as books and other publications from all periods. It amassed a somewhat disorganized collection of 4x6 inch slips, weighing almost two tons, on each of which were recorded one word and a citation. In time the Society, realizing that it was better suited to collecting material than to organizing and editing a dictionary, initiated negotiations with the Oxford University Press to take over the ever expanding, ever more complex project.

In 1878 Murray became president of the Philological Society and the following year, with much trepidation, signed a contract for the Society with the Delegates of the Oxford University Press to compile and edit a dictionary, then called *A New English Dictionary on Historical Principles*. The agreement was for a four-volume, 6400-page work to be completed in ten years, in 1889. It had been estimated that the editorial costs would be £6500. Murray soon came to regard the vast treasure of slips collected over the twenty-two-year period as only the nucleus of the work to come. He first had a Scriptorium build for him to work in and to house the citation files and then set about recruiting some 1300 readers throughout the English-speaking world to search out new words and citations systematically. Francis March, then one of America's leading philologists and historical grammarians, was chosen to direct the American readers. Other Americans, such as Fitzedward Hall, who had spent sixteen years teaching Sanskrit and English in India before moving to London and taking a professorship at King's College, were also major contributors. Thus, almost from the start, American sources have been included in the Oxford citation files, and American scholars have contributed their experience and knowledge.

Murray's dedication to the Dictionary was equaled only by his desire for perfection. He often labored eighty to ninety hours a week, initially with only a handful of helpers, which included members of his family. Before long more than a thousand citation slips were arriving daily at the Scriptorium. Moreover, he sent out each day between thirty and forty of his own handwritten letters to contributors and specialists, asking for specific citations, verification, advice, and additional research. He wrote many letters of encouragement and thanks to contributors, inquiring about their health and, eventually, as various sections of the Dictionary began to appear, apologizing to some for not including all their citations in the published work. This taxing correspondence was in addition to his own research on each entry of the Dictionary, the writing of definitions and, later, the editing, proofreading, and rewriting of the typeset galleys. The last was no small task, as his have the reputation of being the most heavily corrected proofs ever known. Some of the corrections derived from the citations and additional research that continued to pour in after entries were completed, but many others from Murray's insistence that not until he saw material in print could he determine the correct order of the definitions and the best choice of citations.

In 1884 the first 352 pages of the Dictionary, **A-Ant**, were published: half the number of years scheduled for the entire work had yielded the first half of the letter **A**. The Delegates of the Press felt deep concern over the slow progress and made their concern known to Murray. It was agreed that the work might be speeded by appointing additional editors and moving the Dictionary staff to the vicinity of the Press. In 1885, therefore, Murray relinquished his teaching position at Mill Hill School and moved, with his family and his files, to Oxford.

In Murray's garden at Sunnyside, on Banbury Road in Oxford, a new Scriptorium was built; it had to be sunk rather deep in the ground in order to preserve his next-door neighbor's view. The University provided Murray with a staff of eight assistants and asked him to finish the project at the rate of 704 pages a year. In

1887 Henry Bradley was appointed as a second editor with his own staff of assistants. Although **Anta-Battening** was published in 1885, **Battenille-Bozzom** in 1887, and the final section of **B** in 1888, the actual rate of accomplishment at Oxford did not increase noticeably. The first nine years had produced only the first volume of a work that was ultimately to consist of twelve volumes.

The years of hard work went on. By the last half of the 1890s, the almost yearly crises and recriminations over the time spent on the Dictionary came to an end. By then it was realized that it was not Murray and his staff who were causing the delay but the complexities and perversities of the English language.

William Craigie, a Scotsman like Murray, joined the Dictionary team in 1897 and worked under Murray for four years before becoming a full editor and assuming responsibility for the letter **Q**. In 1914 C. T. Onions, who had been an assistant since 1895, became a full editor, and his article on **super-** and its compounds, rivaling Bradley's 23-page article on **set** and proclaimed a masterpiece, was to be the longest article in the Dictionary. Murray recognized the brilliance of Bradley and Craigie and accepted the two men, yet he was never convinced that anyone else had his complete dedication to the work or his knack of writing definitions. With eighteen assistants, Bradley, Craigie, Onions, and Murray together completed anywhere from fifteen to fifty final pages a month. Murray usually produced two or three times as many pages as the others, whose time was limited by teaching and other editing tasks.

In 1897 the Vice-Chancellor of Oxford, marking the completion of Volume III (dedicated to Queen Victoria), gave a dinner in honor of Murray, and at this time several University officials expressed the widespread conviction that, although the project would always be a drain on Oxford's finances, it was already a national asset. Murray, perhaps incautiously warming to their enthusiasm, predicted that the Dictionary would be completed by 1908, which proved to be just twenty years short of the mark. But the Dictionary was already developing into much more than a national asset of England. Around the world each new installment was eagerly awaited by scholars and word lovers. The parts already issued were becoming the final authority on the English language in law courts, government bureaus, scholarly debates, newspaper offices, and publishing houses.

Murray was knighted in 1908. In 1908, too, while watching Murray ride his tricycle through the streets of Oxford, the famous physician Sir William Osler told a friend: "The University pays me my salary to keep that old man alive till his 80th birthday in 1917 when the Dictionary will be finished." Indeed, Murray was now promising that the Dictionary would be finished on his eightieth birthday, and some of his visitors and correspondents had taken to wishing him well with "May you live to see Zymotic" (the last word in the Dictionary actually turned out to be **Zyxt**).

Murray did not live to see the dictionary completed. Having spent the last thirty-six years of his life on the project, he died after finishing **Trink-Turndown** in July 1915, two years short of his eightieth birthday. Much still remained to be done by Bradley, Craigie, and Onions, but Murray died knowing that the work would be completed and that it could never be—and would never need to be—done again.

The Oxford English Dictionary, as it was eventually named, was finished in 1928. H. L. Mencken had written that spies at Oxford told him the University would celebrate with "boxing matches between the dons . . . and a series of medieval drinking bouts," but the project had taken so long and already become so famous that only a modest celebration was held. The completed work, bound in twelve large volumes, contained 15,487 pages defining every known meaning of 414,825 words with 1,827,306 supporting and illustrative quotations from Anglo-Saxon times into the twentieth century. The historical record of every meaning, change of meaning, use, spelling, and grammatical form was given for each entry from its first appearance in the written language. The 178 miles of typeset material were completed seventy years after the Dictionary's inception and forty-four years after the first part of **A** had been published. No dictionary in any language has approached it in thoroughness, authority, and wealth of linguistic information. It was considered by many to be the greatest scholarly achievement of all time—and it still is.

When the final twelve-volume set was published, Oxford announced that a Supplement was in progress. That first Supplement, edited by Craigie and Onions, was published in 1933. *The Compact Edition of the Oxford English Dictionary*, which first appeared in 1971, comprises the twelve volumes plus this 1933 Supplement, reproduced micrographically in two volumes and boxed with a magnifying glass. The 1933 Supplement made it clear that constant growth and change in the living English language call for periodic publication of new supplements. Work continues today on "the longest running serial" in the English-speaking world. Under the direction of Dr. Robert Burchfield, the present Oxford dictionary staff of twenty editors and ten researchers—still using readers and advisors from around the world in special subject areas—is at work on a new Supplement.

Burchfield, like Murray before him, is "the man who came to dinner" at Oxford and never left. A New Zealander, he arrived at Oxford as a Rhodes scholar, stayed on to lecture on the English language, and was led into lexicography by C. T. Onions. He became editor of *A Supplement to the Oxford English Dictionary* and Chief Editor of the Oxford English dictionaries in 1971. Following in Murray's footsteps in more ways than one, in 1957 Burchfield thought that the new Supplement would be a one-volume project requiring seven years to complete. Volume I, **A-G**, of this new Supplement was published in 1972 and Volume II, **H-K**, in 1976. In 1980, he and his staff are editing and reading proofs for Volume III, **O-Scz**. His Supplement is growing into four volumes.

Long before the original twelve-volume *OED* was completed, Oxford lexicographers began to compile shorter dictionaries based on it and using its resources and methods. It was the Fowlers who set the pattern for these shorter Oxford dictionaries. The brothers' association with the Press began shortly after the turn of the century, when they undertook a four-volume translation of the second-century Greek satirist Lucian. Their translation was so meticulous and tasteful that the *New York Times* came to the conclusion that they were women. They were, in fact, grave, modest, and hard-working brothers, Henry W. born in 1858 and Frank G., twelve years his junior. After graduating from Oxford, Henry spent seventeen years as a schoolteacher before

deciding to work as a journalist in London. He later left London to join Frank in Guernsey, an island in the English Channel, where the brothers built granite cottages and began their translation of Lucian.

In 1906 the Fowler brothers published *The King's English*, offering a set of marvelously inflexible rules to be followed and setting forth common blunders and "literary blemishes" to be avoided. Henry described it as "a sort of English composition manual from the negative point of view." The book had an added benefit: it provided the answer to Oxford's question of who would compile a "short dictionary" from the as yet only 70 percent completed *OED*. The reclusive Fowlers never met Murray, they did not visit Oxford, and no one from Oxford went to Guernsey. They finished the *Concise Oxford Dictionary* in 1911, the work having taken just five years—as they said it would.

When World War I broke out, fifty-seven-year-old Henry and forty-five-year-old Frank decided they were needed at the front. Lying about their ages, they enlisted in the British army and were dismayed when they were assigned to menial work rather than battle duty. Henry was discharged in 1916—fit and hearty—but Frank died of consumption in 1918 while still in the service. Henry returned to Guernsey and finished another dictionary based on the *OED*, *The Pocket Oxford Dictionary*, one size smaller than the *Concise*, which had been begun by Frank in 1911. It was published in 1924 and bore the names of both Henry and Frank Fowler. At the same time Henry continued writing the extraordinary *Modern English Usage*, which he had begun in 1911, a book in which every major hazard of English usage was pointed out for the edification and delight of writers for generations to come. In 1926, its first year of publication, it was reprinted four times in England, and sold over 50,000 copies in the United States. Fowler said he wrote it with "a cheerful attitude of infallibility." His now-famous warnings about vogue words and genteelisms are classic and, like most of the book's basic content, valid today.

The Fowlers were the first to use the *OED* to compile small Oxford dictionaries, and many other dictionaries have followed. All such Oxford dictionaries rely, of course, on the authority, standards, and scholarship created by the *OED* and maintained in its Supplements. The *Oxford American Dictionary (OAD)* differs from the others in that it is the first to use American lexicographers and editors. Although American and British English share a vast vocabulary, each has its own words, phrases, meanings, spellings, pronunciations, and forms. It was obvious, therefore, that an American staff was needed for the *Oxford American Dictionary*. With the help and advice of the Oxford dictionary staff in England, Oxford University Press in New York assembled an American staff under Eugene Ehrlich, Stuart Berg Flexner, and Gorton Carruth. Ehrlich is a member of the Department of English and Comparative Literature, Columbia University, and an authority on American usage. Flexner is a distinguished lexicographer and author, and Carruth is a well-known editor of reference books. All entries were chosen, compiled, spelled, syllabicated, and given pronunciation by this American staff, which worked closely with Joyce Hawkins, a member of the Oxford dictionary staff in England and editor of the *Oxford Paperback Dictionary*, which formed the basis of the present work. John Sykes, editor of the Sixth

Edition of the *Concise Oxford Dictionary*, and Robert Burchfield also gave generously of their experience and advice. The *Oxford American Dictionary* is thus true to the American language as well as to the Oxford dictionary tradition and standards. It is worth pointing out that the American editors followed the Fowlers' example in completing their manuscript on time and, to a degree, they have emulated Fowler's "cheerful attitude of infallibility" in matters of usage. They also were true to Murray's tradition in that they compiled a dictionary somewhat longer than originally planned.

Like the shorter Oxford dictionaries in England, this *Oxford American Dictionary* is not intended to be comprehensive or to be a substitute for an encyclopedia or larger dictionary. It has been compiled for everyday use in home, school, office, and library. It emphasizes concise and precise definitions presented in a straightforward way. It does not use synonyms to define words unless they help distinguish shades of meaning. It supplies the most common current meanings, spellings, and pronunciations. All spellings and pronunciations are American unless otherwise labeled. As a special feature, a new pronunciation system is employed that is simpler and easier to use than systems used in previous American dictionaries. It enables readers, no matter what their regional speech patterns, to pronounce words without difficulty.

Another feature of this dictionary is that it makes a particular point of indicating correct American usage. For speakers and writers, therefore, who want a dictionary that distinguishes between good and bad English, the *Oxford American Dictionary* sets high, somewhat conservative standards in usage. Many sample sentences are provided that serve as guides to usage while illuminating meanings. Usage labels and more than six hundred usage notes indicate the linguistic and social appropriateness of various words and phrases. (See, for example, the entries for *data*, *hopefully*, and *loan*.) These usage labels and notes reflect analysis of the current language tempered by linguistic experience and sensibility. For these reasons, Oxford University Press is confident the *OAD*, compiled by Americans for Americans and for students of the American language all over the world, will supply the precise information most needed by the user.

OXFORD AMERICAN DICTIONARY

EUGENE EHRLICH
STUART BERG FLEXNER GORTON CARRUTH
JOYCE M. HAWKINS.

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A

- A, a** (ay) (*pl. As, A's, a's*) 1. the first letter of the alphabet. 2. *A*, a grade rating for excellent school work. **A one, A1**, (*informal*) in perfect condition; first-rate. **from A to Z**, from beginning to end.
- a** *adj.* (called the *indefinite article*) 1. one person or thing but not any specific one, *I need a knife*. 2. *per, we pay \$150 a week; twice a day*. \triangleright See **an**.
- a·back** (ă-bak) *adv.* **taken a·back**, disconcerted.
- ab·a·cus** (ab-ă-kūs) *n.* (*pl. -cus·es, -ci, pr. -si*) a frame containing parallel rods with beads that slide up and down, used for counting.
- a·ban·don** (ă-ban-dŏn) *v.* 1. to go away from (a person or thing or place) without intending to return; *abandon ship*, leave a sinking ship. 2. to give up, to cease work on, *abandon hope; abandon the attempt*. 3. to yield completely to an emotion or impulse, *abandoned himself to despair*. **abandon** *n.* careless freedom of manner. **a·ban·don·ment** *n.*
- a·ban·doned** (ă-ban-dŏnd) *adj.* (of behavior) showing abandon, lacking restraint, deprived.
- a·base** (ă-bays) *v.* (**a·based, a·bas·ing**) to humiliate, to degrade. **a·base·ment** *n.*
- a·bash** (ă-bash) *v.* to embarrass, to confound.
- a·bashed** (ă-bash) *adj.* embarrassed or ashamed.
- a·bash·ed·ly** *adv.*
- a·bate** (ă-bayt) *v.* (**a·bat·ed, a·bat·ing**) 1. to make or become less. 2. (legal) to end, *abate the nuisance*. 3. to die down, reduce, *the storm abated*. **a·bate·ment** *n.*
- ab·at·toir** (ab-ă-twahr) *n.* a slaughterhouse.
- ab·bess** (ab-ēs) *n.* a woman who is head of an abbey of nuns.
- ab·bey** (ab-ēc) *n.* (*pl. -beys*) 1. a building occupied by monks or nuns living as a community. 2. the community itself. 3. the church of an abbey.
- ab·bot** (ab-ŏt) *n.* a man who is head of an abbey of monks.
- abbr., abbrev.** *abbr.* 1. abbreviated. 2. abbreviation.
- ab·bre·vi·ate** (ă-bree-vi-ayt) *v.* (**ab·bre·vi·at·ed, ab·bre·vi·at·ing**) to shorten (especially a word or title).
- ab·bre·vi·a·tion** (ă-bree-vi-ay-shŏn) *n.* 1. abbreviating, being abbreviated. 2. a shortened form of a word or title.
- ABC** (ay-bee-see) *n.* (*pl. ABC's, ABCs*) 1. the alphabet. 2. *ABC's, ABCs*, the elementary facts of a subject, *the ABC's of carpentry*.
- ab·di·cate** (ab-dī-kayt) *v.* (**ab·di·cat·ed, ab·di·cat·ing**) to resign from a throne or other high office. **ab·di·ca·tion** (ab-dī-kay-shŏn) *n.*
- ab·do·men** (ab-dŏ-mĕn) *n.* 1. the part of the body below the chest and diaphragm, containing most of the digestive organs. 2. the hindmost section of the body of an insect, spider, or crustacean, *head, thorax, and abdomen*. **ab·dom·i·nal** (ab-dom-i-nāl) *adj.* **ab·dom·i·nal·ly** *adv.*
- ab·duct** (ab-duk) *v.* to carry off (a person) illegally by force or fraud. **ab·duc·tion** (ab-duk-shŏn) *n.* **ab·duc·tor** *n.*
- Ab·er·deen Angus** (ab-ēr-deen ang-gŭs) a Scottish breed of black hornless cattle.
- ab·er·rant** (ă-ber-ănt) *adj.* deviating from what is normal or from a standard. **ab·er·rance** (ă-ber-ăns) *n.* **ab·er·ran·cy** (ă-ber-ăn-see) *n.*
- ab·er·ra·tion** (ab-ĕ-ray-shŏn) *n.* 1. a deviation from what is normal. 2. a mental or moral lapse. 3. a distortion, as of an image produced through an imperfect lens.
- a·bet** (ă-bet) *v.* (**a·bet·ted, a·bet·ting**) to encourage or assist in committing an offense. **a·bet·tor** *n.* **a·bet·ter** *n.* **a·bet·ment** *n.*
- a·bey·ance** (ă-bay-ăns) *n.* **in a·beyance**, (of a right or rule or problem etc.) suspended for a time.
- ab·hor** (ab-hŏhr) *v.* (**ab·horred, ab·hor·ring**) to detest.
- ab·hor·rent** (ab-hŏhr-ĕnt) *adj.* detestable. **ab·hor·rence** *n.*
- a·bide** (ă-brd) *v.* (**a·bode** *pr. ā-bohd*, or **a·bid·ed, a·bid·ing**) 1. (*old use*) to remain, to dwell. 2. to bear, to endure, *can't abide complain-ers*. **abide by**, to act in accordance with; *abide by a promise, keep it; abide by the consequences, accept them*.
- a·bid·ing** (ă-br-ding) *adj.* long-lasting, permanent. **a·bid·ing·ly** *adv.*
- Ab·i·djan** (ab-i-jahn) the capital of the Ivory Coast.
- a·bil·i·ty** (ă-bil-i-tee) *n.* (*pl. -ties*) 1. the quality that makes an action or process possible, the capacity or power to do something. 2. cleverness, talent.
- ab·ject** (ab-jekt, ab-jekt) *adj.* 1. wretched, without resources, *abject poverty*. 2. lacking all pride, *an abject coward*. 3. very humble, *an abject apology*. **ab·ject·ly** *adv.* **ab·ject·ness** *n.* **ab·jec·tion** (ab-jek-shŏn) *n.*
- ab·jure** (ab-joor) *v.* (**ab·jured, ab·jur·ing**) to renounce under oath. **ab·ju·ra·tion** (ab-jŭ-ray-shŏn) *n.* \triangleright Do not confuse *abjure* with *adjure*.
- abl.** *abbr.* ablative.
- ab·la·tive** (ab-lă-tiv) *adj.* of the case in Latin and other languages denoting direction from a place, also time and source, agent, or instrument. **abla·tive** *n.* 1. the ablative case. 2. a word in this case.
- a·blaze** (ă-blayz) *adj.* blazing.
- a·ble** (ay-bĕl) *adj.* (**a·bler, a·blest**) 1. having the ability to do something. 2. having great ability, competent. **ab·ly** *adv.*
- a·ble·bod·ied** (ay-bĕl-bod-ĕed) *adj.* fit and strong.

- ab-lu-tions** (ă-bloo-shōnz) *n. pl.* washing.
 □perform one's ablutions, wash oneself.
- ABM** *abbr.* antiballistic missile.
- ab-ne-gate** (ab-nē-gayt) *v.* (**ab-ne-gat-ed**, **ab-ne-gat-ing**) 1. to deny oneself (something). 2. to renounce (a right or belief).
- ab-ne-ga-tion** (ab-nē-gay-shōn) *n.* rejection or renunciation, especially of a belief, right, or responsibility.
- ab-nor-mal** (ab-nor-māl) *adj.* different from what is normal. **ab-nor-mal-ly** *adv.* **ab-nor-mal-i-ty** (ab-nor-mal-i-tee) *n.*
- a-board** (ă-bohrd) *adv. & prep.* on or into a ship, aircraft, or train.
- a-bode**¹ *see* **abide**.
- a-bode**² (ă-bohd) *n.* a dwelling place.
- a-bol-ish** (ă-bol-ish) *v.* to put an end to, *abolish* *slavery*. **ab-o-li-tion** (ab-ō-lish-on) *n.*
- ab-o-li-tion-ism** (ab-ō-lish-ō-niz-əm) *n.* a movement against slavery.
- ab-o-li-tion-ist** (ab-ō-lish-ō-nist) *n.* (sometimes **Abolitionist**) a person who advocates abolition, especially of slavery of blacks in the U.S. in the 19th century.
- A-bomb** (ay-bom) *n.* an atomic bomb.
- a-bom-i-na-ble** (ă-bom-i-nă-bəl) *adj.* 1. detestable, loathsome. 2. very bad or unpleasant, *abominable weather*. □**Abominable Snowman**, a large manlike or bearlike animal said to exist in the Himalayas, a yeti.
- a-bom-i-nate** (ă-bom-i-nayt) *v.* (**a-bom-i-nat-ed**, **a-bom-i-nat-ing**) to detest, to loathe.
- a-bom-i-na-tion** (ă-bom-i-nay-shōn) *n.* 1. loathing. 2. something loathed.
- ab-o-rig-i-nal** (ab-ō-rij-i-nāl) *adj.* existing in a land from earliest times or from before the arrival of colonists, *aboriginal inhabitants or plants*.
- aboriginal** *n.* an aboriginal inhabitant, especially (*Aboriginal*) of Australia.
- ab-o-rig-i-ne** (ab-ō-rij-i-nee) *n.* one of the earliest known inhabitants of a continent or country.
- a-bort** (ă-bort) *v.* 1. to cause abortion of. 2. to induce abortion in. 3. to suffer abortion. 4. to end or cause to end prematurely and unsuccessfully.
- a-bor-tion** (ă-bor-shōn) *n.* 1. the expulsion (either spontaneous or induced) of a fetus from the womb before it is able to survive, especially in the first twenty-eight weeks of pregnancy. 2. the fetus so aborted. 3. an immature or incomplete idea etc.
- a-bor-tion-ist** (ă-bor-shō-nist) *n.* a person who induces abortions.
- a-bor-tive** (ă-bor-tiv) *adj.* 1. producing abortion. 2. unsuccessful, *an abortive attempt*. **a-bor'tive-ly** *adv.* **a-bor'tive-ness** *n.*
- a-bound** (ă-bownd) *v.* 1. to be plentiful, *fish abound in the river*. 2. to have in great quantities, *the river abounds in fish*.
- a-bout** (ă-bowt) *adv. & prep.* 1. all around, *look about you*. 2. somewhere near, not far off, *he's somewhere about*. 3. here and there in (a place), *papers were lying about or about the room*. 4. on the move, in circulation, *will soon be about again*. 5. approximately, *about \$10*. 6. in connection with, on the matter or subject of, *what is he talking about?* 7. so as to face in the opposite direction, *put the ship about*. □**be about to**, to be on the point or verge of doing something.
- a-bout-face** (ă-bowt-fays) *n.* a complete reversal of previous actions or opinions.
- a-bove** (ă-buv) *adv.* 1. at or to a higher point. 2. earlier in a book or article, *mentioned above*.
- above** *prep.* 1. over, higher than, more than. 2. upstream from. 3. beyond the level or reach of, *she is above suspicion*. 4. more important than, *this above all*.
- a-bove-board** (ă-buv-bohrd) *adj. & adv.* without deception or concealment, done honorably.
- ab-ra-ca-dab-ra** (ab-ră-kă-dab-ră) *n.* 1. a supposedly magic formula or spell. 2. gibberish.
- a-brade** (ă-brayd) *v.* (**a-brad-ed**, **a-brad-ing**) to scrape or wear away by rubbing. **a-bra-sion** (ă-bray-zhōn) *n.*
- a-bra-sive** (ă-bray-siv) *adj.* 1. causing abrasion. 2. harsh, causing angry feelings, *an abrasive personality*. **abrasive** *n.* a substance used for grinding or polishing surfaces. **a-bra'sive-ly** *adv.* **a-bra'sive-ness** *n.*
- a-breast** (ă-brest) *adv.* 1. side by side and facing the same way. 2. keeping up, not behind, *keep abreast of modern developments*.
- a-bridge** (ă-brij) *v.* (**a-bridged**, **a-bridg-ing**) to shorten by using fewer words, *an abridged version of the novel*. **a-bridg'ment** *n.*
- a-broad** (ă-brawd) *adv.* 1. away from one's own country. 2. far and wide, everywhere, *scattered the seeds abroad*. 3. out and about, *the rumor has been abroad for many days*.
- ab-ro-gate** (ab-rō-gayt) *v.* (**ab-ro-gat-ed**, **ab-ro-gat-ing**) to cancel or repeal, *abrogate a law*.
- ab-ro-ga-tion** (ab-rō-gay-shōn) *n.* ▷ Do not confuse *abrogate* with *arrogate*.
- a-brupt** (ă-brupt) *adj.* 1. sudden, *come to an abrupt stop*. 2. disconnected, not smooth, *short abrupt sentences*. 3. curt. 4. (of a slope) very steep.
- a-brupt'ly** *adv.* **a-brupt'ness** *n.*
- ab-scess** (ab-ses) *n.* a collection of pus formed in the body. **ab'scessed** *adj.*
- ab-scis-sa** (ab-sis-ă) *n.* (*pl.* **-scis-sas**, **-scis-sae**, *pr.* **-sis-ee**) 1. the part of a line between a fixed point on it and the ordinate drawn to it from any other point. 2. a coordinate measured parallel to the x-axis (horizontal axis).
- ab-scund** (ab-skond) *v.* to go away secretly, especially after wrongdoing. **ab-scund'er** *n.*
- ab-sence** (ab-sēns) *n.* 1. being away, the period of this. 2. lack, nonexistence, *in the absence of proof*. 3. inattention, *absence of mind*.
- ab-sent** (ab-sēnt) *adj.* 1. not present, *absent from school*. 2. nonexistent, lacking. 3. with one's mind on other things, *stared in an absent way*. **absent** (ab-sent) *v.* to stay away, *absented himself from the meeting*. **ab'sent-ly** *adv.*
- ab-sen-tee** (ab-sēn-tee) *n.* a person who is absent from work etc. □**absentee ballot**, a ballot cast by mail by a voter away from his or her usual voting place. **absentee landlord**, one who seldom visits the premises he lets.
- ab-sen-tee-ism** (ab-sēn-tee-iz-əm) *n.* frequent absence from work or school.
- ab-sent-mind-ed** (ab-sēnt-mīn-did) *adj.* with one's mind on other things, forgetful.
- ab-sinthe**, **ab-sinth** (ab-sinth) *n.* a green liqueur made from brandy with wormwood and other herbs.
- ab-so-lute** (ab-sō-loot) *adj.* 1. complete, *absolute silence*. 2. unrestricted, *absolute power*. 3. independent, not relative, *there is no absolute standard for beauty*. 4. (*informal*) utter, out-and-out, *it's an absolute shame*. □**absolute pitch**, ability to recognize or reproduce the pitch of notes in music;

the pitch of a note defined scientifically in terms of vibrations per second.

ab-so-lute-ly (ab-sō-loot-lee) *adv.* 1. completely. 2. without restrictions, unconditionally. 3. actually, *it absolutely exploded*. 4. (*informal*) quite so, yes.

ab-so-lu-tion (ab-sō-loo-shōn) *n.* a priest's formal declaration of the forgiveness of penitents' sins.

ab-so-lut-ism (ab-sō-loo-tiz-əm) *n.* the principle of absolute government, despotism. **ab'so-lut-ist** *n.*

ab-solve (ab-zolv) *v.* (**ab-solved**, **ab-solv-ing**) 1. to clear of blame or guilt. 2. to give absolution to (a person). 3. to free from an obligation.

ab-sorb (ab-sorb) *v.* 1. to take in, to combine or merge into itself or oneself, *absorb fluid, food, knowledge; the large firm absorbed the smaller ones*, gained control of them and incorporated them into its operations. 2. to bear the brunt of, to reduce the effect of, *buffers absorbed most of the shock*. 3. to occupy or hold the attention or interest of, *his work absorbs him completely; an absorbing book*. **ab-sorb'er** *n.* **ab-sorp-tion** (ab-sorp-shōn) *n.* **ab-sorp-tive** (ab-sorp-tiv) *adj.* **ab-sorb'ing** *adj.* **ab-sorb'ing-ly** *adv.* ▷ Do not confuse *absorb* with *adsorb*.

ab-sorb-a-ble (ab-sor-bā-bēl) *adj.* able to be absorbed.

ab-sorb-ent (ab-sor-bēnt) *adj.* able to absorb moisture etc., *absorbent cotton*. **ab-sorb'en-cy** *n.* ▷ Do not confuse *absorbent* with *adsorbent*.

ab-stain (ab-stayn) *v.* 1. to keep oneself from some action or indulgence, especially from drinking alcohol. 2. to refrain from using one's vote. **ab-stain'er** *n.* **ab-sten-tion** (ab-sten-shōn) *n.*

ab-ste-mi-ous (ab-stee-mi-ūs) *adj.* sparing in one's taking of food and drink, not self-indulgent. ▷ An *abstemious* person does not *abstain* entirely. **ab-ste'mi-ous-ly** *adv.* **ab-ste'mi-ous-ness** *n.*

ab-sti-nence (ab-sti-nēns) *n.* abstaining, especially from food or alcohol. **ab'sti-nent** *adj.*

ab-tract (ab-strakt) *adj.* 1. having no material existence. 2. theoretical rather than practical. **abstract** *n.* 1. an abstract quality or idea. 2. a summary. 3. an example of abstract art. **abstract** (ab-strakt) *v.* 1. to take out, to separate, to remove. 2. to make a written summary. **ab-tract'ly** *adv.* **ab-tract'ness** *n.* **ab-tract'er** *n.* □ **abstract art**, art that does not represent things pictorially but expresses the artist's ideas or sensations. **ab-tract expressionism**, a form of abstract art in which paint is applied by spontaneous or random action of the artist. **in the abstract**, regarded theoretically, *he favors economy in the abstract but refuses to economize*.

ab-tract-ed (ab-strak-tid) *adj.* with one's mind on other things, not paying attention. **ab-tract'ed-ly** *adv.* **ab-tract'ed-ness** *n.*

ab-tract-ion (ab-strak-shōn) *n.* 1. abstracting, removing. 2. an abstract idea. 3. abstractedness. 4. an example of abstract art.

ab-struse (ab-stroos) *adj.* hard to understand, profound. **ab-struse'ly** *adv.* **ab-struse'ness** *n.*

ab-surd (ab-surd) *adj.* 1. not in accordance with common sense, very unsuitable. 2. ridiculous, foolish. **ab-surd'ly** *adv.* **ab-surd'i-ty** *n.* (*pl. -ties*).

A-bu Dha-bi (ah-boo dah-bee) the capital of the federation of United Arab Emirates.

a-bun-dance (ā-bun-dāns) *n.* a quantity that is more than enough, plenty.

a-bun-dant (ā-bun-dānt) *adj.* 1. more than enough, plentiful. 2. having plenty of something, rich, *a land abundant in minerals*. **a-bun'dant-ly** *adv.*

a-buse (ā-byoos) *n.* 1. a misuse. 2. an unjust or corrupt practice. 3. abusive words, insults. **abuse** (ā-byooz) *v.* (**a-bused**, **a-bus-ing**) 1. to make a bad or wrong use of, *abuse one's authority*. 2. to treat badly. 3. to attack in words, to utter insults to or about.

a-bu-sive (ā-byoo-siv) *adj.* insulting, criticizing harshly or angrily. **a-bu'sive-ly** *adv.* **a-bu'sive-ness** *n.*

a-but (ā-but) *v.* (**a-but-ted**, **a-but-ting**) to have a common boundary, to end or lean against, *their land abuts on ours*.

a-but-ment (ā-but-mēnt) *n.* a support from which an arch or vault etc. springs, and which receives the lateral thrust.

a-bys-mal (ā-biz-māl) *adj.* 1. extreme, *abysmal ignorance*. 2. (*informal*) extremely bad, *their taste is abysmal*. **a-bys'mal-ly** *adv.*

a-byss (ā-bis) *n.* a hole so deep that it appears bottomless.

Ac symbol actinium.

AC, A.C., ac, a.c. *abbr.* alternating current.

A/C, a/c, ac *abbr.* 1. account. 2. account current.

a-ca-cia (ā-kay-shā) *n.* 1. a tree or shrub from which gum arabic is obtained. 2. a related tree (the false acacia or locust tree) grown for ornament.

acad. *abbr.* 1. academic. 2. academy.

ac-a-dem-ic (ak-ā-dem-ik) *adj.* 1. of a school, college, or university. 2. scholarly as opposed to technical or practical, *academic subjects*. 3. of theoretical interest only, with no practical application.

academic *n.* an academic person. **ac-a-dem'i-cal-ly** *adv.*

a-cad-e-mi-cian (ā-kad-ē-mish-ān) *n.* a member of an academy.

a-cad-e-my (ā-kad-ē-mee) *n.* (*pl. -mies*) 1. a school, especially for specialized training. 2. *Academy*, a society of scholars or artists.

a-can-thus (ā-kan-thūs) *n.* 1. a herbaceous plant with large prickly leaves. 2. a decoration resembling such leaves, in Greek architecture.

a cap-pel-la (ah kā-pel-ā) (of choral music) unaccompanied. ▷ Italian, = in church style.

acc. *abbr.* 1. account. 2. accusative.

ac-cede (ak-seed) *v.* (**ac-ced-ed**, **ac-ced-ing**) 1. to take office, to become monarch, *she acceded to the throne twenty-six years ago*. 2. to agree to what is proposed, *please accede to our request*. ▷ Do not confuse *accede* with *exceed*.

ac-cel-er-ate (ak-sel-ē-rayt) *v.* (**ac-cel-er-at-ed**, **ac-cel-er-at-ing**) 1. to cause to move faster or happen earlier, to increase the speed of a motor vehicle. 2. to become faster, to move or happen more quickly. **ac-cel-er-a-tion** (ak-sel-ē-ray-shōn) *n.*

ac-cel-er-a-tor (ak-sel-ē-ray-tōr) *n.* 1. a device for increasing speed, a pedal controlling the throttle in a motor vehicle. 2. an apparatus using electric and magnetic fields to give high velocities to free electrons or other atomic particles.

ac-cent (ak-sent) *n.* 1. emphasis on a syllable or word. 2. a mark indicating such emphasis or the quality of a vowel sound. 3. a national, local, or individual way of pronouncing words. 4. the emphasis given to something, *the accent is on qual-*

ity. **ac·cent** (ak-sent, ak-sent) *v.* 1. to pronounce with an accent. 2. to emphasize. **ac·cen·tu·al** (ak-sen-choo-äl) *adj.*

ac·cen·tu·ate (ak-sen-choo-ayt) *v.* (**ac·cen·tu·at·ed**, **ac·cen·tu·at·ing**) to emphasize. **ac·cen·tu·a·tion** (ak-sen-choo-ay-shön) *n.*

ac·cept (ak-sept) *v.* 1. to take (a thing offered) willingly, to say yes to an offer or invitation. 2. to undertake (a responsibility); *we accept liability for the accident, agree that we are legally responsible.* 3. to treat as welcome, *they were never really accepted by their neighbors.* 4. to be willing to agree to, *we accept the proposed changes.* 5. to take as true, *we do not accept your conclusions.* **ac·cep·tor** *n.* ▷ Do not confuse *accept* with *except*.

ac·cept·a·ble (ak-sep-tä-bél) *adj.* 1. worth accepting. 2. tolerable, *an acceptable risk.* **ac·cept·a·bly** *adv.* **ac·cept·a·bil·i·ty** (ak-sep-tä-bil-i-tee) *n.*

ac·cept·ance (ak-sep-täns) *n.* 1. the act of accepting. 2. an agreement to pay a bill, a bill so accepted.

ac·cess (ak-ses) *n.* 1. a way in, a means of approaching or entering, *the window provided easy access.* 2. the right or opportunity of reaching or using, *students need access to books.* 3. an attack of emotion, *an access of tears.* ▷ Do not confuse *access* with *excess*.

ac·ces·si·ble (ak-ses-i-bél) *adj.* able to be reached or used. **ac·ces·si·bly** *adv.* **ac·ces·si·bil·i·ty** (ak-ses-i-bil-i-tee) *n.*

ac·ces·sion (ak-sesh-ön) *n.* 1. reaching a rank or position, *the monarch's accession to the throne.* 2. an addition, being added, *recent museum accessions.*

ac·ces·so·ry (ak-ses-ö-ree) *adj.* additional, extra. **accessory** *n.* 1. a thing that is extra, useful, or decorative but not essential, a minor fitting or attachment. 2. a person who helps another in a crime.

ac·ci·dent (ak-si-dënt) *n.* 1. an unexpected or undesirable event, especially one causing injury or damage. 2. chance, fortune, *we met by accident.*

ac·ci·den·tal (ak-si-den-täl) *adj.* happening by accident. **accidental** *n.* a sign attached to a single note in music, showing temporary departure from the key signature. **ac·ci·den·tal·ly** *adv.*

ac·claim (ä-klaym) *v.* to welcome with shouts of approval, to applaud enthusiastically. **acclaim** *n.* a shout of welcome, applause. **ac·cla·ma·tion** (ak-lä-may-shön) *n.* ▷ Do not confuse *acclamation* with *acclimation*.

ac·cli·mate (ä-kli-mayt, ä-kli-mit) *v.* (**ac·cli·mat·ed**, **ac·cli·mat·ing**) to get used to a new climate or new conditions. **ac·cli·ma·tion** (ä-kli-may-shön) *n.* ▷ Do not confuse *acclimation* with *acclamation*.

ac·cli·ma·tize (ä-kli-mä-tiz) *v.* (**ac·cli·ma·tized**, **ac·cli·ma·tiz·ing**) to acclimate. **ac·cli·ma·ti·za·tion** (ä-kli-mä-ti-zay-shön) *n.*

ac·co·lade (ak-ö-layd) *n.* 1. a ceremonial tap on the shoulder with the flat of a sword, given to mark the conferring of knighthood. 2. praise, approval.

ac·com·mo·date (ä-kom-ö-dayt) *v.* (**ac·com·mo·dat·ed**, **ac·com·mo·dat·ing**) 1. to provide or supply. 2. to provide lodging or room for. 3. to adapt, to make harmonize, *I will accommodate my plans to yours.*

ac·com·mo·dat·ing (ä-kom-ö-day-ting) *adj.* willing to do as one is asked.

ac·com·mo·da·tion (ä-kom-ö-day-shön) *n.* 1. the process of accommodating or adapting. 2. accommodations, lodgings, living premises.

ac·com·pa·ni·ment (ä-kum-pä-ni-mënt) *n.* 1. an accompanying thing. 2. an instrumental part supporting a solo instrument, a voice, or a choir.

ac·com·pa·nist (ä-kum-pä-nist) *n.* a person who plays a musical accompaniment.

ac·com·pa·ny (ä-kum-pä-nee) *v.* (**ac·com·pa·nied**, **ac·com·pa·ny·ing**) 1. to go with, to travel with as a companion or helper. 2. to be present with, *the fever was accompanied by delirium.* 3. to provide in addition. 4. to play a musical accompaniment to.

ac·com·plice (ä-kom-plis) *n.* a partner in wrongdoing.

ac·com·plish (ä-kom-plish) *v.* to succeed in doing, to fulfill. **ac·com·plish·er** *n.*

ac·com·plished (ä-kom-plisht) *adj.* skilled, having many accomplishments.

ac·com·plish·ment (ä-kom-plish-mënt) *n.* 1. accomplishing. 2. skill in a social or domestic art.

ac·cord (ä-kord) *n.* consent, agreement. **accord** *v.* 1. to be in harmony or consistent. 2. to give or grant, *he was accorded this privilege.* **ac·cord·ant** *adj.* □ **of one's own accord**, without being asked or compelled. **with one accord**, all agreeing.

ac·cord·ance (ä-kor-däns) *n.* agreement, conformity.

ac·cord·ing (ä-kor-ding) *adv.* **according as**, in proportion as, in a manner that depends on, *was praised or blamed according as her work was good or bad.* **according to**, as stated by or in, *according to the Bible*; in a manner consistent with or in proportion to, *grouped according to size.*

ac·cord·ing·ly (ä-kor-ding-lee) *adv.* 1. according to what is known or stated, *find out the facts and act accordingly.* 2. therefore.

ac·cor·di·on (ä-kor-di-ön) *n.* a portable musical instrument with bellows, keys, and metal reeds.

accordion *adj.* folding like a bellows.

ac·cor·di·on·ist (ä-kor-di-ö-nist) *n.* a person who plays the accordion.

ac·cost (ä-kawst) *v.* 1. to approach and speak to. 2. (of a prostitute) to solicit.

ac·count (ä-kownt) *n.* 1. a statement of money paid or owed for goods or services. 2. a credit arrangement with a bank or business firm. 3. importance, *that is of no account.* 4. a description, a report. **account** *v.* to regard as, *a person is accounted innocent until proved guilty.* □ **account book**, a book for keeping accounts in. **account executive**, a person in a business who is responsible for overseeing a client's account. **account for**, to give a reckoning of (money received); to explain the cause of; to be the explanation of. **account payable**, (in bookkeeping) a liability to a creditor. **account receivable**, (in bookkeeping) a claim against a debtor. **by all accounts**, according to what everyone says. **give a good account of oneself**, to perform well. **keep accounts**, to keep a systematic record of money spent and received. **on account**, as an interim payment, *here is \$10 on account*; debited to be paid for later, *bought it on account.* **on account of**, because of. **on no account**, under no circumstances, never. **on one's own account**, for one's own purposes and at one's own risk. **take into account**, to make allowances for.

ac·count·a·ble (ä-kown-tä-bél) *adj.* 1. obliged to give a reckoning or explanation for one's actions