

THE PENGUIN

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Spelling  
Dictionary

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MARKET HOUSE BOOKS

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# Spelling Dictionary

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## PENGUIN BOOKS

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## PREFACE

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English is a difficult language to spell correctly – and not only for the foreigner. Native speakers, too, find it hard. The problem is that modern English is such a rich and resourceful language, derived from so many sources, that its spelling does not obey simple rules. Although much of the language is regular, in the sense that it does obey rules, there are very large numbers of exceptions to the common patterns. While the only safe way to be sure of a spelling is to look it up in this dictionary, the basic rules are given on the following pages.

*The Penguin Spelling Dictionary* is divided into three sections: the main spelling list; a list of first names; and a list of biographical names.

### SPELLING LIST

This, the largest section, contains normal vocabulary words, place names, some trademarks, and biblical and mythological names not included in the names lists (see below). Unhyphenated two-word compounds (e.g. phrasal verbs and nouns) are usually not listed, as each element will have its own entry. Exceptions include compounds with irregular inflections (see below) and some eponymous terms (terms derived from the name of a person), in which both elements are included as an aid to the sense.

Centred dots within a word indicate the points at which it can be hyphenated. These divisions are phonetic, rather than etymological, and correspond to syllabification breaks; note, however, that when syllabification breaks are not acceptable hyphenation points are not shown. Monosyllabic words should never be hyphenated, nor – if possible – should people's names.

Inflections (changes in the form of a word to indicate changes in grammatical function) are included if they are irregular. In general, regular inflections are not included. For rules on the

formation of regular and irregular inflections, see under **The Rules of Spelling** on the following pages.

US spellings and British variant spellings are included after the preferred spelling of the word; they also have their own entries, with an appropriate gloss, if they are widely separated alphabetically from the preferred spelling.

Short glosses are provided for unfamiliar words and to avoid confusion between similarly spelt or pronounced words. Most of the proper names in this section are also glossed.

A few common misspellings are included in the list. These words are bracketed and the correct spelling indicated.

#### FIRST NAMES

This section comprises a comprehensive list of English first names, together with their spelling variants. It does not include the more obscure biblical and mythological names (many of which are listed in the main section of the dictionary) or the names of monarchs and other rulers that are unfamiliar or foreign (many of these are listed under the biographical names).

#### BIOGRAPHICAL NAMES

This section includes the names of people from all countries, past and present, who have achieved fame in some sphere of human activity. Monarchs are generally not included if their names appear in the first names list. Biographical names are listed in alphabetical order of the surname, followed by first names and any titles; the less familiar names of a subject are bracketed. Variant spellings and pseudonyms are also listed, and similar names are glossed to avoid confusion.

# THE RULES OF SPELLING

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## Nouns

### REGULAR INFLECTIONS

Regular plurals are formed by adding *-s*; for nouns ending in *-s*, *-x*, *-z*, *-ch*, or *-sh*, add *-es*.

### IRREGULAR INFLECTIONS

1

Nouns of Latin origin ending in *-a*, especially in scientific or technical usage, usually have the plural ending *-ae* (e.g. **alga/algae**; **nebula/nebulae**).

Such nouns ending in *-ma* usually have the plural ending *-mata* (e.g. **stoma/stomata**).

2

Nouns ending in *-f* either form regular plurals (e.g. **chief/chiefs**) or have the plural ending *-ves* (e.g. **calf/calves**).

Most nouns ending in *-fe* from regular plurals (e.g. **safe/safes**) but a few have the plural ending *-ves* (e.g. **wife/wives**).

3

Nouns ending in *-i* usually form regular plurals but a few have the plural ending *-ies* (e.g. **chilli/chillies**).

4

Nouns ending in *-is* either form regular plurals (e.g. **iris/irises**) or having the plural ending *-es* (e.g. **basis/bases**). Some scientific and technical nouns have the plural ending *-ides* (e.g. **apsis/apsides**).

5

Most nouns ending in *-o* either form regular plurals (e.g. **albino/abinos**) or have the plural ending *-oes* (e.g. **tomato/tomatoes**).

Nouns of Italian origin have the plural form *-i*, either as the only plural or as an alternative (e.g. **graffito/graffiti**; **virtuoso/virtuosos** or **virtuosi**).

6

Some nouns of Greek origin ending in *-on* have the plural ending *-a* (e.g. **criterion/criteria**).

7

Nouns of Latin origin ending in *-um*, especially in scientific or technical usage, have the plural ending *-a* (e.g. **bacterium/bacteria**; **stratum/strata**).

## 8

Many nouns of Latin origin ending in *-us*, especially in scientific or technical usage, have the preferred or alternative plural ending *-i* (e.g. **fungus/fungi**; **stylus/styli** or **styluses**). A few such nouns have the plural ending *-era* or *-ora* (e.g. **genus/genera**; **corpus/corpora**).

## 9

Most nouns ending in *-x* form regular plurals (e.g. **tax/taxes**) but a few, usually in scientific or technical usage, have the plural ending *-ces* (e.g. **appendix/appendices**).

Such nouns ending in *-ex* have the plural ending *-ices* (e.g. **index/indices**).

Such nouns ending in *-nx* have the plural ending *-nges* (e.g. **meninx/meninges**).

## 10

Nouns ending in *-y* preceded by a vowel form regular plurals (e.g. **donkey/donkeys**). Nouns ending in *-y* preceded by a consonant or *-qu-* have the plural ending *-ies* (e.g. **family/families**; **colloquy/colloquies**). Note that proper names ending in *-y* form regular plurals, irrespective of the preceding letter (e.g. **Sally/Sallys**).

## 11

In phrasal nouns and most other hyphenated nouns, the final element is pluralized (e.g. **lay-by/lay-bys**), but in some hyphenated and multiword nouns the noun element may be pluralized irrespective of its position (e.g. **looker-on/lookers-on**; **court martial/court martials** or **courts martial**).

Note, however, that this does not apply to nouns ending in *-ful* (e.g. **spoonful/spoonfuls**; *not* **spoonsful**).

## 12

Some nouns, especially animals, have the same singular and plural forms (e.g. **sheep/sheep**; **fish/fish** or **fishes**).

## 13

Abbreviations and numerals usually have the plural ending *-s* (e.g. **MPs**; **1920s**).

## SUFFIXES

Many nouns are formed by adding suffixes to the corresponding verb or adjective. A few general rules apply.

## 1 -ation

For words ending in *-l* preceded by a single vowel, the *-l* is doubled (e.g. **cancel/cancellation**).

## 2 -er and -or

Either of these suffixes may be added to form nouns meaning the 'doer' of the corresponding verb, but the *-er* forms greatly outnumber the *-or* forms. For some verbs, both forms exist; in these cases the following rules may apply:

- (a) the *-or* form is used for objects and the *-er* form for people (e.g. **resister**, person who resists; **resistor**, electrical component).
- (b) the *or* form is preferred in legal or scientific contexts (e.g. **bailor**, one who bails; **bailor**, transferer of goods by bailment).

## 3 -ment

- (a) For words ending in *-dge*, the preferred form is to drop the *-e* (e.g. **judge/judgment**).
- (b) For words ending in *-ll*, the terminal *-l* is dropped (e.g. **install/instalment**).
- (c) For words of more than one syllable ending in *-y* preceded by a consonant, the *-y* is changed to *-i* (e.g. **merry/merriment**).

## 4 -ness

For words of more than one syllable preceded by a consonant, the *-y* is changed to *-i* (e.g. **happy/happiness**).

# Adjectives

## REGULAR INFLECTIONS

Regular comparatives and superlatives, for adjectives of one or two syllables, are formed by adding *-er* and *-est*, respectively.

For adjectives ending in *-e*, the *-e* is dropped before adding *-er* or *-est* (e.g. **nice/nicer, nicest; free/freer, freest**).

Adjectives of three or more syllables are preceded by *more* and *most* to form the comparative and superlative respectively.

## IRREGULAR INFLECTIONS

### 1

For adjectives ending in *-y* preceded by a consonant, the comparative and superlative are formed by dropping the *-y* and adding *-ier* and *-iest* respectively (e.g. **tidy/tidier, tidiest**).

### 2

For monosyllabic adjectives ending in a consonant preceded by a single vowel, the comparative and superlative are formed by doubling the terminal consonant before adding *-er* and *-est* respectively (e.g. **hot/hotter, hottest**).



## SUFFIXES

### *-able* and *-ible*

The great majority of these adjectives have the ending *-able*; they are derived from native English verbs and nouns. Certain verbs and nouns of Latin origin, however, take the suffix *-ible*; some common examples are **accessible, comprehensible, convertible, divisible, eligible, perceptible, permissible, tangible**. Some can end in either *-able* or *-ible* (e.g. **collectable/collectible, discussible/discussable**).

For adjectives ending in *-able*, the following rules generally apply, although there are exceptions:

- (a) For verbs and nouns ending in *-e*, the *-e* is dropped before adding *-able* unless it is preceded by *-c-* or *-g-* (e.g. **noticeable, changeable**) or when its retention aids pronunciation (e.g. **blameable, saleable**).
- (b) For words ending in *-y* preceded by a consonant, the *-y* is changed to *-i* before adding *-able* (e.g. **justifiable**).
- (c) For verbs ending in *-l* preceded by a single vowel, the *-l* is doubled before adding *-able* (e.g. **distil/distillable**).

## Verbs

### REGULAR INFLECTIONS

1

The third person singular is formed by adding *-s* or, for verbs ending in *-s, -x, -z, -ch, or -sh*, by adding *-es*.

2

The present participle is formed by adding *-ing*.

3

The past tense and past participle are formed by adding *-ed*.

4

For verbs ending in *-e* preceded by a consonant, the *-e* is dropped before adding *-ing* or *-ed* (compare **Irregular inflections** 3 and 4).

### IRREGULAR INFLECTIONS

1

For verbs ending in *-y* preceded by a consonant, the past tense and past participle are formed by dropping the *-y* and adding *-ied* (e.g. **marry/married**).

2

In monosyllabic verbs ending in a consonant preceded by a single

vowel, the terminal consonant is doubled when inflecting (e.g. **pat/patting, patted**).

With some exceptions, this rule also applies to verbs of more than one syllable, notably when:

- (a) the terminal consonant is *-l* (e.g. **marvel/marvelling, unarvelled**); note that in American English the *-l* is not doubled.
- (b) the stress is on the last syllable (e.g. **refer/referring, referred**).

### 3

For verbs ending in *-e* preceded by a vowel, the *-e* is dropped before adding *-ed* but retained before *-ing* (e.g. **hoe/hoeing, hoed**).

4 For a few verbs ending in *-e* preceded by a consonant, the *-e* is dropped before adding *-ed* but retained before *-ing*, usually to avoid confusion with very similar words (e.g. **singe/singeing, singed**).

### 5

For verbs ending in *-ac-* or *-ic-*, the present participle is formed by adding *-king* and the past tense and participle by adding *-ked* (e.g. **traffic/trafficking, trafficked**).

## SUFFIXES

### 1 *-ize* and *-ise*

Most of these verbs have the preferred ending *-ize*, with *-ise* as an acceptable variant in British English (but not in American English); the same applies to the derived nouns (e.g. **specialize/specialization**). Exceptions include **advertise, compromise, improvise, supervise**; for these verbs *-ise* is the only acceptable ending in British and American English.

### 2 *-yse* and *-yze*

*-yse* is the only acceptable form in British English; *-yze* is the US spelling (e.g. **catalyse/US catalyze; paralyse/US paralyze**).

## Adverbs

Many adverbs are formed by adding *-ly* to the corresponding adjectives or noun. Note:

### 1

For adjectives or nouns ending in *-e*, the *-e* is usually, but not always, retained (e.g. **pale/palely; rude/rudely**). Exceptions include **true/truly, whole/wholly**.

2

For adjectives or nouns ending in *-l*, the *-l* is retained (e.g. **eventual/eventually**).

3

For adjectives ending in *-ll*, the penultimate *-l* is dropped before adding *-ly* (e.g. **full/fully**).

4

For adjectives or nouns ending in *-y*, the adverb is formed by dropping the *-y* and adding *-ily* (e.g. **merry/merrily**).

### Common spelling problems

#### 1 *-cede* or *-ceed*

There is no general rule here: the usual ending is *-cede* (e.g. **concede, precede**); the only verbs ending in *-ceed* are **exceed, proceed, and succeed**. Note particularly the spelling of **supersede**.

#### 2 *-ei-* or *-ie-*

The rule 'i before e except after c' works fairly well when the sound is pronounced 'ee' (e.g. **niece, siege**; but **receipt, receive**). Exceptions include **seize, weir, weird**.

When the sound is pronounced 'ai' (as in paid), the spelling is *-ei-* (e.g. **deign, neighbour, weigh**).

#### 3 *Difficult words*

A few words cause many people problems because they follow no rules:

accommodate  
anomalous  
business  
commemorate  
desiccate  
ecstasy  
embarrass

exaggerate  
forty  
gauge  
harass  
inoculate  
necessary  
parallel

phenomenon  
pursue  
surprise  
threshold  
withhold

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# A

- aa rock**  
**Aachen** West German city  
**Aal-borg** (or **Al-**) Danish port  
**aalii** shrub  
**aard-vark**  
**aard-wolf** (*plural* ·wolves)  
**Aar-gau** Swiss canton  
**Aar-hus** (or **Ar-**) Danish port  
**aba-ca** fibre  
**aback**  
**ab-ac-ti-nal** zoology term  
**aba-cus** (*plural* ·ci or ·cuses)  
**Aba-dan** Iranian port  
**Abad-don** the devil  
**abaft** nautical term  
**aba-lo-ne** mollusc  
**ab-am-pere** electrical unit  
**aban-don**  
**aban-doned**  
**aban-doned-ly**  
**aban-donee** legal term  
**aban-don-ment**  
**abase**  
**abase-ment**  
**abash**  
**abash-ed-ly**  
**abat-able**  
**abate**  
**abate-ment**  
**aba-tis** (or **ab-at-tis**) fortifications term  
**aba-tor** legal term  
**ab-at-toir**  
**ab-ax-ial** away from the axis; *compare* **adaxial**  
**ab-ba-cy** (*plural* ·cies)  
**Abbasid** dynasty of caliphs  
**ab-ba-tial**  
**abbé** French abbot  
**ab-bess**  
**Abbe-vill-ian** archaeological period  
**ab-bey**  
**ab-bot**  
**ab-bre-vi-ate**  
**ab-bre-vi-ation**  
**ab-bre-via-tor** (**abcess**) *incorrect spelling of abscess*  
**ab-cou-lomb** electrical unit  
**ab-di-cable**  
**ab-di-cate**  
**ab-di-ca-tion**  
**ab-dica-tive**  
**ab-di-ca-tor**  
**ab-do-men**  
**ab-domi-nal**  
**ab-domi-nal-ly**  
**ab-du-cens** nerve  
**ab-du-cent** anatomy term  
**ab-duct**  
**ab-duc-tion**  
**abeam** nautical term  
**abece-dar-ian** learner  
**abed**  
**abele** poplar  
**Abelian** maths term  
**abel-mosk** plant  
**Ab-eo-ku-ta** Nigerian town  
**Ab-er-dare** Welsh town  
**Ab-er-deen**  
**Ab-er-do-nian**  
**ab-er-nethy** biscuit  
**ab-er-rance** (or ·ran-cy)  
**ab-er-rant**  
**ab-er-ra-tion**  
**Ab-er-yst-wyth**  
**abet** (**abet-ting**, **abet-ted**)  
**abet-ment**  
**abet-ter** (or *esp. in legal contexts* ·tor)  
**abey-ance**  
**abey-ant**  
**ab-far-ad** electrical unit  
**ab-hen-ry** (*plural* ·ries) electrical unit  
**ab-hor** (·hor-ring, ·horred)  
**ab-hor-rence**  
**ab-hor-rent**  
**ab-hor-rer**  
**abid-ance**  
**abide** (**abid-ing**, **abode** or **abid-ed**)  
**abid-er**  
**abid-ing**  
**abid-ing-ly**  
**Abid-jan** Ivory Coast port  
**abi-et-ic acid**  
**abi-gail** maid  
**Abi-lene** Texan city  
**abil-ity** (*plural* ·ities)  
**Ab-ing-don**  
**ab ini-tio** Latin from the start  
**abio-gen-esis** biological theory  
**abio-genet-ic**  
**abiog-enist**  
**abio-sis** absence of life  
**abiot-ic**  
**ab-ir-ri-tant** relieving irritation  
**ab-ir-ri-tate**  
**ab-ject**  
**ab-jec-tion**  
**ab-ju-ra-tion**  
**ab-jure** renounce; *compare* **adjure**  
**ab-jur-er**  
**Ab-khaz** (*plural* ·khaz) Soviet people  
**Ab-kha-zia** Soviet republic  
**ab-late**  
**ab-la-tion**  
**ab-la-tive** grammar term  
**ab-la-tor** heat shield  
**ab-laut** linguistics term  
**ablaze**  
**able**  
**able-bodied**  
**abloom**  
**ab-lu-tion**  
**ab-lu-tion-ary**  
**ably**  
**ab-ne-gate**  
**ab-ne-ga-tion**  
**ab-ne-ga-tor**  
**ab-nor-mal**  
**ab-nor-mal-ity** (*plural* ·ities)  
**ab-nor-mal-ly**  
**aboard**  
**abode**

- ab-ohm** electrical unit  
**aboi-deau** (*plural* ·deaus  
 or ·deaux) Canadian  
 dyke  
**abol-ish**  
**abol-ish-er**  
**abol-ish-ment**  
**abo-li-tion**  
**abo-li-tion-ary**  
**abo-li-tion-ism**  
**abo-li-tion-ist**  
**abo-ma-sum** ruminant's  
 stomach  
**abomi-nable**  
**abomi-nably**  
**abomi-nate**  
**abomi-na-tion**  
**abomi-na-tor**  
**ab-oral** zoology term  
**Abo-rigi-nal**  
**abo-rigi-nal**  
**Abo-rigi-ne** native  
 Australian  
**abo-rigi-ne** an original  
 inhabitant  
**abort**  
**abor-ti-cide**  
**abor-ti-fa-cient** inducing  
 abortion  
**abor-tion**  
**abor-tion-al**  
**abor-tion-ist**  
**abor-tive**  
**Abou-kir** battle site  
**abou-lia** *variant spelling of*  
 abulia  
**abound**  
**about**  
**about-turn** (*or esp. US*  
 about-face)  
**above**  
**ab-ra-ca-dab-ra**  
**abra-dant**  
**abrade**  
**abrad-er**  
**abran-chi-ate** (*or* ·chial)  
 zoology term  
**abra-sion**  
**abra-sive**  
**abrax-as** magic charm  
**ab-re-act** psychology term  
**ab-re-ac-tion**  
**ab-re-ac-tive**  
**abreast**  
**abridg-able** (*or* abridge-)
- abridge**  
**abridg-er**  
**abridg-ment** (*or* abridge-)  
**abroad**  
**ab-ro-gate**  
**ab-ro-ga-tion**  
**ab-ro-ga-tor**  
**ab-rupt**  
**ab-rup-tion** breaking off  
**ab-rup-t-ness**  
**Abruz-zi** Italian region  
**ab-sciss**  
**ab-scise** to separate  
**ab-scis-sa** (*plural* ·sas or  
 ·sae) maths term  
**ab-scis-sion** shedding of  
 plant parts  
**ab-scund**  
**ab-scund-er**  
**ab-seil** mountaineering term  
**ab-sence**  
**ab-sent**  
**ab-sen-tee**  
**ab-sen-tee-ism**  
**ab-sent-er**  
**ab-sen-te reo** *Latin* the  
 defendant being absent  
**absent-minded**  
**absent-minded-ness**  
**ab-sinthe** (*or* ·sinth)  
**ab-sit omen** *Latin* may the  
 foreboding not be realized  
**ab-so-lute**  
**ab-so-lute-ly**  
**ab-so-lu-tion**  
**ab-so-lut-ism**  
**ab-solu-tory**  
**ab-solv-able**  
**ab-solve**  
**ab-solv-er**  
**ab-sorb** take into or  
 permeate, *compare* adsorb  
**ab-sorb-abil-ity**  
**ab-sorb-able**  
**ab-sorb-ance** physics term  
**ab-sorb-ed-ly**  
**ab-sor-be-fa-cient** inducing  
 absorption  
**ab-sorb-en-cy**  
**ab-sorb-ent**  
**ab-sorb-er**  
**ab-sorb-ing**  
**ab-sorb-ing-ly**  
**ab-sorp-tance** physics term  
**ab-sorp-tion**
- ab-sorp-tive**  
**ab-sorp-tiv-ity** physics term  
**ab-squat-u-late** decamp  
**ab-stain**  
**ab-stain-er**  
**ab-ste-mi-ous**  
**ab-sten-tion**  
**ab-sten-tious**  
**ab-sten-ter-gent** cleansing  
**ab-sti-nence**  
**ab-sti-nent**  
**ab-stract**  
**ab-stract-ed-ly**  
**ab-stract-ed-ness**  
**ab-strac-tion**  
**ab-strac-tion-ism** theory of  
 abstract art  
**ab-strac-tive**  
**ab-stric-tion** biology term  
**ab-struse**  
**ab-struse-ness**  
**ab-surd**  
**ab-surd-ity** (*or* ·ness;  
*plural* ·ities or ·nesses)  
**Abu Dha-bi** sheikdom  
**abu-lia** (*or* abou-) loss of  
 willpower  
**abu-lic**  
**abun-dance**  
**abun-dant**  
**abuse**  
**abus-er**  
**Abu Sim-bel** Egyptian  
 temple  
**abu-sive**  
**abu-sive-ness**  
**abut** (*abut-ting*, *abut-ted*)  
**abu-ti-lion** shrub  
**abut-ment** (*or* *abut-tal*)  
**abut-tals** legal term  
**abut-ter** owner of adjoining  
 property  
**abuzz**  
**ab-volt** electrical unit  
**ab-watt** electrical unit  
**Aby-dos** ancient Egyptian  
 town  
**abysm** *Archaic* abyss  
**abys-mal** immeasurable;  
 very bad  
**abys-mal-ly**  
**abyss**  
**abys-sal** of ocean depths  
**Ab-ys-sinia** *former name of*  
 Ethiopia

**Ab-yssin-ian**  
**aca-cia**  
**aca-deme**  
**aca-demia**  
**aca-dem-ic**  
**aca-dem-ical-ly**  
**aca-dem-icals** academic  
 dress  
**acad-emi-cian**  
**aca-demi-cism** (*or*)  
**acad-emism**)  
 conventionalism  
**acad-emy** (*plural* -emies)  
**Aca-dia** Canadian region;  
*compare* Arcadia  
**Aca-dian** of Acadia;  
*compare* Accadian  
**aca-jou** mahogany  
**ac-an-tha-ceous** botany  
 term  
**acan-thine**  
**acan-tho-cepha-lan**  
 wormlike animal  
**acan-thoid** spiny  
**ac-an-thop-ter-yg-ian** fish  
**acan-thous** thornlike  
**acan-thus** (*plural* -thuses  
*or* -thi) plant;  
 architectural ornament  
**a cap-pel-la** musical term  
**Aca-pul-co** Mexican port  
**aca-ria-sis** tick or mite  
 infestation  
**aca-rid** (*or* **acari-dan**) tick  
 or mite  
**aca-roid**  
**aca-rol-ogy**  
**acar-pel-lous** lacking  
 carpels  
**acar-pous** producing no  
 fruit  
**aca-rus** mite  
**acata-lect-ic** verse form  
**acau-dal** (*or* -date) having  
 no tail  
**acau-les-cent** having no  
 stem  
**Ac-cad** *variant spelling of*  
 Akkad  
**Ac-cad-ian** *variant spelling*  
*of Akkadian; compare*  
 Accadian  
**ac-cede**  
**ac-ced-e'**

**ac-cel-er-an-do** (*plural*  
 -dos) musical term  
**ac-cel-er-ant**  
**ac-cel-er-ate**  
**ac-cel-eration**  
**ac-cel-er-ative** (*or* -tory)  
**ac-cel-er-a-tor**  
**ac-cel-er-om-eter**  
**ac-cent**  
**ac-cen-tor** bird  
**ac-cen-tual** rhythmical  
**ac-cen-tu-ate**  
**ac-cen-tua-tion**  
**ac-cept**  
**ac-cept-abil-ity** (*or*  
 -able-ness)  
**ac-cept-able**  
**ac-cept-ably**  
**ac-cept-ance**  
**ac-cept-ant**  
**ac-cep-ta-tion**  
**ac-cept-ed-ly**  
**ac-cep-ter** (*or esp. in legal*  
*contexts, chemistry,*  
*and electronics* -tor)  
**ac-cess**  
**ac-ces-sa-ry** (*plural* -ries)  
*variant spelling of*  
 accessory  
**ac-ces-sibil-ity**  
**ac-ces-sible**  
**ac-ces-sibly**  
**ac-ces-sion**  
**ac-ces-sion-al**  
**ac-ces-so-rial**  
**ac-ces-so-ri-ly**  
**ac-ces-so-ri-ness**  
**ac-ces-so-ry** (*or in legal*  
*contexts* -sa-ry; *plural*  
 -ries)  
**ac-ciac-ca-tu-ra** (*plural*  
 -ras *or* -re) musical term  
**ac-ci-dence** linguistics term  
**ac-ci-dent**  
**ac-ci-den-tal**  
**ac-ci-den-tal-ly**  
**ac-ci-die** apathy  
**ac-cipi-ter** hawk  
**ac-cipi-tral** (*or* -trine)  
**ac-clair**

## accrete

**ac-cli-ma-ti-za-tion** (*or*  
 -ma-ti-sa-tion, -ma-tion)  
**ac-cli-ma-tize** (*or* -ma-tise,  
 -mate)  
**ac-cli-ma-tiz-er** (*or* -tis-er)  
**ac-cliv-i-tous** (*or* -cli-vous)  
**ac-cliv-ity** (*plural* -ities)  
 upward slope  
**ac-co-lade**  
**ac-com-mo-date**  
**ac-com-mo-dat-ing**  
**ac-com-mo-dat-ing-ly**  
**ac-com-mo-da-tion**  
**ac-com-mo-da-tive**  
 (accommodate) *incorrect*  
*spelling of accommodate*  
**ac-com-pa-ni-er**  
**ac-com-pa-ni-ment**  
**ac-com-pa-nist** (*or esp.*  
*US* -pa-ny-ist)  
**ac-com-pa-ny** (-nies,  
 -ny-ing, -nied)  
**ac-com-plete**  
**ac-com-plish**  
**ac-com-plish-able**  
**ac-com-plish-er**  
**ac-com-plish-ment**  
**ac-cord**  
**ac-cord-able**  
**ac-cord-ance**  
**ac-cord-ant**  
**ac-cord-er**  
**ac-cord-ing**  
**ac-cord-ing-ly**  
**ac-cor-di-on**  
**ac-cor-di-on-ist**  
**ac-cost**  
**ac-cost-able**  
**ac-count**  
**ac-count-abil-ity**  
**ac-count-able**  
**ac-count-ably**  
**ac-count-an-cy**  
**ac-count-ant**  
**ac-count-ing**  
**ac-cou-ple-ment** supporting  
 beam  
**ac-cou-tre** (*US* -ter)  
**ac-cou-tre-ment** (*US*  
 -ter)  
**Ac-cra** Ghanaian capital  
**ac-cred-it**  
**ac-cred-i-ta-tion**  
**ac-cres-cent** botany term  
**ac-crete**

- ac-cre-tion  
ac-cre-tive (*or*  
ac-cre-tion-ary)  
Ac-cring-ton  
ac-cru-al (*or* ·ment)  
ac-cru-e (-cru-ing, ·crued)  
ac-cul-tur-ate  
ac-cul-tura-tion  
ac-cum-ben-cy  
ac-cum-bent botany term  
ac-cu-mu-lable  
ac-cu-mu-late  
ac-cu-mu-la-tion  
ac-cu-mu-la-tive  
ac-cu-mu-la-tor  
ac-cu-ra-cy (*plural* ·cies)  
ac-cu-rate  
ac-cu-rate-ly  
ac-curs-ed  
ac-cus-al  
ac-cu-sa-tion  
ac-cu-sa-ti-val  
ac-cu-sa-tive grammar term  
ac-cu-sa-to-ri-al (*or* ·tory)  
ac-cuse  
ac-cused  
ac-cus-er  
ac-cus-ing-ly  
ac-cus-tom  
ac-cus-tomed  
Ac-cu-tron (*Trademark*)  
watch  
ace  
acedia apathy  
acel-lu-lar  
acen-tric  
acepha-lous headless  
ac-er-ate *variant of* acerose  
ac-er-bate embitter  
acer-bic  
acer-bity (*plural* ·bities)  
ac-er-ose (*or* ·ous, ·ate)  
needle-shaped  
acer-vate growing in  
clusters  
aces-cence (*or* ·cen-cy)  
aces-cent turning sour  
ac-etab-u-lum (*plural* ·la)  
cavity in hipbone  
ac-etal chemical compound  
ac-et-al-de-hyde  
ac-et-am-ide (*or* ·ik)  
ac-et-ami-lide (*or* ·lid)  
ac-etate  
acetic acid  
aceti-fi-ca-tion  
aceti-fi-er  
aceti-fy (-fies, ·fy-ing,  
·fied) convert into vinegar  
ac-etom-eter  
ac-etone  
ac-etous (*or* ·etose)  
resembling vinegar  
acetum vinegar  
ac-etyl  
acety-late  
acety-la-tion  
acetyl-cho-line biochemical  
compound  
acety-lene  
acety-len-ic  
acety-lide  
ac-etyl-sali-cyl-ic acid  
*chemical name for* aspirin  
acey-deucey backgammon  
Achaea (*or* Achaia) region  
of Greece  
Achaean (*or* Achaian)  
Achaemenid member of  
Persian dynasty  
Acha-tes loyal friend  
ache  
ach-ing-ly  
achene (*or* akene) botany  
term  
achenial (*or* akenial)  
Acher-nar star  
Ach-er-on mythological  
river  
Acheu-lian (*or* ·lean)  
archaeological period  
achiev-able  
achieve  
achieve-ment  
achiev-er  
Ach-il-lean  
Achilles  
ach-la-myd-eous lacking  
petals and sepals  
achlor-hy-dria lacking  
stomach acid  
achon-drite meteorite  
achon-drit-ic  
achon-dro-pla-sia skeletal  
disorder  
achon-dro-plas-tic  
ach-ro-mat type of lens  
ach-ro-mat-ic  
ach-ro-mati-cal-ly  
achro-matin part of cell  
nucleus  
achro-ma-tism (*or* ·tic-ity)  
achro-ma-ti-za-tion (*or*  
·sa-tion)  
achro-ma-tize (*or* ·tise)  
remove colour from  
achro-ma-tous  
a-chron-ic (*or*  
achro-mous) colourless  
ach-y-fi Welsh expression of  
disgust  
aciu-la (*plural* ·lae)  
needle-shaped structure  
aciu-lar  
aciu-late (*or* ·lat-ed)  
aciu-lum (*plural* ·lums *or*  
·la) zoology term  
acid  
acid-fast  
acid-forming  
acid-ic  
acidi-fi-able  
acidi-fi-ca-tion  
acidi-fi-er  
acidi-fy (-fies, ·fy-ing,  
·fied)  
aci-dim-eter  
acidi-met-ric (*or* ·ri-cal)  
aci-di-met-ri-cal-ly  
aci-dim-et-ry  
acid-ity (*plural* ·ities)  
acid-ness  
aci-dom-eter hydrometer  
for acids  
aci-do-phil (*or* ·phile)  
biology term  
aci-do-phil-ic (*or*  
·dophi-lous)  
aci-dophi-lus bacterium  
aci-do-sis medical condition  
aci-dot-ic  
acidu-late make acid  
acidu-la-tion  
acidu-lous (*or* ·lent)  
aci-er-ate change into steel  
aci-er-a-tion  
aci-naci-form botany term  
acin-ic (*or* aci-nous,  
aci-nose)  
acini-form  
aci-nus (*plural* ·ni) biology  
term  
Acls *mythological character*  
ack-ack anti-aircraft fire  
ackee (*or* akkee) fruit  
ac-knowl-edge



- ac-knowl-edge-able  
 ac-knowl-edge-er  
 ac-knowl-edg-ment (or  
 -edge)  
 ac-lin-ic line magnetic  
 equator  
 ac-me peak  
 ac-ne skin disease  
 ac-no-dal  
 ac-node maths term  
 Acol bridge term  
 ac-o-lyte  
 ac-o-nite (or -ni-tum)  
 ac-o-nit-ic  
 acorn  
 acoty-ledon botany term  
 acoty-ledon-ous  
 acou-chi (or -chy) rodent  
 acous-tic (or -ti-cal)  
 acous-ti-cal-ly  
 acous-ti-cian  
 acous-tics  
 ac-quaint  
 ac-quaint-ance  
 ac-quaint-ance-ship  
 ac-quaint-ed  
 ac-qui-esce  
 ac-qui-es-cence  
 ac-qui-es-cent  
 ac-quir-able  
 ac-quire  
 ac-quire-ment  
 ac-quir-er  
 ac-qui-si-tion  
 ac-quisi-tive  
 ac-quisi-tive-ness  
 ac-quit (-quit-ting,  
 -quit-ted)  
 ac-quit-tal  
 ac-quit-tance  
 ac-quit-ter  
 acre  
 acre-age  
 ac-red having acres of land  
 acre-foot (plural -feet)  
 acre-inch  
 ac-rid  
 ac-ri-dine chemical  
 compound  
 acrid-ity (or -ness)  
 ac-ri-fla-vine antiseptic  
 Ac-ri-lam (Trademark)  
 ac-ri-mo-ni-ous  
 ac-ri-mo-ny (plural -nies)  
 ac-ro-bat  
 ac-ro-bat-ic  
 ac-ro-bati-cal-ly  
 ac-ro-bat-ics  
 ac-ro-car-pous botany term  
 ac-ro-dont zoology term  
 ac-ro-drome botany term  
 ac-ro-gen botany term  
 ac-ro-gen-ic (or  
 acrog-enous)  
 ac-ro-lein chemical  
 compound  
 ac-ro-lith type of sculpture  
 ac-ro-mega-l-ic  
 ac-ro-mega-ly hormonal  
 disease  
 ac-ro-mi-on (plural -mia)  
 part of shoulder blade  
 acrony-chal (or -cal)  
 occurring at sunset  
 ac-ro-ny-m  
 ac-ro-ny-m-ic (or  
 acrony-mous)  
 acrop-et-al botany term  
 ac-ro-pho-bia fear of  
 heights  
 ac-ro-pho-bic  
 Acropo-lis  
 ac-ro-spire botany term  
 across  
 acros-tic  
 acros-ti-cal-ly  
 acro-ter architectural term  
 acry-l-ic  
 ac-ry-lo-ni-trile  
 ac-ry-lyl  
 act  
 act-abil-ity  
 act-able  
 ac-tin protein  
 ac-tin-al zoology term  
 act-ing  
 ac-tinia (plural -tiniae or  
 -tinias) sea anemone  
 ac-tin-ic type of radiation  
 ac-ti-cal-ly  
 ac-ti-form (or  
 ac-ti-oid) star-shaped  
 ac-tin-ism  
 ac-tin-ium radioactive  
 element  
 ac-ti-noid variant of  
 actiniform  
 ac-tino-lite mineral  
 ac-ti-no-cope biology term  
 ac-ti-nom-eter radiation  
 measurer  
 ac-ti-no-met-ric (or -ri-cal)  
 ac-ti-son-et-ry  
 ac-ti-no-mor-phic (or  
 -phous) botany term  
 ac-ti-no-my-cete bacterium  
 ac-ti-no-my-cin antibiotic  
 ac-ti-no-my-co-sis bacterial  
 infection  
 ac-ti-no-my-cot-ic  
 ac-ti-non variant of actinide  
 ac-tino-pod protozoan  
 ac-ti-no-ther-a-py  
 radiotherapy  
 ac-ti-no-ura-nium isotope  
 of uranium  
 ac-ti-no-zo-an marine  
 organism  
 ac-tion  
 ac-tion-able  
 ac-tion-ably  
 ac-tion-packed  
 Ac-ti-um ancient Greek  
 town  
 ac-ti-vate  
 ac-ti-va-tion  
 ac-ti-va-tor  
 ac-tive  
 ac-tive-ly  
 ac-tive-ness  
 ac-tiv-ism  
 ac-tiv-ist  
 ac-tiv-ity (plural -ities)  
 ac-to-myo-sin protein  
 Ac-ton London district  
 ac-tor  
 ac-tress  
 ac-tual  
 ac-tu-al-ity (plural -ities)  
 ac-tu-al-i-za-tion (or  
 ac-tua-tion)  
 ac-tu-al-ize (or -ise)  
 ac-tu-al-ly  
 ac-tuarial  
 ac-tu-ary (plural -aries)  
 ac-tuate  
 ac-tua-tion  
 ac-tua-tor  
 ac-uity  
 ac-u-lease (or -lease-d)  
 pointed  
 ac-u-letus (plural -lei)  
 prickle  
 acu-men