



# THE PENGUIN ENGLISH DICTIONARY

COMPILED BY G. N. GARMONSWAY

WITH JACQUELINE SIMPSON

*Third Edition*



PENGUIN BOOKS

G. N. Garmonsway



# *The Penguin English Dictionary*

Third Edition, Revised

## **Modern**

Unrivalled as a catalogue of English words as they are now used in print and speech

Lists hundreds of post-war words and senses, including new words of the last few years

Lists variant meanings in order of present-day frequency

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Definitions given in the most direct form possible, showing acquired overtones and the degree of acceptance of words

## **New**

Written and prepared by a team led by a distinguished professor of English language; now thoroughly revised by Jacqueline Simpson

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Entries range from the most colloquial words to the most formal

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'This is, above all else, a *modern* dictionary . . . the editors have performed an immensely difficult task with tact and skill' — Eric Partridge in the *Guardian*

'The definitions are admirably simple and direct . . . it nowhere abandons a sound basis of scholarship in order to be merely popular. Too much cannot be asked of a work so exhaustively comprehensive, so extraordinarily up-to-date, and withal so cheap' — *The Times Educational Supplement*

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PENGUIN REFERENCE BOOKS

THE PENGUIN  
ENGLISH DICTIONARY

GEORGE NORMAN GARMONSWAY, M.A. (Cantab.), F.S.A., F.R.HIST.S., became Professor of English Language in the University of London, King's College, in 1956, and was Professor Emeritus from 1965 until his death in February 1967. He was a member of several learned societies, including the Executive Committee of the English Association, and on two occasions was a visiting professor of English in American universities; in 1965-7 he was a visiting professor in the University of Toronto. In addition to papers and reviews in learned journals, he published *An Early Norse Reader*, *Ælfric's Colloquy*, a translation of *The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle*, *Canute and his Empire* and *Beowulf and its Analogues* (written in collaboration with Jacqueline Simpson, who completed it after his death).

JACQUELINE SIMPSON, who worked with Professor Garmonsway on *The Penguin English Dictionary* both on the first edition and on the present revised and enlarged edition, gained her B.A. and M.A. degrees in the University of London, at Bedford College and at King's College. She is a member of the Viking Society and the Folklore Society, and has published articles and reviews, mainly on folklore and Old Icelandic literature, in learned journals. Her other publications are *The Northmen Talk*, *Everyday Life in the Viking Age*, *Icelandic Folktales and Legends*, *Legends of Icelandic Magicians*, *The Folklore of Sussex* and *The Folklore of the Welsh Border*.

## PREFACE TO THE FIRST EDITION

The aim of *The Penguin English Dictionary* is to capture and record *Modern English* and to present a selection of its vocabulary – i.e. the vocabulary in actual written and spoken use in the mid twentieth century. The emphasis in the selection of vocabulary has been away from archaisms and obsolete words towards the contemporary and colloquial, but a certain amount of the older vocabulary has been included so as to enable the reader to understand the writings of past centuries that do not demand specialized knowledge of obsolete forms and phrases.

As regards colloquialisms and slang, the aim has been to be as inclusive as possible. Such words form so important a part of current spoken English and of contemporary fiction that they must be represented as fully as possible in any dictionary that aims at recording the vocabulary of modern English. The distinction between colloquial and slang is necessarily arbitrary. Words and phrases which, though unsuitable for formal usage, are nevertheless in common use among a wide range of speakers and would be acceptable in a wide variety of social contexts are classified as colloquial; those which would be incomprehensible or unacceptable outside specific restricted groups (e.g. children, soldiers, jazz enthusiasts) are considered to be slang. The abbreviation (*coll*) implies that the word is more frequent in informal speech or writing, and that its use may be considered unsuitable in a serious context; the marking of a word as (*sl*) implies that its use is, *at present*, restricted to certain age-groups, or social or professional groups, and that it is unlikely to prove socially acceptable outside these groups. The marking of a word as (*vulg*) is a warning that it is considered highly offensive by most social groups.

Americanisms, too, have been included to an extent unusual in English dictionaries. Owing to the influence of the cinema, TV, journalism, etc., the influence of American vocabulary on English is widely diffused, and the foreign reader (and indeed the English reader too) frequently finds himself faced with Americanisms without necessarily realizing their origin or understanding their meaning. One can no longer attempt to impose nationalistic divisions on a language whose divergent branches are in such frequent and intimate contact. The indication (*US*) means that a word, or a particular meaning of a word, is not, *at present*, assimilated into British usage; words and phrases of American origin that have been assimilated are *not* so marked, even if their origin is remembered.

It should of course be remembered that the categories mentioned above are not intended to indicate final judgements, but merely to serve as guides to the feel or flavour that a word has for us today. The language grows from year to year, almost from month to month, both as regards new words and the development of new meanings in old words. The utmost effort has been

## PREFACE

made to do justice to this constant process of development, despite the realization that perfection in this matter is unobtainable. Information of any omissions will be gratefully received by the publishers.

The first definition given under a headword is, wherever possible, that of the most frequent *current* usage, not that which is oldest or which comes nearest to the language of origin of loan-words. After this, subsequent meanings are arranged in order of frequency of usage, the most specialized, obsolescent, or archaic meanings being put last and marked as such. The chief exceptions to this arrangement are certain terms that have both a scientific and a popular usage (e.g. *inferiority complex*), where, in the interests of accuracy, the scientific definition is sometimes given precedence over the loose popular usage. The symbol (~) is used to introduce derivatives of headwords. An abbreviation in brackets, for example (*chem*) or (*mus*), preceding a definition, introduces a specialized meaning of a word in the particular branch of knowledge indicated; for a list of such abbreviations, see pp. xiii-xiv.

Scientific and technical terms associated with obsolete theories have been reduced in number, but an effort has been made to include a wide range of those which are current and which occur most frequently without explanation in newspaper articles or broadcasts. For technical detail and expertise, readers are advised to consult other dictionaries in Penguin Reference Books as indicated by an appropriate abbreviation preceded by the symbol (>).

\*

The editors are indebted to Mr W. S. Aitken, M.A., who devised and applied the pronunciation system which has been used.

*St Catherine's Day*

G.N.G.

1964

J.S.

## PREFACE TO THE THIRD EDITION

I am grateful to all who offered additions or emendations for the improvement of this Dictionary, especially Mrs P. Garmonsway, Dr Hugh de Glanville, Professor Stuart E. Mann and F. H. Smith. Further suggestions will be gladly received.

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J.S.

## PRONUNCIATION GUIDE

Although there is no attempt in this dictionary to give exact phonetic equivalents, the guide to pronunciation which is given for each word should offer a quick and practical indication of how it is normally pronounced. For this reason the usual accents, hyphens, and other diacritic marks, which can be so confusing to readers unfamiliar with the devices of phoneticians, have been avoided. Instead, a system of phonetic spelling is used which consists of letters and groups of letters the pronunciation of which is already familiar to the reader. No phonetic signs or symbols are used in this Dictionary other than the common letters of the alphabet, as can be seen from the table of symbols given on page xi. In addition, phonetic equivalents are given in the form of complete and undivided words, so that the pronunciation may be quickly and easily read off in a natural way,

e.g. **jollification** [jolifikayshon]

The following notes taken in conjunction with the table on page xi should provide a sufficient explanation of the system of phonetic spelling used and how it works in practice:

1. After each headword in the dictionary its phonetic equivalent is given within square brackets, thus:

**easel** [eezel] *n* adjustable frame to support a blackboard or a picture.

Phonetic equivalents are also given where necessary for variants, derivations, and irregular forms of headwords, thus:

**edifice** [edifis] *n* a large building ~ **edificial** [edifishal] *adj.*

2. *Stressed syllables*

In the phonetic equivalent which follows each word the stressed syllable is printed in italic type, thus:

**kerchief** [kurchief] *n* (*hist*) square piece of cloth folded and worn as head-covering by women; scarf.

Only one stress is indicated for each word and no attempt is made to indicate secondary stress. In certain compound and polysyllabic words the position of the stress is sometimes determined by the position of the word within the sentence: in such cases only the most common form of pronunciation is given.

3. *Unstressed syllables*

Although the pronunciation of unstressed syllables is almost impossible to represent without highly specialized phonetic symbols, the approximations given in this Dictionary should provide a useful guide. Many of

these approximations, such as [-shon] for -tion and [-cher] for -ture, are used consistently throughout and will quickly become familiar. In general, unstressed syllables are represented as accurately as the system will allow, although in some cases the original spelling has been retained where it is not misleading, rather than introduce a more clumsy phonetic approximation. The following examples will show the extent to which phonetic equivalents have been attempted:

**nation** [nayshon]

**picture** [pikcher]

**envenom** [envenom]

**envious** [envi-us]

**effulgence** [efuljens]

**gossamer** [gosamer]

#### 4. Words containing 'r'

The two symbols [R] and [r] used in the pronunciation guide are intended to represent two distinct r-sounds of accepted English speech. [R] represents the consonantal sound which occurs initially and between vowels (as in 'rope' and 'curry'), whereas [r] represents the vocalic glide which may occur finally and between vowel and consonant (as in 'pure' and 'pair'). In some cases the latter symbol merely represents a modification of the normal vowel. It was considered useful, however, to represent these quite different r-sounds consistently throughout, and for this reason a separate section of the table on page xi is devoted to differentiating vowel syllables with a greater or less degree of r-quality. It is sufficient to remember that the letter groups used in that section of the table, such as [air] or [oor], are to be taken as single symbols representing a distinct English speech sound.

#### 5. Use of hyphens

Hyphens are used to separate vowels that occur side by side in the phonetic spellings, when these are not intended to represent a single sound; and also to indicate when a single consonant represents two distinct sounds. Both principles are seen in:

**jingoism** [jing-go-izm]

They are also used to separate two distinct utterances of the same sound, e.g. at the end of one syllable and the beginning of the next; and to prevent possible confusion of adjacent consonants with a digraph.

**disserve** [dis-sure]

**pothook** [pot-hook]



# PRONUNCIATION TABLE

## CONSONANTS

PENGUIN SYMBOL	USUAL PHONETIC	EXAMPLE	PENGUIN SYMBOL	USUAL PHONETIC	EXAMPLE
b	[b]	bit	R	[r]	rot
ch	[tʃ]	chin	r	[ɹ]	fear
d	[d]	dog	s	[s]	pure
f	[f]	fat	sh	[ʃ]	sit
g	[g]	got	t	[t]	she
h	[h]	hit	th	[θ]	top
j	[dʒ]	jet	th	[ð]	thin
k	[k]	kill	v	[v]	this
l	[l]	lot	w	[w]	vat
m	[m]	mud	wh	[hw]	wit
n	[n]	not	y	[j]	whet
ng	[ŋ]	song	z	[z]	yet
nk	[ŋk]	lank	zh	[ʒ]	zeal
p	[p]	pin			vision

## VOWELS

PENGUIN SYMBOL	USUAL PHONETIC	EXAMPLE	PENGUIN SYMBOL	USUAL PHONETIC	EXAMPLE
a	[æ]	cat		[ai]	die
a [unstressed]	[ə]	sofa	o	[ɔ]	got
aa	[a:]	spa	O	[ou]	tone
ay	[ei]	day	oi	[ɔi]	oil
aw	[ɔ:]	law	OO	[u:]	food
e	[ɛ]	get	oo	[u]	look
ee	[i:]	feet	ow	[au]	cow
ew	[ju:]	few	u	[ʌ]	cup
i	[i]	sit			

## WORDS CONTAINING 'r'

PENGUIN SYMBOL	USUAL PHONETIC	EXAMPLE	PENGUIN SYMBOL	USUAL PHONETIC	EXAMPLE
aar	[a:r]	hard	oor	[uər]	tour, poor
air	[eər]	pair	awr	[ɔ:r]	lord, lore
eer	[iər]	beer	ewr	[juər]	pure
er	[ɔr]	enter	owr	[auər]	power
ar	[a:r]	artistic	ur	[ə:r]	bird, urge
ir	[aiər]	fire			

# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<i>abbr</i>	abbreviation	<i>eccles</i>	ecclesiastical	<i>Ir</i>	Irish
<i>ac</i>	acoustics	<i>econ</i>	economics	<i>iron</i>	ironical
<i>adj</i>	adjective	<i>eg</i>	for example	<i>Ital</i>	Italian
<i>adv</i>	adverb	<i>elect</i>	electricity	<i>Jap</i>	Japanese
<i>aer</i>	aeronautics	<i>emph</i>	emphasis, emphatic	<i>joc</i>	jocular(ly)
<i>agr</i>	agriculture	<i>eng</i>	engineering	<i>Lat</i>	Latin
<i>anat</i>	anatomical	<i>ent</i>	entomology	<i>lang</i>	language
<i>anthrop</i>	anthropology	<i>esp</i>	especially	<i>leg</i>	legal
<i>antiq</i>	antiquity	<i>euph</i>	euphemistic	<i>lit</i>	literary
<i>ar</i>	archaic	<i>exc</i>	except	<i>liturg</i>	liturgical
<i>arch</i>	archaeology	<i>exclam</i>	exclamation	<i>log</i>	logic
<i>archi</i>	architecture	<i>expl</i>	expletive	<i>magn</i>	magnetism
<i>art</i>	article	<i>fac</i>	facetious(ly)	<i>masc</i>	masculine
<i>arts</i>	in the arts	<i>fem</i>	feminine	<i>math</i>	mathematics
<i>astrol</i>	astrology	<i>fig</i>	figurative(ly)	<i>mech</i>	mechanics
<i>astron</i>	astronomy	<i>fr</i>	from	<i>med</i>	medical
<i>attrib</i>	attributive	<i>Fr</i>	French	<i>met</i>	metaphysics
<i>Aust</i>	Australian	<i>freq</i>	frequently	<i>metal</i>	metallurgy
<i>aux</i>	auxiliary	<i>fut</i>	future	<i>meteor</i>	meteorology
<i>bibl</i>	biblical	<i>Gael</i>	Gaelic	<i>mil</i>	military
<i>bioch</i>	biochemistry	<i>gen</i>	genitive	<i>min</i>	mineralogy
<i>biol</i>	biology	<i>geneal</i>	genealogy	<i>mot</i>	motoring
<i>bot</i>	botany	<i>gener</i>	generally	<i>mus</i>	music
<i>bui</i>	building	<i>geog</i>	geography	<i>myth</i>	mythology
<i>cap</i>	capital letter	<i>geol</i>	geology	<i>n</i>	noun
<i>carp</i>	carpentry	<i>geom</i>	geometry	<i>N</i>	North
<i>cer</i>	ceramics	<i>ger</i>	gerund	<i>nat</i>	natural history
<i>chem</i>	chemistry	<i>Germ</i>	German	<i>naut</i>	nautical
<i>cin</i>	cinema	<i>Gk</i>	Greek	<i>neg</i>	negative
<i>class</i>	classical	<i>gramm</i>	grammar	<i>neut</i>	neuter
<i>coll</i>	colloquial	<i>Heb</i>	Hebrew	<i>nom</i>	nominative
<i>collect</i>	collective	<i>her</i>	heraldry	<i>Norw</i>	Norwegian
<i>comm</i>	commerce	<i>hist</i>	history, historical	<i>NT</i>	New Testament
<i>comp</i>	comparative	<i>hort</i>	horticulture	<i>num</i>	numeral
<i>concr</i>	concrete	<i>i</i>	intransitive	<i>numis</i>	numismatics
<i>conj</i>	conjunction	<i>ie</i>	that is	<i>obs</i>	obsolete
<i>cont</i>	contemptuous	<i>imp</i>	imperative	<i>occ</i>	occasionally
<i>contr</i>	contraction	<i>impers</i>	impersonal	<i>opp</i>	opposite
<i>corr</i>	corruption of	<i>incl</i>	including	<i>opt</i>	optics
<i>Dan</i>	Danish	<i>ind</i>	indicative	<i>orig</i>	originally
<i>dat</i>	dative	<i>indef</i>	indefinite	<i>orni</i>	ornithology
<i>def</i>	definite	<i>infin</i>	infinitive	<i>OT</i>	Old Testament
<i>dem</i>	demonstrative	<i>inter</i>	interrogative	<i>p/s</i>	past tense (preterite)
<i>dial</i>	dialect	<i>interj</i>	interjection		
<i>dim</i>	diminutive				

# LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

<i>part</i>	participle	<i>pres/part</i>	present participle	<i>surg</i>	surgery
<i>pass</i>	passive	<i>print</i>	printing	<i>Swed</i>	Swedish
<i>path</i>	pathology	<i>pron</i>	pronoun	<i>t</i>	transitive
<i>pej</i>	pejorative	<i>pros</i>	prosody	<i>tel</i>	telegraphy
<i>pers</i>	person	<i>psych</i>	psychology	<i>theat</i>	of the theatre
<i>phil</i>	philology	<i>rad</i>	radio	<i>theol</i>	theology
<i>philos</i>	philosophy	<i>refl</i>	reflexive	<i>these</i>	theosophy
<i>phon</i>	phonetics	<i>rel</i>	relative	<i>tr</i>	trade name and/or registered trade-mark
<i>phot</i>	photography	<i>rhet</i>	rhetoric(al)	<i>TV</i>	television
<i>phr</i>	phrase	<i>RC</i>	Roman Catholic	<i>typ</i>	typography
<i>phys</i>	physics	<i>Rom</i>	Roman	<i>US</i>	United States
<i>physiol</i>	physiology	<i>Rus</i>	Russian	<i>usu</i>	usually
<i>pl</i>	plural	<i>S</i>	South	<i>v</i>	verb
<i>poet</i>	poetic(al)	<i>sci</i>	science	<i>v/aux</i>	auxiliary verb
<i>pol</i>	politics	<i>Scots</i>	Scots, Scottish	<i>v/i</i>	verb intransitive
<i>pol/ec</i>	political economy	<i>sculp</i>	sculpture	<i>v/t</i>	verb transitive
<i>pop</i>	popular(ly) but inaccurate(ly)	<i>sing</i>	singular	<i>vet</i>	veterinary
<i>Port</i>	Portuguese	<i>sl</i>	slang	<i>vulg</i>	vulgar
<i>pos</i>	positive	<i>Sp</i>	Spanish	<i>with</i>	with
<i>poss</i>	possessive	<i>st</i>	statistics	<i>Wel</i>	Welsh
<i>p/part</i>	past participle	<i>subj</i>	subjunctive	<i>zool</i>	zoology
<i>pref</i>	prefix	<i>suff</i>	suffix		
<i>prep</i>	preposition	<i>superl</i>	superlative		
<i>pres</i>	present	<i>sur</i>	surveying		

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References to other Penguin Dictionaries are made by the use of the following abbreviations

PDA	Art and Artists	PDNH	Natural History
PDB	Biology	PDP	Psychology
PDBI	Building	PDPol	Politics
PDE	Civil Engineering	PDSa	Sailing
PDEI	Electronics	PDS	Science
PDG	Geography	PEnc	Encyclopedia
PDM	Music		

This dictionary includes some words that are or are asserted to be trade-names and/or registered trade-marks; they are indicated by the abbreviation (*tr*). In commercial usage such a word is capitalized, but in other writings the capital is often dropped once the word has been accepted into current English. Further, the trade-name, or trade-mark, proprietor may apply the capitalized word to different items made by him, and/or may disapprove of the word being applied to similar items made by others. Neither the use of the abbreviation (*tr*) nor the inclusion or omission of a capital is to be taken as making or implying any judgement on the legal status of the word in question.

# A

**a** (1) [ay] the first letter of the English alphabet; (*mus*) the sixth note in the diatonic scale of C major; **A** 1 (US, A no. 1) first-class, in perfect condition.

**a** (2), an (*a, an*) *indef art* one; also used to express ratio.

**a-** (1) *pref* engaged in doing.

**a-** (2) *pref* in, on, from, to, without etc.

**aardvark** [*aard-vaark*] *n* South African burrowing quadruped.

**aardwolf** [*aard-woolf*] *n* South African carnivorous quadruped akin to the hyena and civet.

**Aaron's rod** [*aironz-rod*] *n* various plants with tall flowering stems, esp Golden Rod.

**ab-** *pref* off, from, away, away from.

**ab-** (2) *pref* attached to names of practical electrical units to indicate corresponding electromagnetic unit > PDS.

**aback** [*abak*] *adv* backward; in the rear; (*of sail*) flattened against the mast by a head-wind > PDSa; taken a. (*fig*) surprised and disconcerted.

**abacus** [*abakus*] *n* calculating frame with balls sliding on wires; (*archt*) slab of stone which crowns the capital of a column.

**abaft** [*abafst*] *adv* (*naut*) at or near the stern ~ *abaft prep* behind.

**abandon** [*abandon*] *v/t* and *refl* forsake; give up; depart from; yield oneself (to one's passions etc)

~ *abandon n* freedom from restraint.

**abandoned** [*abandoned*] *adj* forsaken; given up to evil influences; immoral, profligate.

**abandonee** [*abandonee*] *n* underwriter who accepts the salvage of a wrecked vessel.

**abandonment** [*abandonment*] *n* act of abandoning.

**abase** [*abays*] *v/t* degrade, humiliate.

**abasement** [*abaysment*] *n* state of being abased; humiliation.

**abash** [*abash*] *v/t* cause to feel shy, disconcert.

**abate** [*abayt*] *v/t* and *i* lessen, reduce; grow less, weaken, become null and void; (*leg*) bring to an end ~ *abatable adj* capable of being abated.

**abatement** [*abayment*] *n* decrease, deduction; (*leg*) annulling, destruction; (*her*) a mark of dishonour in a coat of arms.

**abattoir** [*abstwaar*] *n* (*Fr*) slaughter-house.

**abb** [*ab*] *n* yarn for the woof or weft in a web.

**abba** [*aba*] *n* father; title of a bishop in the Syriac and Coptic churches.

**abbacy** [*abeai*] *n* office, dignity, jurisdiction or tenure of an abbot.

**abbatial** [*abayshal*] *adj* pertaining to an abbacy, abbot, or abbeys.

**abbé** [*abay*] *n* title given to a French priest.

**abbeys** [*abes*] *n* mother superior of a convent.

**abbey** [*abi*] *n* religious house of either men or women celibates, ruled over by an abbot or abbess; buildings housing such a community; church formerly part of an abbey; dwelling house converted from abbey buildings.

**abbot** [*abot*] *n* male superior or head of an abbey or monastery ~ *abbotship n* abbacy.

**abbreviate** [*abreevi-ayt*] *v/t* shorten ~ *abbreviator n*.

**abbreviation** [*abreevi-ayshon*] *n* shortening; a shortened form of a word or words; a contraction.

**a b c** [*ay-bee-see*] *n* the alphabet; a children's book with pictures of the alphabet; rudiments of a subject; a railway time-table with stations in alphabetical order.

**abdicate** [*abdikayt*] *v/t* and *i* give up, renounce (office, dignity etc); resign sovereign power.

**abdication** [*abdikayshon*] *n* act of abdicating.

**abdomen** [*abdomen/abdomen*] *n* belly, cavity of the body between the diaphragm and the pelvis > PDB.

**abdominal** [*abdominal*] *adj* from or in the abdomen.

**abduct** [*abdukt*] *v/t* take away illegally, kidnap.

**abduction** [*abdukshon*] *n* act of abducting; (*log*) a syllogism with the minor premise merely probable.

**abductor** [*abdukter*] *n* one who abducts; (*anat*) a muscle which moves one part of the body away from another.

**abeam** [*abeem*] *adv* (*naut*) at right angles to the fore-and-aft line at the centre point of a vessel.

**abed** [*abed*] *adv* in bed, confined to bed.

**abele** [*abed/aybel*] *n* white poplar tree.

**Aberdeen** [*abardeen*] *n* variety of Scotch terrier.

**aberrance** [*aberrans*] *n* a deviation; a moral lapse ~ *aberrancy n*.

**aberrant** [*aberrant*] *adj* wandering from right path; (*biol*) with characteristics not in accordance with type; abnormal.

**aberration** [*aberrayshon*] *n* deviation from the normal; moral or mental disorder; (*astron*) variation in the apparent position of a star or heavenly body, due to the motion of the observer with the Earth; (*opt*) failure of parallel rays of light to converge to a single point focus when passing through an optical system > PDP, PDS ~ *aberrational adj* eccentric.

**abet** (*pres/part* abetting, *p/t* and *p/part* abetted) [*abet*] *v/t* encourage, incite (*esp* to wrong-doing); instigate (a crime) ~ *abettment n*.

**abettor, abetter** [*abeter*] *n* one who abets (another's crime).

**abeyance** [*abayens*] *n* temporary inactivity, suspension; in a. (*leg*) without a claimant ~ *abeyant adj* dormant.

**abhor** (*pres/part* abhorring, *p/t* abhorred) [*abharv*] *v/t* shrink from with disgust, loathe.

**abhorrence** [*abhorens*] *n* act of abhorring; loathing, disgust.

**abhorrent** [*abhorent*] *adj* repugnant, hateful; feeling abhorrence (of) ~ *abhorrently adv*.

**abidance** [*abidens*] *n* remaining, continuance; a. by conformity to.

**abide** (*p/t* and *p/part* abode, abided) [*abid*] *v/i* and *t* remain, stay, dwell; a. by hold to, remain faithful to; await; endure, stand up to; I cannot a. I cannot put up with.

**abiding** [*abiding*] *adj* permanent, enduring.

**abigail** [*abigayl*] *n* (*obs coll*) lady's maid.

## ability-abridge

**ability** [abɪlɪti] *n* power, capacity, proficiency.  
**abiogenesis** [abi-ɔːnɪsɪs] *n* supposed production of living organisms from lifeless matter, spontaneous generation > PDB.  
**abiotic** [abi-ɒtɪk] *adj* without life or living organisms; inimical to life.  
**abject** [abjekt] *adj* cast down, despairing; servile, despicable ~ **abject** *n* outcast person of lowest condition ~ **abjectly** *adv*.  
**abjection** [abɪkʃən] *n* degradation.  
**abjuration** [abɪjʊ'reɪʃən] *n* act of abjuring.  
**abjure** [abɪjʊə] *v/t* renounce on oath; recant an opinion; repudiate (a claim) on oath; **a.** the realm swear to leave the country for ever.  
**ablation** [abɪlə'shun] *n* removal, esp of part of the body through surgery; (*geol*) wearing away of rock by natural forces, of a glacier by melting.  
**ablative** [ablatɪv] *adj* (*Lat gramm*) case used to express instrument, source, or cause; **a.** absolute construction of noun or pronoun and participle not dependent on any other word.  
**ablaut** [ablaʊt] *n* (*phil*) variation of vowel-sounds, in relation to meaning, in forms of the same root; vowel-gradation.  
**abla** *e* [ablaɪə] *adv* on fire; (*fig*) aglow with dazzling brilliance; strongly excited.  
**able** [eɪbəl] *adj* being in a position to do something; competent, clever.  
**able-bodied** [eɪbəl-bɒdɪd] *adj* physically fit, robust; **a.** seaman one capable of all duties of seamanship and with special rating.  
**ablution** [abluʊ'shun] *n* (*freq pl*) washing, cleansing (*esp* of person).  
**ably** [eɪbli] *adv* cleverly, competently.  
**abnegate** [abnɪ'geɪt] *v/t* deny oneself, renounce;  
**abjure** ~ **abnegation** [abnɪ'geɪʃən] *n*.  
**abnormal** [abnɔːrml] *adj* departing from the type or standard unusual, peculiar > PDP ~ **abnormally** *adv*.  
**abnormality** [abnɔːrmlɪti] *n* deviation from standard, irregularity; thing or person deviating from a standard.  
**abnormity** [abnɔːrmlɪti] *n* abnormality.  
**aboard** [əbɔːd] *n* and *adj* (*Aust coll*) aboriginal.  
**aboard** [əbɔːd] *adv* into or on a ship; **all a.!** a warning of imminent departure; close **a.**, hard **a.** alongside; fall **a.** collide with the side of a ship ~ **aboard** *prep* into or on (a ship).  
**abode** (1) [əbɒd] *n* dwelling-place, residence.  
**abode** (2) *pl* of abode.  
**aboll** [əbɒl] *adv* and *adj* boiling; (*fig*) bursting with passion.  
**abolish** [əbəlɪʃ] *v/t* do away with, bring to an end ~ **abolishment** [əbəlɪʃmənt] *n*.  
**abolition** [əbəlɪʃən] *n* act of bringing to an end, *esp* of a rule or law.  
**abolitionism** [əbəlɪʃənɪzəm] *n* effort to secure abolition of unjust laws or customs, *esp* capital punishment or slavery ~ **abolitionist** *n* and *adj*.  
**A-bomb** [eɪ-bɒm] *n* atomic bomb.  
**abominable** [əbɒmɪnəbəl] *adj* hateful, detestable ~ **abominableness** *n* ~ **abominably** *adv*.  
**abominate** [əbɒmɪnaɪt] *v/t* loathe, detest.  
**abomination** [əbɒmɪnə'shun] *n* abhorrence, detestation; detestable thing; degrading practice.  
**aboriginal** [əbɔːrɪ'ʒɪnəl] *adj* belonging to a country from the most primitive time known; dwelling

in a country before later colonists arrived ~ **aboriginal** *n* aborigine.  
**aborigine** [əbɔːrɪ'ʒiːn] *n* original inhabitant of a country; indigenous animal or plant.  
**abort** [əbɔːt] *v/i* and *t* miscarry; cause a miscarriage to; (*biol*) undergo arrested development; (*fig*) come to nothing, fail; cancel prematurely because of accident or emergency.  
**abortion** [əbɔːrɪ'shun] *n* deliberate termination of pregnancy, act of causing a foetus to die or of removing an immature foetus; spontaneous miscarriage, *esp* of cattle; (*med*) delivery of foetus less than twenty-eight weeks old; (*biol*) arrest of development; (*fig*) failure of a project to develop; (*ar*) dwarf or misshapen person.  
**abortionist** [əbɔːrɪ'shənɪst] *n* person who deliberately terminates a pregnancy.  
**abortive** [əbɔːtɪv] *adj* (*of plans*) fruitless, coming to nothing ~ **abortive** *n* medicine to produce abortion ~ **abortively** *adv* ~ **abortiveness** *n*.  
**aboulia**, **abulia** [əbʊli-ə] *n* (*path*) inability to make or to act on decisions.  
**abound** [əbaʊnd] *v/i* be plentiful; **a.** in have plenty of ~ **abounding** *adj*.  
**about** [əbaʊt] *adv* on all sides; in every direction; approximately; hither and thither, to and fro, up and down; in the opposite direction; (*naut*) on the opposite tack; to the right **a.** right round to the opposite direction; much **a.** more or less; turn and turn **a.** alternately; **a.** to do on the point of doing; **is he a.?** is he close at hand?; out and **a.** recovered after illness; up and **a.** out of bed and stirring ~ **about** *prep* surrounding, all round; in the vicinity of; in attendance on; concerning, with reference to; not far from; all round, all over.  
**about-face** [əbaʊt-feyz] *n* complete reversal of opinion, behaviour etc.  
**above** [əbʊv] *adv* overhead, higher up; higher on printed page; earlier in book; higher in rank; in heaven; over and **a.** in addition ~ **above** *prep* on the top of, vertically over; higher up; in addition to; **a.** oneself conceived; elated ~ **above** *adj* preceding, previous; the **a.** (words) the statement just made.  
**aboveboard** [əbʊvəbɔːd] *adv* and *adj* without concealment, fair, honourable.  
**abracadabra** [əbrəkədabrə] *n* a spell, charm or magic word; an incantation; gibberish.  
**abradant** [əbrə'dent] *n* substance for rubbing or grinding down surfaces.  
**abrade** [əbrə'd] *v/t* wear down by rubbing; rub away from.  
**abranchiata** [əbræŋki-ɪt] *adj* (*zool*) without gills.  
**abrasion** [əbrɪ'shun] *n* act of wearing or rubbing away; grazed portion of skin.  
**abrasive** [əbrɪ'sɪv] *adj* causing abrasion; harsh, ruthless ~ **abrasive** *n* substance used for scratching, grinding, or polishing.  
**abreact** [əbreɪ-ækt] *v/t* (*psych*) release by abreaction.  
**abreaction** [əbrɪ-æk'shun] *n* (*psych*) release of a repressed emotion by reliving in imagination the original experience.  
**abreast** [əbreɪst] *adv* side by side, on a level with; **a.** of (with) keeping up with, up to date.  
**abridge** [əbrɪdʒ] *v/t* shorten, epitomize; lessen.

# abridg(e)ment-abuse

**abridg(e)ment** [abrijment] *n* act of abridging; abridged version; summary, précis.

**abroach** [abroch] *adv* and *adj* (of a cask) pierced so as to let out the liquor; (of ideas etc) circulating freely, afloat.

**abroad** [abrawd] *adv* in or into foreign lands; over a wide space; widely; out in the open air; not in one's own house; wide of the truth.

**abrogate** [abroGayt] *v/t* repeal, annul ~ **abrogation** [abroGayshon] *n*.

**abrupt** [abrupt] *adj* sudden, unexpected; hasty, brusque; disconnected; steep; (geol) cropping out suddenly; (bot) not tapering.

**abruption** [abrupshon] *n* breaking away of part of a mass.

**abruptly** [abruptli] *adv* in an abrupt way.

**abruptness** [abruptnis] *n* quality of being abrupt.

**abcess** [abes] *n* a collection of pus formed within or upon the body.

**abscind** [absind] *v/t* cut off.

**abscissa** (pl **abscissae**) [absis] *n* horizontal line of reference in fixing the position of a point > PDP PDS.

**abscission** [absizhon] *n* cutting off.

**abscond** [abskond] *v/i* go away hurriedly into concealment, *gener* to evade the law.

**absence** [absens] *n* state of being away; duration of this state; lack, non-existence; a. of mind inattention due to concentration on other matters.

**absent** [absent] *adj* not present; absent-minded; not existing, lacking ~ **absent** [absent] *v/refl* stay away, not be present.

**absentee** [absentee] *n* one who is not present; one who is continually absent from duty; landlord who does not live on his estate.

**absenteeism** [absentee-izm] *n* state of being an absentee; habitual unjustified absence from work.

**absent-minded** [absent-mindid] *adj* inattentive owing to concentration on other matters ~ **absent-mindedly** *adv* ~ **absent-mindedness** *n*.

**absinth**, **absinthe** [absinth] *n* wormwood; liqueur distilled from wine mixed with wormwood.

**absolute** [absolewt, absoloot] *adj* complete, perfect; with unrestricted authority, despotic; not relative or measured by comparison with other things; unconditional; self-existent; a. zero lowest temperature theoretically possible, equal to -273.16° C > PDS ~ **absolute** *n* that which exists in itself, without necessary relation to any other being > PDP; decree a. final stage in the granting of divorce.

**absolutely** [absolewtli/absolootli] *adv* perfectly, without reservation.

**absoluteness** [absolewtnes/absolootnes] *n* state or quality of being absolute.

**absolution** [absolushon/absolootshon] *n* forgiveness of sins declared by ecclesiastical authority; formula conveying this; forgiveness.

**absolutism** [absolewtizm/absolootizm] *n* (pol) the theory and practice of absolute government, despotism; (theol) the doctrine of predestination.

**absolutist** [absolewtist/absolootist] *n* one who favours absolute government; (philos) one who believes in the absolute identity of subject and object ~ **absolutist** *adj* practising or favouring absolute government, despotism.

**absolve** [absolv/absolv] *v/t* declare free from guilt, obligation, vow or oath, give absolution to.

**absorb** [absawrb] *v/t* swallow up, incorporate; drink in; take in by chemical action; engross the attention of.

**absorbable** [absawrbab'l] *adj* capable of being absorbed ~ **absorbability** [absawrbabiliti] *n*.

**absorbent** [absawrbent] *n* and *adj* (substance) which absorbs fluids.

**absorbing** [absawrbing] *adj* swallowing, drinking in; (fig) engrossing, occupying the attention, very interesting ~ **absorbingly** *adv*.

**absorption** [absawrbshon] *n* taking in, incorporation; engrossment (of the mind); sucking up (of fluids etc) > PDS; (phys, rad) loss of power.

**absquatulate** [abskwotewlayt] *v/i* (coll) decamp, run away.

**abstain** [abstayn] *v/t* refrain (from).

**abstainer** [abstayner] *n* one who does not take intoxicants.

**abstemious** [absteemi-us] *adj* sparing in food, drink or pleasure; temperate, not self-indulgent.

**abstention** [abstenshon] *n* act of refraining, esp from voting; abstinence; self-denial.

**abstinence** [abstinsens] *n* self-restraint, esp in food and drink; total a. refraining from all intoxicants ~ **abstinency** [abstinsensi] *n*.

**abstinent** [abstinent] *adj* temperate in bodily pleasures, abstemious ~ **abstinently** *adv*.

**abstract** [abstrakt] *adj* not connected with matter or material objects; ideal, theoretical; (arts) not representing any material object > PDAA;

producing non-representational art; in the a. without considering special examples ~ **abstract** *n* part containing in itself the properties of the whole, essence; summary; abstract painting or sculpture ~ **abstract** [abstrakt] *v/t* take away, withdraw; make a summary of; (coll) steal.

**abstracted** [abstraktid] *adj* drawn off, separated; absent-minded ~ **abstractedly** *adv* ~ **abstractedness** *n*.

**abstraction** [abstrakshon] *n* taking away, removal, pilfering; act of considering a thing independently of its attributes; a state of mental seclusion; a fragment of the mind; absent-mindedness > PDP; (arts) a design which is non-representational in purpose.

**abstractive** [abstraktiv] *adj* having the power of abstraction; epitomizing.

**abstruse** [abstruOs] *adj* hidden; deep, hard to understand, recondite ~ **abstrusely** *adv* ~ **abstruseness** *n*.

**absurd** [absurd] *adj* unreasonable, ridiculous; obviously false; meaningless ~ **absurd** *n* that which is irrational, esp as a subject for drama.

**absurdity** [absurditi] *n* folly; example of folly, foolish statement.

**absurdly** [absurdi] *adv* in an absurd way.

**abulia** see **aboulia**.

**abundance** [abundens] *n* plentifulness, superfluity; wealth; (phys) concentration of a particular isotope in a mixture of isotopes > PDS.

**abundant** [abundent] *adj* plentiful, ample; wealthy (in) ~ **abundantly** *adv*.

**abuse** [abewz] *v/t* make a wrong use of; maltreat; take unfair advantage of; revile ~ **abuse** [abewz] *n* misuse; evil custom, corrupt practice; reviling, vituperation.

## abusive-accipitrine

- abusive** [abɜʊsɪv] *adj* grossly insulting; misapplied ~ **abusively** *adv* ~ **abusiveness** *n*.
- abut** (pres/part **abutting**, pl and p/part **abutted**) [abʊt] *v/t* (of land) border (on); a. on (of building) stand with its end against.
- abutment** [abʊtmənt] *n* junction, meeting end to end; (archi) masonry built up to resist the pressure of an arch.
- abutter** [abʊtə] *n* that which abuts; (leg) owner of adjoining property.
- abysm** [abɪzəm] *n* (poet) abyss.
- abysmal** [abɪzmal] *adj* immeasurably deep, unfathomable; (coll) very bad ~ **abysmally** *adv*.
- abyss** [abɪs] *n* very deep place; chasm; infernal regions; primeval chaos; subterranean waters.
- abyssal** [abɪsəl] *adj* unfathomable; belonging to the lowest depths of the oceans > PDG.
- acacia** [vɪˈæʃiə] *n* genus of trees or shrubs of *Mimosa* tribe.
- academe** [akadeem] *n* (poet) academy.
- academic** [akademɪk] *adj* of or like an academy, learned society or university; purely theoretical, unpractical; scholarly; (of art) not experimental, conventional ~ **academic** *n* member of the teaching or research staff of a university; scholar ~ **academically** *adv*.
- academicals** [akademɪkəlz] *n* (pl) college or university robes.
- academician** [akademɪʃən] *n* member of an academic society, esp the Royal Academy.
- academy** [akademi] *n* learned society or institution devoted to the study of arts and sciences; teaching institution ranking between a school and university; Royal A. a British association of artists of established merit, *asu* conservative and non-experimental > PDAA.
- acajou** [akəʒoo] *n* cashew.
- acaleph** [akalef/akalef] *n* jellyfish.
- acanth**, **acanthus** [akamθ, akamθus], *n* genus of herbaceous plants with prickly leaves; (arts) formalized pattern based on acanthus leaves.
- acardiac** [akaardi-ak] *adj* (physiol) without a heart.
- acarpous** [akaarpus] *adj* (bot) not producing fruit.
- acaudate** [akaʊdeɪt] *adj* tailless.
- accede** [akseɪd] *v/t* agree, assent; a. to assent to; enter upon; join.
- accelerate** [akselerayt] *v/t* and *i* increase the speed of; cause to happen earlier; go faster ~ **accelerated** *adj*.
- acceleration** [akselerayʃən] *n* increase of speed; rate of increase of speed per unit of time > PDS.
- accelerative** [akseleratɪv] *adj* tending to increase speed.
- accelerator** [akseleraytə] *n* that which increases speed; contrivance for increasing the speed of a motor engine; (chem) catalyst; (phys) machine for producing a stream of very high energy subatomic particles > PDS.
- accelerometer** [akseleromitə] *n* instrument for determining the acceleration of an aircraft.
- accent** [aksent] *n* quality of voice of one belonging to a certain nation, locality or class; characteristic manner of speech; prominence given to one syllable of a word, either by stress or by musical pitch; mark placed over a vowel to denote this; mark used to show the quality of a vowel sound, diacritic; (*mus, pros*) recurrent stress which marks
- rhythm ~ **accent** [aksent] *v/t* stress, emphasize; mark, make outstanding.
- accental** [aksentəwəl] *adj* of or by accent.
- accentuate** [aksentweɪt] *v/t* pronounce with emphasis; mark with written accent; give prominence to, heighten ~ **accentuation** *n*.
- accept** [aksəpt] *v/t* and *i* take willingly, consent to take, receive with favour; undertake (office); believe, admit, consent to, concede; (leg) take responsibility for; (*comm*) agree to pay.
- acceptability** [aksəptəbɪlɪtɪ] *n* quality of being acceptable.
- acceptable** [aksəptəbəl] *adj* worthy of acceptance, agreeable, welcome ~ **acceptably** *adv* ~ **acceptableness** *n*.
- acceptance** [aksəptəns] *n* approval, favourable reception; (*comm*) agreement to pay.
- acceptation** [aksəptəʃən] *n* approval; recognized meaning.
- accepter** [aksəptə] *n* one who accepts what is offered; a. of persons one who shows partiality on personal grounds.
- acceptor** [aksəptə] *n* (*comm*) one who accepts a bill of exchange, promising to pay it when due; (*phys*) imperfection or impurity in a semiconductor which causes conduction by holes > PDEI.
- access** [aksəs] *n* approach, means of approach; right of entrance (to); sudden attack (of illness or passion); easy of a. approachable.
- accessary** [aksəsəri] *n* and *adj* (person) assisting a criminal but not taking part in the crime itself; accessory.
- accessibility** [aksəsɪbɪlɪtɪ] *n* state or quality of being accessible.
- accessible** [aksəsɪbəl] *adj* approachable, easy to reach; attainable; a. to open to the influence of, amenable to.
- accession** [aksəʃən] *n* approach; act of attaining to (office, dignity, condition); addition, acquisition; assent, backing; (leg) increase in value.
- accessional** [aksəʃənəl] *adj* additional.
- accessorial** [aksəsəriəl] *adj* auxiliary, supplementary.
- accessory** [aksəsəri] *adj* contributory, helpful though subordinate; helpful to the main effect, person or plan; accessory ~ **accessory** *n* that which helps a main effect etc; subordinate but useful person or thing; (leg) accessory; (pl) minor items of clothing, equipment etc.
- accidence** [aksɪdəns] *n* that part of grammar which deals with the inflexions of words; first steps in any subject.
- accident** [aksɪdənt] *n* chance occurrence, unforeseen event; mishap; disaster; (log) property of a substance which is not part of its essential nature.
- accidental** [aksɪdəntəl] *adj* occurring by chance, unexpected, casual; incidental; (log) pertaining to logical accident, not essential ~ **accidental** *n* (*mus*) sharp or flat prefixed to a particular note > PDM ~ **accidentally** *adv*.
- accident prone** [aksɪdənt-prɒn] *adj* liable to suffer accidents because of abnormal carelessness, anxiety etc ~ **accident-proneness** *n*.
- accipiter** [aksɪpɪtə] *n* bird of prey; (*surg*) bandage over the nose resembling hawk's claw.
- accipitrine** [aksɪpɪtrɪn] *adj* rapacious, hawk-like.



acclaim [aklaym] *v/t* greet with applause; proclaim with applause ~ **acclaim** *n* applause, shout of approval.

acclamation [aklamayshon] *n* applause, shout of approval ~ **acclamatory** [aklamatori] *adj*.

acclimate [aklmet] *v/t* and *i* acclimatize.

acclimatization [aklimatizayshon] *n* process of acclimatizing or becoming acclimatized.

acclimatize [aklmetiz] *v/t* and *i* habituate, or become habituated, to a new climate or to new surroundings.

acclivity [aklivity] *n* upward slope.

accolade [akOlayd/akOlad] *n* ceremony of conferring knighthood by laying a sword on the shoulder of the recipient; (*fig*) public approval and honour; mark or reward indicating this.

accommodate [akomOdayt] *v/t* adjust, adapt; bring to agreement; supply (with some requisite); supply with board and lodging, receive into one's house.

accommodating [akomOdayting] *adj* obliging, conciliatory.

accommodation [akomOdayshon] *n* adjustment; adaptation; settlement of a difference; house, rooms etc; board and lodging; loan of money; a road road used only for a limited purpose.

accompaniment [akumpaniment] *n* anything attending on or added to another; (*mus*) subsidiary part or parts of a musical composition supporting the voice or solo instrument.

accompanist, accompanyst [akumpanist, akumpan-ist] *n* (*mus*) one who plays the accompaniment.

accompany [akumpani] *v/t* and *i* go along with, travel with; (*mus*) play the subsidiary part of a musical composition for a singer or solo player.

accomplice [akomplis] *n* partner in evil-doing.

accomplish [akomplish] *v/t* complete, carry out.

accomplishable [akomplishab'l] *adj* that can be carried out.

accomplished [akomplisht] *adj* highly skilled; versed in the social arts and graces, talented.

accomplishment [akomplishment] *n* fulfilment; achievement; talent, artistic skill; intellectual or cultural achievement.

accord [akawrd] *v/t* and *t* agree, come to a settlement; grant, vouchsafe ~ **accord** *n* agreement, consent; harmony; with one a. unanimously; of one's own a. freely, without solicitation.

accordance [akawrdans] *n* accord, agreement.

accordant [akawrdant] *adj* in conformity.

according [akawrding] *adv* agreeing with; a. as in so far as, to the extent that; a. to by the account of, on the authority of; agreeing with, conforming to.

accordingly [akawrdingli] *adv* therefore; in agreement with that.

accordion [akawrdi-on] *n* portable musical instrument consisting of keys and bellows > PDM; a. pleating series of narrow parallel pleats.

accordionist [akawrdi-onist] *n* one who plays the accordion.

accost [akost] *v/t* open conversation with, address; solicit with immoral intent.

accouchement [akoooshmaw(ng)/akooishment/akooishment] *n* childbirth, confinement.

account [akount] *v/t* and *i* give a reckoning; estimate; a. for explain, answer for; (*sport*) deal

## acclaim-accusatory

with, make an end of ~ **account** *n* reckoning; statement of money due; (*pl*) reckoning of money received and paid; detailed statement of handling of money in trust; explanation; importance, esteem; description, narration; of some a. held in esteem; on a. of because of; to one's a. to one's advantage; last a. the Judgement; **current** a. a running account with a bank, to which payments are made, and from which sums are withdrawn on demand; on no a. for no reason, not at all; call to a. demand an explanation from.

accountability [akowntabiliti] *n* quality of being accountable.

accountable [akowntab'l] *adj* responsible; explainable ~ **accountably** *adv*.

accountancy [akowntansi] *n* profession of an accountant.

accountant [akowntant] *n* one who inspects and audits accounts.

accoutre [akOOTer] *v/t* dress, array, equip.

accoutrement [akOOTerment] *n* (*usu pl*) equipment; (*mil*) equipment other than arms and dress.

accredit [akredit] *v/t* invest with credit, authority; vouch for, sanction; provide with credentials; accredited milk milk guaranteed to be of an approved standard of quality.

accrete [akreet] *v/t* and *i* grow together by adhesion; adhere; cause to unite (to) ~ **accrete** *adj* formed by accretion; (*bot*) grown together by adhesion.

accretion [akreeshon] *n* increase in size, esp by uniting separate parts; anything added in this way; (*leg*) increase of a legacy through the death of a co-legatee ~ **accretive** *adj*.

accrue [akROO] *v/i* come as normal profit or by natural right, esp as interest on capital.

acculturate [akultewrayt] *v/t* cause (persons) to adopt customs etc from a foreign culture ~ **acculturation** *n*.

accumulate [akewmewlayt] *v/t* and *i* heap up; amass; grow into a mass; increase in bulk or numbers.

accumulation [akewmewlayshon] *n* process of accumulating; accumulated mass.

accumulative [akewmewlaytiv] *adj* arising from the addition of many particulars; invested at compound interest; acquisitive, given to hoarding.

accumulator [akewmewlayter] *n* one who accumulates; apparatus for collecting and storing electricity.

accuracy [akewrisi] *n* quality of being accurate.

accurate [akewrit] *adj* exact, correct ~ **accurately** *adv*.

accursed [akursid] *adj* lying under a curse; detestable; doomed to perdition, ill-fated.

accurst [akurst] *adj* accursed.

accusable [akewzab'l] *adj* liable to the charge (of); culpable.

accusal [akewzal] *n* an accusation.

accusant [akewzant] *n* an accuser.

accusation [akewzayshon] *n* act of accusing; crime or offence of which one is accused, charge.

accusative [akewzativ] *n* and *adj* (*gramm*) (case) of the direct object of a transitive verb or of certain prepositions ~ **accusatively** *adv*.

accusatory [akewzatori] *adj* pertaining to an accuser; suggesting an accusation.



## accuse-acquiescence

**accuse** [ə'kuz] *v/t* charge with wrong-doing, impute guilt to; *a.* of charge with the fault of.

**accustom** [ək'stʊm] *v/t* and *refl* make familiar by use or habit; get used to.

**accustomed** [ək'stʊmd] *adj* usual, customary.

**ace** [eɪs] *n* face of dominoes, dice, cards, containing a single point; (*coll*) one who is extremely skilful in a sport, esp skilful fighter pilot or marksman; within an *a.* of within a hair's breadth of; service *a.* (*lawn tennis*) service which opponent must return; *a.* point first point on backgammon board ~ **ace** *adj* (*coll*) extremely expert and successful.

**acentric** [ə'sentrik] *adj* (*geom*) without a centre, not centred.

**acephalous** [ə'seʃəlus] *adj* without a head; (*pros*) wanting the first syllable of the line.

**acerbate** [ə'sɜ:bət] *v/t* embitter, exasperate ~ **acerbate** [ə'sɜ:bət] *adj* embittered.

**acerbic** [ə'sɜ:bɪk] *adj* bitter, sour.

**acerbity** [ə'sɜ:bɪtɪ] *n* sourness of taste; bitterness of speech.

**aceric** [ə'serɪk] *adj* pertaining to the maple; *a.* acid acid found in the sap of maple.

**acescent** [ə'sesnt] *adj* turning sour, slightly sour.

**acetabulum** [ə'sɪtəbʊlʊm] *n* (*anat*) cup-shaped organ.

**acetate** [ə'sɪtət] *n* a salt or an ester of acetic acid; (*pop*) cellulose acetate in the form of rayon.

**acetic** [ə'setɪk/ə'setɪk] *adj* sour. of the nature of vinegar; *a.* acid the organic acid contained in vinegar > PDS.

**acetify** [ə'setɪfɪ] *v/t* and *i* ferment, turn into vinegar; become sour.

**acetone** [ə'ritʌn] *n* colourless inflammable liquid used as a solvent > PDS.

**acetose** [ə'ritʌs] *adj* sour, tasting like vinegar.

**acetous** [ə'sɪtʊs] *adj* sour, acetose; *a.* fermentation chemical reaction by which sugar or alcohol is changed into vinegar.

**acetylene** [ə'setəli:n] *n* (*chem*) ethyne; a colourless poisonous inflammable gas, made by the action of water on calcium carbide > PDS.

**ache** [eɪk] *v/i* feel continuous pain, physical or mental; feel overwhelming desire (for, to) ~ **ache** *n*.

**achene** [ə'hi:n] *n* dry, one-seeded fruit.

**achieve** [ə'hi:v] *v/t* attain, gain, carry out by one's own efforts.

**achievement** [ə'hi:vment] *n* carrying out, accomplishment; successful action > PDP; (*her*) escutcheon, hatchment.

**achromatic** [ə'krʊmætɪk] *adj* (*opt*) colourless, not decomposing white light > PDS; (*biol*) not absorbing colour from a fluid.

**achromatism** [ə'krʊmætɪzəm] *n* quality of being achromatic.

**achromatopsia** [ə'krʊmætəʊpi:] *n* colour-blindness > PDS.

**acicula** (*pl* aciculae) [ə'sɪkʊlə] *n* (*biol*) bristle, spike; (*chem*) sharp-pointed crystal.

**aciculate** [ə'sɪkʊlət] *adj* provided with aciculae; having scratch-like markings.

**acid** [ænd] *adj* sour to the taste, tart; (*fig*) sour, testy, sarcastic; (*chem*) having properties of an acid; *a.* drop sweet made with sugar and tartaric acid; *a.* salt an acid in which only a part of the hydrogen has been replaced by a metal > PDS ~

**acid** *n* sour-tasting substance; (*chem*) substance often corrosive which contains hydrogen which may be replaced by a metal to form a salt > PDS; (*sl*) LSD or other hallucinogenic drug; *a.* test test of gold by means of acid; (*fig*) crucial test.

**acid-head** [ə'sɪd-hed] *n* (*sl*) one who frequently takes LSD or other hallucinogens.

**acidic** [ə'sɪdɪk] *adj* (*chem*) having properties of an acid; acid-forming.

**acidify** [ə'sɪdɪfɪ] *v/t* make sour, acid; (*chem*) convert into an acid.

**acidity** [ə'sɪdɪtɪ] *n* sharpness of flavour; acid state of stomach.

**acidly** [ə'sɪdli] *adv* sourly; sarcastically.

**acidness** [ə'sɪdnɪs] *n* quality of being acid.

**acidosis** [ə'sɪdʊsɪs] *n* acid condition of the blood.

**acidulate** [ə'sɪdʊlət] *v/t* flavour with acid ~ **acidulated** *adj* (*fig*) caustic, testy.

**acidulous** [ə'sɪdʊləs] *adj* slightly acid; sour-tempered.

**acierage** [ə'sɪ-erɪʒ] *n* process of plating a metal with a layer of steel.

**acinoese** [ə'sɪnʊsɪ] *adj* consisting of acini; resembling a cluster of berries.

**acinus** (*pl* acini) [ə'sɪnʊs] *n* (*bot*) drupel; fruit composed of clustered drupels; (*anat*) blind end of the duct of a secreting gland.

**ack-ack** [ək-ək] *adj* (*mil coll*) anti-aircraft.

**acknowledge** [ək'nɒlɪʒ] *v/t* recognize, own to be true; admit the claim of; show gratitude for; notify the receipt of.

**acknowledg(e)ment** [ək'nɒlɪʒmənt] *n* act of acknowledging; expression of thanks, appreciation etc; notification of receipt.

**acclinic** [ə'klɪnɪk] *adj* without inclination, not dipping; *a.* line line joining the points where the magnetic needle does not dip, magnetic equator.

**acme** [ækmi] *n* culminating point, highest degree.

**acne** [ækni] *n* skin disease in which the blocking of sebaceous glands causes small pustules.

**acolyte** [ə'kɒlɪt] *n* (*eccles*) one who attends on the priest during a religious service; attendant, assistant.

**aconite** [ə'kɒnɪt] *n* (*bot*) genus of poisonous plants; wolf's bane; drug extracted from this.

**acorn** [ə'kɔ:n] *n* fruit of the oak-tree.

**acorn-cup** [ə'kɔ:n-kʌp] *n* cup-shaped envelope in which the acorn grows.

**acotyledon** [ək'ɒtɪledʊn] *n* (*bot*) plant with no distinct seed-lobes; cryptogam.

**acoustic** [ə'kʊstɪk/ə'kʊstɪk] *adj* pertaining to hearing or audibility; of or by sound-waves; designed to absorb sounds.

**acoustics** [ə'kʊstɪks/ə'kʊstɪks] *n* (*pl*) science of sound; qualities of a building enabling sound to be heard clearly within it > PDM.

**acquaint** [ə'kwæɪnt] *v/t* inform of; be acquainted with have knowledge of, know personally.

**acquaintance** [ə'kwæɪntəns] *n* state of being acquainted (with); person whom one knows slightly; make the *a.* of get to know.

**acquainted** [ə'kwæɪntɪd] *adj* on friendly terms, but not intimate; *a.* with having knowledge of.

**acquiesce** [ə'kwɪ-əs] *v/i* agree without hesitation; accept submissively; give in; *a.* in agree to, abide by.

**acquiescence** [ə'kwɪ-əsəns] *n* willing agreement.