



# THE CASSELL CONCISE ENGLISH DICTIONARY

edited by  
Betty Kirkpatrick



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<i>Managing Editor</i>	Betty Kirkpatrick
<i>Lexicographers</i>	Callum Brines Steve Curtis Carolyn Donaldson Elaine Higgleton Pandora Kerr-Frost Fergus McGauran Margaret McPhee Katherine Seed
<i>Pronunciations Consultant</i>	Jock Graham
<i>New Words Editor</i>	Jane Garden
<i>Data Processing</i>	Morton Word Processing Limited
<i>Design</i>	Vaughan Allen Richard Earney Tim Higgins George Sharp
<i>Proofing</i>	First Edition, Cambridge Guildford Reading Services
<i>Production</i>	Geoffrey Charters
<i>Publisher</i>	Anna Hodson
<i>Administration</i>	Sarah Harland Andrew J Luck Clare Saunders

## PREFACE

*The Cassell Concise English Dictionary* is based on *Cassell's English Dictionary*, one of the classics of lexicography. The major changes made to the parent volume take the form of the inclusion of many new words, expressions and meanings and the rewording of some terms to bring them into line with recent developments.

Recent years have seen language changing at a speed unparalleled in our history. Even if only the language of science, medicine and technology were taken into consideration the rate of change would be phenomenal. Add to that the vocabulary of revolutionized lifestyles (leisure, food, travel, property etc.), that of industrial relations, sociology, education and modern slang, and the speed of change becomes breathtaking.

No dictionary of any manageable size could possibly reflect all the linguistic additions made to all aspects of our lives. In many ways the role of a modern lexicographer could be compared with that of a sieve – letting through the words that the average person is most likely to meet in the varied course of everyday life and keeping back those which are not, such as specialized jargon. The sifting process is far from easy and is probably the most problematic part of a lexicographer's work.

New words are obviously an important feature of any modern dictionary but it is possible to be so concerned about them that the merits of old words are forgotten. With space always at a premium in dictionaries it is all too easy for lexicographers to dispense with the old in favour of the new, thereby throwing out the baby with the bath-water.

The editors of the present volume have resisted this temptation. Although they have given due consideration to the new, the voguish and even the potentially ephemeral they have retained much of the text of the parent dictionary. In so doing they have preserved a wealth of archaic, literary, obsolete and unusual words.

Such words play an important part in many people's dictionary requirements. Older, more esoteric words are of particular use to students of language, to readers of older literary texts and to the lover of word-puzzles.

Word-games have long been a popular pastime, with many people seeing the crossword page of a newspaper as its most important section. Scrabble® has always encouraged an interest in unusual words with which to confront opponents and the recent increase in television word-games has stimulated this interest even more.

*The Cassell Concise English Dictionary* is thus widespread in its appeal. Whether the reader wishes to know the meaning of a word, the spelling of a word, the pronunciation of a word, or the etymology of a word, or is simply seeking ammunition with which to win a battle of words this book will come to the rescue.

## HOW TO USE THIS DICTIONARY

### The entry

Each entry in the dictionary begins with an entry-word or head-word in bold type. This is immediately followed by the pronunciation, the relevant part of speech and the meaning/meanings. The etymology is placed at the very end of the entry in square brackets.

### Arrangement of entries

By no means all words defined in the dictionary are headwords. Many words and expressions which are derived from the same root have been grouped or 'nested' together, e.g. **execrable** is under **execrate**. This has the great merit not only of demonstrating at a glance the relationship of the words but of acting as a significant space-saving device. The system allows many more words to be included in the dictionary than would otherwise be the case.

The majority of such words are easy to find since their positions in the dictionary are very close alphabetically to what they would have been if they had been entered as separate headwords. Where this is not the case cross-references have been added for facility of use, e.g. **elision** is cross-referred to **elide**.

### Organization of Entries.

Most headwords have more than one meaning and more than one word derived from them. The words and expressions derived from headwords fall into three categories – idioms/phrases, compounds and direct derivatives.

Idioms consist of phrases including the headword, e.g. **to gain on** or compound words not beginning with the headword, e.g. **old gold**. They are placed immediately after the last meaning of the last part of speech of the headword.

Compounds, which consist of two elements beginning with the headword, are placed immediately after the last meaning of the last idiom. The compound word may be hyphenated, e.g. **cross-bow**, two words, e.g. **emergency landing** or one word, e.g. **eyesight**, according to convention.

Direct derivatives are words formed from the root of the headword or its stem by adding a suffix, e.g. **-ness**, **-ly**, etc. e.g. **gauntness**, **ghostly**. These are placed after the last meaning of the last compound.

Derivatives which themselves are derived from derivatives of the headword follow on from the words in the entry from which they are derived. Thus **endless band** follows the direct derivative **endless**.

### Labels

Labels in round brackets have been added where necessary. They are divided into two categories – stylistic labels, such as (*offensive*), (*sl.*), (*coll.*) etc. and field labels such as (*Med.*), (*Comput.*) etc. A list of abbreviations of labels appears under *Chief Abbreviations Used* (p.x).

### Cross-references

The word cross-referred to appears in small caps, e.g. **enure INURE**.

## CHIEF ABBREVIATIONS USED

*All are given here in roman, though most-of them may also appear in italics as labels.*

a.	adjective	Chem.	Chemistry
abbr.	abbreviation	Chin.	Chinese
abl.	ablative	Civ. Eng.	Civil Engineering
Abor.	Aboriginal, Aborigines	Class.	Classical
acc.	accusative; according	Coal-min.	Coal mining
adapt.	adaptation	cogn.	cognate
adv.	adverb	coll.	colloquial; collateral
A-F	Anglo-French	collect.	collective
Afr.	African	comb.	combination
aft.	afterwards	comb. form.	combining form
Agric.	Agriculture	Comm.	Commerce
Alch.	Alchemy	comp.	comparative
Alg.	Algebra	Comput.	Computing
alln.	allusion	Conch.	Conchology
alt.	alternative	cond.	conditional
Am. Ind.	American Indian	conf.	confusion
anal.	analogous	conj.	conjunction
Anat.	Anatomy	conn.	connected
Ang.-Ind.	Anglo-Indian	contr.	contraction
Ang.-Ir.	Anglo-Irish	Cook.	Cooking
Ang.-Lat.	Anglo-Latin	Copt.	Coptic
appar.	apparently	Corn.	Cornish
Arab.	Arabic	corr.	corruption; correspond.ig
Aram.	Aramaic	Cosmog.	Cosmogony
Arch.	Architecture	cp.	compare
Archaeol.	Archaeology	Cryst.	Crystallography
Arith.	Arithmetic		
Art.	Artistic	Dan.	Danish
Artill.	Artillery	dat.	dative
assim.	assimilated, assimilation	def.	definition
Assyr.	Assyrian	deriv.	derivation
Astrol.	Astrology	derog.	derogatory
Astron.	Astronomy	dial.	diale
attrib.	attribute, attributive	dim.	diminutive
augm.	augmentative	Diplom.	Diplomatics
Austral.	Australian	dist.	distinct, distinguish. d
Austr.-Hung.	Austro-Hungarian	Dut.	Dutch
aux.v.	auxiliary verb	Dynam.	Dynamics
Aviat.	Aviation		
Bibl.	Bible, biblical	E	East, Eastern
Bibliog.	Bibliography	Eccles.	Ecclesiastical
Biol.	Biology	econ.	Economics
Boh.	Bohemian	EFris	East Frisian
Bot.	Botany	e.g.	exempli gratia, for example
Braz.	Brazilian	Egypt.	Egyptian
Bret.	Breton	Egyptol.	Egyptology
Build.	Building	EInd.	East Indian
Bulg.	Bulgarian	Elec.	Electricity
Byz.	Byzantine	ellipt.	elliptical, elliptically
		Embryol.	Embryology
c.	circa, about	emphat.	emphatic
Camb.	Cambridge	Eng.	English; Engineering
Campan.	Campanology	Ent.	Entomology
Can.	Canada, Canadian	erron.	erroneously
Carib.	Caribbean	esp.	especially
Carp.	Carpentry	Ethn.	Ethnology
Cat.	Catalan	euphem.	euphemistic
Celt.	Celtic	Eur.	European
Ceram.	Ceramics	Exam.	Examination
Ch.	Church	exc.	except



F	French
f.	feminine
facet.	facetiously
fem.	feminine
Feud.	Feudal
fig.	figuratively
fl.	flourit, flourished
Flem.	Flemish
fol.	the following
For.	Foreign
Fort.	Fortification
freq.	frequentative
Fris.	Frisian
fut.	future
G	German
Gael.	Gaelic
gen.	genitive
Geneal.	Genealogy
Geog.	Geography
Geol.	Geology
Geom.	Geometry
ger.	gerund, gerundive
Goth.	Gothic
Gr.	Greek
grad.	gradually
Gram.	Grammar
Heb.	Hebrew
Her.	Heraldry
Hind.	Hindi
Hist.	History
Hort.	Horticulture
Hung.	Hungarian
Hydrostat.	Hydrostatics
Hyg.	Hygiene
Icel.	Icelandic
Ichthyol.	Ichthyology
ident.	identical; identified
i.e.	id est, that is
imag.	imaginary
imit.	imitative
imper.	im- rative
impers.	impersonal
incept.	inceptive
incorr.	incorrectly
Ind.	India, Indian
ind.	indicative
indef. art.	indefinite article
Indo-Port.	Indo-Portuguese
inf.	infinitive
influ.	influenced
inst.	instinctive
instr.	instrumental
int.	interjection
intens.	intensive
Internat.	International
interrog.	interrogative
intr.	intransitive
Ir.	Irish
iron.	ironical
irreg.	irregular
It.	Italian

Jap.	Japanese
Jav.	Javanese
Jewel.	Jewellery

L	Latin
lat.	latitude
LG	Low German
Lit.	Literature, literary
lit.	literal, literally
Lit. crit.	Literary criticism
Lith.	Lithuanian
loc.	locative
Log.	Logic

Mach.	Machinery
Manufact.	manufacturing
Math.	Mathematics
MDan.	Middle Danish
MDut.	Middle Dutch
ME	Middle English
Mech.	Mechanics
Med.	Medicine
med.	mediaeval
Merc.	Mercian
Metal.	Metallurgy
Metaph.	Metaphysics
Metcor.	Meteorology
Mex.	Mexican
MF	Middle French
MG	Middle German
Microsc.	Microscopy
Mil.	Military
Min.	Mineralogy
mistrans.	mistranslation
mod.	modern
Mus.	Music
Myth.	Mythology

N	North
n.	noun
N Am.	North American
Nat. Hist.	Natural History
Naut.	Nautical
Nav.	Naval
neg.	negative
neol.	neologism
neut.	neuter
Newsp.	Newspaper
nom.	nominative
Norm.	Norman
North.	Northern
Northum.	Northumbrian
Norw.	Norwegian
NT	New Testament
Numis	Numismatics

obj.	objective
obs.	obsolete
OED	the Oxford English Dictionary
OF	Old French
OFris.	Old Frisian
OHG	Old High German
OLG	Old Low German

ON	Old Norse	rel.	related
ONF	Old Norman French	Relig.	Religion
onomat.	onomatopoeic	rel. pron.	relative pronoun
OPers.	Old Persian	remonstr.	remonstrative
opp.	opposed, opposition	Rhet.	Rhetoric
Opt.	Optics	Rom.	Roman; Romance
orig.	origin, originally	Rus.	Russian
Ornith.	Ornithology		
OS	Old Saxon	S	South
o.s.	old style	Sansk.	Sanskrit
OSlav.	Old Slavonic	Sc.	Scottish
OSp.	Old Spanish	Scand.	Scandinavian
OTeut.	Old Teutonic	Sci.	Science
		Sculp.	Sculpture
Palaeont.	Palaeontology	Semit.	Semitic
paral.	parallel	Serb.	Serbian
Parl.	Parliamentary	Shak.	Shakespeare
part.	participle, participial	Sic.	Sicilian
pass.	passive	sing.	singular
Path.	Pathology	sl.	slang
perf.	perfect	Slav.	Slavonic
perh.	perhaps	Sp.	Spanish
Pers.	Persian	Spens.	Spenser
pers.	person; personal	Stock. Exch.	Stock Exchange
Peruv.	Peruvian	subj.	subjunctive
Petrol.	Petrology	suf.	suffix
Phil.	Philosophy	superl.	superlative
Philol.	Philology	Surg.	Surgery
Phoen.	Phoenician	Swed.	Swedish
phon.	phonetics; phonology	syl.	syllable
Phot.	Photography	Syr.	Syriac
phr.	phrase		
Phys.	Physics	Teleg.	Telegraphy
Phys. Sci.	Physical Science	Teut.	Teutonic
pl.	plural	Theat.	Theatre
poet.	poetry, poetical	Theol.	Theology
Pol.	Polish	Therap.	Therapeutics
Polit.	Political	Therm.	Thermionics
pop.	popular, popularly	tr.	transitive
Port.	Portuguese	trans.	translation
poss.	possessive	Trig.	Trigonometry
p.p.	past participle	Turk.	Turkish
prec.	the preceding	TV	Television
pred.	predicative		
pref.	prefix	ult.	ultimately
prep.	preposition	Univ.	University
pres.	present	US.	United States of America
pres.p.	present participle	usu.	usually
prel.	preterite		
prev.	previously	v.	verb
Print.	Printing	var.	variant
priv.	privative	Venet.	Venetian
prob.	probably	verb.a.	verbal adjective
pron.	pronoun; pronounced	Vet.	Veterinary Surgery
prop.	proper, properly	v.i.	verb intransitive
Pros.	Prosody	viz.	videlicet, namely
Prov.	Provençal	voc.	vocative
prov.	provincial	v.t.	verb transitive
Psych.	Psychology		
pubd.	published	W	West; Welsh
		WG	West German
Radiol.	Radiology	WInd.	West Indian
redupl.	reduplicate	wr.	written
ref.	referring, reference		
reflex.	reflexive	Zool.	Zoology

## GUIDE TO PRONUNCIATION

### Introduction

The revised respelling scheme used for pronunciations in this edition of the Dictionary has been designed to provide as good a compromise as possible between accuracy and understanding by the majority of users. Therefore, as few specialized phonetic symbols and additional accents or marks on letters have been used as will fulfil this aim. A full list of symbols/letters and their equivalents follows below, with transcriptions given alongside the words used as examples.

As in the previous edition, the particular variety of pronunciation aimed for is that of the 'ordinary educated English speaker', which some readers will no doubt recognize under the labels of 'Oxford' or 'BBC' English, or 'Received Pronunciation'.

Where sub-headwords differ in pronunciation (and this includes stress) from the headword, partial or full pronunciations are also given for these; where partials appear, it should be assumed that the remaining (untranscribed) part of the word concerned is pronounced as before.

In longer entries, there may be more than one variety of difference in pronunciation from the headword. In such cases, any subhead *not* given a transcription should be assumed to revert to the pronunciation pattern of the headword. The exception to this is derivatives of the subhead which closely follow the subhead and usually have minimal difference from it in form; for example, under **drama** (drah'mə), the subhead **dramatic**, **-ical** has the partial (-mat'-), and is followed by **dramatically**, in which case **dramatically** follows **dramatic**, **-ical** in pronunciation pattern and *not* **drama**.

It can also be seen from this illustration that derivatives formed by adding suffixes which are consistently pronounced, are assumed to be known by the reader (eg **-ly**, **-ness**, etc) and the pronunciation of such suffixes is only given in rare instances of possible confusion.

Further, cases where the only change in the subhead is one of stress position, and where this change is consistently predictable, are not given pronunciations; an example would be the suffix **-ation**, where the sound and stress pattern are always (-ā'shən).

## Stress

Stress (') is shown in pronunciations immediately *after* the syllable which is stressed, eg (tī'gə) = **tiger**. Stress is *not* given on compounds composed of two or more separate words, nor on idioms.

## American English

In a very limited number of cases where a North American English pronunciation of a word has become widespread also in British English (eg *schedule*), the variant is given with the label *esp Amer.*

## SYMBOLS

### Vowel sounds:

ɛ	far	(fah)	o	not	(not)
a	fat	(fæt)	ō	note	(nōt)
ā	fate	(fāt)		sowē	(sō'ə)
aw	fall	(faw')	oo	blue	(bloo)
	north	(nawth)	ū	sun	(sūn)
	paw	(paw)	u	foot	(fut)
	soar	(saw)		bull	(bul)
e	bell	(bel)	ū	muse	(mūz)
ē	beef	(bēf)	ə	again	(əgen')
æ	her	(hæ)		current	(kū'rənt)
	fur	(fœ)		sailor	(sā'lə)
i	bit	('it)		publicity	(pəblis'iti)
ī	bite	(bīt)			

Note: the neutral sound of many unstressed vowels is represented, as shown above, by the symbol ə; some unstressed vowels in this dictionary are (more correctly) transcribed as (-i-), as in (ilek'trik).

### Consonants:

p	pit	(pit)	s	sit	(sit)
b	bit	(bit)	v	van	(van)
t	tin	(tin)	w	win	(win)
d	dance	(dahns)	y	yet	(yɛt)
k	kit	(kit)	z	haze	(hāz)
m	man	(man)	ng	sing	(sing)
n	nut	(nūt)	th	thin	(thin)
l	lid	(lid)	dh	this	(dhis)
f	fit	(fit)	sh	ship	(ship)
h	hit	(hit)	zh	measure	(me: 'ə)
g	get	(get)	kh	loch	(lokʰ)
j	just	(jüst)	ch	church	(chœch)
r	run	(rūn)			

Note: where a sound represented by two consonants eg (-ng-) is followed by another syllable which begins with the second consonant (-g-) and where the stress mark falls elsewhere a centred dot is used to show where the syllable break occurs, for example as in (ling·gwis'tiks).

### Foreign words

r'	macabre	(mākahr')
l'	honorable	(onorahl')
y'	merveille	(mervây')

### 'Diphthongs'

(i) Vowel sounds incorporating the final unpronounced 'r' of standard British English:

eə	fair	(feə)
	mare	(meə)
	mayor	(meə)
ɪə	fear	(fiə)
	seer	(siə)
ɪə	fire	(fiə)
ūə	pure	(pūə)
uə	poor	(puə)

(ii) Others:

ow	bout	(bowt)
	cow	(kow)
oi	join	(join)

### Foreign vowels not dealt with by the main system

(i) Nasalized:

ā	(āsyen')	<u>ancienne</u>
ē	(ēfā')	<u>enfant</u>
ī	(līfam')	(écraser) l' <u>in</u> fāme
ō	(kō'zhā)	<u>congé</u>
ū	(verdū')	<u>Verdun</u>

(ii) Other:

ü	(ētēdū')	<u>entendu</u>
	(ū'bə)	<u>über</u>

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## A

**A<sup>1</sup>, a**, the first letter in the English alphabet, and in most others derived from the Phoenician. In English it has five sounds: (1) open as in *far*, *father*, *mikado*, marked in this dictionary ah; (2) short as in *fat*, *man*, *ample*, marked a; (3) long, as in *fate*, *same*, marked ā; (4) broad as in *fall*, *appal*, spelt aw; (5) the long sound modified by the letter *r*, as in *fair*, *bear*, marked eə. In unaccented syllables **a** is often slurred and obscured, as in *separate* (adj.), *amidst*, marked ə. **A** is used as a symbol to denote the first of a series; the first known quantity in an algebraic expression; the sixth note of the diatonic scale of C major, corresponding to *la* in tonic sol-fa notation; the scale of a composition in which the keynote is **A**; in Britain formerly, a film certified as suitable for all but requiring parental consent for children under 14. **from A to B**, from one point or position to another. **from A to Z**, from beginning to end. **Al**, *a*. first class in Lloyd's Register of ships; first class. **A-bomb**, *n*. an atomic bomb, as distinct from a hydrogen bomb. **A-level**, *n*. (a pass in) an examination in a subject at the Advanced level of the General Certificate of Education. **A-road**, *n*. a trunk road or a main road. **A-team**, *n*. the first or best team in a sport; a team of skilled capable people brought together for a specific task.

**A<sup>2</sup>**, (abbr.) academy, academician; ampere; angstrom; Associate.

**a<sup>1</sup>** (ə; when stressed ā), **an** (ən; when stressed an), *a*, a weakened form of one, sometimes called the indefinite article, used before singular substantives to denote an individual of a class. **A** is used before words beginning with a consonant, *h* aspirate, or *eu* or *u*, with the sound of *yu*, also before *one* (wün). **An** is used before vowels and sometimes before *h* in an unaccented syllable, e.g. *an historian*. In such phrases as *50 pence a pound*, *twice a week*, it has a distributive force. Also used before collective phrases like *a hundred men* *a dozen eggs*, *a few*, *a good many*, i.e. a hundred of men etc. [OE *an*, one]

**a<sup>2</sup>**, (abbr.) acre; alto; anno (in the year); ante (before); are (metric unit of area).

**a-**, *pref.* (1) (*prep.*), as in *aboard*, *adying*, *afoot*. [OE *on*, *an*]; (2) (*intens.*) away, out, as in *arise*, *awake*. [OE *ar-* or *a-*; cp. G *er-*]; (3) (*intens.*) of, from, as in *akin*, *athirst*. [OE *of*, *af*]; (4) (*prep.*) from, as in *avert*. [L *a*, *ab*]; (5) (*prep.*) directly, as in *aspect*, *ascent*, or indirectly through *F* ā, as in *achieve*, from ā *chef*, L *ad caput*. [L *ad-*, to]; (6) (*prep.*) out of, utterly, as in *amend* (F *amender*, L *emendāre* (or *exmendāre*). [L *ex-*, *e-*]; (7) not, without, as in *achromatic*, *amoral*. [Gr. *a-*, *an-*]

**AA**, (abbr.) Alcoholics Anonymous; anti-aircraft; Automobile Association.

**AAA**, (abbr.) Amateur Athletic Association; American Automobile Association.

**AAM**, (abbr.) air-to-air missile.

**A and M**, (abbr.) Ancient and Modern (hymns).

**sardvark** (ahd'vakh), *n*. the African ant-eater, *Orycteropus capensis*. **sardwolf** (-wulf), *n*. a hyena-like carnivorous mammal, *Proteles lalandi*, of southern Africa. [Dut. *aarde*, earth, *varken*, pig]

**Aaronic** (əron'ik), *-ical*, *a*. of or pertaining to Aaron, his descendants, or the Jewish priesthood. **Aaron's beard**, *n*. pop. name for *Hypericum calycinum*, or large-flowered St-John's wort, and for *Saxifraga sarmentosa*, a Chinese herb with hanging stems bearing clusters of hairy leaves. **Aaron's rod**, *n*. pop. name for certain plants that flower on long stems, e.g. great mullein and golden rod.

**Ab** (ab), *n*. the fifth ecclesiastical month, or 11th civil month, of the Jewish year (corresponding roughly with August). [Heb.]

**AB**, (abbr.) able-bodied seaman; (US) Bachelor of Arts.

**ab-<sup>1</sup>**, *pref.* off, from, away, apart, as in *abrogate*, *abuse* (cp. Gr. *apo*, Eng. *of*, *off*, G *ab*); in L and F derivatives often assimilated to subsequent consonant or reduced to *a*, as in *assoil*, *avert*, *avocation*, *abstract*. [L *ab*]

**ab-<sup>2</sup>**, *pref.* to, as in *abbreviate*. [L *ad-*, to, assim. to consonant *b*]

**aback** (əbak'), *adv.* backwards; behind; by surprise; with the sails pressed against the mast. [ME *abak*, OE *onbæc* (*on-*, *on*, *bæc*, back)]

**abactinal** (əbakti'nəl, -ak'), *a*. pertaining to that part of a radiate animal that is opposite the mouth. [L *ab-*, from, away, Gr. *aktis aktinos*, a ray]

**abacus** (ab'əkəs), *n*. (pl. *-ci* (-sī), *-cuses*) a counting-frame; an apparatus made of beads sliding on wires for facilitating arithmetical calculations; a flat stone crowning the capital of a column and supporting the architrave. **abacist**, *n*. an arithmetician. [L *abacus*, Gr. *abax -akos*, a tablet]

**abaddon** (əbad'an), *n*. a destroyer, the angel of the Bottomless Pit, Apollyon (Rev. ix.11); Hell, the Bottomless Pit. [Heb. *abad*, he perished]

**abaft** (əbaft'), *adv.*, *prep.* in, on or towards the hinder part of a ship; behind. [*a-*, *on*; OE *bæftan*]

**tabalienate** (abā'liənāt), *v.t.* to transfer to the ownership of another, to alienate. **abalienation**, *n*.

**abalone** (abalō'ni), *n*. an edible gastropod mollusc of the genus *Haliotis*. [Am. Sp. *abulón*]

**abandon** (əban'dən), *v.t.* to give up, yield; to desert or forsake; to surrender oneself unreservedly, e.g. to indolence or vice. *n*. freedom from conventional restraint, careless freedom of manner.

**abandoned**, *a*. deserted; wholly given up to wickedness, profligate. **abandonee** (-nē), *n*. (Law) one to whom anything is abandoned, e.g. an underwriter to whom salvage is formally surrendered.

**abandonment**, *n*. the act of abandoning; self-surrender to a cause, passion or vice; relinquishment of property, desertion (of a relation, friend, servant). [OF *abandoner*, to leave at liberty, from *à bandon*, at liberty; low L *ad-*, to, *bandum*, jurisdiction, proclamation, OHG *BAN*]

**à bas** (a bā), *int.* (F) down with.

**abase** (əbās'), *v.t.* to lower, to humble, degrade. **abatement**, *n*. the act of abasing, a state of humiliation, degradation. [OF *abaissier* (F *abaisser*), to lower, from late L *abassāre* (AD-, *bassāre*), late L *bassus*, low]

**abash** (əbāsh'), *v.t.* to embarrass or put to shame by exciting a sense of guilt, mistake or inferiority.



**abashment**, *n.* confusion produced by shame, consternation. [OF *esbair* (F *ébahir*), pres.p. *esbaissant*; OF *es-* (L *ex-*) *bair*, to express amazement, BAH]

**abasia** (abā'siā), *n.* lack of power to coordinate the movements of the muscles in walking. [Gr. *a-*, not; *basis*, movement]

**abask** (əbāshk'), *adv.* in the sunshine, basking.

**abate** (əbāt'), *v.t.* to diminish, reduce, lessen, deduct; *to* beat down, destroy. *v.i.* to become less, diminish, fail. **abatable**, *a.* **abatement**, *n.* **abater**, *n.* [OF *abatre*, to beat down; *à* (L *ad*) *batre*; late L *batere*, L *batuere*, beat]

**abatis**, **abattis** (a'batis, -tē), *n.* a defence made of felled trees with their boughs directed outwards. **abattised** (-tizd), *a.* furnished with an abatis. [F *abatis*, from OF *abatre*, to beat down]

**abatjour** (abazhoō'), *n.* (F) a skylight.

**abatour** (ab'atwāh), *n.* a public slaughter-house. [F]

**abaxial** (abak'siāl), *a.* facing away from the stem. [AB-1, AXIS]

**abb** (ab), *n.* yarn for a weaver's woof or weft, sometimes warp-yarn. **abb-wool**, *n.* wool suitable for a weaver's warp. [OE *ab*, *aweb*, *awefan* (*a-* intens., *wefan*, to weave)]

**abba** (ab'ā), *n.* father (in the invocation *Abba, father*); an episcopal title in the Syriac and Gothic churches. [Aram. *abba*, O Father]

**abbacy** (ab'əsi), *n.* the office and jurisdiction of an abbot. **abbat**, *n.* ABBOT: **abbatial** (-bā'-), *a.* pertaining to an abbot or an abbot. [late L *abbatia*, from *abbas*, ABBOT]

**abbé** (ab'ā), *n.* an ecclesiastic without a cure; a cleric in minor orders; generally a mere title without any definite office or responsibility. [F *abbé*, an abbot, L *abbas* -atem]

**abess** (ab'is, -es), *n.* the lady superior of an abbey. [OF *abesse*, L *abutissa* fem. of *abbas*, ABBOT]

**abbey** (ab'i), *n.* a monastic community governed by an abbot or abess; a building either now or formerly inhabited by a body of monks or nuns; a church attached to an abbey. **abbey land**, *n.* land now, or formerly, attached to an abbey. [OF *abeie*, *abaie*, as prec.]

**abbot** (ab'ət), *n.* a monk; the superior of a monastery; the superior of an abbey. **abbot of misrule**, (Sc.) **abbot of unreason**, *n.* a leader in mediaeval burlesque. **abbotship**, *n.* the state or office of an abbot. [L *abbas*, Gr. *abbas* *abbatos*, Syriac *abba*, father]

**abbreviate** (abrē'viāt), *v.t.* to shorten, abridge, reduce to a smaller compass. **abbreviate** (-ət), *a.* shortened, cut short. **abbreviation**, *n.* the act of abridging or contracting; the abridged or shortened form, e.g. of a word; an abridgment. **abbreviator**, *n.* one who abridges or curtails; an officer in the Roman Chancery who abridges the petitions granted by the Pope. **abbreviatory**, *a.* abbreviating or tending to abbreviate, shortening. **abbreviature**, *n.* an abbreviation, an abridgment. [L *abbreviatus*, p.p. of *abbreviāre*, to shorten (*ab-*, *ad-*, *brevis*, short)]

**A B C's**, *n.* the alphabet; rudiments, first principles. [the first letters of the alphabet]

**ABC's**, (abbr.) American Broadcasting Company; Associated British Cinemas; Australian Broadcasting Commission.

**Abderian** (abde'rian), *a.* pertaining to Abdera; given to laughter. **Abderite** (ab'dorit), *n.* an inhabitant of Abdera; a stupid person. **Abderite**, Democritus, the laughing philosopher. [Abdera, a town of Thrace, the inhabitants of which were regarded as very stupid]

**abdicate** (ab'dikāt), *v.t.* to resign, to formally renounce, to give up. *v.i.* to abandon or relinquish a

throne, or other dignity or privilege. **abdicable**, *a.* **abdican**, *a.* abdicating, renouncing. *n.* one who abdicates, an abdicator. **abdication**, *n.* the act of abdicating. **abdicator**, *n.* [L *abdicātus*, p.p. of *abdicāre* (*ab-*, from, and *dicāre*, to declare)]

**abdomen** (ab'damən), *n.* that portion of the trunk which lies between the thorax and the pelvis; the belly; the posterior division of the body in the higher Arthropoda. **abdominal** (-dom'-), *a.* belonging to the abdomen; of fish, having the ventral fins under the abdomen. **abdominal regions**, *n.pl.* certain portions of the body near to or including the belly, arbitrarily marked off for convenience in anatomical study. **abdominally**, *adv.* **abdominous** (-dom'-), *a.* having a large abdomen, corpulent, pot-bellied. [L]

**abduce** (abdu's), *v.t.* to draw from one part to another by an adductor; to lead away. **abducent**, *a.* having the property of drawing back or away (applied to muscles, the function of which is to draw away or pull back the parts to which they belong. The abducent muscles are opposed in their action to the adductor or adducent muscles). [L *abducere*, *ab-*, from, *ducere*, to lead, draw]

**abduct** (abdukt'), *v.t.* to take away (esp. a woman or child) by guile or force; to kidnap. **abduction**, *n.* a leading or drawing away; separation of parts or a bone after a fracture, or of sides of a wound; the illegal taking away of a person, esp. a child or a woman by fraud or force. **abductor**, *n.* one who, or that which, abducts; a muscle which draws or pulls back any part of the body. [L *abducere*, p.p. *abductus*]

**abeam** (abēm'), *adv.* on a line at right angles to the keel of a ship. [BEAM]

**abear** (abea'), *v.t.* to endure, put up with; to behave (oneself). [OE *aberan*]

**abecedarian** (ābasədə'rian), *n.* one who teaches or is learning the alphabet. *a.* alphabetical; having verses distinguished by letters alphabetically arranged like the 119th Psalm; a member of an 18th-cent. Anabaptist sect that rejected all worldly knowledge, even of the alphabet. **abecedary** (-sē'dā-, *n.* or *a.* [late L *abecedarium*, alphabet, from A B C D])

**abed** (abed'), *adv.* in bed, gone to bed.

**abele** (abēl', ā'bl), *n.* the white poplar. [Dut. *abeel*, OF *abel*, *aubel*, late L *abellum*, L *albus*, white]

**aber** (ab'ā), *n.* a Celtic term for the mouth of a river, found as a prefix in place names, e.g. *Aberdeen*.

**Aberdeen** (abedē'n), *n.* a rough-haired Scotch terrier. **Aberdonian** (-dō'-), *n.* a native or inhabitant of Aberdeen, supposedly noted for thrift. *a.* belonging to Aberdeen. [Scottish city]

**aberdévine** (abədīvin'), *n.* the siskin. [etym. doubtful]

**aberr**, **taberre** (abə'), *v.i.* to wander; to err. [L *oberrāre*, *ab-*, from, *errāre*, to wander]

**aberrance** (abə'rəns), *-cy*, *n.* a wandering from the right way. **aberrant**, *a.* wandering from the right way; deviating from the normal type. **aberration**, *n.* deviation from the normal course or standard; departure from rule; deviation from type; the difference between the true and observed position of a heavenly body; deviation of focused rays preventing them from uniting in a point. [ABERR]

**abet** (əbet'), *v.t.* (past, p.p. *abetted*) to encourage or aid (a person or cause) by word or deed; to countenance, stimulate or instigate (chiefly in a bad sense). **abetment**, *n.* the act of abetting, countenancing or encouraging. **abettor**, (Law) **abettor**, *n.* one who encourages or instigates another; an accessory. [OF *abeter*, to instigate, deceive; AD-, *beter*, see BAIT]

**abeyance** (abā'əns), *n.* the state of being held back,