



Shanghai Foreign Language Education Press

ENGLISH DICTIONARY FOR STUDENTS

新 世 纪 学 生 英 语 词 典



上海外语教育出版社



Over 25,000 terms clearly defined

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Preface to the first edition

This dictionary aims to provide a modern vocabulary of British, American and International English for the student.

The vocabulary of over 25,000 words and phrases has been selected firstly according to various word frequency counts available both in Europe and in the USA, then by looking at the various syllabuses for national examinations. The words and phrases have then been supplemented with a wider selection of more specialized words and phrases (such as *greenhouse gases*, *peace process*, *search and replace*) which are very common in current English usage.

Each word, even derived words such as adverbs, is clearly defined, and we have also given examples of each word and phrase in simple illustrative contexts, so as to show how the words can be used in practice.

Because the dictionary is aimed at a wide spectrum of students, especially older students, we have included over 300 encyclopaedic comments on cultural and historical matters (*Pancake Day*, *weddings*, *Estuary English*, *Guy Fawkes*, *Magna Carta*, *Stonehenge*, and so on) and on more technical subjects (*search engines*, *the periodic table*, *the Internet*, *the metric system*, etc.) which may be of interest.

Some words in the dictionary are trademarks, and these have been indicated as such.

Layout of the dictionary

We have tried to lay the dictionary out as clearly as possible, in order to make it as easy as possible for the student to use.

Each entry begins with a main word, followed by the pronunciation in international phonetic symbols; this is followed by the part of speech. Entries where the same word occurs as two or more different parts of speech are split by numbers. Within each entry, major differences of meaning are highlighted by letter divisions.

The meanings of the words are written as simply as possible, using only a small defining vocabulary, supplemented as necessary by other words which appear in the dictionary. For most words we give examples of usage, and for the commonest words we give very many examples, all set in contexts which are easy to understand. Common idiomatic expressions and collocations are highlighted, explained, and examples are given for them also.

Throughout the book, usage notes (beginning with the word NOTE:) give irregular forms, British vs American usage, constructions, registers, derived words, words which can be confused, etc. These notes are also used to give information about the countries of the world which appear as entries.

Some words have fuller encyclopaedic comments in boxes, and these give more information than can be given within a simple definition.

Phonetics

The following symbols have been used to show the pronunciation of the main words in the dictionary.

Stress has been indicated by a main stress mark ('), but these are only guides as the stress of the word may change according to its position in the sentence.

Vowels

æ	back
ɑ:	harm
ɒ	stop
aɪ	type
aʊ	how
aɪə	hire
aʊə	hour
ɔ:	course
ɔɪ	loyalty
e	head
eə	fair
eɪ	make
ə	abroad
əʊ	float
əʊə	lower
ɜ:	word
i:	keep
ɪ	fit
ɪə	near
u	supreme
u:	pool
ʊ	book
ʌ	shut

Consonants

b	buck
d	dead
ð	other
dʒ	jump
f	fare
g	gold
h	head
j	yellow
k	cab
l	leave
m	mix
n	nil
ŋ	bring
p	post
r	rule
s	save
ʃ	shop
t	take
tʃ	change
χ	loch
θ	theft
v	value
w	work
z	zone
ʒ	measure

Aa

A, a [eɪ] first letter of the alphabet, followed by B; *do you mean 'dependant' spell with an 'a' or with an 'e'?*; **from A to Z** = completely, all the way through; **the A to Z** = street guide for a town, especially one for London; *you can find us in the A to Z*

a, an [eɪ or æn] **article (a)** one; *I want a cup of tea; she's bought a new car; an enormous hole; we had to wait an hour for the bus; a useful guidebook (b)* for each or to each; *apples cost 50p a kilo; the car was travelling at 50 kilometres an hour; he earns £100 a day* (NOTE: **an** is used in front of words beginning with **a, e, i, o, u** and with **h** if the **h** is not pronounced (**an apple; an hour**); **a** is used in front of all other letters and also in front of **u** where **u** is pronounced [ju:] (**a useful guidebook**))

AA [ˈeɪˈeɪ] **AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION**

aback [əˈbæk] **adverb** **taken aback** = surprised and shocked by something unpleasant; *she was somewhat taken aback when he asked her to pay for the meal*

abaft [əˈbɑːft] **adverb (nautical)** **(a)** towards the stern of a ship **(b)** behind another ship

abandon [əˈbændən] **verb** **(a)** to leave; *he abandoned his wife and children; the crew abandoned the sinking fishing boat (b)* to give up, to stop doing something; *the company has decided to abandon the project; we abandoned the idea of setting up a London office*

abandoned [əˈbændənd] **adjective** no longer used or lived in; *squatters moved into the abandoned farmhouse*

abandonment [əˈbændənmənt] **noun** giving up; *the abandonment of a project*

abate [əˈbeɪt] **verb (formal)** to become less strong; *the winds will abate during the next twenty-four hours; they waited for the rain to abate before starting their walk*

abatement [əˈbeɪtmənt] **noun** **(a)** reduction; **Noise Abatement Society** = society which aims to reduce noise **(b)** **tax abatement** = decrease in tax

abbess [ˈæbəs] **noun** woman in charge of a convent; *a new abbess was elected as head of the convent* (NOTE: plural is **abbesses**)

abbey [ˈæbi] **noun** religious establishment for monks or nuns; *when you go to Yorkshire, don't miss a visit to Fountains Abbey; Westminster Abbey is near the Houses of Parliament*

abbot [ˈæbət] **noun** man in charge of a monastery; *the abbot is quite elderly*

abbreviate [əˈbrɪviət] **verb** **(a)** to shorten a word by leaving out some of the letters; *'Limited Company' is usually abbreviated to 'Ltd'* **(b)** to shorten a piece of writing by leaving out part of it; *this is the abbreviated version of the text*

abbreviation [əˈbrɪviːʃn] **noun** shortened form of a word; *'Mr' is the abbreviation for 'Mister'; NATO is not an abbreviation but an acronym; compare ACRONYM*

ABC [ˈeɪbiːsiː] **noun** the alphabet (from the first letters of the Roman alphabet); *my little sister is learning her ABC; it's as easy as ABC* = it's very easy

abdomen [ˈæbdəmen] **noun (formal)** part of body, the space in the front part of the body, below the diaphragm, containing the stomach, intestines, liver and other organs; *the child is complaining of severe pain in the right lower part of the abdomen*

abdominal [ˈæbdəminl] **adjective** referring to the abdomen; *these exercises are meant to strengthen the abdominal muscles; abdominal cavity* = space in the body below the chest; **abdominal pain** = pain in the abdomen caused by indigestion or something more serious; *he's feverish and is complaining of abdominal pain*

abduct [ˈæbdʌkt] **verb** to take a person away, usually by force; *kidnappers abducted the president's daughter at gunpoint; a woman abducted a two-day old baby from the Maternity Hospital*

abduction [ˈæbdʌkʃn] **noun** taking someone away, usually by force; *every single newspaper mentions the abduction of the president's daughter*

abductor [ˈæbdʌktə] **noun** **(a)** person who abducts someone, usually by force; *the child abductors collected the ransom and were never caught; she was able to give a fairly good description of her abductor (b) **abductor muscle** = muscle which pulls a part of the body*

aberrant [əˈberənt] **adjective** not normal

aberration [æbəˈreɪʃn] **noun** action or thing which is not normal; *chromosome aberration is an abnormality in the number or arrangement of chromosomes; mental aberration* = mistake made by doing something without thinking; *in a moment of mental aberration, she answered her home phone as if she were still at the office*

abhor [əbˈhɔː] **verb (formal)** to hate something, to feel horror for something; *don't ever offer him cucumber sandwiches, he absolutely abhors them*

abhorrence [əbˈhɒrəns] **noun** hatred, horror; *everyone is aware of his abhorrence of racial discrimination*

abhorrent [əbˈhɒrənt] **adjective** horrible, disgusting; *is there a crime more abhorrent than child abuse?*

abide [əˈbaɪd] **verb** **(a)** to abide by = to follow rules, orders, etc.; *you must abide by the rules of the game; we have to abide by the decision of the referee; to abide by a promise* = to keep a promise **(b)** (with negative) **can't abide something** = to dislike something or someone, not to be able to put up with something; *I can't abide the smell of cigars; if you can't abide him, why do you accept his invitation?*

abiding [əˈbaɪdɪŋ] **adjective** which stays for a long time; *an abiding feeling of shame; his abiding interest in gardening will always be remembered by his friends*

ability [əˈbɪlɪti] **noun** **(a)** having the force to do something; *he has many abilities but singing isn't one of them* (NOTE: plural in this meaning is **abilities**) **(b)**

being clever; *he's a man of great or outstanding ability*; I'll do it to the best of my ability = I'll do it as well as I can

object [ˈɒbdʒekt] *adjective* (a) **object poverty** = being poor and very miserable; *the refugees were living in object poverty* (b) cowardly, which makes you ashamed; *he made an object apology*

ablaze [əˈbleɪz] *adverb* (a) on fire; *thirty hectares of woodland were ablaze* (b) shining brightly; *Oxford Street was ablaze with lights*

able [eɪbl] *adjective* to be able to do something = to have the capability or chance to do something; *she wasn't able to breathe* = she could not breathe; *will you be able to come to the meeting?* = can you come to the meeting?; *they weren't able to find the house* (NOTE: **able** is only used with to and a verb)

ablutions [ˈæbluːʃnz] *noun* (formal, usually humorous) to perform one's ablutions = to wash yourself

abnormal [æbˈnɔːml] *adjective* not normal; *is this abnormal or is it something that happens often?*; *the animal's behaviour seemed slightly abnormal to me*

abnormality [æbˈnɔːməli] *noun* (a) state of being abnormal; *everyone recognizes the abnormality of the situation* (b) something which is abnormal; *the slightest abnormality will show up on the scan* (NOTE: plural is **abnormalities**)

abnormally [æbˈnɔːməli] *adverb* in a way which is different from normal; *the number of absentees is abnormally high*

aboard [əˈbɔːd] *adverb & preposition* on a ship or other vehicle; *the train ran into a bus with twenty passengers aboard*; *the passengers went aboard the 'Queen Elizabeth' at 10 p.m.*; *when the ship docked, customs officers came aboard to inspect the cargo*; all aboard! = everyone get on, please!

abolish [əˈbɒlɪʃ] *verb* to get rid of (a law, a right); *Parliament voted to abolish capital punishment*

abolition [əˈbɒlɪʃn] *noun* act of abolishing; *to campaign for the abolition of the death penalty*

aboriginal [əˈbɔːrɪdʒɪnəl] 1 *adjective* referring to aborigines; *a museum of aboriginal art and artefacts* 2 *noun* aborigine, original inhabitant

aborigine [əˈbɔːrɪdʒɪni] *noun* original inhabitant of a place, usually referring to the original inhabitants of Australia; *the early settlers drove the aborigines from their tribal lands*

abort [əˈbɔːt] *verb* (a) to stop something taking place; *the space mission was aborted* (b) to perform an abortion; *the doctors decided to abort the fetus* (c) (of a woman) to have an abortion; *she was pregnant, but she was aborted at ten weeks* (d) (of woman) to have a miscarriage; *she was pregnant, but she aborted at ten weeks*

abortion [əˈbɔːʃn] *noun* ending of a woman's pregnancy; *she did not want the baby, so asked to have an abortion*

abortive [əˈbɔːtɪv] *adjective* unsuccessful; *the leaders of the abortive coup were arrested*

abound [əˈbaʊnd] *verb* to abound in or with = to be full of; *the forests abound in game*

about [əˈbaʊt] 1 *preposition* (a) referring to; *he told me all about his operation*; *what do you want to speak*

to the doctor about?; *she's worried about her heart problems* (b) to be about to do something = to be just going to do something; *we were about to go home when you arrived* 2 *adverb* (a) approximately; *the table is about two metres long*; *I've been waiting for about four hours*; *she's only about fifteen years old* (b) in various places; *there were papers lying about on the floor*; *there is a lot of flu about during the winter months*

about-turn or about-face [əˈbaʊtˈtɜːn or əˈbaʊtˈfeɪs] *noun* (a) (in the army) order to turn to face the opposite direction (b) changing your plans or policy to the opposite of what you did before; *the government has done a complete about-turn on pensioners' rights* (NOTE: you can also say U-turn in this meaning)

above [əˈbʌv] 1 *preposition* higher than; *the plane was flying above the clouds*; *the temperature in the street was above 30 degrees*; *at prices above £2.00, nobody will buy it*; *if you are above 18, you have to pay the full fare* 2 *noun* the above = people mentioned earlier; *all the above have passed the test*

above board [əˈbʌvˈbɔːd] *adjective* open and legal as everyone can see; *everything's completely above board regarding the contract*

abrasive [əˈbreɪzɪv] 1 *adjective* (a) which rubs away a surface; *they rubbed the surface of the metal with abrasive paper*; *use abrasive cleaning powder to get rid of these stains* (b) sharp way of speaking; *his manner sounded very abrasive on the phone* 2 *noun* substance which rubs away a surface; *avoid using abrasives to clean this surface*

abreast [əˈbreɪst] *adverb* (a) side by side; *they were cycling three abreast* (b) to keep abreast of something = to keep up to date with something; *she wants to keep abreast of the latest developments in cancer therapy*

abridge [əˈbrɪdʒ] *verb* to shorten a book, play, etc.; *the text is too long - it really needs to be abridged*

abridged [əˈbrɪdʒd] *adjective* shortened; *I'm reading an abridged version of 'War and Peace'*

abridgement [əˈbrɪdʒmənt] *noun* shortened version of a book, play, etc.; *I didn't read the whole book, just an abridgement*

abroad [əˈbrɔːd] *adverb* in another country; to another country; *he travels abroad a lot on business*; *they've gone abroad on holiday*; *holidays abroad are more and more popular*; *she lives abroad and only comes back here for her holidays*

abrupt [əˈbrʌpt] *adjective* (a) sudden; *the committee made an abrupt change of plan*; *the bus made an abrupt turn* (b) short and not very polite; *his reply was abrupt and to the point*

abscess [ˈæbses] *noun* collection of pus in the body; *the dentist said he had an abscess under his tooth*; *the doctor decided to lance the abscess* (NOTE: plural is **abscesses**)

abscond [əbˈskɒnd] *verb* to run away; *two of the prisoners have absconded*

absence [ˈæbsəns] *noun* (a) being away from a place; *she did not explain her absence from the meeting*; *the former president was sentenced in his absence*; in the absence of = without someone being there; *in the absence of the chairman, his deputy took the chair*; leave of absence = permission to be away from work; *he asked for leave of absence to visit his*

wife in hospital (b) lack of something: in the absence of any town plans we had to ask our way

absent *adjective* ['æbsənt] not there; the chairman was absent from the meeting; ten of the staff are absent with flu; let's drink a toast to absent friends

absentee ['æbsn'ti:] *noun* person who is not there; there were three absentees at the meeting; the number of absentees is abnormally high for the time of year; **absentee landlord** = owner of a property who lives a long way away and uses agents to deal with his tenants; with an absentee landlord, it always takes months to get permission for repairs to be undertaken

absent-minded ['æbsn'tmɪndɪd] *adjective* forgetful; grandfather's getting very absent-minded - he went off to the library in his slippers

absolute ['æbsəlu:t] *adjective* complete, total; the general assumed absolute power; he's an absolute idiot - he should have accepted the offer immediately; **absolute majority** = majority over all the others; the government has an absolute majority of fifteen; **absolute zero** = the lowest possible temperature

absolutely ['æbsəlu:tli] *adverb* completely, totally; I am absolutely sure I left the keys in my coat pocket

absorb ['æbzɔ:b] *verb* (a) to take in (a liquid, etc.); the liquid should be absorbed by the paper; salt absorbs moisture from the air (b) to reduce a shock; the car's springs are supposed to absorb any shock from the road surface (c) **absorbed in** = totally interested in; he was so absorbed in his newspaper that he didn't notice that the toast had burnt

absorbent ['æbzɔ:bənt] *adjective* which can absorb; a wad of absorbent cotton; wipe the liquid with this soft cloth, it's more absorbent

absorbing ['æbzɔ:brɪŋ] *adjective* very interesting; it's an absorbing story; I find my new job so absorbing that time simply flies

absorption ['æbzɔ:pʃən] *noun* (a) being absorbed; the absorption of the drug into the bloodstream (b) being very interested in something; her total absorption in her family (NOTE: the spellings: **absorb** but **absorption**)

abstain ['æb'steɪn] *verb* (a) deliberately not to do something; please abstain from smoking during the flight; he was recommended to abstain from drinking coffee for the next six months (NOTE: you abstain from doing something) (b) not to vote; Mr Smith abstained; sixty MPs abstained in the vote on capital punishment

abstention ['æb'stenʃn] *noun* deliberately not voting; there were several abstentions during the vote on capital punishment; the motion was carried by 200 votes to 150, with 60 abstentions

abstinence ['æbstɪnəns] *noun* not doing something, especially not drinking alcohol; many people have a period of abstinence during Lent; **total abstinence** = not drinking any alcohol; not having sexual relations; **total abstinence from sex** is essential during the course of treatment

abstract ['æbstrækt] 1 *adjective* (a) not concrete, which exists only in the mind; she has lots of abstract theories about how to reorganize society (b) (art) which does not reproduce something exactly, as opposed to figurative art; an abstract painting; an abstract painter 2 *noun* (a) something which exists in the mind only; in the abstract = in a general way (b) an abstract painting; he started by painting abstracts and

then turned to portraits (c) short form of a report or document; to make an abstract of a report

abstraction ['æbstrækʃən] *noun* (a) removing; the abstraction of water from a river (b) vague general idea, as opposed to a concrete example; he talks in abstractions, and never cites real cases

abstruse ['æb'stru:s] *adjective* difficult to understand; the professor has written some very abstruse books on atomic physics

absurd ['æb'sɜ:d] *adjective* ridiculous; it's absurd to expect you will win the lottery; she was wearing a really absurd hat

absurdity ['æb'sɜ:dɪti] *noun* being absurd; do you realize the absurdity of what you're proposing?

abundance ['æbʌndəns] *noun* large quantity; there is an abundance of wild life in the national park; in abundance = in large quantities; the fridge was full, so we had food and drink in abundance

abundant ['æbʌdənt] *adjective* in large quantities; the cottage has abundant stocks of wood for the stove

abuse 1 *noun* ['æbjʊ:s] (a) bad use; the minister's action is an abuse of power (b) rude words; the strikers shouted abuse at the police; a term of abuse = a rude word (c) very bad treatment; she suffered physical abuse in prison; sexual abuse of children (NOTE: no plural for meanings (b) and (c)) 2 *verb* ['æbjʊ:z] (a) to make the wrong use of; he abused his position as finance director; he abused my confidence = he took advantage of my trust in him (b) to treat very badly, usually sexually; as a child, she was abused by her uncle (c) to say rude things about someone; the crowd sang songs abusing the president's wife

abusive ['æbjʊ:sɪv] *adjective* rude and insulting; we received an abusive letter from our neighbours; he had too much to drink and became abusive

abysmal ['æbɪzml] *adjective* extremely bad; the weather was abysmal during our holiday; an abysmal election result

abysmally ['æbɪzməli] *adverb* extremely badly; our team did abysmally in the championship; the level of the candidates who applied for the job was abysmally low

abyss ['æbɪs] *noun* (a) deep hole; she went to the edge of the cliff and peered down into the abyss (b) horrifying situation; after the election, the party found itself on the brink of the abyss (NOTE: only singular in meaning (b); the plural is **abysses**)

AC = ALTERNATING CURRENT

academic ['ækə'demɪk] 1 *adjective* (a) theoretical; it is only of academic interest (b) referring to study at a university; members of the academic staff received a letter from the principal; **academic year** or **school year** = period which starts in September and finishes in August; the academic year starts in September 2 *noun* a university teacher; she teaches at a university and all her friends are academics

academy ['ækədəmi] *noun* (a) college where specialized subjects are taught; a military academy; an academy of music (b) (in Scotland) selective secondary school; he went to Stirling Academy (c) private society for the study of art or science; the Russian Academy of Sciences; the Royal Academy of Arts = private London society for teaching art and putting on art exhibitions

ACAS ['eɪkæs] = ADVISORY, CONCILIATION AND ARBITRATION SERVICE

accelerate [æk'seləreɪt] *verb* (a) to go faster; *he pressed down on the pedal and the car accelerated: don't accelerate when you get to traffic lights* (b) to make something go faster; *the drug accelerates the heart rate* (NOTE: the opposite is **decelerate**)

acceleration [æk'selə'reɪʃn] *noun* (a) (of a car, etc.) the action of going faster; *acceleration in this year's model is superior to that of last year's* (b) the action of going at a faster speed; *the nurse noted an acceleration of the patient's pulse rate*

accelerator [æk'selə'reɪtə] *noun* pedal which makes a car go faster; *he put his foot down on the accelerator and the car shot forward*

accent *noun* ['æksənt] (a) particular way of pronouncing; *she has an Irish accent: he speaks with an American accent* (b) sign over a printed letter; *an acute accent* = sign sloping forwards over a vowel, such as é; *'résumé' has two acute accents; a grave accent* = sign sloping backwards over a vowel, such as è; *'crèche' can be written with a grave accent* (c) stress in speaking; *in the word 'haberdashery' the accent is on the first syllable* (d) emphasis; *the accent is on youth unemployment*

accentuate [æk'sentʃueɪt] *verb* to emphasize; *he accentuated the importance of remaining calm when faced with an angry mob: the treatment only seems to accentuate the pain; painting the walls in a light colour will accentuate the brightness of the room*

accentuation [æk'sentʃu'eɪʃn] *noun* emphasizing something; *the accentuation of the difference between the two plans*

accept [ək'sept] *verb* (a) to take a present; *we hope you will accept this little gift* (b) to say 'yes' or to agree to something; *she accepted the offer of a job in Australia; I invited her to come with us and she accepted* (c) to agree to handle something; *several currencies accepted on the ferry: 'all major credit cards accepted'; do you accept traveller's cheques?* (NOTE: do not confuse with **except**)

acceptable [ək'septəbl̩] *adjective* easily accepted; *a small gift of flowers would be very acceptable; the offer is not acceptable to the vendor*

acceptance [ək'septəns] *noun* (a) taking something which is offered; *he indicated his acceptance of the offer* (b) agreement; *we received her letter of acceptance this morning*

accepted [ək'septɪd] *adjective* which is taken as correct by most people; *this is not a painkiller in the accepted sense of the word*

access ['ækses] 1 *noun* (a) way of getting to a place; *an access road; the concert hall has access for wheelchairs; at present there is no access to the site* (b) to have (easy) access to = to be able to get easily; *the company has access to substantial funds* 2 *verb* to get information from a computer; *she tried to access the address list*

accessible [ək'sesɪbl̩] *adjective* (a) easily reached; *the island is only accessible by boat in fine weather; they live in a farm which is not accessible by car* (b) easy to read or understand; *his style of writing is quite accessible*

accession [æk'seɪʃn] *noun* accession to the throne = action of becoming king or queen; *on his accession to the throne, he took the title Alexander III*

accessory [ək'sesəri] *noun* (a) useful piece of equipment, added to others; *a shop which sells cameras and photographic accessories; accessory bag* = bag for carrying extra equipment (b) small items of clothing; *she had a brown silk dress with yellow accessories* = a dress with yellow belt, handbag, gloves, shoes, etc. (c) person who helps someone commit a crime; *he was charged with being an accessory to the crime* (NOTE: plural is **accessories**)

accident [æksɪdɪnt] *noun* (a) something which happens by chance; *he discovered the missing papers by accident* (b) unpleasant thing which happens and causes damage; *the accident happened or took place at a dangerous corner; she was involved in a car accident and had to go to hospital; thirty people were killed in the air accident; he missed his flight, because his bus had an accident on the way to the airport; industrial accident* = accident which takes place at work

accidental [æksɪ'dentl̩] *adjective* which happens by accident; *his death was not accidental; an accidental injury* = an injury due to an accident

accidentally [æksɪ'dentəli] *adverb* by chance; *he discovered the missing papers accidentally*

accident-prone [æksɪdɪntpraʊn] *adjective* likely to have accidents often; *the new sales manager seems to be accident-prone*

acclaim [ə'kleɪm] 1 *noun* great praise; *his film was greeted with great acclaim* 2 *verb* to greet with praise; *she was acclaimed as the best novelist of the decade*

acclimatization **US** **acclimation**

[əklaɪmətaɪ'zeɪʃn or ə'klaɪ'meɪʃn] *noun* the process of becoming acclimatized to something; *the acclimatization of animals to a colder climate; the period of acclimatization needed will be of up to 6 months*

acclimatize **US** **acclimate** [ə'klaɪmətaɪz or ə'klaɪmatɪz] *verb* to become acclimatized to something = to become used to something; *gradually, the animals became acclimatized to their new habitat; did you ever become acclimatized to living in Hong Kong?*

accolade [æ'kɒleɪd] *noun* award given to someone as a sign of praise; *he received the highest accolade the society could give - its gold medal*

accommodate [ə'kɒmədeɪt] *verb* to provide a place to live; *the hotel can accommodate up to two hundred visitors*

accommodating [ə'kɒmədeɪtɪŋ] *adjective* helpful; *the staff in the hotel were very accommodating*

accommodation [ə'kɒmə'deɪʃn] *noun* (a) place to live; *all the available accommodation in the town has been taken by journalists; visitors have difficulty in finding hotel accommodation during the summer; they are living in furnished accommodation* (b) compromise, agreement; *he reached an accommodation with his creditors* (c) **accommodation address** = address used for receiving messages but which is not the real address of a company (NOTE: no plural in British English but American English uses **accommodations** in the first meaning)

accompaniment [ə'kʌmpnɪmənt] *noun* (a) thing which accompanies; *as an accompaniment to the*

cheese, we had a glass of red wine; *they served cranberry sauce as an accompaniment to the turkey* (b) music played to accompany a singer or instrumentalist; *a piece for violin with piano accompaniment*; to the accompaniment of = accompanied by; *he sang a rude song to the accompaniment of loud whistles from the audience*

accompanist [ə'kəmpanɪst] *noun* person who plays an instrument to accompany a soloist; *he's a very experienced piano accompanist*

accompany [ə'kəmpani] *verb* (a) to go with; *he accompanied his wife to the hospital; the pain was accompanied by high temperature; pork is served accompanied by apple sauce* (b) to play a musical instrument, when someone else plays or sings; *she sang and was accompanied on the piano by her father* (NOTE: accompanied by someone or something)

accomplice [ə'kæmplɪs] *noun* person who helps another person to commit a crime; *one of the thieves was caught, but his accomplice escaped; it was discovered that his brother had acted as his accomplice*

accomplish [ə'kæmplɪʃ] *verb* to achieve something successfully; *what do you hope to accomplish at the meeting?* *I don't think he accomplished very much in his first year as head of the museum*

accomplished [ə'kæmplɪʃt] *adjective* talented, skilled; *he's an accomplished musician; she is an accomplished cook*

accomplishment [ə'kæmplɪʃmənt] *noun* (a) the successful finishing of something after a lot of work; *winning three gold medals was a remarkable accomplishment for someone who is still not 21* (b) accomplishments = skills; *he's a man of many accomplishments; among her many accomplishments she is a fine skier*

accord [ə'kɔ:d] 1 *noun* (a) agreement; *they are still discussing the terms of the Dayton Accord*; with one accord = with the agreement of everyone (b) of your own accord = voluntarily, without being ordered by anyone; *of his own accord he decided to sell the business and retire to a Greek island* 2 *verb* (a) (formal) to give as an honour; *he was accorded a civic reception* (b) to accord with = to agree with; *his way of behaving does not accord with his principles*

accordance [ə'kɔ:dəns] *noun* in accordance with = in agreement with or following; *I am submitting the claim for damages in accordance with the advice of our lawyers; in accordance with your instructions we have sold the house*

accordingly [ə'kɔ:dɪŋli] *adverb* as a result of something just mentioned; *we have received your letter and have altered the booking accordingly; he's an experienced gardener and should be paid accordingly*

according to [ə'kɔ:dɪŋ tu] *adverb* (a) as someone says or writes; *the washing machine was installed according to the manufacturer's instructions; according to the witness, the car was going too fast* (b) in relation to; *the teachers have separated the children into classes according to their ages*

accordion [ə'kɔ:dɪən] *noun* (piano) accordion = musical instrument, played with a keyboard on the side, which makes a sound by air pumped by hand; *he played the accordion in a Paris bar*

account [ə'kaʊnt] 1 *noun* (a) bank account = arrangement which you make with a bank to keep your money safely; *I put all my savings into my bank account; this type of bank account pays 10% interest; to open a bank account* = to start keeping money in a bank; *to close a bank account* = to stop keeping money in a bank; *current account or cheque account* *US checking account* = account which pays little or no interest but from which the customer can withdraw money when he wants by writing cheques; *deposit account* = account which pays interest but on which notice usually has to be given to withdraw money; *savings account* = account where you put money in regularly and which pays interest, often at a higher rate than a deposit account (b) (in a shop) arrangement which a customer has to buy goods and pay for them later; *put it on my account or charge it to my account; (of a customer) to open an account* = to ask a shop to supply goods which you will pay for later; (of a shop) *to open an account or to close an account* = to start or to stop supplying a customer on credit; *to settle an account* = to pay all the money owed on an account (c) on account of = because of, due to; *the trains are late on account of the fog; we don't use the car much on account of the price of petrol* (d) on account = as part of a total bill; *to pay money on account* = to pay to settle part of a bill (e) to take something into account or to take account of something = to consider something; *we have to take the weather into account* (f) story; *they listened to his account of the journey*; by all accounts = as everyone says; *by all accounts, she is a very attractive woman* (g) the accounts of a business or a company's accounts = detailed records of a company's financial affairs; *to keep the accounts* = to write each sum of money in the account book; *profit and loss account (P&L account)* = statement of company expenditure and income over a period of time, showing whether the company has made a profit or loss; *accounts department* = department in a company which deals with money paid, received, borrowed or owed 2 *verb* to account for = to explain; *he was asked to account for all his expenditure*

accountable [ə'kauntəbl] *adjective* having to explain money transactions; *we try to make councillors more accountable to the finance department* (NOTE: you are accountable to someone for something)

accountancy [ə'kauntənsi] *noun* study of the work of being an accountant; *he is studying accountancy or he is an accountancy student* (NOTE: American English uses *accounting* in this meaning)

accountant [ə'kauntənt] *noun* person who deals with accounts; *I send all my tax queries to my accountant; she has an appointment with her accountant to go over her tax form; chartered accountant* = qualified accountant

accounting [ə'kauntɪŋ] *noun* work of recording money paid, received, borrowed or owed; *false accounting* = offence of changing financial records (NOTE: the word *accounting* is used in the USA to mean the subject as a course of study, where British English uses *accountancy*)

accredit [ə'kredit] *verb* to make someone an official representative; *our ambassador was accredited to the government of Brazil; he is accredited to the United Nations*

accrue [ə'kru:] *verb* to increase and accumulate; *the accrued interest is added to your account each month; interest accrues from the beginning of the month*

accumulate [ə'kju:mju:leɪt] *verb* to grow larger; *she allowed the interest in her account to accumulate; fat had accumulated in the arteries*

accumulation [ə'kju:mju:'leɪʃn] *noun* (a) action of accumulating; *he devoted his life to the accumulation of information about climate change* (b) heap; *an accumulation of dirty papers was blocking the gutter; the drug aims at clearing the accumulation of fatty deposits in the arteries*

accuracy ['ækjʊrəsi] *noun* being correct in every detail; *accuracy is very important when drawing maps; he works quickly but with great accuracy; the police doubt the accuracy of the witnesses' statements*

accurate ['ækjʊrət] *adjective* correct in all details; *are the figures accurate?; we asked them to make an accurate copy of the plan*

accurately ['ækjʊrətli] *adverb* correctly; *the TV weathermen accurately forecast the storm*

accusation [ækju:'zeɪʃn] *noun* statement that someone has done wrong; *the secretary made an accusation against her boss; he denied the accusations against him*

accuse [ə'kju:z] *verb* to say that someone has done something wrong; *the police accused her of stealing the money; she was accused of stealing from the petty cash box* (NOTE: you accuse someone of a crime or of doing something)

accused [ə'kju:zd] *noun* the accused = person or persons charged with a crime; *all the accused pleaded not guilty; the police brought the accused into the court* (NOTE: can be singular or plural: *the six accused all plead guilty*)

accustom [ə'kʌstəm] *verb* to accustom someone to something = to make someone used to something; *they had to accustom themselves to working in Swedish; it took him some time to become accustomed to driving on the right-hand side of the road*

accustomed [ə'kʌstəmd] *adjective* normal, usual; *that day he wasn't sitting in his accustomed chair; accustomed to = used to; she was accustomed to walking her dog in the park every morning; he is accustomed to having a car and chauffeur provided by the firm*

ace [eis] *noun* (a) playing card with one spot; *the ace of spades* (b) someone who is brilliant at doing something; *he's our ace batsman* (c) (in tennis) service which the opponent cannot return; *Henman has served four aces so far*

ache [eɪk] 1 *noun* pain; *he felt a dull ache in his shoulder; she complained of various aches and pains in her legs; see also TOOTHACHE, HEADACHE* 2 *verb* to hurt; *my head really aches*

achieve [ə'tʃi:v] *verb* to succeed in doing something; *what do you hope the achieve by writing to your MP?; the theatre company has achieved great success in the USA; he achieved all his objectives*

achievement [ə'tʃi:vmənt] *noun* thing which has been done successfully; *coming sixth was a great achievement, since he had never raced before; she is excessively modest about her achievements*

achiever [ə'tʃi:və] *noun* person who achieves something by hard work; *he's not an achiever - he'll always be at the bottom of his class*

aching ['eɪkɪŋ] *adjective* which hurts; *put your aching feet in a bath of warm water; that aching tooth needs to be looked at by a dentist*

acid ['æsɪd] 1 *noun* chemical substance containing hydrogen that forms a salt when combined with an alkali, and turns litmus paper red; *the muggers threw acid in her face* (NOTE: the opposite is *alkali*) 2 *adjective* sour; *the acid taste of lemons*

acidic [ə'sɪdɪk] *adjective* which has a sour taste; *if you have problems with your digestion, avoid orange juice as it's very acidic*

acidity [ə'sɪdɪti] *noun* (a) percentage of acid in something; *pH is the measurement of acidity; an alkaline solution may help to reduce acidity* (b) bitter taste; *the acidity of a green apple*

COMMENT: acidity and alkalinity are measured according to the pH scale. pH7 is neutral; numbers above pH7 show alkalinity, while pH6 and below is acid

acid rain ['æsɪd 'reɪn] *noun* polluted rain which kills trees; *acid rain falls a long distance away from the source of the pollution*

acknowledge [ək'nɒlɪdʒ] *verb* (a) to say that something has been received; *I am writing to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 15th; he has still not acknowledged my letter of the 24th* (b) to admit that something is true; *in the end, they acknowledged defeat or they acknowledged that they were beaten; he acknowledged that what she said was true*

acknowledgement [ək'nɒlɪdʒmənt] *noun* (a) reply to say that something has been received; *she sent a letter of acknowledgement; I sent a cheque as a deposit two weeks ago but have not received any acknowledgement* (b) admission that something is true; *his acknowledgement that he had made a mistake; the party's acknowledgement of defeat in the general election* (c) (in a book) acknowledgements = list of people an author thanks for help

acne ['æknɪ] *noun* spots on the skin, usually on the face, neck and shoulders; *he has acne; she is using a cream to clear up her acne*

acorn ['eɪkɔ:n] *noun* fruit of an oak tree; *if you plant an acorn in front of your house, don't expect an oak tree to grow overnight*

acoustic [ə'kʊstɪk] *adjective* referring to sound; *acoustic guitar* = ordinary guitar, as opposed to an electric guitar

acquaint [ə'kweɪnt] *verb* (a) to be acquainted with something or someone = to know something or someone; *is he acquainted with the details of the case?; she is acquainted with my father* (b) (formal) to inform; *we had to acquaint him with the correct procedure*

acquaintance [ə'kweɪntəns] *noun* (a) knowledge of someone; *my first acquaintance with him was in Hong Kong in 1997; to make the acquaintance of = to get to know someone for the first time; I made her acquaintance when we were at college together* (b) person you know; *she has many acquaintances in the publishing industry but no real friends*

acquiesce [ækwi'es] *verb* (formal) to acquiesce in or to something = to agree to something without protesting about it; *in the end the old man acquiesced in the sale of the house; the students asked to have the exam postponed and the teacher acquiesced*

acquiescence [ækwi'esəns] *noun* (formal) agreement without protest; *all we needed was the acquiescence of the local chief of police*

acquiescent [ækwi'esənt] *adjective* (formal) agreeing with some action without protesting; *he's too acquiescent to be a good manager*

acquire [ə'kwaiə] *verb* to obtain or to get; *she has acquired a large collection of shoes; acquired immunodeficiency syndrome see AIDS; acquired taste* = something which you come to like after a time; *oysters are something of an acquired taste*

acquisition [ækwi'ziʃn] *noun* (a) act of acquiring; *his acquisition of half the shares in the company shocked the staff* (b) thing which has been acquired; *you simply must see his latest acquisition - a pink Rolls Royce!*

acquit [ə'kwɪt] *verb* (a) to declare formally that a person is not guilty; *he was acquitted of the crime; the court acquitted two of the accused* (b) to acquit yourself well = to do well when trying something difficult or for the first time; *she said she had never played tennis before, but in the event she acquitted herself very well; how well did she acquit herself in her first public recital?* (NOTE: acquitting - acquitted)

acquittal [ə'kwɪtəl] *noun* decision by a court that someone is not guilty; *after his acquittal he left the court with a smile on his face: his acquittal was quite unexpected*

acre ['eɪkə] *noun* measure of land, 4840 square yards or 0.4047 hectares (NOTE: the plural is used with figures, except before a noun: *he has bought a farm of 250 acres* or *he has bought a 250-acre farm*)

acrid ['ækrɪd] *adjective* with a bitter smell; *acrid black smoke poured out the building*

acrimonious [ækri'məniəs] *adjective* angry and bitter; *the conversation started pleasantly but soon turned acrimonious; there was an acrimonious argument between the lawyers; she arrived in the middle of an acrimonious dispute*

acrobat [æk'rəbæt] *noun* person who performs spectacular physical movements for the public; *anyone who climbs up a pylon to repair electric cables must have the agility of an acrobat; circus acrobats* = people who perform exercises as part of a circus show; *even experienced acrobats have asked for safety nets to be installed*

acrobatic [æk'rə'bætɪk] *adjective* moving in an artistic way, like an acrobat; *she performed breathtaking acrobatic exercises*

acrobatics [æk'rə'bætɪks] *noun* acrobatic exercises; *all these acrobatics with the new plane are meant to impress potential customers*

acronym [æk'rɒnɪm] *noun* word made from the first letters of the name of something; *NATO and AIDS are both acronyms; compare ABBREVIATION*

across [ə'krɒs] 1 *preposition* (a) from one side to the other; *he helped the old lady across the street; don't run across the road without looking to see if there is any traffic coming* (b) on the other side; *he called to her from across the street; their house is across the*

street from ours = it is just opposite our house 2 *adverb* from one side to the other; *the river is only twenty feet across; the stream is very narrow - you can easily jump across*

acrylic ['ækrɪk] 1 *adjective* acrylic paints = paints made from a plastic 2 *noun* plastic paint; *the picture is painted in acrylics*

act [ækt] 1 *noun* (a) thing which is done; *he didn't forget the many acts of kindness she had shown him over the years* (b) part of a play, of a show; *Act II of the play takes place in the garden; the circus has acts by clowns and wild animals; (informal) to get your act together* = to organize yourself properly; *if they don't get their act together, they'll miss the last date for entries to the competition; let's try and get our act together* (c) law passed by Parliament; *an act to ban the sale of weapons* 2 *verb* (a) to take part in a film, play, etc.; *she's acted on TV many times; he acted the part of Hamlet in the film* (b) to do something; *you will have to act quickly if you want to stop the fire; she acted in a very responsible way* (c) to behave; *he's started acting very strangely*

acting ['æktɪŋ] 1 *adjective* taking the place of someone who is absent; *Mr Smith is the acting chairman while Sir James is in hospital* 2 *noun* profession of an actor; *he has decided to take up a career in acting*

action ['æksjən] *noun* (a) doing something; *what action are you going to take to prevent accidents?*; out of action = not working; *the car has been out of action for a week; the goalkeeper broke his leg and will be out of action for some time; to take industrial action* = to do something (usually to go on strike) to show that you are not happy with conditions at work (b) what happens in a play, film, etc.; *the action of the play takes place in a flat in London* (c) instruction to start filming; *camera, lights, action!* (d) case in a law court where someone sues someone else; *an action for libel or a libel action; to bring an action for damages against someone; to take legal action against someone* = to sue someone

activate ['æktɪveɪt] *verb* (a) to make something start to work; *he touched the door handle and that activated an alarm signal; pressing F10 activates the printer* (b) to start a chemical reaction

active ['æktɪv] *adjective* (a) energetic or positive; *my grandmother is still very active at the age of 88; he didn't play an active part in the attack on the police station* (b) (volcano) which is erupting; *scientists think the volcano is no longer active* (c) on active service US on active duty = serving in the armed services in time of war; *he was killed on active service*

actively ['æktɪvli] *adverb* in an active way; *the store is actively recruiting new staff*

activist ['æktɪvɪst] *noun* person who vigorously supports a political party; *the meeting was disrupted by an argument between the chairman and left-wing activists*

activity [æk'tɪvɪti] *noun* (a) being active; *there is a possibility of volcanic activity; there was a lot of activity on the stock market* (b) occupation, pastime; *children are offered various holiday activities - sailing, windsurfing, water-skiing, etc.*; activity holiday = planned holiday where you do certain things (such as painting, rock-climbing, etc.) (NOTE: plural in this meaning is **activities**)

act on ['ækt 'ɒn] *verb* to do something after something has been said; *the police acted on his suggestion*

actor or actress ['æktə or 'æktɹəs] *noun* person who acts in the theatre, in films, on television; *a famous TV actor* (NOTE: the plural of actress is **actresses**; note also that the feminine form **actress** is less used nowadays)

actual ['æktʃuəl] *adjective* real; *it looks quite small but the actual height is 5 metres; her actual words were much stronger; in actual fact = really; in spite of what the newspapers said, in actual fact he did sell his shares*

actuality ['æktʃuəliiti] *noun (formal)* reality; in actuality = really; in actuality, he is totally incompetent

actually ['æktʃuəli] *adverb* really; *it looks quite small, but actually it is over 5 metres high; he said he was ill, but actually he wanted to go to the football match*

acupuncture ['ækjupʌŋktʃə] *noun (Chinese medicine)* treatment originating in China, where needles are inserted through the skin into nerve centres in order to relieve pain or to treat a disorder, etc.; *one of the doctors at the clinic practices acupuncture; she goes to an acupuncture clinic for her bad back*

acupuncturist ['ækju'pʌŋktʃərist] *noun* person who practises acupuncture; *there is an acupuncturist attached to the clinic*

acute ['ækju:t] *adjective* (a) serious illness or pain which starts suddenly and lasts for a short time; *he felt acute chest pains; the pain was very acute; a child with acute bronchitis compare CHRONIC* (b) acute angle = angle which is less than 90° (c) keen; *dogs have an acute sense of smell*

acute accent ['ækju:t 'æksənt] *noun* mark sloping forwards over a vowel, indicating a change of sound; *'café has an acute accent on the 'e'*

acutely ['ækju:tli] *adverb* strongly; *she is acutely aware of the problem; his behaviour was acutely embarrassing to his family*

ad [æd] *noun (informal)* = ADVERTISEMENT; *if you want to sell your car quickly, put an ad in the paper; classified ads = newspaper advertisements which are listed under special headings, such as 'jobs wanted' or 'household items for sale'; small ads = small advertisements for jobs, for things for sale; I was just looking through the small ads when I saw that they wanted a gardener*

AD ['eɪ di:] *abbreviation* for Anno Domini (Latin for 'in the year of our Lord'), used in dates; *Claudius invaded Britain in 43 AD* (NOTE: for dates before the birth of Christ, use BC; *Julius Caesar died in 44 BC*)

adage ['ædɪdʒ] *noun* old saying; *according to the old adage, time is the great healer*

adamant ['ædəmənt] *adjective* with firm opinions; *he was adamant that the police should not be told; we must leave no later than 6 o'clock - father is quite adamant about it*

Adam's apple ['ædəmz 'æpl] *noun* piece of cartilage in the front of the larynx, which can sometimes easily be seen; *with his double chin, you can't see his Adam's apple*

COMMENT: men have deeper voices than women because their larynxes are bigger; hence the Adam's apple is more usually seen in men than women, and also why it is called Adam's apple and not Eve's

adapt [ə'dæpt] *verb* (a) to change something so that it fits; *the play has been adapted for the cinema; she adapted the story for TV; the car has been adapted for the disabled* (b) to change to become more suitable; *the country will have to adapt to the new political system*

adaptable [ə'dæptəbl] *adjective* who is able to change to deal with a new situation; *she's very adaptable, I'm sure that she will accept to alter her timetable*

adaptation [ædæp'teɪʃn] *noun* (a) change which fits new conditions; *like everyone else, he'll have to go through a period of adaptation when he starts his new job; the adaptation of the eye to different levels of brightness* (b) film, play, etc., which has been adapted from another; *it is an adaptation of a play by Shakespeare; a new adaptation of 'Pickwick Papers' for television*

adaptor or adapter [ə'dæptə] *noun* (a) person who adapts (a play, etc.) (b) device which allows two or more pieces of equipment to be connected together; **adaptor plug** = plug which allows a piece of equipment to be plugged into a different sized socket; *my hair-drier won't work here in France, because I haven't brought my adaptor*

add [æd] *verb* (a) to make a total of numbers; *if you add all these numbers together it should make fifty* (NOTE: **add** is usually shown by the sign + : $10 + 4 = 14$; say 'ten add four equals fourteen') (b) to join to something else; *interest is added to the account monthly; add two cupfuls of sugar; put some tea into the pot and add boiling water; by building the annexe, they have added thirty rooms to the hotel; this paint is too thick - add some water to it*

added ['ædɪd] *adjective* which has been added; *not only did we have a puncture on the motorway, but we had the added problem of not being able to speak German; this marmalade has no added sugar*

adder ['ædə] *noun* type of poisonous European snake (NOTE: also called a viper)

addict ['ædɪkt] *noun* person who cannot stop doing something; **drug addict** = person who takes drugs as a habit; *a centre for drug addicts*

addicted [ə'dɪktɪd] *adjective* (person) who cannot stop doing something; *people addicted to alcohol can be treated at the centre*

addiction [ə'dɪkʃn] *noun* being unable to stop doing something; **alcohol addiction; drug addiction; addiction to heroin**

addictive [ə'dɪktɪv] *adjective* (a) which is habit-forming, which people can become addicted to; *certain narcotic drugs are addictive* (b) which you can get used to doing; *watching the Olympics on TV can become addictive*

addition [ə'dɪʃn] *noun* (a) action of adding figures to make a total; *you don't need a calculator to do a simple addition* (b) thing or person added; *the latest addition to the family; he showed us the additions to his collection of paintings* (c) in addition = also; in

addition = as well as; *there are twelve registered letters to be sent in addition to this parcel*

additional [ə'dɪʃənəl] *adjective* more; *additional duty will have to be paid*

additionally [ə'dɪʃənəli] *adverb* in addition; *the price includes the camera, the case and additionally six free films*

additive [ə'dɪtɪv] *noun* substance which is added; *the orange juice contains a number of additives; be sure to buy a brand of ice cream which is additive-free*

COMMENT: colour additives are added to food to improve its appearance. Some are natural organic substances like saffron, carrot juice or caramel, but other colour additives are synthetic. Other substances are added to food to prevent decay or to keep the food in the right form: these can be emulsifiers, which bind different foods together as mixtures in sauces, for example, and stabilizers, which can keep a sauce semi-liquid and prevent it from separating into solids and liquids. The European Community allows certain additives to be added to food and these are given E numbers

address [ə'dres] **1 noun** (a) details of the number of a house, the name of a street and the town where someone lives or works; *what is the doctor's address?*; *he wrote his address on a piece of paper*; *our address is: 1 Cambridge Road, Teddington, Middlesex*; **accommodation address** = address used for receiving messages but which is not the real address of a company; **business address** = address of a business (as opposed to private address); *my business address and phone number are printed on the card*; **home address** or **private address** = address of a house or flat where someone lives; *please send the plane tickets to my home address*; **address book** = special notebook, with columns printed in such a way that names, addresses and phone numbers can be entered; **address list** = list of addresses (b) formal speech; *he made an address to the Parliament* (NOTE: plural is **addresses**) **2 verb** (a) to write the details of name, street, town, etc., on a letter or parcel; *that letter is addressed to me - don't open it!* (b) to speak to, to write to; *please address your inquiries to the information office*; *teachers are not normally addressed as 'Sir' in the USA* (c) to make a formal speech; *the chairman addressed the meeting* (d) to examine a problem; *this is an important issue which must be addressed at the next meeting*; *the committee failed to address the question of sexual harassment*

add up ['æd 'ʌp] **verb** (a) to put several figures together to make a total; *just add up this column of figures*; *the waiter added up the bill wrongly*; *the figures do not add up* = the total given is not correct (b) *it doesn't add up* = it doesn't make sense, it is confusing; *the story she told the police simply did not add up*

add up to ['æd 'ʌp tu] **verb** to make a total of; *the total cost adds up to more than £1,000*

adept ['ædept] **1 adjective** skilful at doing something; *she's adept at avoiding paying her bills* **2 noun** person who is skilful at doing something; *he's an adept at car maintenance*

adequacy ['ædɪkwəsi] *noun* being adequate; *no one even thought of questioning the adequacy of the alarm system*

adequate ['ædɪkwət] *adjective* enough; *his salary is barely adequate to support his family*; *we don't have adequate supplies for the whole journey*

adhere to [ə'dhɪə 'tu] **verb** (a) to stick to; *this type of glue won't adhere to china*; *the suction pads allow the machine to adhere firmly to the bench* (b) to follow rules; *she refused to adhere to the conditions attached to the competition*

adherence [əd'hɪərəns] *noun* closely following; *our adherence to the principle of non-interference*

adherent [əd'hɪərənt] *noun* person who supports a policy or a religion; *the government persecuted the adherents of the old religion*

adhesive [əd'hɪzɪv] **1 adjective** which sticks; *adhesive tape*; *adhesive plaster*; **self-adhesive** = which sticks to itself; *self-adhesive envelopes* **2 noun** glue; *a tube of adhesive*

ad hoc [əd 'hɒk] *Latin phrase* (meaning 'for this particular purpose') (a) arranged for a particular case; *an ad hoc decision*; *an ad hoc committee* = a temporary committee set up to study a particular problem (b) *on an ad hoc basis* = done without planning; *the decision was taken on an ad hoc basis*

adjacent [əd'ʤeɪsnt] *adjective* very close to, almost touching; *we went to the museum and parked in the adjacent car park*; *adjacent to* = very near to; *the house is adjacent to the garden centre*

adjectival [əd'ʤektɪvəl] *adjective* used like an adjective; *the adjectival use of nouns and verbs is common in English*; *an adjectival phrase is usually made up of an adverb and an adjective, such as 'completely silent'*

adjective ['ədʒektɪv] *noun* word which describes a noun; *in the phrase 'a big black cloud', 'big' and 'black' are both adjectives*

adjoin [əd'ʤɔɪn] **verb** to be next to; *here is your bedroom, and there is an adjoining bathroom*; *the back of the office adjoins the garden of the French restaurant*; **adjoining rooms** = rooms which are next to each other; *they asked to be put in adjoining rooms*

adjourn [əd'ʤɔɪn] **verb** to postpone to a later date; *the meeting was adjourned until the 25th*; *the court adjourned for lunch*; *the appeal was adjourned while further evidence was being produced*; *let's adjourn to the bar* = let's go on talking in the bar

adjudicate [əd'ʤʊdɪkeɪt] **verb** (a) to give an official decision (in a dispute); *he was asked to adjudicate in the argument between the management and unions*; *he was adjudicated bankrupt* (b) to act as the judge in a competition; *she adjudicated the poetry competition*

adjudication [əd'ʤʊdɪ'keɪʃn] *noun* (a) official decision in a dispute; *we have to wait until next month for the adjudication* (b) judging of a competition; *the adjudication of the poetry competition is taking place in the town hall*

adjudicator [əd'ʤʊdɪkeɪtə] *noun* (a) person who gives an official decision in a dispute; *the case was referred to an adjudicator*; *he has been appointed an adjudicator in the industrial dispute* (b) person who judges a competition; *one of the adjudicators is ill so the result of the competition has had to be postponed*

adjunct ['ədʒʌŋkt] *noun* an adjunct to something = something which is joined to something else; *a report and its adjuncts*

adjust [ə'dʒʌst] *verb* (a) to make a slight change to; *if the trousers are too tight, we can easily adjust the fitting* (b) to adjust to = to change and adapt to; *it's difficult adjusting to living in a tropical climate*

adjustable [ə'dʒʌstəbl̩] *adjective* which can be adjusted; *the height of these office chairs is adjustable.*

adjustable spanner = spanner which can be screwed to fit different nuts (NOTE: also called **monkey wrench**)

adjustment [ə'dʒʌsmənt] *noun* slight change to make something work well; *he made a slight adjustment to the central heating pump*

admin [ædmin] *noun* (informal) (a) work of administration, paperwork; *all this admin takes up a lot of time; the admin people have asked for more figures* (b) staff dealing with administration; *admin say they want the report by four o'clock*

administer [əd'mɪnɪstə] *verb* (a) (a country, an office, a company) to manage, to organize; *the province was administered by Portugal for many years* (b) to give; *to administer a drug to a patient* (c) to administer an oath = to make someone swear an oath

administration [əd'mɪnɪ'streɪʃn] *noun* (a) action of organizing; *hospital administration must be improved; who's in charge of administration here?* (b) the administration = the government; *the Reagan Administration* (c) the administration of justice = providing justice

administrative [əd'mɪnɪ'strətɪv] *adjective* referring to administration; *his duties are almost entirely administrative; administrative expenses are rising all the time; there are more administrative staff than workers*

administrator [əd'mɪnɪ'streɪtə] *noun* (a) ruler, governor; *the country's administrators are to blame for what has happened* (b) person who runs an organization; *we are advertising for a new chief administrator for the society*

admirable ['ædmərəbl̩] *adjective* which must be admired; *her work is entirely admirable; an admirable display of courage*

admiral ['ædmərəl] *noun* (a) high naval officer; *her father was an admiral in the French Navy* (b) red admiral = common summer butterfly with black and red wings

admiration [əd'maɪ'reɪʃn] *noun* respect for; *I have great admiration for her; everyone looked on in admiration as she showed how to toss pancakes*

admire [əd'maɪə] *verb* to look at someone or something with respect; *we admired his garden; everyone admires her paintings; he was admired for his skill as a violinist; a much-admired chief minister*

admirer [əd'maɪərə] *noun* person who loves someone or is attracted by someone; *he's had a Valentine card from a secret admirer*

admission [əd'mɪʃn] *noun* (a) being allowed to enter; *there is a £1 admission charge; admission to the exhibition is free on Sundays; my friend was refused admission to the restaurant because he was not wearing a tie* (b) statement saying that something is true; *his admission of fraud; her admission that she had taken the watch*

admit [əd'mɪt] *verb* (a) to allow someone to go in; *children are admitted free, but adults have to pay; this ticket admits three persons* (b) to say that something is

true; *he admitted stealing the car; she admitted she had taken the watch* (NOTE: **admitting - admitted**)

admittance [əd'mɪtəns] *noun* (formal) allowing someone to go into a place; *'No admittance except on business'; he gained admittance to the building by a side door which had been left unlocked*

admittedly [əd'mɪtədli] *adverb* admitting that this is true; *admittedly, the restaurant didn't charge us for the glasses that the children broke; he is admittedly one of the leading experts in the field*

admonish [əd'mɒnɪʃ] *verb* (formal) to criticize or warn; *no one admonished her for her rudeness to the president's wife*

admonishment [əd'mɒnɪʃmənt] *noun* (formal) warning given to someone; *he received no admonishment*

admonition [əd'mɒnɪʃn] *noun* (formal) warning given to someone; *the admonition came in the form of a letter signed by the dean of the faculty*

adolescence [ədə'lesns] *noun* period between childhood and adulthood, between the ages of 12 and 18; *adolescence is a period of strong emotional changes; wait until she reaches adolescence, that's when real problems will start; skin troubles in adolescence must be taken seriously*

adolescent [ədə'lesənt] 1 *adjective* referring to the period between childhood and adulthood; *she teaches a class of adolescent boys* 2 *noun* young person between 12 and 18; *all adolescents rebel against authority*

adopt [ə'dɒpt] *verb* (a) to take legally as a son or daughter; *they have adopted a little boy* (b) to take; *the opposition parties have adopted a different line of argument; he adopted an air of superiority* (c) to tell all students to use; *the book has been adopted for use in all English classes* (d) (of a political party) to choose a candidate; *James Black was adopted as the candidate for our constituency*

adopted [ə'dɒptɪd] *adjective* **adopted child** = child who has been taken legally as someone's son or daughter; *their adopted son has won a scholarship*

adoption [ə'dɒpʃn] *noun* (a) legally taking as son or daughter; *the adoption papers were signed yesterday; to put up for adoption* = to offer a child to be adopted (b) choosing as an official candidate; *there were 250 local party members at the adoption meeting*

adoptive [ə'dɒptɪv] *adjective* **adoptive parents** = parents who have adopted a child as a son or daughter

adorable [ə'dɔ:rəbl̩] *adjective* lovely and attractive; *what an adorable little cottage!; our little granddaughter is adorable*

adoration [ədə'reɪʃn] *noun* (a) admiration, love; *his adoration for his young wife* (b) (art) the Adoration of the Magi = painting showing the Three Wise Men coming to present gifts to the infant Jesus

adore [ə'dɔ:] *verb* to like very much; *he adored his father; she adores Italian food; we adore going shopping in Bond Street*

adoring [ə'dɔ:rɪŋ] *adjective* who or which adores; *he was surrounded by his adoring family; the adoring glances of his sisters; the pop group was greeted by shrieks from their adoring fans*

adorn [ə'dɔ:n] *verb* to decorate with ornaments; *the walls of the cave were adorned with paintings of deer*