



兰登书屋

韦氏简明英语词典

RANDOM  
HOUSE  
WEBSTER'S

Concise  
DICTIONARY



上海译文出版社



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## RANDOM HOUSE WEBSTER'S

# Concise DICTIONARY



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**A, a** /eɪ/ *n.*, *pl.* As or A's, as or a's, the first letter of the English alphabet, a vowel.

**a<sup>1</sup>** /ə; when stressed eɪ/ *indefinite article.*

1. any one (used before a singular noun); *a new car.* 2. one; *a dozen eggs.* 3. the same; *two at a time.* 4. any single; *not a one.* — **Usage.** In spoken and written English, A is used before words beginning with a consonant sound, including the sounds /j/ or /w/; *a book; a union; a one-room apartment.* AN is used before words beginning with a vowel sound (including a silent *h*); *an apple; an hour.* The use of AN before a pronounced *h* is usu. considered old-fashioned; *an historian; an hero.*

**a<sup>2</sup>** /ə; when stressed eɪ/ *prep.* per; *fifty cents a ride.* — **Usage.** See PER.

**A, 1.** ampere. **2.** angstrom. **3.** answer.

**A, Symbol.** 1. the first in order or in a series. 2. a grade or mark indicating excellence or superiority. 3. a major blood group.

**a<sup>-1</sup>**, a prefix meaning: on (*afoot*); in (*abed*); to (*ashore*); at (*aside*).

**a<sup>-2</sup>**, a prefix meaning: of (*akin*); from (*anew*).

**a<sup>-3</sup>**, a prefix meaning: not (*atypical*); without (*amorality*).

**A., 1.** America. **2.** American. **3.** April. **a., 1.** about. **2.** acre. **3.** adjective. **4.** alto. **5.** answer.

**A-1** or **A 1** /'eɪwʌn/ *adj.* A ONE.

**AA, 1.** administrative assistant. **2.** Alcoholics Anonymous. **3.** anti-aircraft.

**A. A.,** Associate of Arts.

**AAA, 1.** American Automobile Association. **2.** anti-aircraft artillery.

**A&R,** artists and repertory.

**aard·vark** /'ɑrd,vɑrk/ *n.* a large burrowing African mammal that feeds on ants and termites. [*< Afrik < D, = aarde earth + varken pig*]

**AB, Alberta.**

**AB, Symbol.** a major blood group. **ab.,** about.

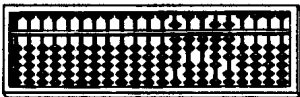
**A. B., 1.** able-bodied seaman. **2.** Bachelor of Arts. [*< L Artium Baccalaureus*]

**a. b.,** *Baseball.* (times) at bat.

**A. B. A.,** American Bar Association.

**a·back** /ə'bæk/ *adv.* 1. toward the back. — **Idiom.** **2.** taken aback, surprised; startled; disconcerted.

**ab·a·cus** /'æbəkəs/ *n.*, *pl.* -a·cus·es, -a·ci /-æsaɪ-, -kaɪ/ a device for making arithmetic calculations, consisting of a frame set with rods on which beads are moved.



abacus

**a·baft** /ə'bæft, ə'baft/ *Naut.* — *prep.* 1. to the rear of. — *adv.* 2. aft.

**ab·a·lo·ne** /'æbəlouni/ *n.* an edible mollusk with a flat, oval shell that is a

# A

source of mother-of-pearl.

**a·ban·don<sup>1</sup>** /ə'bændən/ *v. t.* 1. to leave completely; desert; *to abandon a sinking ship.* 2. to give up; discontinue; *to abandon a project.* — **a·ban·don·ment** /ə'bændənmənt/ *n.*

**a·ban·don<sup>2</sup>** /ə'bændən/ *n.* a complete surrender to natural impulses; freedom from constraint.

**a·ban·doned** /ə'bændənd/ *adj.* lacking in moral restraint; shameless or wicked. — **a·ban·don·ed·ly**, *adv.*

**a·base** /ə'beɪs/ *v. t.*, **a·based**, **a·bas·ing**, to humble or degrade. — **a·base·ment**, *n.*

**a·bash** /ə'bæʃ/ *v. t.* to embarrass; disconcert. — **a·bash·ed·ly**, *adv.* — **a·bash·ment**, *n.*

**a·bate** /ə'beɪt/ *v.*, **a·bat·ed**, **a·bat·ing**. — *v. t.* 1. to reduce in amount, degree, or intensity. 2. *Law.* to stop or suppress (an action, nuisance, etc.). — *v. i.* 3. to diminish in amount, degree, or intensity. — **a·bate·ment**, *n.*

**ab·at·toir** /'æbətwaɪr, æbətwaɪr/ *n.* a slaughterhouse.

**ab·ba·cy** /'æbəsi/ *n.*, *pl.* -cies, the position or term of office of an abbot.

**ab·bé** /æ'beɪ, 'æbeɪ/ *n.* a title of respect for a French ecclesiastic or clergyman.

**ab·bess** /'æbɪs/ *n.* the superior of a convent of nuns.

**ab·bey** /'æbi/ *n.*, *pl.* -beys, 1. a monastery or convent. 2. the church of an abbey.



aardvark

**ab·bot** /'æbət/ *n.* the superior of a monastery. [*< L < Gk < Aram abbā father*]

**abbr.** or **abbrev.**, abbreviation.

**ab·bre·vi·ate** /ə'brɪvi,eɪt/ *v. t.*, -at·ed, -at·ing, 1. to shorten (a word or phrase) by omitting letters. 2. to make briefer.

**ab·bre·vi·a·tion** /ə'brɪvi'eɪʃən/ *n.* 1. a shortened form of a word or phrase used to represent the whole, as *Dr.* for *Doctor.* 2. an act or result of abbreviating.

**ABCs** or **ABC's**, *n.* (used with a *pl. v.*) 1. the alphabet. 2. the basic facts, principles, or skills of a subject.

**ab·di·cate** /'æbdɪ,ket/ *v. t.*, *v. i.*, -cat·ed, -cat·ing, to give up or relinquish (a throne, right, power, or responsibility), esp. in a formal way. — **ab·di·ca·tion**, *n.*

**ab·do·men** /'æbdəmən, æb'dou-/ *n.* 1. the part of the body between the thorax and the pelvis; belly. 2. the posterior segment of the body of an arthropod. — **ab·dom·i·nal** /æb'dəmənəl/ *adj.*

**ab·duct** /æb'dʌkt/ *v.t.* to carry off (a person) by force, esp. to kidnap. —**ab·duc·tion**, *n.* —**ab·duc·tor**, *n.*

**a·beam** /ə'bi:m/ *adv.* at right angles to a ship's keel.

**a·bed** /ə'bed/ *adv.* in bed.

**A·bel** /'eɪbəl/ *n.* *Bible.* the second son of Adam and Eve, slain by his brother, Cain.

**ab·er·ra·tion** /æb'reɪʃən/ *n.* 1. deviation from what is usual, normal, or right. 2. mental unsoundness or disorder. 3. a disturbance of the rays of a light such that they can no longer be brought to a sharp focus or form a clear image. —**ab·er·rant** /ə'berənt, æbər-/ *adj.* —**ab·er·ra·tion·al**, *adj.*

**a·bet** /ə'bet/ *v.t.*, **a·bet·ted**, **a·bet·ting**, to encourage or support, esp. in wrongdoing. —**a·bet·tor**, **a·bet·ter**, *n.*

**a·bey·ance** /ə'beɪəns/ *n.* temporary inactivity, cessation, or suspension; to hold a question in abeyance.

**ab·hor** /æb'hɔːr/ *v.t.*, **-horred**, **-hor·ring**, to regard with repugnance or aversion; detest. —**ab·hor·rence**, *n.* —**ab·hor·rer**, *n.*

**ab·hor·rent** /æb'hɔːrənt, -hɔːr/ *adj.* causing repugnance or aversion; detestable. —**ab·hor·rent·ly**, *adv.*

**a·bide** /ə'baɪd/ *v.*, **a·bode** or **a·bid·ed**, **a·bid·ing**. —*v.i.* 1. to remain; stay. 2. to dwell; reside. —*v.t.* 3. to put up with; tolerate. 4. **abide by**, *a.* to comply with; submit to. *b.* to remain faithful to; keep. —**a·bid·ance**, *n.*

**a·bid·ing** /ə'baɪdɪŋ/ *adj.* enduring; steadfast. —**a·bid·ing·ly**, *adv.*

**Ab·i·djan** /æbɪ'dʒən/ *n.* the commercial capital of the Ivory Coast. 1,850,000.

**Ab·i·lene** /æbɪ'lɪn/ *n.* a city in central Texas. 106,654.

**a·bil·i·ty** /ə'brɪlɪti/ *n.*, *pl.* **-ties**. 1. power or capacity to do or act. 2. a talent, skill, or aptitude.

**ab·ject** /'æbdʒekt, æb'dʒekt/ *adj.* 1. miserable or wretched. 2. contemptible; despicable. —**ab·jec·tion**, *n.* —**ab·ject·ly**, *adv.*

**ab·jure** /æb'ʒʊr, -dʒər/ *v.t.*, **-jured**, **-jur·ing**. 1. to repudiate or retract; recant. 2. to renounce under oath. 3. to refrain from. —**ab·ju·ra·tion** /æbdʒə'reɪʃən/ *n.* —**ab·jur·a·to·ry**, *adj.* —**ab·jur·er**, *n.*

**ab·late** /æ'bleɪt/ *v.*, **-lat·ed**, **-lat·ing**. —*v.t.* 1. to remove by surgery, melting, erosion, etc. —*v.i.* 2. to become ablated. —**a·bla·tion**, *n.*

**ab·la·tive** /æ'blætv/ *adj.* 1. designating a grammatical case that marks the starting point of an action and, in Latin, indicates manner, instrument, or agent. —*n.* 2. the ablative case.

**a·blaze** /ə'bleɪz/ *adj.* 1. on fire. 2. gleaming. 3. excited; ardent.

**a·ble** /'eɪbəl/ *adj.*, **a·bler**, **a·blest**. 1. having the necessary power, skill, or resources. 2. having or showing intelligence, skill, or talent. —**a·bly**, *adv.*

**-able**, a suffix meaning: able to be (*readable*); tending to (*changeable*); worthy

of (*lovable*).

**able·bodied** /'eɪbəl'bɒdɪd/ *adj.* physically fit.

**a·ble·ism** /'eɪbəlɪzəm/ *n.* discrimination against disabled people.

**able seaman**, *n.* a skilled or experienced seaman. Also called **able-bodied seaman**.

**a·bloom** /ə'blʊm/ *adj.* in bloom.

**ab·lu·tion** /əb'lʊʃən/ *n.* a cleansing of the body, esp. as a religious ritual.

**-ably**, a suffix meaning in an **-able** manner (*enjoyably*).

**ABM**, antiballistic missile.

**ab·ne·gate** /'æbnɪ'geɪt/ *v.t.*, **-gat·ed**, **-gat·ing**, to deny (rights, comforts, etc.) to oneself; renounce. —**ab·ne·ga·tion**, *n.*

**ab·nor·mal** /æb'nɔːrməl/ *adj.* not normal, average, typical, or usual. —**ab·nor·mal·i·ty**, *n.*, *pl.* **-ties**. —**ab·nor·mal·ly**, *adv.*

**a·board** /ə'bɔːrd/ *adv.*, *prep.* 1. on, in, or into (a ship, train, airplane, etc.). 2. alongside.

**a·bode** /ə'bɔːd/ *n.* 1. a residence; home. 2. a stay; sojourn.

**a·bode** /ə'bɔːd/ *v.* a *pt.* and *past part.* of **ABIDE**.

**a·bol·ish** /ə'bɒlɪʃ/ *v.t.* to do away with; put an end to.

**ab·o·li·tion** /æb'ɒlɪʃən/ *n.* 1. the act of abolishing or state of being abolished. 2. (*sometimes cap.*) the legal termination of slavery in the U. S. —**ab·o·li·tion·ism**, *n.* —**ab·o·li·tion·ist**, *n.*, *adj.*

**A·bomb** /'eɪ,bɒm/ *n.* ATOMIC BOMB.

**a·bom·i·na·ble** /ə'bɒmənəbəl/ *adj.* 1. repugnantly hateful; detestable. 2. very bad or unpleasant. —**a·bom·i·na·bly**, *adv.*

**a·bom·i·nate** /ə'bɒmə'nɛɪt/ *v.t.*, **-nat·ed**, **-nat·ing**. 1. to loathe intensely. 2. to dislike strongly. —**a·bom·i·na·tion**, *n.*

**ab·o·rig·i·nal** /æb'ɔːrɪdʒənəl/ *adj.* 1. of aborigines. 2. native; indigenous. 3. (*usu. cap.*) of the Aborigines of Australia. —*n.* 4. **ABORIGINE**.

**ab·o·rig·i·ne** /æb'ɔːrɪdʒɪni/ *n.*, *pl.* **-nes**. 1. one of the original or earliest known inhabitants of a country or region. 2. (*usu. cap.*) a member of any of the peoples who are the aboriginal inhabitants of Australia. [*< L ab origine* from the origin]

**a·born·ing** /ə'bɔːrnɪŋ/ *adv.*, *adj.* in birth; coming into being; *The scheme died aborning. A new era is aborning.*

**a·bort** /ə'bɔːrt/ *v.i.*, *v.t.* 1. to undergo or cause to undergo abortion. 2. to terminate (a missile flight, a mission, or a procedure) before completion. —*n.* 3. the termination of a missile flight, a mission, or a procedure before completion. —**a·bor·tive**, *adj.* —**a·bor·tive·ly**, *adv.*

**a·bor·tion** /ə'bɔːrʃən/ *n.* 1. the expulsion of an embryo or fetus from the uterus, esp. to end a pregnancy. 2. something that fails to develop, progress, or mature. —**a·bor·tion·ist**, *n.*

**a·bound** /ə'baʊnd/ *v.i.* 1. to occur or exist in great quantities or numbers. 2. to be well supplied (*usu. fol. by in*). 3.

- to be filled; teem (usu. fol. by *with*).
- a·bout** /ə'baʊt/ *prep.* 1. in regard to; concerning. 2. in connection or association with. 3. close to; near. 4. on every side of. 5. on the verge of. —*adv.* 6. approximately. 7. nearly; almost. 8. not far off; nearby. 9. on every side. 10. in the opposite direction. —*adj.* 11. moving around; astir.
- about-face** /n. ə'baʊt,feɪs, -'feɪs; v. ə'baʊt,feɪs/n., v., -faced, -fac·ing. —*n.* 1. a complete reversal in position, direction, principle, or attitude. —*v.i.* 2. to perform an about-face.
- a·bove** /ə'bʌv/ *adv.* 1. in or to a higher place. 2. overhead, upstairs, or in the sky. 3. higher in rank, authority, or power. 4. before or earlier, esp. in a text. —*prep.* 5. in or to a higher place than; over. 6. greater in quantity or number than. 7. superior in rank or standing to. 8. of too fine a character for. —*adj.* 9. said, mentioned, or written above. —*n.* 10. something that is above. —*Idiom.* 11. above all, most importantly; principally.
- a·bove·board** /ə'bʌv,bɔ:d/ *adv., adj.* without tricks, concealment, or disguise.
- ab·ra·ca·dab·ra** /æbrə'kɑ:dæbrə/ *n.* 1. a mystical word once used as a magical means of warding off misfortune. 2. meaningless talk; gibberish.
- a·brace** /ə'breɪd/ *v.t., v.i., a·brad·ed, a·brad·ing.* 1. to wear off or down by rubbing. 2. to scrape or rub off. —*a·brad·er, n.* —**a·bra·sion** /ə'breɪʒən/ *n.*
- A·bra·ham** /'eɪbrə'hæm, -həm/ *n.* the first Biblical patriarch, the traditional founder of the Hebrew nation.
- a·bra·sive** /ə'breɪsɪv, -zɪv/ *adj.* 1. causing abrasion. 2. tending to annoy. —*n.* 3. a material, as sandpaper, used for grinding, polishing, or smoothing. —*a·bra·sive·ly, adv.* —**a·bra·sive·ness, n.**
- a·breast** /ə'breɪst/ *adv., adj.* 1. side by side. 2. informed; aware.
- a·bridge** /ə'brɪdʒ/ *v.t., a·bridged, a·bridge·ing.* 1. to shorten while retaining the substance. 2. to diminish or curtail. [<< ML abbreviāre to shorten] —*a·bridg·ment, a·bridge·ment, n.*
- a·broad** /ə'brɔ:d/ *adv.* 1. in or to a foreign country. 2. out of doors. 3. in general circulation. 4. over a large area; far and wide.
- ab·ro·gate** /'æbrə'geɪt/ *v.t., -gat·ed, -gat·ing.* to abolish formally or officially; annul. —**ab·ro·ga·tion, n.** —**ab·ro·ga·tor, n.**
- ab·rupt** /ə'brʌpt/ *adj.* 1. sudden or unexpected. 2. curt or brusque, as in speech. 3. lacking in continuity or smoothness. 4. steep; precipitous. —**ab·rupt·ly, adv.** —**ab·rupt·ness, n.**
- abs** /æbz/ *n. pl. Informal.* abdominal muscles.
- ab·scess** /'æbses/ *n.* a localized accumulation of pus in body tissues. —**ab·scessed, adj.**
- ab·scis·sa** /æb'sɪsə/ *n., pl. -scis·sas, -scis·sae* /-'sɪsi/ (in plane Cartesian coordinates) the x-coordinate of a point; its distance from the y-axis measured parallel to the x-axis.
- ab·scis·sion** /æb'sɪʒən/ *n.* 1. the act of cutting off. 2. the normal separation of flowers, fruit, and leaves from plants.
- ab·scund** /æb'skʊnd/ *v.i.* to depart suddenly and secretly, esp. to avoid capture and legal prosecution. —**ab·scund·er, n.**
- ab·sence** /'æbsəns/ *n.* 1. the state of being away. 2. a period of being away. 3. lack; deficiency.
- ab·sent** /'æbsənt/ *adj., v. əb·sent, 'æbsənt/ adj., v., -sent·ed, -sent·ing* —*adj.* 1. not present at a given time; away. 2. not in existence; lacking. 3. not attentive; preoccupied. —*v.t.* 4. to take or keep (oneself) away. —*prep.* 5. in the absence of; without. —**ab·sent·ly, adv.**
- ab·sen·tee** /'æbsən'ti/ *n., pl. -tees.* a person who is absent, esp. from work or school. —**ab·sen·tee·ism, n.**
- absentee ballot**, *n.* a ballot mailed by a voter who cannot come to the polls.
- absent-minded** /'æbsənt'maɪndɪd/ *adj.* preoccupied so as to be unaware or forgetful of other matters. —**absent·mindedly, adv.** —**absent·mindedness, n.**
- ab·sinthe** or **-sinth** /'æbsɪnθ/ *n.* a green, bitter, licorice-flavored liqueur made with wormwood.
- ab·so·lute** /'æbsə'lʊt/ *adj.* 1. being fully as indicated; complete or perfect. 2. free from restriction, limitation, or exception. 3. outright; unqualified. 4. not limited by laws or a constitution. 5. not comparative or relative. 6. positive; certain. 7. not mixed; pure. 8. relatively independent syntactically in relation to other elements in a sentence. 9. *Physics.* pertaining to a system of units based on some primary units, esp. of length, mass, and time. —**ab·so·lute·ly, adv.**
- absolute pitch**, *n.* 1. the exact pitch of a tone in terms of vibrations per second. 2. the ability to sing or recognize the pitch of a tone.
- absolute value**, *n.* the magnitude of a real number or quantity irrespective of sign.
- absolute zero**, *n.* the temperature of -273.16°C (-459.69°F), the hypothetical point at which all molecular activity ceases.
- ab·so·lu·tion** /'æbsə'lʊʃən/ *n.* 1. the act of absolving. 2. a remission of sin as effected by a priest in the sacrament of penance.
- ab·so·lut·ism** /'æbsə'lʊtɪzəm/ *n.* the principle or the exercise of unrestricted power in or by government. —**ab·so·lut·ist, n., adj.**
- ab·solve** /æb'zɒlv, -'sɒlv/ *v.t., -solved, -sol·ving.* 1. to free from guilt or blame. 2. to release from a duty, obligation, or responsibility. 3. to grant remission of sins to. —**ab·sol·ve·a·ble, adj.**
- ab·sorb** /æb'sɔ:rb, -'zɔ:rb/ *v.t.* 1. to take up or drink in (a liquid); soak up. 2. to take in and assimilate; incorporate. 3. to

occupy or fill fully; engross. **4.** to take in without echo, recoil, or reflection; to absorb sound. — **ab·sorb·ing**, *adj.*

**ab·sorb·ent** /əb'sɔrbənt, -'zɔr-/ *adj.* **1.** capable of absorbing. — **ab·sorb·en·cy**, *n.*

**ab·sorp·tion** /əb'sɔrpfən, -'zɔr-/ *n.* **1.** the process of absorbing or being absorbed. **2.** mental preoccupation; engrossment. — **ab·sorp·tive**, *adj.*

**ab·stain** /æb'steɪn/ *v.i.* to refrain voluntarily. — **ab·stain·er**, *n.* — **ab·sten·tion** /æb'stenʃən/ *n.*

**ab·ste·mi·ous** /æb'stimɪəs/ *adj.* sparing or moderate, esp. in eating and drinking; temperate.

**ab·sti·nence** /æbstɪnəns/ *n.* **1.** forbearance from indulgence of an appetite. **2.** avoidance of alcoholic liquors or of particular kinds of foods. — **ab·sti·nent**, *adj.*

**ab·tract** /*adj.* æb'strækt, 'æbstrækt; *n.* 'æbstrækt; *v.* æb'strækt for 7, 8, 'æbstrækt for 9/ *adj.* **1.** thought of apart from concrete realities or specific objects. **2.** expressing a quality apart from any specific object or instance. **3.** not applied or practical; theoretical. **4.** (in art) emphasizing line, color, and nonrepresentational form. — *n.* **5.** a summary, as of an article. **6.** something abstract, as an idea or term. — *v.t.* **7.** to take away; remove. **8.** to draw away the attention of. **9.** to summarize. — **ab·tract·ly**, *adv.* — **ab·tract·ness**, *n.*

**ab·tract·ed** /æb'stræktɪd/ *adj.* lost in thought; preoccupied.

**abstract expressionism**, *n.* (sometimes caps.) experimental, nonrepresentational painting marked by technical freedom and spontaneous expression. — **abstract expressionist**, *n.*

**ab·strac·tion** /æb'strækʃən/ *n.* **1.** an abstract idea or term. **2.** the act or process of abstracting. **3.** absent-mindedness; inattention. **4.** an abstract work of art.

**ab·struse** /æb'strus/ *adj.* hard to understand; recondite. — **ab·struse·ly**, *adv.* — **ab·struse·ness**, *n.*

**ab·surd** /æb'sɜrd, -'zɜrd/ *adj.* contrary to all reason or common sense; laughably foolish. — **ab·surd·i·ty**, *n.*, *pl.* -ties. — **ab·surd·ly**, *adv.* — **ab·surd·ness**, *n.*

**A·bu·Dha·bi** /'abu'dəbi/ *n.* a sheikhdom in the N United Arab Emirates. 670,125.

**A·bu·ja** /əb'udʒə/ the capital of Nigeria. 378,671.

**a·bun·dant** /əb'ʌndənt/ *adj.* **1.** present in great quantity. **2.** well supplied; rich. — **a·bun·dance**, *n.* — **a·bun·dant·ly**, *adv.*

**a·buse** /*v.* ə'bjuːz; *n.* ə'bjuːs/ *v.*, *a·bused*, *a·bus·ing*, *n.* — *v.t.* **1.** to use wrongly or improperly; misuse. **2.** to treat in a harmful way. **3.** to insult; revile. — *n.* **4.** wrong, improper, or harmful use; misuse. **5.** harshly or coarsely insulting language. **6.** bad treatment; maltreatment. — **a·bu·sive** /ə'bjuːsɪv/ *adj.* — **a·bu·sive·ly**, *adv.* — **a·bu·sive·ness**, *n.*

**a·but** /ə'bat/ *v.*, *a·but·ted*, *a·but·ting*. — *v.i.* **1.** to touch or join at the border. — *v.t.* **2.** to border on.

**a·but·ment** /ə'batmənt/ *n.* **1.** a mass, as of masonry, supporting and receiving the thrust of an arch or vault.



abutment

**a·buzz** /ə'bʌz/ *adj.* full of or alive with activity or talk.

**a·bys·mal** /ə'bɪzmə/ *adj.* **1.** of or like an abyss; immeasurably deep. **2.** extremely bad; dreadful. — **a·bys·mal·ly**, *adv.*

**a·byss** /ə'bis/ *n.* **1.** an immeasurably deep, vast chasm. **2.** something profound or infinite. **3. a.** the primal chaos before Creation. *b.* hell.

**Ab·ys·sin·i·a** /'æb'sɪniə/ *n.* ancient name of ETHIOPIA.

**AC**, **1.** air conditioning. **2.** Also, *a.c.*, A. C. alternating current.

**Ac**, *Chem. Symbol.* actinium.

**a/c**, *account.*

**a·ca·cia** /ə'keɪʃə/ *n.*, *pl.* -cias. **1.** a small tree or shrub with clusters of small yellow flowers. **2.** the locust tree.

**ac·a·dem·ic** /ækə'demɪk/ *adj.* **1.** of a school or college. **2.** pertaining to areas of study that are not vocational or applied. **3.** not practical or directly useful; theoretical. — **ac·a·dem·i·cal·ly**, *adv.*

**ac·a·de·mi·cian** /ækə'demɪʃən, ə'kædə-/ *n.* a member of an association for the advancement of arts, sciences, or letters.

**a·cad·e·my** /ə'kædəmi/ *n.*, *pl.* -mies. **1.** a secondary school, esp. a private one. **2.** a school or college for special instruction or training. **3.** an association for the advancement of arts, sciences, or letters. [< L < Gk akadēmeia name of the garden where Plato taught]

**a·can·thus** /ə'kænθəs/ *n.*, *pl.* -thus·es. -thi /-θaɪ/ **1.** a plant of the Mediterranean region, having spiny or toothed leaves. **2.** an architectural ornament resembling the leaves of the acanthus.

**a cap·pel·la** /əkə'pələ/ *adv.*, *adj.* without instrumental accompaniment.

**A·ca·pul·co** /ækə'pulkou, əkə-/ *n.* a seaport and resort in SW Mexico. 456,700.

**ac·cede** /æk'sɪd/ *v.i.*, -ced·ed, -ced·ing. **1.** to give one's consent; agree. **2.** to assume an office, title, or dignity.

**ac·cel·er·ate** /æk'selə'reɪt/ *v.*, -at·ed, -at·ing. — *v.t.* **1.** to increase the speed of. **2.** to hasten the occurrence of. — *v.i.* **3.** to move or go faster. — **ac·cel·er·a·tion**, *n.*

**ac·cel·er·a·tor** /æk'selə'reɪtər/ *n.* **1.** a foot pedal used to control the speed of a motor vehicle. **2.** a device, as a cyclotron, that produces high-energy parti-



cles.  
**ac-cent** /n. 'æksent/; v. also æk'sent/  
 n. **1.** prominence of a syllable in terms of differential loudness or pitch. **2.** degree of prominence of a syllable within a word or of a word within a phrase. **3.** a mark indicating stress or vowel quality. **4.** a characteristic or distinctive mode of pronunciation. **5.** greater emphasis on one musical tone than on surrounding tones. —v.t. **6.** to pronounce with prominence. **7.** to give emphasis to.  
**ac-cen-tu-ate** /æk'sentʃu,et/ v.t., -at-ed, -at-ing. **1.** to give emphasis to. **2.** to pronounce with an accent. —**ac-cen-tu-a-tion**, n.  
**ac-cept** /æk'sept/ v.t. **1.** to receive willingly or with approval. **2.** to answer affirmatively to. **3.** to undertake the duties, responsibilities, or honors of. **4.** to admit formally, as to a club. **5.** to regard as true. **6.** to agree to pay, as a draft.  
**ac-cept-a-ble** /æk'septəbəl/ adj. **1.** capable or worthy of being accepted. **2.** barely adequate or satisfactory. —**ac-cept-a-bil-i-ty**, n. —**ac-cept-a-bly**, adv.  
**ac-cept-ance** /æk'septəns/ n. **1.** the act of accepting or state of being accepted or acceptable. **2.** a pledge to pay an order, draft, or bill of exchange.  
**ac-cep-ta-tion** /æksep'teɪʃən/ n. the usual or accepted meaning of a word.  
**ac-cept-ed** /æk'septɪd/ adj. generally approved.  
**ac-cess** /'ækses/ n. **1.** the ability or right to enter, approach, or use. **2.** a way or means of approach. **3.** a sudden outburst, as of rage. —v.t. **4.** to gain access to. **5.** to locate (data) in a computer.  
**ac-ces-si-ble** /æk'sesəbəl/ adj. easy to approach, enter, use, or obtain. —**ac-ces-si-bil-i-ty**, n. —**ac-ces-si-bly**, adv.  
**ac-ces-sion** /æk'seɪʃən/ n. **1.** the act of acceding to an office, title, or dignity. **2.** an increase by addition. **3.** something added.  
**ac-ces-so-ry** /æk'sesəri/ n., pl. -ries, adj. —n. **1.** a supplementary part or object. **2.** Law. one who, although absent, assists another in committing a felony. —adj. **3.** supplementary; subsidiary. **4.** Law. giving aid as an accessory.  
**ac-ci-dent** /'æksɪdənt/ n. **1.** an unintentional and unfortunate happening. **2.** something that happens unexpectedly. **3.** chance; fortune. —**ac-ci-den-tal** /æksɪ'dentl/ adj. —**ac-ci-den-tal-ly**, adv.  
**ac-claim** /ə'kleɪm/ v.t. **1.** to greet or salute with loud approval. —n. **2.** loud approval.  
**ac-cla-ma-tion** /æklə'meɪʃən/ n. **1.** a loud demonstration of welcome or approval. —*Idiom*. **2.** by acclamation, by a majority voice vote or applause.  
**ac-cli-mate** /'æklə'ment, ə'klaɪmɪt/ v.t., v.i., -mat-ed, -mat-ing, to acclimate or become accustomed to a new climate or environment. —**ac-cli-ma-tion**, n.  
**ac-cli-ma-tize** /ə'klaɪmətaɪz/ v.t., v.i.,

-tized, -tiz-ing, to acclimate. —**ac-cli-ma-ti-za-tion**, n.

**ac-cliv-i-ty** /ə'klɪvɪti/ n., pl. -ties, an upward slope.

**ac-co-lade** /'ækəleɪd,-ləd/ n. an award, honor, or laudatory notice.

**ac-com-mo-date** /ə'kɒmədeɪt/ v.t., -dat-ed, -dat-ing. **1.** to do a favor for. **2.** to provide with something needed or wanted. **3.** to provide with lodging. **4.** to have or make room for. **5.** to adapt or adjust.

**ac-com-mo-dat-ing** /ə'kɒmədeɪtɪŋ/ adj. eager to help or please.

**ac-com-mo-da-tion** /ə'kɒmə'deɪʃən/ n. **1.** the act of accommodating or state of being accommodated. **2.** adjustment or reconciliation. **3.** something that supplies a need or want. **4.** Usu., -tions, a. lodging. b. space, as a seat or berth, on a public conveyance.

**ac-com-pa-ni-ment** /ə'kɒmpənɪmənt, ə'kɒmpnɪ-/ n. **1.** something added, as for ornament. **2.** a musical part supporting the principal part.

**ac-com-pa-ny** /ə'kɒmpəni/ v.t., -nied, -ny-ing. **1.** to go, exist, or occur with. **2.** to perform an accompaniment to or for. —**ac-com-pa-nist**, n.

**ac-com-plice** /ə'kɒmplɪs/ n. a person who helps another in a crime.

**ac-com-plish** /ə'kɒmplɪʃ/ v.t. to bring to a successful conclusion.

**ac-com-plished** /ə'kɒmplɪʃt/ adj. **1.** successfully completed. **2.** skilled; expert.

**ac-com-plish-ment** /ə'kɒmplɪʃmənt/ n. **1.** the act of accomplishing. **2.** something accomplished; achievement. **3.** a social grace or skill.

**ac-cord** /ə'kɔrd/ v.i. **1.** to agree. —v.t. **2.** to make agree or correspond. **3.** to grant; bestow. —n. **4.** agreement; harmony. —*Idiom*. **5.** of one's own accord, voluntarily.

**ac-cord-ance** /ə'kɔrdns/ n. **1.** agreement; conformity. **2.** the act of granting. —**ac-cord-ant**, adj.

**ac-cord-ing-ly** /ə'kɔrdɪŋli/ adv. **1.** in accordance. **2.** therefore; so.

**ac-cord-ing to** /ə'kɔrdɪŋ prep. **1.** in accord with. **2.** as stated by.

**ac-cord-ion** /ə'kɔrdɪən/ n. **1.** a portable musical instrument with a keyboard and a bellows for forcing air through reeds. —adj. **2.** having folds like the bellows of an accordion; *accordion pleats*.

accordion



**ac-cost** /ə'kɔst, ə'kɒst/ v.t. to approach, esp. with a greeting, question.

or remark.

**ac·count** /ə'kaunt/ *n.* 1. a report of events or situations. 2. an explanatory statement. 3. reason or basis. 4. importance or worth. 5. an amount of money deposited with a bank. 6. a statement of financial transactions. 7. a business relation in which credit is used. — *v.i.* 8. to give an explanation. — *v.t.* 9. to consider as; regard. — *Idiom.* 10. on account, as partial payment. 11. on account of, because of. 12. on no account, absolutely not. 13. take into account, to take into consideration.

**ac·count·a·ble** /ə'kauntəbəl/ *adj.* 1. responsible; answerable. 2. explicable. — **ac·count·a·bil·i·ty**, *n.*

**ac·count·ant** /ə'kauntnt/ *n.* a person whose profession is accounting.

**ac·count·ing** /ə'kauntɪŋ/ *n.* the organizing, maintaining, and auditing of financial records.

**ac·cou·ter** or **-tre** /ə'kutər/ *v.t.* to equip or outfit.

**ac·cou·ter·ments** or **-tre·ments** /ə'kutərments, -trə/ *n. pl.* personal clothing or equipment, esp. of a soldier.

**Ac·cra** /'ækrə, ə'kra/ *n.* the capital of Ghana. 867,459.

**ac·cred·it** /ə'kredit/ *v.t.* 1. to certify as meeting official requirements. 2. to provide with credentials. 3. to attribute; credit. — **ac·cred·i·ta·tion**, *n.*

**ac·cre·tion** /ə'kriʃən/ *n.* 1. an increase by growth or addition. 2. an added part; addition. 3. the growing together of parts into a whole.

**ac·cru·e** /ə'kru/ *v.i.* -crued, -cru·ing. 1. to result from natural growth. 2. to be added as a periodic gain, as interest on money. — **ac·cru·al**, *n.*

**acct.**, account.

**ac·cul·tur·a·tion** /ə,kʌltʃə'reɪʃən/ *n.* adoption of the cultural traits or patterns of another group, esp. a dominant one.

**ac·cu·mu·late** /ə'kjumjəleɪt/ *v.t., v.i.* -lat·ed, -lat·ing, to gather or collect, esp. by degrees; amass or mount up. — **ac·cu·mu·la·tion**, *n.*

**ac·cu·rate** /'ækjərɪt/ *adj.* 1. free from error. 2. carefully precise. — **ac·cu·ra·cy**, **ac·cu·rate·ness**, *n.* — **ac·cu·rate·ly**, *adv.*

**ac·curs·ed** /ə'kərsɪd, ə'kərst/ also **ac·curs·t** /ə'kərst/ *adj.* 1. under a curse. 2. damnable. — **ac·curs·ed·ness**, *n.*

**ac·cu·sa·tion** /'ækju'zeɪʃən/ *n.* 1. a charge of guilt or blame. 2. the act of accusing. — **ac·cu·sa·to·ry** /ə'kjuzətəri/ *adj.*

**ac·cu·sa·tive** /ə'kjuzətɪv/ *adj.* 1. designating a grammatical case that indicates the object of a verb or preposition. — *n.* 2. the accusative case.

**ac·cuse** /ə'kjuz/ *v.t., -cused, -cus·ing.* 1. to charge with a fault, offense, or crime. 2. to blame. — **ac·cus·er**, *n.*

**ac·cus·tom** /ə'kʌstəm/ *v.t.* to familiarize by custom or use; habituate.

**ac·cus·tomed** /ə'kʌstəmd/ *adj.* custom·ary; habitual.

**AC/DC** /'eɪsɪ'dɪsi/ 1. alternating current or direct current. — *adj.* *Slang.* 2. bisexual.

**ace** /eɪs/ *n., v., aced, ac·ing.* — *n.* 1. a playing card with one spot. 2. a point, as in tennis, made on a serve that an opponent fails to touch. 3. a fighter pilot who downs a number of enemy planes. 4. an expert. — *v.t.* 5. to score an ace against (an opponent). 6. *Slang.* to defeat (usu. fol. by *out*). 7. *Slang.* to receive a grade of A in or on.

**ac·er·bate** /'æsərbeɪt/ *v.t., -bat·ed, -bat·ing.* 1. to make sour or bitter. 2. to exasperate or embitter.

**ac·cer·bic** /ə'sərbɪk/ *adj.* 1. sour or bitter in taste. 2. sharp or bitter, as in expression. — **ac·cer·bi·ty**, *n.*

**ac·ce·ta·min·o·phen** /ə'sɪtə'mɪnəfən/ *n.* a crystalline substance used to reduce pain or fever.

**ac·e·tate** /'æsi'teɪt/ *n.* 1. a salt or ester of acetic acid. 2. a synthetic material derived from the acetic ester of cellulose.

**ac·e·tic** /ə'sɪtɪk/ *adj.* of or producing vinegar or acetic acid.

**acetic acid** *n.* a pungent liquid, the essential constituent of vinegar.

**ac·e·tone** /'æsi'toun/ *n.* a volatile, flammable liquid used as a solvent.

**ac·cet·y·lene** /ə'setlɪn/ *n.* a colorless gas used for lighting and in welding.

**ac·ce·tyl·sal·i·cyl·ic acid** /'æsi'tl,sælə'sɪlɪk/ *n.* ASPIRIN (def. 1).

**ache** /eɪk/ *v., ached, ach·ing, n.* — *v.i.* 1. to have a continuous dull pain. 2. to yearn; long. — *n.* 3. a continuous dull pain. — **ach·y**, *adj.* -i·er, -i·est.

**ac·chene** /e'kɪn, ə'kɪn/ *n.* a small, dry, one-seeded fruit.

**ac·chieve** /ə'ʃi:v/ *v.t., ac·chieved, ac·chiev·ing.* 1. to bring to a successful end. 2. to get by hard work or effort. — **ac·chiev·ment**, *n.* — **ac·chiev·er**, *n.*

**Ac·chil·les** /ə'kɪlɪz/ *n.* a Greek warrior killed in the Trojan War.

**Achilles (or Achilles) heel**, *n.* a weak or vulnerable spot.

**Achilles tendon**, *n.* the tendon joining the calf muscles to the heel bone.

**ach·ro·mat·ic** /'ækrə'mætɪk/ *adj.* 1. free from color. 2. able to emit, transmit, or receive light without separating it into colors.

**ac·id** /'æsid/ *n.* 1. a compound usu. having a sour taste and capable of neutralizing alkalies and turning blue litmus paper red. 2. a substance with a sour taste. 3. *Slang.* the drug LSD. — *adj.* 4. of an acid. 5. sour to the taste. 6. sharp, biting, or ill-natured; caustic. —

**ac·id·ic** /ə'sɪdɪk/ *adj.* **ac·id·i·ty**, *n.*

**ac·id·i·fy** /ə'sɪdɪfaɪ/ *v.t., v.i., -fled, -fy·ing.* 1. to convert into an acid. 2. to make or become sour.

**ac·i·do·sis** /'æsi'doʊsɪs/ *n.* a blood condition in which the bicarbonate concentration is below normal.

**acid rain**, *n.* rain containing acid-forming chemicals, resulting from the release into the atmosphere of industrial pollutants.

**acid test**, *n.* a severe, conclusive test.  
**a·cid·u·lous** /ə'sɪdʒələs/ *adj.* 1. slightly sour. 2. sharp; caustic.  
**-acious**, a suffix meaning tending to or abounding in (*tenacious*).  
**-acity**, a suffix meaning tendency toward or abundance in (*tenacity*).  
**ac·knowl·edge** /æk'nɒldʒ/ *v.t.*, *-edged, -edg·ing*. 1. to admit to be real or true. 2. to show recognition or realization of. 3. to recognize the authority or claims of. 4. to express appreciation for. 5. to make known the receipt of. —**ac·knowl·edg·ment**, **ac·knowl·edge·ment**, *n.*  
**ACLU**, American Civil Liberties Union.  
**ac·me** /'ækmi/ *n.*, *pl. -mes*. the highest point or stage; peak.  
**ac·ne** /'ækni/ *n.* a disorder of the sebaceous glands characterized by pimples, esp. on the face.  
**ac·o·lyte** /'ækə'lait/ *n.* 1. an altar attendant in public worship; altar boy. 2. an attendant or assistant.  
**ac·o·nite** /'ækə'nait/ *n.* a plant with irregular flowers usu. in loose clusters, including species with poisonous and medicinal properties.  
**a·corn** /'eɪkɔrn, 'eɪkɔrn/ *n.* the typically ovoid fruit or nut of an oak.

acorn



**acorn squash**, *n.* an acorn-shaped variety of winter squash with dark green ridged skin.  
**a·cous·tic** /ə'kustɪk/ also **-ti·cal**, *adj.* 1. pertaining to hearing, sound, or the science of sound. 2. designed for controlling sound; *acoustic tile*. 3. sounded without electric or electronic enhancement; *an acoustic guitar*. —**a·cous·ti·cal·ly**, *adv.*  
**a·cous·tics** /ə'kustɪks/ *n.* 1. (*used with a sing. v.*) the branch of physics that deals with sound and sound waves. 2. (*used with a pl. v.*) the qualities of a room, auditorium, etc., that determine the audibility of sounds in it.  
**ac·quaint** /ə'kwem/ *v.t.* 1. to make familiar or aware. 2. to provide with knowledge; inform.  
**ac·quaint·ance** /ə'kwemtns/ *n.* 1. a person whom one knows casually. 2. personal knowledge. —**ac·quaint·ance·ship**, *n.*  
**ac·qui·esce** /ækwi'ez/ *v.i.*, *-esced, -esc·ing*. to comply silently or without protest. —**ac·qui·es·cence**, *n.* —**ac·qui·es·cent**, *adj.*  
**ac·quire** /ə'kwɪər/ *v.t.*, *-quired, -quir·ing*. 1. to get possession of. 2. to gain through one's efforts. —**ac·quir·a·ble**, *adj.* —**ac·quire·ment**, *n.*  
**ac·qui·si·tion** /ækwi'zɪʃən/ *n.* 1. the act of acquiring. 2. something acquired.

**ac·quis·i·tive** /ə'kwɪzɪtɪv/ *adj.* tending or seeking to acquire, often greedily. —**ac·quis·i·tive·ness**, *n.*  
**ac·quit** /ə'kwɪt/ *v.t.*, *-quit·ted, -quit·ting*. 1. to declare not guilty of a crime or offense. 2. to conduct (oneself); behave. 3. to release from an obligation. —**ac·quit·tal**, *n.*  
**a·cre** /'eɪkər/ *n.* a unit of land measure equal to 43,560 square feet.  
**a·cre·age** /'eɪkərɪdʒ/ *n.* extent or area in acres; acres collectively.  
**ac·rid** /'ækrɪd/ *adj.* 1. harshly or bitterly pungent in taste or smell. 2. sharply stinging or bitter; caustic; *acrid remarks*. —**a·crid·i·ty** /ə'krɪdɪti/, **ac·rid·ness**, *n.* —**ac·rid·ly**, *adv.*  
**ac·ri·mo·ny** /'ækrə'mouni/ *n.* sharpness, harshness, or bitterness of nature, speech, or disposition. —**ac·ri·mo·ni·ous**, *adj.*  
**ac·ro·bat** /'ækrə'bæt/ *n.* a performer of gymnastic feats requiring agility, balance, and coordination. —**ac·ro·bat·ic**, *adj.*  
**ac·ro·bat·ics** /'ækrə'bætɪks/ *n.* (*used with a pl. v.*) 1. the feats of an acrobat. 2. any feats requiring great agility; *verbal acrobatics*.  
**ac·ro·nym** /'ækrənɪm/ *n.* a word, as *laser*, formed from the initial letters or groups of letters of words in a name or phrase.  
**ac·ro·pho·bi·a** /'ækrə'fəubiə/ *n.* a pathological fear of heights.  
**a·crop·o·lis** /ə'krɒpəlɪs/ *n.* 1. the citadel or high fortified area of an ancient Greek city. 2. the Acropolis, the citadel of Athens.  
**a·cross** /ə'krɒs, ə'krɒs/ *prep.* 1. from one side to the other of. 2. on or to the other side of. 3. into contact with, usu. by accident. 4. transversely over; crosswise of. —*adv.* 5. from one side to another. 6. on the other side. 7. crosswise; transversely.  
**across-the-board** /ə'krɒsðə'bɔrd, ə'krɒs-/ *adj.* 1. applying to all members or categories. 2. (of a bet, esp. in a horse race) covering win, place, and show.  
**a·cros·tic** /ə'krɒstɪk, ə'krɒstɪk/ *n.* a series of written lines or verses in which the first, last, or other particular letters form a word or phrase.  
**a·cryl·ic** /ə'krɪlɪk/ *n.* 1. a paint with an acrylic resin as the vehicle. 2. any of a group of synthetic textile fibers, as Orlon. 3. ACRYLIC RESIN.  
**acrylic resin**, *n.* any of a group of thermoplastic resins used to make paints, plastics, etc.  
**act** /ækt/ *n.* 1. something done; deed. 2. the process of doing. 3. a law, decree, edict, or statute. 4. one of the main divisions of a play or opera. 5. a short performance in a variety show. 6. a display of insincere behavior. —*v.i.* 7. to do something; carry out an action. 8. to carry out a particular function; serve. 9. to produce an effect. 10. to conduct oneself; behave. 11. to pretend or feign. 12. to perform as an actor. —

- v.t.* **13.** to perform (a dramatic role) on a stage. **14.** act up, *a.* to malfunction. *b.* to behave willfully.
- ACTH**, a pituitary hormone that stimulates the production of steroids in the adrenal cortex. [*a* (*dreno*) *c* (*ortico*) *t* (*ropic*) *h* (*ormone*)]
- act·ing** /'æktɪŋ/ *adj.* **1.** serving temporarily, esp. as a substitute during another's absence. — *n.* **2.** the art, profession, or activity of an actor.
- ac·ti·nide series** /'æktənaɪd/ *n.* the series of radioactive elements whose atomic numbers range from 89 (actinium) through 103 (lawrencium).
- ac·tin·i·um** /'æktɪniəm/ *n.* a radioactive, silver-white metallic element. *Symbol:* Ac; *at. no.:* 89; *at. wt.:* 227.
- ac·tion** /'æksjən/ *n.* **1.** the process of acting or the state of being active. **2.** an act or deed. **3.** actions, behavior; conduct. **4.** energetic activity. **5.** effect or influence. **6.** the mechanism by which something, as a gun, is operated. **7.** military combat. **8.** an event or series of events that form a literary or dramatic plot. **9.** a legal proceeding. — **ac·tion·less**, *adj.*
- ac·tion·a·ble** /'æksjənəbəl/ *adj.* furnishing grounds for a lawsuit.
- ac·ti·vate** /'æktəveɪt/ *v.t.*, — **vat·ed**, — **vat·ing**. **1.** to make active. **2.** *Physics.* to induce radioactivity in. **3.** to aerate (sewage) in order to accelerate decomposition. **4.** to place (a military unit) on an active status. — **ac·ti·va·tion**, *n.*
- activated carbon**, *n.* a form of carbon having very fine pores, used chiefly for adsorbing gases or solutes. Also called **ac·ti·vated char·coal**.
- ac·tive** /'æktɪv/ *adj.* **1.** engaged in action or activity. **2.** being in existence, progress, or motion. **3.** giving rise to action or change. **4.** agile; nimble. **5.** characterized by current activity, participation, or use. **6.** noting the voice of a verb having a subject that performs the action. — *n.* **7.** the active voice. — **ac·tive·ly**, *adv.*
- ac·tiv·ism** /'æktəvɪzəm/ *n.* the doctrine or practice of vigorous action to achieve political or social goals. — **ac·tiv·ist**, *n.*, — *adj.*
- ac·tiv·i·ty** /æktɪvɪti/ *n.*, *pl.* — **ties**. **1.** the state or quality of being active. **2.** energetic action; animation. **3.** a specific deed, action, occupation, or sphere of action.
- ac·tor** /'æktər/ *n.* a person who acts in stage plays or motion pictures.
- ac·tress** /'æktɪs/ *n.* a woman who acts in stage plays or motion pictures.
- ac·tu·al** /'æktʃuəl/ *adj.* **1.** existing in fact or reality. **2.** existing at the present time. — **ac·tu·al·i·ty**, *n.*, — *pl.* — **ties**. — **ac·tu·al·ly**, *adv.*
- ac·tu·al·ize** /'æktʃuəlaɪz/ *v.t.*, — **ized**, — **iz·ing**, to make actual or real; turn into action or fact. — **ac·tu·al·i·za·tion**, *n.*
- ac·tu·ar·y** /'æktʃuəri/ *n.*, *pl.* — **ies**, a person who computes insurance premium rates, risks, etc. — **ac·tu·ar·i·al**, *adj.*
- ac·tu·ate** /'æktʃueɪt/ *v.t.*, — **at·ed**, — **at·ing**. **1.** to incite to action. **2.** to put into action. — **ac·tu·a·tion**, *n.* — **ac·tu·a·tor**, *n.*
- a·cu·i·ty** /ə'kjʊti/ *n.* sharpness of perception.
- a·cu·men** /ə'kjʊmən/ *n.* keen insight; shrewdness.
- ac·u·punc·ture** /'ækju.pʌŋktʃər/ *n.* a Chinese medical practice that treats illness or relieves pain by the insertion of needles at specified sites of the body. — **ac·u·punc·tur·ist**, *n.*
- a·cute** /ə'kjʊt/ *adj.* **1.** sharp or severe; acute pain. **2.** extremely serious; critical. **3.** (of disease) brief and severe. **4.** penetrating in insight or perception. **5.** extremely sensitive; acute eyesight. **6.** (of an angle) less than 90°. — **a·cute·ly**, *adv.* — **a·cute·ness**, *n.*
- acute accent**, *n.* a mark (´) used to indicate vowel quality or word stress.
- ad** /æd/ *n.* an advertisement.
- A.D.** or **AD**, in the year of the Lord (used with dates); *Charlemagne was born in A.D. 742.* [*< L annō Domini*] — *Usage.* A.D. is usu. placed before a date; *The Roman conquest of Britain began in A.D. 43.* The abbreviation B.C. is always placed after a date.
- ad·age** /'ædɪdʒ/ *n.* a traditional saying; proverb.
- a·da·glio** /ə'dɑdʒiəʊ, ə'dɑdʒiəʊ/ *adv.*, — *adj.*, *n.*, — *pl.* — **gios**. — *adv.* **1.** *Music.* slowly. — *adj.* **2.** *Music.* slow. — *n.* **3.** *Music.* an adagio movement. **4.** a technically demanding ballet duet or trio. [*< It. for adagio at ease*]
- Ad·am** /'ædəm/ *n.* *Bible.* the first man, husband of Eve.
- ad·a·mant** /'ædəmənt/ *adj.* **1.** utterly unyielding; inflexible. — *n.* **2.** a legendary stone of impenetrable hardness. — **ad·a·mant·ly**, *adv.*
- Ad·ams** /'ædəmz/ *n.* **1.** John, 1735–1826, 2nd president of the U.S. 1797–1801. **2.** his son, John Quincy, 1767–1848, 6th president of the U.S. 1825–29.
- Adam's apple**, *n.* a projection of the thyroid cartilage at the front of the neck.
- a·dapt** /ə'dæpt/ *v.t.*, *v.i.* to adjust or become adjusted to new requirements or conditions. — **a·dapt·a·ble**, *adj.* — **a·dapt·a·bil·i·ty**, *n.* — **ad·ap·ta·tion** /'ædəp'teɪʃən/ *n.*
- a·dapt·er** or **a·dap·tor** /ə'dæptər/ *n.* **1.** a connector for joining parts of different sizes or designs. **2.** an accessory to convert a machine, tool, or part to a new use.
- add** /æd/ *v.t.* **1.** to unite or join so as to increase in number, quantity, size, or importance. **2.** to find the sum of. **3.** to say or write further. — *v.i.* **4.** to perform arithmetic addition. **5.** to be or serve as an addition. **6.** add up, to seem reasonable. **7.** ~ up to, to amount to; signify.
- ADD**, attention deficit disorder.
- ad·dend** /'ædənd, ə'dænd/ *n.* a number to be added to another.

- ad·den·dum** /ə'dendəm/ *n.*, *pl.* *-da* /-dɑ/ 1. an addition. 2. an appendix to a book.
- ad·der** /'ædər/ *n.* 1. the common European viper. 2. a snake resembling the viper.
- ad·dict** /v. ə'dɪkt/; *n.* 'ædɪkt/ *v.t.* 1. to cause to become physiologically dependent on a drug. 2. to abandon (oneself) to something compulsively or obsessively. —*n.* 3. one who is addicted, esp. to a drug. —**ad·dic·tion**, *n.* —**ad·dic·tive**, *adj.*
- Ad·dis A·ba·ba** /'ædɪs'æbəbə/ *n.* the capital of Ethiopia. 1,412,575.
- ad·di·tion** /ə'dɪʃən/ *n.* 1. the act or process of adding. 2. the process of uniting numbers to find their sum. 3. something added. —**Idiom**, 4. in addition, besides; also. 5. in addition to, as well as; besides. —**ad·di·tion·al**, *adj.* —**ad·di·tion·al·ly**, *adv.*
- ad·di·tive** /'ædɪtɪv/ *n.* 1. a substance added to another to alter or improve its quality. —*adj.* 2. characterized or produced by addition.
- ad·dle** /'ædl/ *v.t.*, *v.i.*, *-dled*, *-dling*. to make or become confused.
- ad·dress** /n. ə'dres/; *v.* ə'dres/ *n.* 1. the place where a person or organization is located. 2. the location and name of the intended recipient indicated on a piece of mail. 3. a formal speech. 4. skillful management. 5. a code that designates the location of information stored in computer memory. —*v.t.* 6. to direct a speech or statement to. 7. to use a specified form or title in speaking or writing to. 8. to put the directions for delivery on. 9. to direct the energy or efforts of (oneself).
- ad·dress·ee** /'ædre'si, ədre-/ *n.*, *pl.* *-ees*, one to whom mail is addressed.
- ad·duce** /ə'd(j)us/ *v.t.*, *-duced*, *-duc·ing*. to bring forward, as in evidence.
- Ad·e·laide** /'ædʒeɪd/ *n.* a city in S Australia. 993,100.
- A·den** /'ædn, 'eɪdn/ *n.* 1. the economic capital of the Republic of Yemen. 318,000. 2. Gulf of, an arm of the Arabian Sea, S of Arabia.
- ad·e·nine** /'ædn, -ɪn, -aɪn/ *n.* a purine base that is a fundamental component of DNA and RNA.
- ad·e·noids** /'ædnɔɪdz/ *n. pl.* growths of lymphoid tissue in the upper throat. —**ad·e·noi·dal**, *adj.*
- a·dept** /*adj.* ə'dept/; *n.* 'ædept, ə'dept/ *adj.* 1. very skilled; expert. —*n.* **ad·ept** 2. a skilled person; expert. —**a·dept·ly**, *adv.* —**a·dept·ness**, *n.*
- ad·e·quate** /'ædɪkwɪt/ *adj.* 1. fully sufficient for a requirement or purpose. 2. barely sufficient or suitable. —**ad·e·qua·cy** /'ædɪkwəsi/ *n.* —**ad·e·quate·ly**, *adv.*
- ad·here** /æd'hɪər/ *v.i.*, *-hered*, *-her·ing*. 1. to stick fast; cling. 2. to hold closely or firmly. 3. to be devoted in support or allegiance. —**ad·her·ence**, *n.* —**ad·her·ent**, *n.*, *adj.*
- ad·he·sion** /æd'hɪʒən/ *n.* 1. the act or state of adhering. 2. the abnormal union of adjacent bodily tissues.
- ad·he·sive** /æd'hɪsɪv,-ɪv/ *adj.* 1. coated with a sticky substance. 2. tending to adhere; sticky. —*n.* 3. an adhesive substance or material.
- adhesive tape**, *n.* tape coated with an adhesive substance, as for holding a bandage in place.
- ad hoc** /'æd'hɒk, 'hɒk/ *adj.*, *adv.* for a particular purpose or end; *an ad hoc committee*.
- a·dieu** /ə'd(j)u/ *interj.*, *n.*, *pl.* **a·dieux**, **a·dieux** /ə'djuz/ *good-bye*. [< MF. = a < L ad to + dieu (< L deus god)]
- ad in·fi·ni·tum** /ædɪnfə'nɪtəm/ *adv.* without limit; endlessly.
- ad·i·os** /æd'i'ɔs, əd'i'ɔs/ *interj.* good-bye. [< Sp]
- ad·i·pose** /'ædɪpəʊs/ *adj.* consisting of, resembling, or pertaining to fat; fatty.
- Ad·i·ron·dack Mountains** /'ædɪ'rɒndæk, -dæ/ *n. pl.* a mountain range in NE New York. Also called **Ad·i·ron·dacks**.
- adj.** 1. adjective. 2. adjustment. 3. adjutant.
- ad·ja·cent** /ə'dʒeɪsənt/ *adj.* lying near or contiguous; nearby or adjoining. —**ad·ja·cent·cy**, *n.* —**ad·ja·cent·ly**, *adv.*
- ad·jec·tive** /'ædʒɪktɪv/ *n.* a word functioning as a modifier of a noun. —**ad·jec·ti·val** /'ædʒɪk'tɪvəl/ *adj.* —**ad·jec·ti·val·ly**, *adv.*
- ad·join** /ə'dʒɔɪn/ *v.t.* 1. to be close or next to. —*v.i.* 2. to be close or in contact. —**ad·join·ing**, *adj.*
- ad·journ** /ə'dʒɔːrn/ *v.t.* 1. to suspend to a future time. another place, or indefinitely. —*v.i.* 2. to postpone, suspend, or transfer a proceeding. 3. to go to another place. —**ad·journ·ment**, *n.*
- ad·judge** /ə'dʒʌdʒ/ *v.t.*, *-judged*, *-judg·ing*. 1. to award judicially. 2. to decide by judicial procedure. 3. to deem; consider.
- ad·ju·di·cate** /ə'dʒʊdɪ'keɪt/ *v.t.*, *-cat·ed*, *-cat·ing*. to settle or determine (an issue or dispute) judicially. —**ad·ju·di·ca·tion**, *n.* —**ad·ju·di·ca·tive** /ə'dʒʊdɪ'keɪtɪv, -kəɪv/ *adj.* —**ad·ju·di·ca·tor**, *n.*
- ad·junct** /'ædʒʌŋkt/ *n.* something added to another but not essential to it.
- ad·jure** /ə'dʒɔːr/ *v.t.*, *-jured*, *-jur·ing*. 1. to charge or command solemnly. 2. to entreat earnestly. —**ad·ju·ra·tion**, *n.*
- ad·just** /ə'dʒʌst/ *v.t.* 1. to change so as to fit, correspond, or conform. 2. to put in working order or in a proper state. 3. to settle satisfactorily. 4. to determine the amount to be paid in settlement of (an insurance claim). —*v.i.* 5. to adapt oneself. —**ad·just·a·ble**, *adj.* —**ad·just·er**, **ad·jus·tor**, *n.* —**ad·just·ment**, *n.*
- ad·ju·tant** /'ædʒətənt/ *n.* 1. a military staff officer who assists a commanding officer. 2. an assistant.
- ad lib** /æd'lib, 'ædlɪb/ *n.* 1. something improvised in speech, music, etc. —*adv.* 2. at one's pleasure; without restriction. 3. as needed; freely.

- ad-lib** /æd'lib, 'ædlib/ *v.*, -libbed, -libbing. *adj.* —*v.t.*, *v.i.* 1. to improvise (words, music, etc.). —*adj.* 2. impromptu; extemporaneous.
- Adm.** or **ADM.** 1. admiral. 2. admiralty.
- adm.** 1. administration. 2. administrative. 3. administrator.
- ad-man** /æd'mæn, -mən/ *n.*, *pl.* -men. a person whose profession is writing, designing, or selling advertisements.
- ad-min-is-ter** /æd'mɪnəstər/ *v.t.* 1. to direct or manage. 2. to give out, esp. formally; dispense. 3. to give remedially. 4. to tender (an oath). 5. *Law.* to manage or dispose of (an estate).
- ad-min-is-trate** /æd'mɪnəstreɪt/ *v.t.*, -trat-ed, -trat-ing. to administer.
- ad-min-is-tra-tion** /æd'mɪnə'streɪʃən/ *n.* 1. management, as of a government or business. 2. (*often cap.*) the executive branch of a government. 3. the period during which an administrator or body of administrators serves. 4. *Law.* the management of an estate. 5. the act of administering. —**ad-min-is-tra-tive**, *adj.*
- ad-min-is-tra-tor** /æd'mɪnəs'treɪtər/ *n.* 1. a person who administers. 2. *Law.* a person appointed to administer an estate.
- ad-mi-ra-ble** /æd'mɪərəbəl/ *adj.* worthy of admiration. —**ad-mi-ra-bly**, *adv.*
- ad-mi-ral** /æd'mɪrəl/ *n.* 1. the commander in chief of a fleet. 2. a naval officer of the second-highest rank.
- ad-mi-ral-ty** /æd'mɪərəl'ti/ *n.*, *pl.* -ties. 1. the department of state having charge of naval affairs, as in Great Britain. 2. a court dealing with maritime questions.
- ad-mire** /æd'maɪər/ *v.t.* 1. to regard with pleasure, approval, and often wonder. 2. to regard highly; respect. —**ad-mi-ra-tion** /æd'maɪ'reɪʃən/ *n.* —**ad-mir-er**, *n.* —**ad-mir-ing-ly**, *adv.*
- ad-mis-si-ble** /æd'mɪsəbəl/ *adj.* capable of being admitted or allowed. —**ad-mis-si-bil-i-ty**, *n.*
- ad-mis-sion** /æd'mɪʃən/ *n.* 1. the act of admitting. 2. right or permission to enter. 3. the price paid for entrance. 4. confession of a charge, error, or crime.
- ad-mit** /æd'mɪt/ *v.*, -mit-ted, -mit-ting. —*v.t.* 1. to allow to enter. 2. to permit to exercise a particular function. 3. to concede as valid. 4. to acknowledge; confess. 5. to have capacity for. —*v.i.* 6. to offer opportunity; allow: *It admits of no other interpretation.* —**ad-mit-tance**, *n.* —**ad-mit-ted-ly**, *adv.*
- ad-mix** /æd'mɪks/ *v.t.*, *v.i.* to add to or mingle with something else. —**ad-mix-ture** /æd'mɪkstʃər/ *n.*
- ad-mon-ish** /æd'mənɪʃ/ *v.t.* 1. to caution or advise against something. 2. to improve, esp. in a mild manner. —**ad-mo-ni-tion** /æd'mə'nɪʃən/ *n.* —**ad-mon-i-to-ry** /æd'mə'nɪtəri/ *adj.*
- ad nau-se-am** /æd'næziəm/ *adv.* to a sickening or disgusting degree.
- a-do** /ə'du/ *n.* bustling activity; fuss.
- a-do-be** /ə'dəubi/ *n.*, *pl.* -bes, 1. sun-dried brick made of clay and straw. 2. a silt or clay used to make bricks. 3. a building constructed of adobe. [*< Sp < Ar al-tub the brick*]
- ad-o-les-cence** /æd'eləsəns/ *n.* the transitional period between puberty and adulthood; youth. —**ad-o-les-cent**, *n.*, *adj.*
- A-don-is** /ə'dɒnɪs, ə'dəʊnɪs/ *n.* 1. a youth of Greek myth who was loved by Aphrodite. 2. a very handsome young man.
- a-dopt** /ə'dɒpt/ *v.t.* 1. to take and use as one's own. 2. to become the legal parent of (the child of another). 3. to vote to accept. —**a-dopt-a-ble**, *adj.* —**a-dop-tion**, *n.* —**a-dop-tive**, *adj.*
- a-dor-a-ble** /ə'dɒrəbəl/ *adj.* 1. very charming. 2. worthy of being adored. —**a-dor-a-bly**, *adv.*
- a-dore** /ə'dɔr/ *v.t.*, *a-dored*, *a-dor-ing*. 1. to regard with the utmost love and respect. 2. to worship. 3. to like or admire very much. —**ad-o-ra-tion** /ædə'reɪʃən/ *n.* —**a-dor-er**, *n.* —**a-dor-ing-ly**, *adv.*
- a-dorn** /ə'dɔrn/ *v.t.* 1. to decorate with or as if with ornaments. 2. to enhance. —**a-dorn-ment**, *n.*
- ad-re-nal** /ə'drɪnəl/ *adj.* 1. of or produced by the adrenal glands. 2. situated near or on the kidneys.
- adrenal gland**, *n.* one of a pair of ductless glands located above the kidneys.
- a-dren-a-line** /ə'drɛnɪn/ *n.* EPINEPH-RINE.
- A-dri-at-ic Sea** /'ædrɪ'ætɪk, 'ædrɪ-/ *n.* an arm of the Mediterranean Sea between Italy and the Balkan Peninsula.
- a-drift** /ə'drɪft/ *adj.*, *adv.* 1. floating without anchor or mooring. 2. without aim or direction.
- a-droit** /ə'drɔɪt/ *adj.* 1. manually dexterous. 2. cleverly skillful or resourceful. —**a-droit-ly**, *adv.* —**a-droit-ness**, *n.*
- ad-sorb** /æd'sɔrb, 'zɔrb/ *v.t.* to hold (a gas, liquid, or dissolved substance) on a surface in a condensed layer. —**ad-sorb-ent**, *adj.*, *n.* —**ad-sorp-tion** /æd'sɔrptʃən, 'zɔrpt-/ *n.* —**ad-sorp-tive**, *adj.*
- ad-u-late** /'ædʒəleɪt/ *v.t.*, -lat-ed, -lat-ing. to flatter or admire excessively. —**ad-u-la-tion**, *n.* —**ad-u-la-to-ry**, *adj.*
- a-dult** /ə'dʌlt, 'ædɪlt/ *adj.* 1. having attained maturity. 2. of, befitting, or intended for adults. —*n.* 3. a person who has attained maturity or legal age. 4. a full-grown animal or plant. —**a-dult-hood**, *n.*
- a-dul-ter-ant** /ə'dʌltərənt/ *n.* 1. a substance that adulterates. —*adj.* 2. adulterating.
- a-dul-ter-ate** /ə'dʌltərəɪt/ *v.t.*, -at-ed, -at-ing. to make impure by adding inferior, alien, or less desirable materials or elements. —**a-dul-ter-a-tion**, *n.*
- a-dul-ter-y** /ə'dʌltəri/ *n.*, *pl.* -ies. voluntary sexual intercourse between a married person and someone other than the spouse. —**a-dul-ter-er**, *n.* —**a-dul-ter-ess**, *n.* —**a-dul-ter-ous**, *adj.*
- ad-um-brate** /æd'ʌmbreɪt, 'ædəm,breɪt/ *v.t.*, -brat-ed, -brat-ing. 1. to outline sketchily. 2. to foreshadow; prefigure.

- 3.** to darken or conceal partially. — **ad·um·bra·tion**, *n.*
- adv.**, **1.** *adv.* **2.** *adv.* **3.** *adv.* **4.** *adv.*
- ad va·lo·rem** /æd'vælə'rem/ *adj.* fixed at a percentage of the value; *an ad valorem tax.*
- ad·vance** /æd'væns, 'væns/ *v.*, *-vanced*, *-vanc·ing*, *n.*, *adj.* — *v.t.* **1.** to move, send, or bring forward. **2.** to present for consideration; propose. **3.** to further the development, progress, or prospects of. **4.** to raise in rank; promote. **5.** to raise in rate or amount; increase. **6.** to supply (money or goods) on credit. — *v.i.* **7.** to go forward; proceed. **8.** to make progress; improve. **9.** to rise, as in importance or status. — *n.* **10.** a forward movement. **11.** progress; improvement. **12.** a promotion. **13.** *Usu.*, *-vances*, attempts made to form an acquaintance, reach an agreement, or gain favor. **14.** a rise in price or value. **15.** something, as money, furnished on credit. — *adj.* **16.** going or placed before. **17.** made, given, or issued ahead of time. — *Idiom.* **18.** in advance, beforehand. — **ad·vance·ment**, *n.*
- ad·vanced** /æd'vænst, 'vænst/ *adj.* **1.** beyond the beginning; elementary. **2.** far along in progress, development, or time.
- ad·van·tage** /æd'væntidʒ, 'væn/ *n.* **1.** a circumstance favorable to success. **2.** benefit; gain. **3.** a position of superiority. **4.** the first point in tennis scored after deuce. — *Idiom.* **5.** take advantage of, a. to make good use of. b. to impose upon, esp. by exploiting a weakness. — **ad·van·ta·geous** /æd'væn'teɪdʒəs/ *adj.* — **ad·van·ta·geous·ly**, *adv.*
- ad·vent** /æd'vent/ *n.* **1.** an arrival; a coming. **2.** a. (*usu. cap.*) the coming of Christ. b. (*cap.*) the period beginning four Sundays before Christmas.
- ad·ven·ti·tious** /æd'væn'tiʃəs/ *adj.* **1.** not inherent; extrinsic. **2.** appearing in an abnormal place, as a root on a stem. — **ad·ven·ti·tious·ly**, *adv.*
- ad·ven·ture** /æd'ventʃər/ *n.*, *v.*, *-tured*, *-tur·ing*. — *n.* **1.** an exciting and unusual experience. **2.** an uncertain and usu. risky undertaking. **3.** a commercial or financial venture. — *v.t.*, *v.i.* **4.** to risk or hazard. — **ad·ven·tur·ous**, **ad·ven·ture·some**, *adj.* — **ad·ven·tur·ous·ly**, *adv.*
- ad·ven·tur·er** /æd'ventʃərə/ *n.* **1.** a person who has or seeks out adventures. **2.** SOLDIER OF FORTUNE. **3.** a person who unscrupulously seeks wealth or social position.
- ad·ven·tur·ess** /æd'ventʃəris/ *n.* an unscrupulous woman who schemes to win wealth or social position.
- ad·verb** /æd'verb/ *n.* a word that modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb. — **ad·ver·bi·al**, *adj.*
- ad·ver·sar·y** /æd'versəri/ *n.*, *pl. -ies*, an opponent; enemy. — **ad·ver·sar·i·al**, *adj.*
- ad·verse** /æd'vers, 'ædvərs/ *adj.* **1.** un-
- favorable or antagonistic. **2.** opposed to one's interests. — **ad·verse·ly**, *adv.*
- ad·ver·si·ty** /æd'versti/ *n.*, *pl. -ties* for **2.** **1.** adverse fortune; misfortune. **2.** an adverse event or circumstance.
- ad·vert** /æd'vert/ *v.i.* to turn or call the attention; refer.
- ad·ver·tise** /æd'vertaɪz/ *v.*, *-tised*, *-tis·ing*. — *v.t.* **1.** to describe or announce (a product or service) publicly, esp. in order to promote sales. **2.** to call public attention to. — *v.i.* **3.** to seek something or offer goods or services through advertisements. — **ad·ver·tis·er**, *n.* — **ad·ver·tis·ing**, *n.*
- ad·ver·tise·ment** /æd'ver'taɪzmənt, æd'vɜrtismənt, -tuz/ *n.* a public announcement intended to advertise something.
- ad·ver·to·ri·al** /æd'vertəriəl/ *n.* a printed advertisement that promotes a product while appearing to be an editorial or provide information.
- ad·vice** /æd'vaɪs/ *n.* **1.** an opinion offered as a guide to action. **2.** a communication containing information.
- ad·vis·a·ble** /æd'vaɪzəbəl/ *adj.* wise, as a course of action; prudent. — **ad·vis·a·bil·i·ty**, *n.*
- ad·vise** /æd'vaɪz/ *v.t.*, *-vised*, *-vis·ing*. **1.** to give advice to. **2.** to recommend as desirable or prudent. **3.** to give information or notice to. — **ad·vis·er**, **ad·vi·sor**, *n.*
- ad·vis·ed·ly** /æd'vaɪzdlɪ/ *adv.* after careful consideration; deliberately.
- ad·vise·ment** /æd'vaɪzmənt/ *n.* careful consideration; *The petition was taken under advisement.*
- ad·vi·so·ry** /æd'vaɪzəri/ *adj.*, *n.*, *pl. -ries*. — *adj.* **1.** giving advice. **2.** having the power or duty to advise. — *n.* **3.** a report on existing or predicted conditions, often with advice for dealing with them.
- ad·vo·cate** /v. 'ædvəkeɪt/ *n.* -kɪt, -keɪt/ *v.*, *-cat·ed*, *-cat·ing*, *n.* — *v.t.* **1.** to support or urge by argument, esp. publicly. — *n.* **2.** a person who speaks or writes in support of a cause. **3.** a person who pleads for or in behalf of another. [*< L advocatus legal counselor*] — **ad·vo·ca·cy** /ædvəkəsi/ *n.*
- advt.**, advertisement.
- adz** or **adze** /ædz/ *n.* an axlike tool with a curved head used esp. for dressing timbers.
- Ae·ge·an Sea** /i'dʒiən/ *n.* an arm of the Mediterranean Sea between Greece and Turkey.
- ae·gis** /'i'dʒɪs/ *n.* **1.** sponsorship; auspices. **2.** protection; support.
- Ae·ne·as** /i'niəs/ *n.* a Trojan hero, the legendary ancestor of the Romans.
- ae·on** /'i:ən, 'i:ɒn/ *n.* EON.
- aer·ate** /'eəri:t, 'eəri:t/ *v.t.*, *-at·ed*, *-at·ing*. **1.** to expose to or supply with air. **2.** to charge or treat with air or a gas, esp. with carbon dioxide. — **aer·a·tion**, *n.* — **aer·a·tor**, *n.*
- aer·i·al** /'eəriəl/ *adj.* **1.** of, in, produced by, or done in the air. **2.** inhabiting or frequenting the air. **3.** growing in

- the air, as the adventitious roots of some trees. 4. of aircraft. — *n.* 5. a radio or television antenna. — *aer·i·al·ly, adv.*
- aer·i·al·ist** /'æəriəlɪst/ *n.* a trapeze artist.
- aer·ie** /'æəri, 'əri/ *n.*, *pl.* **-ies**, the lofty nest of an eagle or other bird of prey.
- aero-** or **aer-**, a combining form meaning air or aircraft (*aerodynamics*).
- aer·o·bat·ics** /'æərə'bætɪks/ *n.* (used with a *pl.* *v.*) stunts performed in flight by an aircraft.
- aer·o·bic** /'æə'roubɪk/ *adj.* 1. (of an organism or tissue) requiring oxygen to sustain life. 2. of aerobics.
- aer·o·bics** /'æə'roubɪks/ *n.* (used with a *sing.* or *pl.* *v.*) exercises, as jogging, designed esp. to stimulate and strengthen the heart.
- aer·o·dy·nam·ics** /'æəroudaɪ'næmɪks/ *n.* the study of the motion of gases and of the effects of such motion on bodies in the gas. — **aer·o·dy·nam·ic, adj.** — **aer·o·dy·nam·i·cal·ly, adv.**
- aer·o·nau·tics** /'æəra'naʊtɪks, 'nɒtɪks/ *n.* the science or art of flight. — **aer·o·nau·ti·cal, adj.**
- aer·o·plane** /'æəra'pleɪn/ *n.* *Brit.* AIR-PLANE.
- aer·o·sol** /'æəra'sɒl, -'sɒl/ *n.* 1. a system of colloidal particles dispersed in a gas. 2. a liquid substance sealed under pressure and released as a spray or foam.
- aer·o·space** /'æərou'speɪs/ *n.* 1. the atmosphere and the space beyond. — *adj.* 2. pertaining to missiles, spacecraft, etc., designed for use in aerospace.
- Aes·chy·lus** /'eskələs/ *n.* 525-456 B. C., Greek poet and dramatist.
- Ae·sop** /'i:səp, 'isəp/ *n.* c620-c560 B. C., Greek writer of fables.
- aes·the·te** /'esθi:t/ *n.* a person who has or affects refined sensitivity toward the beauties of art or nature.
- aes·the·tic** /'esθetɪk/ *adj.* 1. pertaining to a sense of beauty or to aesthetics. 2. having a sense or love of beauty. — **aes·the·tic·al·ly, adv.**
- aes·the·tics** /'esθetɪks/ *n.* the branch of philosophy dealing with beauty in nature and art.
- AF, 1.** Air Force. 2. Anglo-French.
- A.F. or a.f.** audio frequency.
- a·far** /ə'fɑr/ *adv.* from, at, or to a distance.
- a·fa·ble** /'æfəbəl/ *adj.* warm and friendly; pleasant. — **a·fa·bil·i·ty, n.** — **a·fa·bly, adv.**
- a·fair** /ə'feər/ *n.* 1. something requiring action. 2. affairs, matters of commercial or public interest. 3. a private or personal concern. 4. an amorous relationship. 5. a notorious incident. 6. a social gathering.
- a·fect** /ə'fekt/ *v.t.* 1. to produce an effect on. 2. to impress the mind or move the feelings of. — **Usage.** AFFECT and EFFECT are sometimes confused in writing. The verb AFFECT means "to act on" or "to move"; *His speech affected the crowd so deeply that many wept.* The verb EFFECT means "to bring about, accomplish"; *The new regime effected radical changes.*
- a·fect** /ə'fekt/ *v.t.* 1. to pretend or feign. 2. to assume pretentiously or for effect. 3. to use or adopt by preference.
- a·fec·ta·tion** /'æfek'teɪʃən/ *n.* artificiality of manner, attitude, behavior, or appearance; pretension.
- a·fect·ed** /ə'fektɪd/ *adj.* 1. characterized by affectation or pretension. 2. assumed artificially; feigned.
- a·fect·ing** /ə'fektɪŋ/ *adj.* moving the emotions. — **a·fect·ing·ly, adv.**
- a·fec·tion** /ə'fekʃən/ *n.* fond devotion; love. — **a·fec·tion·ate** /ə'fekʃənɪt/ *adj.* — **a·fec·tion·ate·ly, adv.**
- a·fer·ent** /'æfərənt/ *adj.* leading toward a central organ or part, as a nerve.
- a·fi·ance** /ə'faɪəns/ *v.t.*, **-anced, -anc·ing.** to betroth.
- a·fi·da·vit** /'æfi'deɪvɪt/ *n.* a written declaration made under oath before an authorized official. [*< ML: (he) has declared on oath*]
- a·fil·i·ate** /v. ə'fɪliət; *n.* -ɪt, -ɪt/ *v.* **-at·ed, -at·ing, n.** — *v.t.* 1. to bring into close association or connection. — *v.i.* 2. to associate oneself; be united. — *n.* 3. an affiliated person or organization. — **a·fil·i·a·tion, n.**
- a·fin·i·ty** /ə'fɪnɪti/ *n.*, *pl.* **-ties.** 1. a natural liking or attraction. 2. relationship, esp. by marriage; kinship.
- a·firm** /ə'fɜrm/ *v.t.* 1. to assert positively; declare. 2. to confirm or ratify. — *v.i.* 3. to state something solemnly but without oath. — **a·fir·ma·tion** /'æfər'meɪʃən/ *n.*
- a·firm·a·tive** /ə'fɜrmətɪv/ *adj.* 1. affirming that something is true, valid, or a fact. 2. expressing agreement or consent. — *n.* 3. something, as a reply, that indicates assent. 4. the side, as in a debate, that defends a proposition. — **a·firm·a·tive·ly, adv.**
- affirmative action.** *n.* a policy to increase opportunities for women and minorities, esp. in employment.
- a·fix** /v. ə'fɪks; *n.* 'æfɪks/ *v.t.* 1. to fasten, join, or attach. 2. to add on; append. — *n.* 3. something affixed. 4. a prefix or suffix.
- a·fla·tus** /ə'fleɪtəs/ *n.* inspiration.
- a·flict** /ə'flɪkt/ *v.t.* to distress with mental or bodily pain. — **a·flic·tion, n.**
- a·flu·ent** /'æfluənt/ *adj.* 1. wealthy; rich. 2. abundant; copious. — **a·flu·ence, n.** — **a·flu·ent·ly, adv.**
- a·ford** /ə'fɔrd/ *v.t.* 1. to be able to do or bear without serious consequence. 2. to be able to meet the expense of. 3. to furnish; supply. — **a·ford·a·ble, adj.**
- a·for·est** /ə'fɔrɪst, ə'fɔr-/ *v.t.* to convert into forest. — **a·for·est·a·tion, n.**
- a·fray** /ə'freɪ/ *n.* a public fight; noisy brawl.
- a·front** /ə'frʌnt/ *n.* 1. a deliberate insult. — *v.t.* 2. to insult deliberately.
- Af·ghan** /'æfgən, -gən/ *n.* 1. a native or inhabitant of Afghanistan. 2. (*l.c.*) a soft knitted or crocheted blanket. 3. Also called **Afghan hound**, a hound with a



