

COLLINS
POCKET
ENGLISH
DICTIONARY

**COLLINS
POCKET
DICTIONARY
OF THE
ENGLISH
LANGUAGE**

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FOREWORD

COLLINS POCKET ENGLISH DICTIONARY is an up-to-date survey of the contemporary language. Like its larger brother, *Collins English Dictionary*, COLLINS POCKET DICTIONARY caters for today's needs by placing the current core meaning of words at the head of the definition, where it belongs for most purposes, and treating specialized and obsolete meanings only after current senses have been established.

Like the larger volume, too, the present book puts emphasis on ease of use and ready availability of information by placing all vocabulary items including compounds, prefixes and suffixes, abbreviations, and foreign terms in a single alphabetical listing; and by ensuring that all words that require defining are entered as independent headwords. Only idioms and items that consist of the headword plus standard ending are placed within another entry.

In addition, simplicity and clarity have been sought by framing definitions in direct, straightforward language and by marking off different meanings clearly with bold numbers. The result is a body of dictionary information instantly accessible to all who consult it, irrespective of their degree of verbal sophistication, a dictionary truly suitable for Everyman.

Another feature that will commend itself to most users is the emphasis on spelling aids. Not only the 'standard' irregular forms are shown: our rule has been to show *any* form of the headword that might pose a spelling difficulty: for example, the plurals of *all* nouns ending in -o or -y are given, not just those considered irregular.

The present convenient, compact volume has been achieved by concentrating on a judicious selection of general and special vocabulary that excludes rarer and highly technical words and meanings (for which the reader is referred to *Collins English Dictionary*); and by omitting proper names.

Etymologies, though brief, preserve the essential elements; and no economies have been made in respect of pronunciations, like spelling difficulties, a very frequent reason for referring to one's dictionary. The pronunciation scheme uses a minimum of special symbols, again in the interests of clarity and simplicity.

The result is a compact all-purpose dictionary that we hope will serve the needs of large numbers of people all over the world who speak and write English and may need occasional help with it.

W.T.M.

GUIDE TO THE USE OF THE DICTIONARY

1. HEADWORDS

1.1 Single alphabetical listing

All main entries in the dictionary, whether single words, compounds, combining forms (see 1.3, below), abbreviations, or foreign words, are entered in alphabetical order in the main text.

1.2 Alternative spellings

Alternative spellings that are alphabetically close and both common are placed together at the head of the article. Where one form is less common it is placed *after* the relevant definition.

Alternative spellings that are alphabetically distant are given separate main entries, with the less common form cross-referred to the more common form.

Common North American spellings are given in this way.

Although only *-ize* and *-ization* spellings are shown, the reader should understand that spellings in *-ise* and *-isation* are equally acceptable.

1.3 Combining forms

Prefixes, suffixes, and other combining forms are generously represented among the headwords since they enable the reader significantly to expand the vocabulary shown in the dictionary.

Combining forms that are added to the beginning of words are distinguished thus: *dis-*; *in-*; *self-*. Those that are added to the end of words are shown thus: *-able*, *-or*, *-ship*.

1.4 Homographs

Headwords that have the same spelling but are different words are entered separately and distinguished by small superior numbers, thus:

mine¹
mine²

1.5 Cross-references

Cross-references from one main entry to another are shown by placing the headword to which the reader is referred in small capitals, thus:

microchip same as CHIP (n.6)
plywood [PLY¹ + WOOD]

2. PRONUNCIATION

2.1 General note

The pronunciations shown are those commonly used by educated speakers of English. The few special symbols used will be readily understood from the sample words shown in the key (2.2, below) and are devised to allow a wide range of speakers of English to interpret them in the light of their own pronunciation.

2.2 Pronunciation Key

Only special symbols are shown in the key. Letters not shown have their normal values.

English Sounds

ä	as in acre, rate, gait
ä	as in calm, far, father
ē	as in fee, meat, funny
ī	as in pipe, why, buy
ō	as in tone, groan, though
ô	as in call, corn, awl
oo	as in book, full, suit
oo	as in food, soup, through, brew
yoo	as in sinuous, globular
yoo	as in few, tune, due
oi	as in boil, boy, loiter
ou	as in shout, aloud, allowed
ur	as in demur, fern, bird
ə	as in alone (ə'lɒn'), potted (pɒt'ər), timorous (tim'ər əs), nation (nə'shən)
ər	as in perhaps, partner, undergo
ēə	as in fear, mere, beer
əə	as in fair, vary, bear, bare
ooə	as in moor, cure, furious
iə	as in fire, lyre
ouə	as in our, flour
ch	as in church, chair, lurch
sh	as in shin, cushion, bashed
zh	as in leisure, fusion, azure
th	as in think, both, nothing
th	as in this, bother, loathing
ŋ	as in sing, anger, anxious
	as in apple (ap'l), happen (hap'n)
kh	as in Scottish loch (see also below)

Foreign Sounds

á	as in Fr. <i>bal</i> , halfway between (a) and (ä)
ē	as in Fr. <i>coeur</i> : the sound (e) pronounced with lips rounded as if for (o)
ö	as in Fr. <i>feu</i> or Ger. <i>Goethe</i> : the sound (ä) pronounced with lips rounded as if for (ö)
ö	as in a range of sounds as heard in Fr. <i>coq</i> , Ger. <i>doch</i> , Ital. <i>poco</i> , Sp. <i>torero</i>
ü	as in Fr. <i>duc</i> or Ger. <i>grün</i> : the sound (ē) pronounced with lips rounded as if for (oo)
kh	as in Ger. <i>doch</i> : a prolonged (h) sound with the lips and tongue positioned as if for (k)
H	as in Ger. <i>ich</i> : as the previous sound but formed in the front of the mouth with the tongue raised towards the front of the palate
n	as in Fr. <i>bon</i> , <i>vin</i> , <i>blanc</i> , etc.: indicates that the preceding vowel sound is nasalized
r	as in the uvular or tongue-point trill of the 'r' in Fr. <i>rare</i> , Ger. <i>recht</i> , Ital. <i>trarre</i> , Sp. <i>reserva</i> , etc.
.	as in Fr. <i>lettre</i> (let'r')

Guide to the Dictionary

2.3 Notes

(i) Though words like *castle*, *path*, *fast* are shown as pronounced with an (ä) sound, many speakers use an (a). Such variations are acceptable and are to be assumed by the reader.

(ii) The letter 'r' in some positions is not sounded in the speech of Southern England and elsewhere. However, many speakers in other areas do sound the 'r' in such positions with varying degrees of distinctness. Again, such variations are to be assumed, and though the dictionary shows an 'r' in such pronunciations as *fern* (fɜ:n), *fear* (fɛ:ə), *arm* (ɑ:m), the reader will sound or not sound the 'r' according to his speech habits.

(iii) The symbol (ə), the schwa, represents the neutral vowel heard in a wide range of unstressed syllables. In some such words, however, among some speakers an (i) sound is heard, as in *listless* (list'las or list'lis). Again, such variations should be assumed.

(iv) Though the widely received pronunciation of words like *which*, *why* is with a simple (w) sound and is so shown in the dictionary, many speakers, in Scotland and elsewhere, preserve an aspirated sound: (hw). Once again this variation is to be assumed.

(v) A primary or main stress is shown by an accent (ˈ) after the stressed syllable. A secondary or weaker stress is shown by a lighter tick (ˊ) after the syllable carrying secondary stress.

(vi) When a pronunciation is not shown, it is the same as that of the preceding headword or can easily be deduced from it, or, in the case of compounds, from the pronunciations given for the separate parts. Partial pronunciations are given when this can be done without loss of clarity.

3. PART-OF-SPEECH LABELS

Part-of-speech function is shown for headwords and derived forms within articles, but not for prefixes, suffixes, abbreviations, and multiple word entries. When a word functions as more than one part-of-speech, each change of function is shown by a bold dash and a new part-of-speech label.

When two or more part-of-speech labels are attached to an entry without an intervening definition (*joggle ... vt., vi ...*) each applies equally to what follows.

4. INFLECTED FORMS

Inflected forms regarded as irregular or offering difficulty in spelling are shown in small bold type after the part-of-speech label. The following notes amplify this general statement.

4.1 Plurals of nouns

The following are regarded as regular: plurals formed simply by adding -s to the

singular or by adding -es when the singular ends in s, x, z, ch, or sh.

Plurals formed in any other way are shown.

4.2 Verbal forms

The following are regarded as regular:

(i) present tenses formed simply by adding -s to the infinitive or by adding -es after s, x, z, ch, and sh.

(ii) past tenses and past participles formed simply by adding -ed to the infinitive with no other change.

(iii) present participles formed simply by adding -ing to the infinitive with no other change.

Verbal parts formed in any other way are shown, including verbs which drop a final e in forming the present participle.

Where two inflected verbal parts are given, the first is the past tense and the past participle, and the second is the present participle.

Where three inflected verbal parts are given, the first is the past tense, the second is the past participle, and the third is the present participle.

make ... vt. made, mak'ing ...
swim ... vi. swam, swum, swim'ming ...

4.3 Comparatives and Superlatives

The following are regarded as regular: comparatives and superlatives formed simply by adding -er or -est to the base.

Comparatives and superlatives that involve any further change in the base word are shown.

4.4 Irregular forms that are alphabetically distant from the base form are entered in their alphabetical place as headwords and cross-referred to the base form.

5. ETYMOLOGIES

A brief account of the origin of most words is placed within square brackets before the definitions. Occasionally the reader is referred to the etymologies given at the component parts of a word (see example at 1.5, above). The presence of [*< ?*] indicates that the etymology is uncertain.

6. DEFINITIONS

6.1 Numbering of Senses

Where the definition embraces two or more distinct meanings, the different senses are marked off with consecutive bold numbers. The senses of each part of speech and idiomatic phrase are numbered separately. Sometimes a numbered sense is subdivided

Guide to the Dictionary

into a), b), etc., especially to denote specific applications of a general meaning.

In general, the meaning given first in the dictionary is not the oldest (and often obsolete) meaning, but the core meaning common in current usage.

6.2 Capitalization

Where a headword has a capital initial, that word is always so written or printed in generally accepted usage. Where a word is usually (but not always) capitalized or usually (but not always) used with a small initial, these facts are indicated. The reader is also told when a word is capitalized for a specific meaning (or meanings) or, conversely, not capitalized for a specific meaning or meanings.

6.3 Plural usages

Where a word is only used in the plural (or often or usually) this is clearly indicated. Where a word is used in the plural (or often or usually) for a specific meaning or meanings, this, again, is indicated.

If a noun that is plural in form is used as a singular in all or some meanings, this information is provided.

6.4 Prepositional usage

When a verb is followed by a certain preposition or prepositions in some or all of its meanings, this information is provided. Such prepositional usage is not to be confused with idioms that consist of verb + preposition/adverb with a special meaning ("phrasal verbs," eg. *get on*, *get over*, *get up*). Such phrasal verbs are entered as idiomatic phrases.

6.5 Additional information

Background information or comment has been added to the definition proper when this seemed helpful. Such additional material is usually introduced by a colon.

6.6 Examples

Examples of how a word is used have been provided where this helps to clarify the definition. Such examples are placed within italic square brackets.

7. USAGE LABELS

Certain words and certain meanings are restricted in usage in any of a number of ways. A word or meaning may be technical or slang or vulgar or poetic, and so on. Words or meanings that occur in technical or specialized contexts have a *field label* attached to them to indicate the area in which they are likely to be encountered (*Music*, *Physics*, *Aeronautics*, and so on).

In addition, as a help to appropriate usage the following restrictive labels are employed with meanings as indicated.

[Colloq.] Colloquial: characteristic of relaxed conversation or informal writing, but not substandard or illiterate.

[Slang] Slang: characteristic of speech in highly informal contexts, not generally regarded as accepted or standard.

[Derog.] Derogatory: describing a use that could be offensive, whether intended to be so or not.

[Vulg.] Vulgar: a word or meaning usually considered taboo in most contexts.

[Archaic] Archaic: a word or sense no longer in common use but still found in certain restricted contexts (eg. church ritual) and earlier literature.

[Obs.] Obsolete: no longer in use but found in earlier literature.

[Poet.] Poetic: characteristic of poetry (especially poetry of the 18th and 19th centuries) or of poetic prose.

[Dial.] Dialect: a word or meaning regularly used only in some geographical areas.

In addition, where a word or meaning is typical of the USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, S Africa, etc., this fact is noted.

8. IDIOMATIC PHRASES

Idiomatic phrases are listed in alphabetical order after the completed definition of the headword. Idioms are entered under the key word, that is, the word that contains the main idea, and this will often not be the first word in the phrase. For example:

eat one's heart out; set one's heart on will be found under **heart**; give someone his head; keep (or lose) one's head under **head**.

Where part of a phrase is placed within brackets, that part is either optional or shows an acceptable variation.

9. DERIVED ENTRIES

Derived entries are formed by adding a standard ending to the headword and are run-in in alphabetical order at the end of the entry block. However, any derived word that has developed a distinct meaning of its own that cannot be deduced from the base word has been entered as a separate headword and fully defined. Only when no definition is required are they run in. (See 1.3, above).

The number of such possible derived words in English is indefinitely great. They are listed here when they are a standard part of the current language; but less common forms and many adverbs ending in *-ly* are omitted. The reader should understand that almost any English adjective can be turned into an adverb by adding *-ly*.

ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS USED IN THE DICTIONARY

- abbrev.** abbreviated; abbreviation
abl. ablative
Abor. Aboriginal (in etym.)
acc. accusative
adj. adjective
adv. adverb
Aeron. Aeronautics
Afr. African
Afrik. Afrikaans
alt. alternative
Am. American
AmInd. American Indian
AmSp. American Spanish
Anat. Anatomy
Anglo-Ind. Anglo-Indian
Anglo-Norm. Anglo-Norman
Ar. Arabic
Aram. Aramaic
Archaeol. Archaeology
Archit. Architecture
Arith. Arithmetic
art. article
assoc. associated
Astrol. Astrology
Astron. Astronomy
Aust. Australian

Beng. Bengali
Biochem. Biochemistry
Biol. Biology
Bot. Botany
Břaz. Brazilian
Brit. British

C Celsius; Central
c. century (in etym.); circa
Canad. Canada; Canadian
Celt. Celtic
cent. century; centuries
cf. compare
Ch. Church
Chem. Chemistry
Chn. Chinese
cm centimetre(s)
Colloq. colloquial
comp. compound
compar. comparative
conj. conjunction
contr. contracted; contraction

Dan. Danish
dat. dative
deriv. derivative
Derog. derogatory
Dial., dial. dialect
dIm. diminutive
Du. Dutch

E East; eastern
E. East; English (in etym. & pronun.)
Early ModDu. Early Modern Dutch
Early ModG. Early Modern German
Eccles. Ecclesiastical
Ecol. Ecology
Econ. Economics

Educ. Education
e.g. for example
Elec. Electricity
Eng. English
equiv. equivalent
esp. especially
etym. etymology
Ex. example
exc. except

fem. feminine
ff. following (entry, sense, etc.)
fig. figurative(ly)
Finn. Finnish
Fl. Flemish
Fr. French
Frank. Frankish
freq. frequentative
fut. future

g gram(s)
G. German (in etym. & pronun.)
Gael. Gaelic
gen. genitive
Geog. Geography
Geol. Geology
Geom. Geometry
Ger. German
ger. gerund
Gmc. Germanic
Goth. Gothic
Gr. Greek
Gram. Grammar

Haw. Hawaiian
Heb. Hebrew
Hist. Historical; History
Hort. Horticulture
Hung. Hungarian
hyp. hypothetical

Ice. Icelandic
I.e. that is
imper. imperative
imperf. imperfect
incl. including
Ind. Indian
indic. inductive
inf. infinitive
intens. intensive
interj. interjection
Ir. Irish
irreg. irregular
It. Italian

Jap. Japanese
Jav. Javanese

kg kilogram(s)
km kilometre(s)

litre(s)
L Late
L. Latin
LGr. Late Greek

Abbreviations and Symbols (cont.)

- Linguis.** Linguistics
lit. literally
LL. Late Latin
LME. Late Middle English
- m** metre(s)
M Middle; Medieval
Math. Mathematics
MDu. Middle Dutch
ME. Middle English
Mech. Mechanics
Med. Medicine; Medieval
M. Meteorology
Mex. Mexican
MexInd. Mexican Indian
MFr. Middle French
MGr. Middle Greek
MHG. Middle High German
Mil. Military
ML. Medieval Latin
MLowG. Middle Low German
Mod., Mod Modern
ModE. Modern English
ModGr. Modern Greek
ModL. Modern Latin
Myth. Mythology
- N** North; northern
N. North
n. noun
Naut., naut. nautical usage
NE northeastern
neut. neuter
n.fem. noun feminine
n.masc. noun masculine
nom. nominative
Norm. Norman
Norw. Norwegian
n.pl. plural form of noun
n.sing. singular form of noun
N.T. New Testament
NW northwestern
N.Z. New Zealand
- O** Old
Obs., obs. obsolete
occas. occasionally
OE. Old English
OFr. Old French
OHG. Old High German
OIr. Old Irish
ON. Old Norse
ONormFr. Old Norman F: ench
orig. originally
OS. Old Saxon
O.T. Old Testament
- p.** page
part. participle
pass. passive
Per. Persian
perf. perfect
pers. person
Philos. Philosophy
Phonet. Phonetics
Photog. Photography
phr. phrase
Phys. Ed. Physical Education
Physiol. Physiology
PidE. Pidgin English
pl. plural
Poet. Poetic
Pol. Polish
- pop.** popular
Port. Portuguese
poss. possessive
pp. pages; past participle
Pr. Provençal
prec. preceding
prep. preposition
pres. present
prin. pts. principle parts
prob. probably
pron. pronoun
pronun. pronunciation
prp. present participle
Psychol. Psychology
pt. past tense
- R.C.Ch.** Roman Catholic Church
redupl. reduplication
refl. reflexive
Rom. Roman
Russ. Russian
- S** South; southern
S. South
S Afr. South African
Sans. Sanskrit
Scand. Scandinavian
Scot. Scottish
SE southeastern
Sem. Semitic
sing. singular
Slav. Slavic
Sp. Spanish
sp. spelled; spelling
specif. specifically
subj. subjective
superl. superlative
SW southwestern
Swed. Swedish
- Theol.** Theology
trans. translation
Turk. Turkish
TV, T.V. television
- ult.** ultimately
U.S. United States
- v.** verb
var. variant; variety
v.aux. auxiliary verb
Vet. Veterinary Medicine
vi. intransitive verb
VL. Vulgar Latin
voc. vocative
vt. transitive verb
Vulg. vulgar; Vulgate
- W** West; western
W. Welsh; West
WAfr. West African
Wind. West Indian
- Yld.** Yiddish
- Zool.** Zoology
- ‡ foreign word or phrase
+ plus
< derived from
? uncertain; possibly; perhaps
& and

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A

A, a (ā) *n.*, *pl.* *A's, a's* 1. the first letter of the English alphabet 2. a symbol for the first in a sequence or group — from **A** to **Z** from start to finish

A (ā) *n.* *Music* the sixth tone in the ascending scale of C major — *adj.* shaped like **A**

A *Physics* the symbol for ampere

a (ə; stressed ā) *adj.*, *indefinite article* [A is used before words beginning with a consonant sound or a sounded *h* [a child, a home, a uniform]

a are(s) (metric measure of land)

a- a prefix meaning: 1. [OE. a-] up, out [awake] 2. [OE. of-, af-] off, of [akin] 3. [Gr. a-, an-] not [atypical]

Å angstrom unit

A. 1. absolute 2. ampere 3. angstrom

A., a. *Music* alto

a. 1. acre(s) 2. adjective 3. answer

AA, A.A. 1. Alcoholics Anonymous 2. antiaircraft 3. Automobile Association

AAA, A.A.A. Amateur Athletics Association

AI (ā'wun') 1. [Colloq.] first-class; excellent 2. a designation of first-class ships as in Lloyd's Register

aardvark (ārd'vārk') *n.* [obs. Afrik., earth pig] a nocturnal burrowing mammal of Africa feeding off termites; also called *ant bear*

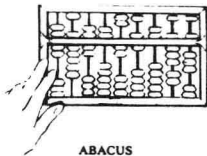
Aaron's beard (āar'ənz) the popular name of various plants, esp. St. John's Wort

ab- [L.] a prefix meaning away, from, off, down [abdicate]

A.B. able-bodied seaman

aba (a'ba) *n.* [Ar.] a sleeveless robe worn by Arabs

aback (əbak') *adv.* 1. pressed backwards against the mast, as sails in a wind from ahead 2. [Archaic] backwards — **taken aback** startled and confused



ABACUS

abacus (ab'əkas) *n.*, *pl.* *-cuses, -ci'(-sī')* [Archit. a slab forming the uppermost part of the capital of a column

abaft (əbāft') *adv.* [prep. *Naut.* behind

abalone (ab'əlō'nē) *n.* [AmSp.] a sea mollusc with a spiral shell lined with mother-of-pearl

abandon (əban'dən) *vt.* [

1. to forsake; desert 2. to give up (something) completely 3. to yield (oneself) completely, as to a feeling — *n.* unrestrained freedom of action or emotion — **aban'donment** *n.*

abandoned *adj.* 1. forsaken; deserted 2. unrestrained 3. shamefully wicked; immoral

abase (əbās') *vt.* **abased'**, **abas'ing** [abase'ment *n.*

abash (əbāsh') *vt.* [abashed'adj.

abate (əbāt') *vt.* **abat'ed**, **abat'ing** [vi. to become less; subside — **abate'ment** *n.*

abattoir (ab'ətwär') *n.* [see ABATE] a slaughterhouse

abbacy (ab'əsē) *n.*, *pl.* *-cies* an abbot's or abbess's position, jurisdiction, or term of office

abbé (a'bā) *n.* [Fr.: see ABBOT] a French title of respect for a priest

abbess (ab'es) *n.* [see ABBOT] a woman who is head of an abbey of nuns

abbey (ab'é) *n.* 1. a monastery or convent 2. a church belonging to an abbey

abbot (ab'ət) *n.* [

abbr., abbrev. 1. abbreviated 2. abbreviation

abbreviate (əbré'veāt') *vt.* **-at'ed**, **-at'ing** [abbrev'ia'tion *n.*

A B C (ā'bé'sē') *n.*, *pl.* *A B C's* 1. the alphabet 2. the basic elements (of a subject) 3. an alphabetically arranged reference or guide book

ABC Australian Broadcasting Commission

abdicate (ab'dəkāt') *vt.*, *vi.* **-cat'ed**, **-cat'ing** [

1. to give up formally (a high office, etc.) 2. to surrender (a right, etc.) — **abdica'tion** *n.*

abdomen (ab'dəmən) *n.* [L.] 1. the lower part of the body containing the intestines, etc.; belly 2. in arthropods, the hind part of the body — **abdominal** (ab dom'ənl') *adj.*

abduct (abdukt') *vt.* [*< L. ab-, away + ducere, to lead*] to kidnap (a person); —*abduc'tion n.* —*abduc'tor n.*

abeam (əbēm') *adv.* at right angles to a ship's side

Aberdeen Angus (əb'ərdēn'əŋ'gəz) any of a breed of black, hornless cattle, originally from Scotland

Aberdeen terrier a long-bodied, wire-haired terrier

aberration (əb'ə'rā'shən) *n.* [*< L. ab-, from + errare, wander*] 1. a departure from what is right, true, normal, etc. 2. mental derangement 3. *Astron.* the apparent displacement of a heavenly body 4. *Optics* the failure of light rays from one point to converge to a single focus

abet (əbet') *vt.* *abet'ted, abet'ting* [*< OFr. a-, to + betere, to bait*] to incite or help, esp. in wrongdoing —*abet'ment n.* —*abet'tor, abet'ter n.*

abeyance (əbā'əns) *n.* [*< OFr. a-, at + bayer, gape*] temporary suspension, as of an activity or function

abhor (əbhōr') *vt.* —*horred', -hor'ring* [*< L. ab-, from + horrere, to shudder*] to shrink from in disgust or hatred —*abhorrence* (əbhōr'əns) *n.*

abhorrent (əbhōr'ənt) *adj.* 1. causing disgust, hatred, etc.; detestable 2. opposed (to) [abhorrent to his principles] —*abhorrently adv.*

abide (əbid') *vt.* *abode' or abid'ed, abid'ing* [*< OE. a- (intens.) + bīdan, remain*] 1. to remain 2. [Archaic] to reside —*vt.* 1. to tolerate 2. to submit to 3. to await —*abide by* 1. to live up to (a promise, etc.) 2. to submit to and carry out —*abid'ance n.*

abiding *adj.* enduring; lasting —*abid'ingly adv.*

ability (əbil'ətē) *n., pl. -ties* 1. skill or talent; competence 2. a being able; power to do

-ability (əbil'ətē) *pl. -ties* [*L.*] a suffix used to form nouns from adjectives ending in *-ABLE* [durability]

abject (əb'jekt) *adj.* [*< L. ab-, from + jacere, throw*] 1. of the lowest degree; miserable 2. lacking self-respect; servile —*ab'jectness, abjec'tion n.*

abjure (əb'juor') *vt.* —*jured', -jur'ing* [*< L. ab-, from + jurare, swear*] to give up (rights, allegiance, etc.) on oath; renounce —*abjuration* (əb'juor'ə'shan) *n.*

ablate (əblāt') *vt.* —*lat'ed, -lat'ing* [see *ff.*] 1. to remove, as by surgery 2. *Astrophysics* to melt, vaporize, etc. (surface material) 3. *Geol.* to wear away, as by the action of water —*abla'tion n.*

ablative (əb'lativ) *n.* [*< L. ab-, away + ferre, carry*] the grammatical case in Latin expressing removal, direction from, cause, etc. —*adj.* of or in the ablative

ablaunt (əb'laut) *n.* [*G. < ab-, off + Laut, sound*] the change of vowels in related words to show changes in tense, meaning, etc. (Ex.: drink, drank, drunk)

ablaze (əblāz') *adj.* 1. flaming 2. greatly excited

able (ā'b'l) *adj.* a'blier, a'blest [*< L.*

habere, have] 1. having enough power, skill, etc. (to do something) 2. skilled; talented —*a'bly adv.*

-able (əb'l) [*< L. -abilis*] a suffix meaning: 1. able to [durable] 2. capable of being [drinkable] 3. worthy of being [lovable] 4. having qualities of [comfortable] 5. tending or inclined to [peaceable]

able-bodied (ā'b'l'bod'əd) *adj.* healthy and strong

able-bodied seaman same as *ABLE RATING*

able rating see *MILITARY RANKS, table*

ablu-tion (əblū'shən) *n.* [*< L. ab-, off + luere, lave*] 1. a washing of the body, esp. as a religious ceremony 2. [pl.] [Colloq.] washing facilities

-ably (əb'l) a suffix used to form adverbs from adjectives ending in *-ABLE* [peaceably]

ABM anti-ballistic missile

abnegate (əb'nəgət') *vt.* —*gat'ed, -gat'ing* [*< L. ab-, from + negare, deny*] to give up (rights, claims, etc.); renounce —*ab'nega'tion n.* —*ab'nega'tor n.*

abnormal (əbnōr'm'l) *adj.* not normal, average, or typical; irregular —*ab'normal'ity* (-mal'ətē) *n.*

Abo (ā'bō) *n., pl. -bos* [*< ABORIGINE*] [*Aust. Slang*] an Australian aborigine —*adj.* aboriginal

aboard (əbōrd') *adv.* 1. on, in, or into a ship, aircraft, etc. 2. alongside —*prep.* on board

abode (əbōd') *n.* [see *ABIDE*] a home; residence

abode *alt. pt. and pp. of ABIDE*

abolish (əbol'ish) *vt.* [*< L. abolere, destroy*] to do away with; put an end to —*abol'ishment n.*

abolition (əb'olish'ən) *n.* 1. an abolishing or being abolished 2. [occas. A-] the abolishing of slavery —*ab'oll'tionary adj.* —*ab'oll'tionist n.*

A-bomb (ā'bom') *n.* same as *ATOMIC BOMB*

abominable (əbom'ənəb'l) *adj.* 1. disgusting; vile 2. very bad —*abom'inably adv.*

Abominable Snowman a large, hairy, manlike animal reputed to live in the Himalayas

abominate (əbom'ənāt') *vt.* —*nat'ed, -nat'ing* [*< L. abominari, regard as an ill omen*] 1. to feel hatred and disgust for; loathe 2. to dislike very much —*abom'ina'tion n.* —*abom'ina'tor n.*

aboriginal (əb'ərɪj'ən'l) *adj.* 1. existing from earliest days; first; indigenous 2. of aborigines, esp. [A-] those of Australia —*n.* same as *ABORIGINE*

aborigine (əb'ərɪj'ənē') *n., pl. -nes* [*L. < ab-, from + origine, beginning*] any of the earliest known inhabitants of a region, esp. [A-] those of Australia

abort (əbōrt') *vt.* [*< L. abortiri, to miscarry*] 1. to have a miscarriage 2. to fail to be completed —*vt.* 1. to cause to have an abortion 2. to cut short (an operation of an aircraft, missile, etc.)

abortion (əbōr'shən) *n.* 1. deliberate

termination of pregnancy 2. expulsion of a foetus from the womb before it is viable 3. anything immature and incomplete 4. anything grotesquely misshapen

abortive adj. 1. coming to nothing; unsuccessful 2. *Biol.* rudimentary 3. *Med.* causing abortion

abound (ə'baund') *vi.* [*< L. ab-, away + undare, rise in waves*] 1. to be plentiful 2. to teem (*with*)

about (ə'baʊt') *adv.* [*< OE. onbutan, around*] 1. all round 2. here and there 3. near 4. in the opposite direction 5. in succession or rotation [*play fair—turn and turn about*] 6. approximately —*adj.* 1. active [*up and about again*] 2. in the vicinity —*prep.* 1. on all sides of 2. here and there in 3. near to 4. with; (on one's person) [*have your wits about you*] 5. attending to [*go about your business*] 6. intending; on the point of 7. concerning —*how* (or *what*) **about** [*Colloq.*] what is your opinion concerning? —*how about that!* [*Colloq.*] isn't that interesting!

about-turn (ə'baʊt'tɜ:n'; *for v., ə'baʊt'tɜ:n'*) *n.* 1. a sharp turn to the opposite direction 2. a sharp change, as in opinion —*vi.* -turned', -turn'ing to turn or face in the opposite direction Also **about'face'**

above (ə'bu:v') *adv.* [*OE. abufan*] 1. in a higher place; up 2. in heaven 3. at a previous place (in a piece of writing) 4. higher in status, etc. —*prep.* 1. higher than 2. beyond; past 3. upstream from 4. better or more than 5. too honourable or good for [*not above cheating*] —*adj.* mentioned earlier —*n.* something that is above —**above all** most of all; mainly

aboveboard (ə'bu:v'bɔ:d') *adv., adj.* without dishonesty

abracadabra (ab'rəkə'dəb'rə) *n.* [*LL.*] 1. a word supposed to have magic powers, used in incantations, etc. 2. foolish or meaningless talk

abrade (ə'brəd') *vt.* -rad'ed, -rad'ing [*< L. ab-, away + radere, scrape*] to rub off; wear away by scraping

abrasion (ə'brə'zən) *n.* 1. a scraping or rubbing off, as of skin 2. an abraded spot or area

abrasive adj. causing abrasion —*n.* a substance used for grinding, polishing, etc.

abreast (ə'breɪst') *adv., adj.* 1. side by side 2. informed (*of*) or conversant (*with*) recent developments

abridge (ə'brɪdʒ') *vt.* abridged', abridg'ing [*< LL. abbreviare: see ABBREVIATE*] 1. to shorten by using fewer words 2. to reduce in scope, extent, etc. —**abridg'er** *n.* —**abridg'ment, abridge'ment** *n.*

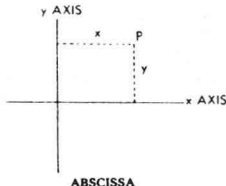
abroad (ə'brɔ:d') *adv.* 1. to or in foreign countries 2. circulating [*a report is abroad that he is ill*] 3. far and wide 4. outdoors —*from abroad* from a foreign land

abrogate (ab'rəgət') *vt.* -gat'ed, -gat'ing [*< L. ab-, away + rogare, propose*] to cancel or repeal; annul —**ab'rogat'ion** *n.* —**ab'rogative adj.** —**ab'rogator** *n.*

abrupt (ə'brʌpt') *adj.* [*< L. ab-, off +*

rumpere, break] 1. sudden; unexpected 2. brusque 3. very steep 4. jumping from topic to topic; disconnected —**abrupt'ly** *adv.* —**abrupt'ness** *n.*

abscess (ab'ses) *n.* [*< L. ab(s), from + cedere, go*] a swollen, inflamed area in body tissues, in which pus gathers —*vi.* to form an abscess —**ab'scessed** *adj.*



(x, the abscissa of P; y, the ordinate of P)

abscissa (ab'sis'ə) *n., pl. -sas, -sae* (-ē) [*< L. ab-, from + scindere, to cut*] *Math.* in a system of coordinates, the distance of a point from the vertical axis as measured along a line parallel to the horizontal axis: cf. **ORDINATE**

abscond (ə'bskɔnd') *vi.* [*< L. ab(s), from + condere, hide*] to run away and hide, esp. in order to escape the law —**abscond'er** *n.*

absell (ab'säl) *vt.* [*< G. ab-, down + Seil, rope*] *Mountaineering* to descend by means of a double rope secured from above —*n.* a descent so made

absence (ab'sens) *n.* 1. the state of being absent 2. the time of being away 3. a lack [*in the absence of proof*]

absent (ab'sent; *for v. absent'*) *adj.* [*< L. ab-, away + esse, be*] 1. not present; away 2. not existing; lacking 3. not attentive —*vt.* to keep (oneself) away

absentee (ab'santē') *n.* a person who is absent, as from work —*adj.* designating or of a person who lives away from his property, office, etc. [*an absentee landlord*]

absenteeism *n.* absence from work, school, etc., esp. when deliberate or habitual

absent-minded *adj.* 1. not attentive; preoccupied 2. habitually forgetful

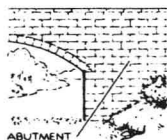
absinthe, absinth (ab'sinth) *n.* [*< Gr. apsinthion*] 1. wormwood 2. a green liqueur with the flavour of wormwood and anise

absolute (ab'sə'lu:t') *adj.* [*see ABSOLVE*] 1. perfect; complete 2. not mixed; pure 3. unrestricted [*an absolute ruler*] 4. positive; definite 5. actual; real [*an absolute truth*] 6. *Gram. a)* forming part of a sentence, but syntactically independent [*in the sentence "The weather being good, they went," the weather being good is an absolute construction*] b) with no expressed object: said of a verb usually transitive —*n.* something that is absolute —**the Absolute Philos.** that which is thought of as existing in and by itself, without relation to anything else —**ab'solute'ness** *n.*

absolutely (ab'sə'lu:t'li; *for interj., ab'-*

- sə'loʊt'leɪ** *adv.* in an absolute manner
—*interj.* yes indeed; definitely
- absolute majority** 1. a majority of over half 2. a majority that beats the combined opposition
- absolute pitch** the ability to identify or sing any note, or to sing a given tone, without having a known pitch sounded beforehand
- absolute temperature** temperature measured from absolute zero
- absolute zero** a point of temperature theoretically equal to -273.15°C : the hypothetical point at which a substance would have no molecular motion and no heat
- absolution** (ab'sə'loʊ'shən) [see ABSOLVE] 1. a formal freeing (from guilt); forgiveness 2. remission (of sin or its penalty)
- absolutism** (ab'sə'loʊ'tiz'm) *n.* government in which the ruler has unlimited powers —*ab'solut'ist n., adj.*
- absolve** (abzolv') *vt.* -solv'd, -solv'ing [*<* L. *ab-*, from + *solvere*, to loose] 1. to pronounce free from guilt 2. to give religious absolution to 3. to free (someone from an obligation) —*absolv'ent adj., n.*
- absorb** (əbsɔrb') *vt.* [*<* L. *ab-*, from + *sorbere*, drink in] 1. to suck up 2. to engross 3. to take in and incorporate 4. to take in (a shock, jolt, etc.) with little or no recoil or reaction 5. to take in and not reflect (light, sound, etc.) —*absorb'ed' adj.* —*absorb'ent adj., n.* —*absorb'ing adj.*
- absorption** (əbsɔrp'shən) *n.* 1. an absorbing 2. great interest 3. *Biol.* the passing of nutrient material into the blood or lymph —*absorp'tive adj.*
- abstain** (əbstān') *vi.* [*<* L. *ab(s)-*, from + *tenere*, hold] 1. to do without voluntarily; refrain (from), esp. alcohol 2. to choose not to vote —*abstain'er n.*
- abstemious** (əbstē'mēəs) *adj.* [*<* L. *ab(s)-*, from + *temetum*, strong drink] moderate, esp. in eating and drinking —*abste'miously adv.* —*abste'miousness n.*
- abstention** (əbstēn'shən) *n.* an abstaining; specif., a refraining from voting on some issue
- abstinence** (ab'stɪnəns) *n.* an abstaining from some or all food, drink, or other pleasures —*ab'stinent adj.*
- abstract** (ab'strakt; also, and for *n.* 1 & *v.* 3 always, ab'strakt') *adj.* [*<* L. *ab(s)-*, from + *trahere*, draw] 1. thought of apart from material objects 2. expressing a quality so thought of ["beauty" is an abstract word] 3. theoretical 4. not easy to understand 5. *Art.* seeking to make an effect through form and colour alone —*n.* 1. a summary 2. an abstract thing, condition, etc. —*vt.* 1. to take away 2. to think of (a quality) apart from any object that has it 3. to summarize —in the abstract in theory as distinct from practice —*abstract'ly adv.*
- abstracted** *adj.* withdrawn in mind; preoccupied
- abstraction** *n.* 1. mental withdrawal 2.

- an abstracting 3. an abstract idea 4. an unrealistic notion 5. an abstract picture, sculpture, etc. —*abstrac'tionism n.* —*abstrac'tionist n.*
- abstruse** (ab'strūs') *adj.* [*<* L. *ab(s)-*, away + *trudere*, thrust] hard to understand; deep —*abstruse'ly adv.*
- absurd** (əb'sɜrd') *adj.* [*<* L. *ab-*, intens. + *surdus*, deaf] so clearly inconsistent or unreasonable as to be laughable or ridiculous —*absurd'ity, absurd'ness n.*
- abundance** (əbun'dəns) *n.* [see ABOUND] 1. a great supply; more than sufficient quantity 2. wealth —*abun'dant adj.* —*abun'dantly adv.*
- abuse** (əbyʊz'; for *n.*, əbyʊs') *vt.* *abused', abus'ing* [*<* L. *ab-*, away + *uti*, to use] 1. to use wrongly 2. to mistreat 3. to insult; revile —*n.* 1. wrong use 2. mistreatment 3. a corrupt practice 4. insulting language —*abus'er n.* —*abu'sive adj.*
- abut** (əbʊt') *vi.* *abut'ted, abut'ting* [*<* OFr. *a-*, to + *bout*, end] 1. to touch or lean against end-on 2. to adjoin —*vt.* to border upon



- abutment** *n.* the supporting structure of a bridge, arch, etc.
- abyssal** (əbɪz'ml) *adj.* 1. of or like an abyss; bottomless 2. [Colloq.] immeasurably bad —*abyss'mally adv.*
- abyss** (əbɪs') *n.* [*<* Gr. *a-*, without + *byssos*, bottom] 1. a bottomless gulf; chasm 2. anything too deep for measurement [an abyss of shame] 3. *Theol.* the primeval chaos before the Creation —*abyssal* (əbɪs'li) *adj.*
- ac** (ak, ək) [*<* Fr. *<* Gr.] a suffix meaning: 1. relating to [cardiac] 2. affected by or having [mania]
- Ac** *Chem.* actinium
- A.C., A.C., a.c.** alternating current
- A.C.** aircraft(s)man
- A/C, a/c** Bookkeeping account
- acacia** (ə'kɑ'shə) *n.* [*<* Gr. *akakia*, thorny tree] a tree or shrub with clusters of yellow or white flowers: some yield gum arabic or dyes
- academic** (ak'ədem'ik) *adj.* [see ACADEMY] 1. of colleges, universities, etc. 2. merely theoretical [an academic question] 3. having to do with liberal rather than technical education Also *ac'adem'ical* —*n.* a person at university, esp. a teacher —*ac'adem'ically adv.*
- academic freedom** freedom of a teacher or student to express views without arbitrary interference
- academy** (ə'kɑd'əmə) *n., pl. -mies* [*<* Gr. *akademeia*, place where Plato taught]

1. a school offering training in a special field 2. an association of scholars, writers, artists, etc., for advancing literature, art, or science 3. a secondary school, esp. in Scotland
- acanthus** (ə'kən'thus) *n.*, *pl.* -thuses, -thi (-thi) [*<* Gr. *akē*, a point] 1. a plant with lobed, often spiny leaves 2. *Archit.* a conventional representation of its leaf
- A.C.A.S., ACAS** Advisory, Conciliation, and Arbitration Service
- acc.** 1. accompanied 2. account 3. accusative
- A.C.C.A.** Association of Certified and Corporate Accountants
- accede** (ək'sɛd') *vt.* -ced'ed, -ced'ing [*<* L. *ad.*, to + *cedere*, to yield] 1. to assent; agree (to) 2. to enter upon the duties (of an office) —**acced'ence** *n.* —**acced'er** *n.*
- accelerando** (ək'sel'əran'dō) *adv.*, *adj.* [*It.*] *Music* with gradually quickening tempo
- accelerate** (ək'sel'ərat') *vt.* -at'ed, -at'ing [*<* L. *ad.*, to + *celerare*, hasten] 1. to increase the speed of 2. to cause to happen sooner —*vi.* to go faster —**accel'era'tion** *n.* —**accel'erative** *adj.*
- accelerator** *n.* 1. a device, as the foot throttle of a motor vehicle, for speeding up something 2. *Chem.* a substance that speeds up a reaction 3. *Nuclear Physics* a device that accelerates charged particles to high energies
- accent** (ək'sent; for *v.* also ək'sent') *n.* [*<* L. *ad.*, to + *canere*, to sing] 1. the emphasis given to a syllable or word in speaking it 2. a mark used to show this emphasis or to distinguish various sounds for the same letter 3. a distinguishing regional or national way of pronouncing 4. [*pl.*] speech 5. special emphasis [to put the accent on safety] 6. *Music* emphasis or stress on a note or chord 7. *Prosody* rhythmic stress or beat —*vt.* 1. to stress 2. to mark with an accent
- accentor** (ək'sent'ər) *n.* [*<* L. *ad.*, to + *cantor*, singer] any of a genus of small songbirds, as the hedge sparrow
- accentuate** (ək'sent'tʃuəwət') *vt.* -at'ed, -at'ing 1. to pronounce or mark with an accent or stress 2. to emphasize —**accen'tua'tion** *n.*
- accept** (ək'sept') *vt.* [*<* L. *ad.*, to + *capere*, take] 1. to receive willingly 2. to say "yes" to [to accept an invitation] 3. to agree to 4. to believe in 5. to approve 6. to understand as having a certain meaning 7. to agree to pay —*vi.* to accept something offered —**accept'er** *n.*
- acceptable** *adj.* worth accepting; satisfactory or, sometimes, merely adequate —**accept'ably** *adv.*
- acceptance** *n.* 1. an accepting or being accepted 2. approval 3. assent 4. a promise to pay
- accepted** *adj.* generally regarded as true, proper, etc.; conventional; approved
- acceptor** *n.* 1. one who accepts, esp. a bill of exchange 2. *Electronics* an impurity added to a semiconductor that increases its conductivity
- access** (ək'ses) *n.* [see ACCEDE] 1. approach 2. a means of approaching 3. the right to enter, use, etc. 4. an outburst [an access of anger] 5. the onset (of a disease)
- accessary** (ək'ses'ərɛ) *adj.*, *n.*, *pl.* -ries same as ACCESSORY
- accessible** (ək'ses'əb'l) *adj.* 1. that can be approached or entered 2. easy to approach or enter 3. obtainable 4. open to the influence of (with *to*) [not accessible to pity] —**access'ibility** *n.* —**access'ibly** *adv.*
- accession** (ək'sesh'ən) *n.* 1. the act of attaining (a throne, power, etc.) 2. assent 3. a) increase by addition b) an item added, as to a library —**access'ional** *adj.*
- accessory** (ək'ses'ərɛ) *adj.* [see ACCEDE] 1. extra; additional 2. *Law* helping in an unlawful act —*n.*, *pl.* -ries 1. something extra, as an article to complete one's costume or a piece of optional equipment 2. *Law* an accomplice —**accessory before** (or **after**) the fact one who aids another before (or after) the commission of a crime —**accessorial** (ək'səs'ərɪəl) *adj.*
- access time** in computers, the time between a request for information from storage and its delivery
- accident** (ək'sædnt) *n.* [*<* L. *ad.*, to + *cadere*, to fall] 1. a happening that is not foreseen or intended 2. an unintended happening that results in injury, loss, etc. 3. chance [to meet by accident] 4. an attribute that is not essential
- accidental** (ək'sædn'tl) *adj.* 1. happening by chance 2. belonging but not essential —*n.* 1. a nonessential quality 2. *Music* a sign, as a sharp or flat, placed before a note to show a change of pitch —**acc'iden'tally** *adv.*
- acclaim** (ək'klaɪm') *vt.* [*<* L. *ad.*, to + *clamare*, to cry out] 1. to greet with strong approval 2. to announce with much applause or praise [they acclaimed him victor] —*n.* loud applause or strong approval
- acclamation** (ək'ləmə'shən) *n.* 1. loud applause or strong approval 2. an approving vote by voice without an actual count 3. [Canad.] an unopposed election —**acclamatory** (ək'kləm'ətərɛ) *adj.*
- acclimatize** (ək'kli'metɪz') *vt.*, *vi.* -tized', -tiz'ing [see AD- & CLIMATE] to accustom or become accustomed to a different climate or environment —**accl'imatiza'tion** *n.*
- accolade** (ək'ələd') *n.* [*ult.* *<* L. *ad.*, to + *collum*, neck] 1. anything done or given as a sign of great respect, appreciation, etc. 2. a touch with a sword used in conferring knighthood
- accommodate** (ək'kɒm'ədət') *vt.* -dat'ed, -dat'ing [*<* L. *ad.*, to + *com-*, with + *modus*, a measure] 1. to help by supplying (with something) 2. to do a favour for 3. to adjust; adapt 4. to reconcile 5. to have room for —*vi.* to become adjusted, as the lens of the eye in focusing —**accom'modative** *adj.* —**accom'moda'tor** *n.*

accommodating *adj.* ready to help; obliging

accommodation (ə kom' ə dā' shən) *n.* 1. adjustment 2. lodgings or space, as in a hotel, on a ship, etc. 3. reconciliation of differences 4. willingness to do favours 5. a help or convenience

accommodation address an address to which letters, etc. may be sent, although the addressee does not live or work there

accompaniment (ə kum' pə nē mənt) *n.* 1. anything that accompanies something else 2. *Music* a part played as a subsidiary to a song, or to another part

accompanist (ə kum' pə nist) *n.* a person who plays an accompaniment

accompany (ə kum' pə nē) *vt.* -nied, -nying [see AD- & COMPANION¹] 1. to go or be together with 2. to supplement 3. to play an accompaniment for or to

accomplice (ə kum' plis) *n.* [see COMPLEX] a person who knowingly helps another in an unlawful act

accomplish (ə kum' plish) *vt.* [ad-, intens. + *compleo*, complete] to do; succeed in doing; complete

accomplished *adj.* 1. done; completed 2. skilled; proficient 3. trained in the social arts or skills

accomplishment *n.* 1. completion 2. something done successfully; achievement 3. a social art or skill

accord (ə kōrd') *vt.* [ad-, to + *cor*, heart] to grant or concede —*vi.* to agree or harmonize (*with*) —*n.* mutual agreement; harmony —of one's own accord willingly, without being asked —with one accord all agreeing —accord'ance *n.*

according *adj.* in harmony —according as to the degree that —according to 1. in agreement with 2. in the order of 3. as stated by

accordingly *adv.* 1. in a way that is fitting and proper 2. therefore



ACCORDION

accordion (ə kōr' dē ən) *n.* [accordare, be in tune] a musical instrument with a bellows which is pressed to force air through reeds opened by fingering keys or studs —*adj.* having folds like an accordion's bellows [*accordion* pleats] —*accor'dionist* *n.*

accost (ə kōst') *vt.* [ad-, to + *costa*, rib, side] to approach and speak to, esp. in a bold or forward manner

account (ə kəunt') *n.* [computare :

see COMPUTE] 1. a report 2. an explanation 3. worth; importance 4. a record of financial transactions 5. same as BANK ACCOUNT —*vt.* to consider to be —*vi.* 1. to furnish a reckoning of money received and paid out 2. to make amends (*for*) 3. to give reasons (*for*) 4. to be the cause of (*with for*) 5. to put out of action by killing, defeating, etc. (*with for*) —by all accounts according to all opinions —call to account 1. to demand an explanation of 2. to reprimand —give a good account of oneself to acquit oneself well —on account as partial payment —on account of because of —on no account under no circumstances —take account of 1. to allow for 2. to take notice of —take into account to take into consideration —turn to (*good*) account to get use or profit from

accountable *adj.* 1. obliged to account for one's acts; responsible 2. that can be accounted for; explainable —*account'ability* *n.* —*account'ably* *adv.*

accountant *n.* a person whose work is to inspect or keep financial accounts —*account'ancy* *n.*

accounting *n.* the principles or practice of setting up and auditing financial accounts

accountments (ə kōōt' trə mənts) *n.pl.* [con-, together + *suere*, to sew] 1. clothes; dress 2. equipment; furnishings

accredit (ə kred' it) *vt.* [see CREDIT] 1. to attribute 2. to certify as meeting certain standards 3. to give credentials to (an ambassador, representative, etc.) 4. to take as true —*accred'ita'tion* *n.*

accretion (ə krē' shən) *n.* [ad-, to + *crecere*, grow] 1. growth in size, esp. by addition 2. a growing together of parts 3. accumulated matter 4. a whole resulting from such growth —*accre'tive* *adj.*

accrue (ə krōō') *vi.* -crued', -*cru'ing* [see ACCRETION] 1. to come as a natural growth 2. to be added periodically as an increase —*accru'al* *n.*

acct. account
acculturation (ə kul' chā rā' shən) *n.* a conditioning or becoming adapted to a different culture

accumulate (ə kyōōm' yə lāt') *vt., vi.* -lat' -ed, -lat'ing [ad-, to + *cumulare*, to heap] to pile up or collect, esp. over a period of time —*accu'mulative* *adj.*

accumulation (ə kyōōm' yə lā' shən) *n.* 1. an accumulating; collection 2. accumulated or collected material

accumulator (ə kyōōm' yə lāt' ə r) *n.* 1. a storage battery 2. a device, as in a computer, that stores a quantity and that will add to it, storing the sum 3. a bet on several successive races, both the stake and the winnings being carried forward from one race to the next

accuracy (ak' yoo rə sē) *n.* the quality or state of being accurate; precision

accurate (ak' yoo rət) *adj.* [ad-, to + *cura*, care] 1. careful and exact 2. free from errors —*ac'curately* *adv.*

accursed (ə kar' sid) *adj.* 1. under a curse 2. deserving to be cursed Also *accurs't'*

accusation

accusation (ak'yoozá'shən) *n.* 1. an accusing or being accused 2. the wrong that one is accused of

accusative (əkyoo'zə'tiv) *adj.* [see ACCUSE] *Gram.* designating or in the case of an object of a verb or prepositions —*n.* 1. the accusative case 2. a word in this case —**accu'sat'iv** (-ti'v'l) *adj.*

accusatory (əkyoo'zə'tar'ē) *adj.* making or containing an accusation; accusing

accuse (əkyooz'v) *vt.* -cused', -cus'ing [ad-, to + *causa*, lawsuit] 1. to blame 2. to bring charges against (of breaking the law, etc.) —**the accused** *Law* the person charged with committing a crime —**accus'er** *n.* —**accus'ingly** *adv.*

accustom (əkus'təm) *vt.* to make used (to something) as by custom or regular use; habituate

accustomed *adj.* 1. customary; usual; characteristic 2. used (to); in the habit of

ace (ās) *n.* [as, unit] 1. a playing card, domino, etc. with one spot 2. a serve, as in tennis, that one's opponent is unable to return 3. *Golf* a hole in one 4. a combat pilot who has destroyed many enemy aircraft 5. [*Colloq.*] an expert —*adj.* [*Colloq.*] first-rate; expert —**ace up one's sleeve** a hidden and powerful advantage —**within an ace of** on the verge of; very close to

-aceous (ā'shəs) [*L.*] a suffix meaning of the nature of, like, belonging to, producing, etc.

acerbate (as'ərbat'v) *vt.* -bat'ed, -bat'ing 1. to make sour or bitter 2. to irritate; vex
acerbity (əsar'bat'ē) *n., pl. -ties* [acerbus, bitter] 1. sharpness or harshness of temper, words, etc. 2. a sour, astringent quality —**acer'bic** *adj.*

acetaldehyde (as'ətal'dəhid') *n.* [ACET(O)- + ALDEHYDE] a colourless, soluble, volatile liquid used as a solvent

acetate (as'ətāt') *n.* a salt or ester of acetic acid

acetic (əsēt'ik) *adj.* [acetum: see ACETO-] of, like, containing, or producing acetic acid or vinegar

acetic acid a sour, colourless liquid having a sharp odour: it is found in vinegar

aceto- [acetum, vinegar] a combining form meaning of or from acetic acid

acetone (as'ətōn') *n.* a colourless, flammable, volatile liquid used as a solvent for certain oils, etc.

acetylene (əsēt'əlēn') *n.* a colourless gas used for lighting and, with oxygen, in blowlamps, etc.

acetylsalicylic acid (əsēt'əl sal'əsil'ik) aspirin

ache (āk) *vi.* ached, ach'ing [*OE.* *acan*] 1. to have or give dull, steady pain 2. to yearn —*n.* a dull, continuous pain

achieve (əchēv'v) *vt.* achieved', achiev'ing [OFR. *a-*, to + *chief*: see CHIEF] 1. to succeed in doing; accomplish 2. to get by exertion; attain; gain —**achiev'er** *n.*

achievement *n.* 1. an achieving 2. a thing achieved, esp. by skill, work, etc.; feat

acoustics

Achilles' heel (əkil'ēz) [Achilles, *Gr.* hero killed by an arrow in his vulnerable heel] (one's) vulnerable spot

Achilles' tendon the tendon connecting the back of the heel to the muscles of the calf of the leg

achromatic (ək'rəmat'ik) *adj.* [Gr. *a-*, without + *chrōma*, colour] 1. colourless 2. refracting white light without breaking it up into its component colours

acid (as'id) *adj.* [*L.* *acidus*, sour] 1. sharp to the taste; sour 2. sharp or sarcastic in speech, etc. 3. of an acid 4. having too much acid —*n.* 1. a sour substance 2. [*Slang*] same as LSD 3. *Chem.* any compound that reacts with a base to form a salt —**ac'idly** *adv.*

acidic (əsid'ik) *adj.* 1. forming acid 2. acid
acidify (əsid'əfi'v) *vt., vi.* -fied', -fy'ing 1. to make or become sour or acid 2. to change into an acid

acidity (əsid'ətē) *n., pl. -ties* 1. acid quality or condition; sourness 2. the degree of this

acid test [*orig.*, a test of gold by acid] a crucial, final test of value or quality

acidulous (əsid'yooləs) *adj.* 1. somewhat acid or sour 2. somewhat sarcastic Also **acid'ulent**

-acious (ā'shəs) [tenacious]

-acity (as'ətē) a *n.-forming* suffix corresponding to -ACIOUS [*tenacity*]

ack-ack (ək'ək') *n.* [echoic] [*Colloq.*] an anti-aircraft gun or its fire

acknowledge (ək nol'ij) *vt.* -edged, -edging [*ult.* < *OE.* *oncnawan*, to understand] 1. to admit to be true 2. to recognize the authority or claims of 3. to recognize and answer (a greeting or introduction) 4. to express thanks for 5. to state that one has received (a letter, gift, etc.)

acknowledgment, acknowledgment *n.* 1. an admission 2. something done or given in acknowledging, as thanks 3. recognition of the authority or claims of
acme (ək'mē) *n.* [*Gr.* *akmē*, a point, top] the highest point; peak

acne (ək'nē) *n.* [Gr. *akmē*: see prec.] a skin disease characterized by inflammation of the sebaceous glands, causing pimples on the face, etc.

acolyte (ək'əlit') *n.* [Gr. *akolouthos*, follower] 1. *R.C.Ch.* a member of the highest of the four minor orders, who serves at Mass 2. an attendant 3. a novice

aconite (ək'ənit') *n.* [Gr. *akoniton*] 1. a poisonous plant with blue, purple, or yellow hoodlike flowers 2. a drug made from the dried roots

acorn (ək'kōrn') *n.* [OE. *acern*, nut] the fruit of the oak tree

acoustic (ək'kōs'tik) *adj.* [Gr. *akouein*, hear] 1. having to do with hearing or with acoustics 2. denoted by sound vibrations [an *acoustic* mine] 3. designating a musical instrument whose tones are not electronically altered Also **acous'tical** —**acous'tically** *adv.*

acoustics *n.pl.* 1. the qualities of a room, etc. that relate to how clearly sounds can