

ORIGINS

A SHORT
ETYMOLOGICAL DICTIONARY
OF MODERN ENGLISH

by
ERIC PARTRIDGE



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LONDON

piam in memoriam

CECIL ARTHUR FRANKLIN

**a kindly and generous man
and a remarkable publisher**

Philologists who chase
A panting syllable through time and space,
Start it at home, and hunt it in the dark,
To Gaul, to Greece, and into Noah's Ark.
Cowper, *Retirement*

FOREWORD

PROFESSOR W. W. SKEAT'S large and small etymological dictionaries were last revised in 1910; Ernest Weekley's *Concise Etymological Dictionary* and Ferdinand Holthausen's *Etymologisches Wörterbuch der englischen Sprache*, both excellent in their way, treat words so briefly and ignore ramifications so wholeheartedly that it was easy to plan a work entirely different—a remark that applies equally to Skeat's *Concise* and, for relationships, almost as much to his larger book.

'Exigencies of space'—not always a myth, nor always a mere excuse for laziness—preclude a large vocabulary. The number of entries in *Origins* is comparatively small, even for an etymological dictionary, but the system I have devised has enabled me, with the aid of cross-references, not only to cover a very much wider field than might have seemed possible but also, and especially, to treat all important words much more comprehensively and thoroughly. I have concentrated upon civilization rather than upon science and technology; dialect and cant have been ignored; slang is represented only by a very few outstanding examples (e.g., *phoney*).

On the other hand, I have included a certain number of words not usually found in a small British etymological dictionary: words that, little known in Britain, form part of the common currency of Standard English as it is spoken and written in the United States of America, Canada, South Africa, Australia, New Zealand, India and Pakistan.

One class of words has deliberately been treated very meagrely: such exotics as do not fall into the classification 'Americanisms'—'Australianisms'—etc. It does not much help the searcher to be told that *llama* has been adopted—that is, accepted unchanged—from Quechuan, or *okapi* from Bambulan (Mbuba); only a little more does it help him to learn that *cassowary* has been adapted from Malayan *kasuari*. For Amerindian, Australian aboriginal, Maori, Hindi and similar words, I have, wherever possible, avoided the baldness and inadequacy of such entries as 'kangaroo. Australian aboriginal word' or 'pakeha. Maori for a white man'.

In a book of this size a certain number of abbreviations is unavoidable. These abbreviations will not impede the easy flow of the consecutive English I hold to be indispensable in a book designed for the use of the general intelligent public as well as for that of the erudite. Nor, I hope, will scholars and students find readability a defect; after all, a work is not necessarily the more scholarly for being written in philological shorthand. Where, however, the conventions of lexicography make for clarity and simplicity, I have followed most of these conventions: and where either extremely brief etymologies or multiple cognates and complex histories occur, I

have employed a brevity hardly less austere than compact. This combination of consecutiveness and terseness should prevent the treatment from becoming too deadly monotonous.

Warmest thanks are due, both to Professor John W. Clark, of the University of Minnesota, for help in choosing terms important in the United States of America, yet little known in Britain and the British Dominions, and to Professor D. Winton Thomas for occasional help in Semitic origins.

I shall be grateful for (private) notification, whether of printer's and other errors or of entries that 'simply must be added': non-specialist words that, falling within the 10,000-or-so used by every intelligent person, have been inadvertently omitted from this dictionary. Also, a few important affixes and elements have probably slipped through the net.

ERIC PARTRIDGE

Postscript to the second edition. I have to thank Professors John W. Clark, Norman Davis, Simeon Potter, for some valuable notifications and corrections.

Postscript to the third edition. I owe much to Professors John W. Clark, Norman Davis, Simeon Potter and especially R. M. Wilson; and something to Mr R. W. Burchfield (by salutary indirection)—Dr A. J. R. Green—Professor Mario Pei—Mr Stephen Potter—and Mr T. Skaug of Oslo. All these gentlemen have been most generous: I can only hope that the third edition approaches their ideals a little more closely than did the first: it leaves me a shade less dissatisfied than I was.

HOW TO USE THIS DICTIONARY

AN etymological dictionary supplies neither pronunciations nor definitions. Here, pronunciation is indicated only where it affects the origin or the development of a word; and definitions only where, in little-known words, they are necessary to an understanding of the problem. Wherever the meaning of a word has notably changed, the sense-transformation is explained, as, for instance, in *knave*, *marshal*, *phoney*, adjectival *rum*: here we enter the domain of semantics, the science of meanings, for semantics will sometimes resolve an otherwise insoluble problem.

If the reader intends to use this book extensively and even if he intends merely to consult it occasionally, he will spare himself much time and trouble if he previously familiarizes himself with the list of abbreviations immediately preceding the dictionary proper.

If he wishes to be in a position to understand words in their fullest implications and subtleties, in their nuances and most delicate modifications, he will do well to study the list of suffixes and then the little less important list of prefixes; lists that are themselves etymological. By the way, the prefixes and suffixes are my own idea; the list of compound-forming elements (this list, too, is etymological), that of an eminent and humane, practical yet imaginative French philologist, the late M. Albert Dauzat. Like his, my list is confined to learned elements: where he omits such elements as, in the fact, are self-contained French words, I omit such elements as are English words recorded in the dictionary itself. My list, however, is more than twice as long as his and, in treatment, much more spacious, for *Origins* differs considerably from the *Dictionnaire étymologique de la langue française*.

This list of compound-forming elements will enable inquirers to ascertain the etymology of most of the innumerable learned words—scientific and technical, philosophical and psychological, economic and sociological, linguistic and literary—missing from the dictionary; these are specialist terms. Take, for example, *Calyptorhynchus*, a genus of dark-coloured cockatoos: such a word has no right to appear in an etymological dictionary and no privilege to appear in any 'straight' dictionary other than one of the Universal Stores class. Yet the list of elements will reveal that the word is compounded of *calypto-*, meaning 'covered', hence 'hidden', and *-rhynchus*, 'beak'.

Having assimilated the table of abbreviations and the lists of Prefixes, Suffixes, Elements, inquirers will find consultation easy and reading unimpeded. The cross-references will present no difficulty, for if one word is to be sought at another, as for instance *erg* at *work*, and if the latter entry be at all long, the long entry is divided into numbered paragraphs.

'See WORK' would mean 'See that word in the Dictionary'. If the dictionary contains any such references as 'See *para-*'—'See *-ace*'—'See *calypto-*', the application is clearly to *para-* in Prefixes, *-ace* in Suffixes, *calypto-* in Elements. If the reference happens to be double, as in 'See PSEUDO and *pseudo-*', the application would be to the former in the dictionary and to the latter in Elements.

All words belonging to alphabets other than 'English'—to Greek, Russian, Egyptian, for instance—have been transliterated. The transliteration of Greek words, in particular, has been more exact than in several dictionaries one might, but does not, name. I have, for χ , preferred *kh* to *ch*, and represented $\gamma\gamma$ as *ng*, $\gamma\kappa$ as *nk*, $\gamma\xi$ as *nx*, $\gamma\chi$ as *nkh*. In pre-Medieval Latin words I have retained *i* and *u*, as in *Iulius*, ML *Julius*, and *uinum*, ML *vinum*, for reasons too obvious to be enumerated. Long Greek and Latin vowels have been shown as long. I have, however, omitted that over the final *-i* of Latin passives and deponents.

ABBREVIATIONS¹

(including those for the most frequently cited authorities)

A or Am	American (U.S.A.)	BE	British English
abbr	abbreviation of; abbreviated (to)	b/f	back-formation (from)
abl	ablative	Bio	Biology, biological
acc	accusative (or objective) case	Boisacq	Emile Boisacq, <i>Dictionnaire étymologique de la langue grecque</i> , 4th ed., 1950
A.D.	<i>Anno Domini</i> , in the year of (our) Lord	Bot	Botany, botanical
adj	adjective, adjectival	Br	Breton
adv	adverb, adverbial	Bu	Bantu
AE	American English	Byz Gr	Byzantine Greek
Aer	Aeronautics, aeronautical	C	Celtic
AF	Anglo-French	c	<i>circa</i> , about (in dates)
Afr	Afrikaans	C16, 17	16th (etc.) Century; CC16-17, 16th-17th Centuries
AIr	Anglo-Irish	CA	Central America(n)
Akk	Akkadian	Can	Canadian
AL	Anglo-Latin (= Medieval Latin as used in Britain)	Cat	Catalan
Alb	Albanian	caus	causative
Alg	Algonquin	cf	<i>confer</i> , compare!
Am	American	c/f	combining-form; pl: c/ff
Amerind	American Indian	c/f e	compound-forming element
AmF	American French	Ch	Chinese
An	Anatomy, anatomical	Chem	Chemistry, chemical
anl	analogous, analogously, analogy	Clark	John W. Clark (private communication)
app	apparently	Class	Classical (Greek, Latin)
approx	approximately	coll	colloquial, -ism, -ly
Ar	Arabic	comb	combination, combiner
Aram	Aramaic	comp	comparative
Arch	Architecture, architectural	cond	conditional (mood)
Arm	Armenian	conj	conjunction, conjunctive
AS	Anglo-Saxon	conjug	conjugation
ASp	American Spanish	conn	connotation
Ass	Assyrian	cons	consonant, consonantal
Astr	Astronomy, astronomical	contr	contracted, contraction
aug	augmentative	Cor	Cornish
Aus	Australia, Australian	corresp	corresponding
Av	Avestic (or Zend)	cpd	compound
B	British	Craigie	Sir William Craigie, <i>A Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue</i> , 1931- Czechoslovak
Bab	Babylonian, Babylonish	Cz	
Bact	Bacteriology, bacteriological	D	Dutch
Baker	Sidney J. Baker, <i>The Australian Language</i> , 1945	Da	Danish
B & W	O. Bloch and W. von Wartburg, <i>Dictionnaire étymologique de la langue française</i> , 2nd ed., 1950		
B.C.	Before Christ		

¹ Except for A.D. and B.C., and for *e.g.*, *f.a.e.*, *i.e.*, *o.o.o.*, *q.v.* and *s.f.*, the very modern practice of using as few points (periods, full stops) as possible has been followed. In philology, OHG, MLG, ONF, etc.—not O.H.G., etc.—have long been usual; I have merely extended the practice to, *e.g.*, *n* for noun.

DAE	<i>A Dictionary of American English</i> , edited by W. A. Craigie and J. R. Hulbert, 1936-44	Ga	Gaelic
DAF	R. Grandsaignes d'Hauterive, <i>Dictionnaire d'ancien français</i> , 1947	Gaul	Gaulish
dat	dative	gen	genitive (possessive case)
Dauzat	Albert Dauzat, <i>Dictionnaire étymologique de la langue française</i> , edition of 1947	Geog	Geography, geographical
dial	dialect, -al, -ally	Geol	Geology, geological
Dict	(this) dictionary; dict (pl dictt), any dictionary	Geom	Geometry, geometrical
dim	diminutive	Gmc	Germanic
E	English	Go	Gothic
E & M	A. Ernout and A. Meillet, <i>Dictionnaire étymologique de la langue latine</i> , 3rd ed., 1951	Gr	Greek
EccI	Ecclesiastics, ecclesiastic(al)	Gram; gram	Grammar; grammatical
ED	Early Modern Dutch	H	Hebrew
EDD	Joseph Wright, <i>The English Dialect Dictionary</i> , 1896-1905	Ham	Hamitic
EE	Early Modern English } 1500-	Hell	Hellenistic
EF	Early Modern French } 1700	Her	Heraldry, heraldic
Eg	Egyptian	HG	High German
EgAr	Egyptian Arabic	Hi	Hindi
e.g.	<i>exempli gratia</i> , for example	Hind	Hindustani
EI	East Indian, East Indies	hist	historic(al)
Ekwall	B. O. E. Ekwall, <i>The Concise Oxford Dictionary of English Place-Names</i> , 4th ed., 1958	Hit	Hittite
El	Electricity	Hofmann	J. B. Hofmann, <i>Etymologisches Wörterbuch des Griechischen</i> , 1950
Enci It	<i>Enciclopedia Italiana</i>	Holthausen	Ferdinand Holthausen, <i>Wörterbuch des Altwestnordischen</i> , 1948
Eng	Engineering	Holthausen ¹	F. Holthausen, <i>Altfrisisches Wörterbuch</i> , 1925
Ent	Entomology, entomological	Holthausen ²	F. Holthausen, <i>Etymologisches Wörterbuch der englischen Sprache</i> , 3rd ed.
esp	especially	Hung or Hu	Hungarian
etc.	et cetera	ibid	<i>ibidem</i> , in the same place
etym	etymology, etymological(ly)	Ice	Icelandic
euphem	euphemism, euphemistic(ally)	Ich	Ichthyology
EW	Ernest Weekley, <i>Concise Etymological Dictionary</i> , 2nd ed., 1952	id	<i>idem</i> , the same; identical
Ex	example; Exx: examples	IE	Indo-European
extn	extension	i.e.	<i>id est</i> , that is
F	French	illit	illiterate, illiterately
f	feminine	imm	immediately
f.a.e.	for anterior etymology	imp	imperative (mood)
f/e	folk-etymology or -etymological(ly)	impf	imperfect (tense)
Feist	Sigmund Feist, <i>Vergleichendes Wörterbuch der Gotischen Sprache</i> , 3rd ed., 1939	inch	inchoative
fig	figurative(ly)	incl	included, including, inclusion
Fin	Finnish	ind	indicative (mood)
Fl	Flemish	inf	infinitive (mood), infinitival
fl	flourished (lived)	instr	instrument, instrumental
foll	following	int	intensive, intensively
fpl	feminine plural	interj	interjection, interjective(ly)
freq	frequentative	Ir	Irish
Fris	Frisian	irreg	irregular, irregularly
fs	feminine singular	It	Italian
FU	Finno-Ugric	J or Jap	Japanese
G	German	Jav	Javanese
		joc	jocular(ly)
		Kluge	Kluge-Götze, <i>Etymologisches Wörterbuch der deutschen Sprache</i> , 14th ed., 1948
		L	Latin

ABBREVIATIONS

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L & S	Liddell and Scott, <i>A Greek-English Lexicon</i> , in H. Stuart Jones's recension, 1925-40	neu	neuter; neupl: neuter plural; neus: neuter singular
l.c.	<i>locus citatus</i> , the passage (or book) quoted	NL	New Latin, especially Modern Scientific Latin
Lett	Lettish (Latvian)	nom	nominative (subjective case)
LG	Low German	Nor	Norwegian
LGr	Late Greek	NT	(The) New Testament
LH	Late Hebrew	NZ	New Zealand
lit	literal, literally	O	Old
Lith	Lithuanian	OB	Old Bulgarian (=Old Church Slavic)
LL	Late Latin (c. A.D. 180-600)	OBr	Old Breton
loc	locative (case)	obs	obsolete
m	masculine	obsol	obsolescent
MacLennan	Malcolm MacLennan, <i>A Dictionary of the Gaelic Language</i> , 1925	OC	Old Celtic
Mal	Malayan	occ	occasional, occasionally
Malvezin	Pierre Malvezin, <i>Dictionnaire des racines celtiques</i> , 2nd ed., 1924	OE	Old English
Malvezin ¹	P. Malvezin, <i>Dictionnaire complétif du latin</i> , 1925	OED	<i>The Oxford English Dictionary</i>
MAR	Medieval Arabic	OF	Old French
Math	Mathematics, mathematical	OFris	Old Frisian
Mathews	Mitford M. Mathews, <i>A Dictionary of Americanisms</i> , 1951	OGmc	Old Germanic
MBr	Medieval Breton	OHG	Old High German
MD	Medieval Dutch	OIr	Old Irish
mdfn	modification	OIt	Old Italian (Middle Ages)
ME	Middle English	OL	Old Latin
Med	Medicine, medical	OLG	Old Low German
Medit	Mediterranean	ON	Old Norse
Mencken	H. L. Mencken, <i>The American Language</i> , 4th ed., 1936; <i>Supplement One</i> , 1945, and <i>Two</i> , 1948	ONF	Old Northern French
Met	meteorology, -ological	o.o.o.	of obscure origin
MF	Medieval French (CC13-15)	OP	Old Prussian
MGr	Medieval Greek	OPer	Old Persian
MHG	Middle High German	opp	opposite (adj, n): opposed to
Min	Mineralogy, mineralogical	OProv	Old Provençal
Mir	Middle Irish	orig	original, originally
mispron:	mispronounced, mispronunciation	Orn	Ornithology, ornithological
ML	Medieval Latin	OS	Old Saxon
MLG	Middle Low German	o/s	oblique stem
Mod, mod:	modern, as in Mod E, Modern English	OSl	Old Slavic
Morris	E. E. Morris, <i>Austral English</i> , 1898	OSp	Old Spanish
mpl	masculine plural	OSw	Old Swedish
ms	masculine singular	OT	(The) Old Testament
MSc	Middle Scots	OW	Old Welsh
Mus	Music, musical	P	Eric Partridge, <i>A Dictionary of Slang and Unconventional English</i> , 4th ed., 1950
MW	Middle Welsh	P ¹	E.P., <i>A Dictionary of the Underworld</i> , 1950
Myth	Mythology, mythological	P ²	E.P., <i>Name into Word</i> , 2nd ed., 1950
Mx	Manx	P ³	E.P., <i>Here, There and Everywhere</i> , 2nd ed., 1950
N	north, northern	P ⁴	E.P., <i>From Sanskrit to Brazil</i> , 1952
n	noun	pa	participial adjective
NA	North America, N American	Pal	Palaeography, palaeographical
naut	nautical	para	paragraph
Nav	the (Royal) Navy, naval; navigation(al)	PC	Primitive Celtic
neg	negative, negatively	pej	pejorative, -ly
		Per	Persian
		perh	perhaps
		Pettman:	C. Pettman, <i>Africanderisms</i> , 1913
		PGmc	Primitive Germanic

PGr	Primitive Greek	s.f.	<i>sub finem</i> , near the end
Pharm	Pharmacy, pharmaceutical	sing	singular; in the singular
Phil	Philosophy, philosophical	Skeat	W. W. Skeat, <i>An Etymological Dictionary of the English Language</i> , 4th ed., 1910
phon	phonetic, phonetically, phonetics		
Phys	Physics		
Physio	Physiology, physiological	Skt	Sanskrit
PL	Primitive Latin	Sl	Slavonic
pl	plural	sl	slang
PIN	place-name	Slov	Slovene
PN	personal name	Sophocles	E. A. Sophocles, <i>Greek Lexicon of the Roman and Byzantine Periods</i> (146 B.C.-A.D. 1100), ed. of 1893
Pol	Polish		
Poly	Polynesian		
pop	popular (speech)	Souter	A. Souter, <i>A Glossary of Later Latin</i> , 1949
Port	Portuguese		
pos	positive	sp	Spanish
pp	past participle	spec	specialized
pps	past-participial stem	subj	subjunctive
Prati	Angelico Prati, <i>Vocabolario etimologico italiano</i> , 1951	sup	superlative
		Surg	surgery, surgical
prec	preceding	Sw	Swedish
prep	preposition(al)	syn	synonym; synonymous
pres inf	present infinitive		
presp	present participle	T	Technics, Technology; technical, technological; technicality
presp o/s	present-participial oblique stem	taut	tautological(ly), tautology
prob	probable, probably	tech	(a) technical (term)
pron	pronounced (as), pronunciation	Theo	Theology, theological
prop	properly, strictly	Tokh	Tokharian
Prov	Provençal	Topo	Topography, topographical
Psy	Psychology, psychological	Torp:	Alf Torp, <i>Nynorsk Etymologisk Ordbok</i> , 1919
Psychi	Psychiatry, psychiatric	trans	translated, translation
pt	past tense (preterite)	Tregear	Edward Tregear, <i>The Maori-Polynesian Comparative Dictionary</i> , 1897
		trld; trln	transliterated; transliteration
q.v.	<i>quod vide</i> , which see! (Plural references: qq.v.)	Tu	Turkish
R	Romance (language or languages)		
r	root	ult	ultimate, ultimately
redup	reduplication	usu	usually
ref	reference; in or with reference to		
reg	regular(ly)	v	verb
resp	respective, respectively	var	variant
Rom	Romany	Ve	Vedic
Ru	Russian	vi	verb intransitive
Rum	Rumanian	viz	to wit
		VL	Vulgar (or Low) Latin
S	south, southern	vn	verbal noun
s	stem	vr	verb reflexive
SAE	Standard American English	vt	verb transitive
SAfr	South Africa, S. African		
SAm	South America, S. American	W	Welsh
Santamaria	F. J. Santamaria, <i>Diccionario de Americanismos</i> , 1942	Walde	A. Walde and J. B. Hofmann, <i>Lateinisches etymologisches Wörterbuch</i> , 3rd ed., 1938-56
Sc	Scots, Scottish	Walshe	M. O'C. Walshe, <i>A Concise German Etymological Dictionary</i> , 1952
sc	<i>scite</i> , understand! or supply!	Webster	<i>Webster's New International Dictionary</i> , 2nd ed., 1934, impressions of 1945 and later
Scan	Scandinavian	Whitehall	Harold Whitehall in <i>Webster's New World Dictionary</i> , College Edition, 1953
Sci	Science, scientific		
SciL	Scientific Latin		
SE	Standard English		
Sem	Semitic		
sem	semantics, semantic(ally)		
sep	separate, separately (treated)		

ABBREVIATIONS

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WI	West Indian, West Indies	* before a word indicates a presumed word, or form of a word, or sense
Y & B	H. Yule and A. C. Burnell, <i>Hobson-Jobson</i> , revised by W. Crooke, 1903	= equal(s); is, or are, equivalent to; equivalent to
Zoo	Zoology, zoological	+ (in compounds and blends) and † died; e.g., '† 1792'—died in 1792

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A

a, indefinite article. See ONE.

aback. See BACK.

abafft. See AFT, para 2.

abandon comes, in ME, from OF *abandoner* (whence *abandonement*, whence E *abandonment*), itself from the n *abandon*, arising from the phrase (*mettre* or *laisser*) a *bandon*, in(to) the power (of someone): a, Mod à, from L *ad*, to+*bandon* (cf Norman *banon*), power or authority, from *ban*, a sovereign's proclamation within his jurisdiction. Cf BAN.

abase: late ME *abeese*, *abasse*: OF *abaissier* (F *abaissier*): a, to+*baissier*, to lower, from VL **bassiāre*, from *bassus*, low: cf the adj **BASE**. **Abasement**: prompted by F *abaissement*, but from *abase*+suffix *-ment*.

abash: ME *abashen*, earlier *abaisschen*, earliest *abaissen*: OF *esbair*, *esbahir* (F *ébahir*), to astound: formed either of *es*, from L *ex*, out (of)+*bah!* (astonishment)+inf suffix *-ir*, hence lit 'to get a *bah* out of someone', or, more prob, of *es*+*baer* (Mod *bayer*), to bay, influenced by *baif*, astounded (B & W): cf 'to **BAY**'. **Abashment**: OF *esbahissement*, from *esbahir*, influenced by *abaissier* (see **ABASE**). Cf **ABEYANCE**.

abate; **abatement**. See **BATE**. (Cf *debate*, *combat*, *rebate*.) Cf the 2nd **BAT**, para 3.

abattoir. See **BATE**. Cf the 2nd **BAT**, para 3.

abbé, **abbot**, **abess**; **abbey**, **abbacy**.

The descent is from Aramaic *abbā*, father, thus: post-Class Gr *ἀββᾶ* (*abba*), indeclinable; *ἀββᾶς*, *abbas* (gen *abbados*), 'reverend father', abbot:

I. LL *Abba*, 'God the Father'; LL *abbās* (gen *abbātis*), abbot: LL acc *abbātem*, OF *abet*, *abe*, F *abbé*: LL o/s *abbāt-*, OE *abbad*, *abbod*—whence E *abbot*:

II. LL *abbātissa* (from *abbāt-*, o/s of LL *abbās*)—OF *abasse*, *abesse*—whence E *abess*:

III. ML *abbātia* (same origin), 'monastery, convent, headed by an abbot or an abess, hence an abbot's office or dignity—whence E *abbacy*; and, from the basic LL sense, OF *abaie*, *abeie* (F *abbaye*), whence E *abbey*; the derivative ML adj *abbātialis* yields *abbatial*.

abbreviate, **abbreviation**. See **BREVE**.

abdicate, **abdication**. See **DICT**, para 8.

abdomen; **abdominal**.

L *abdōmen*, o.o.o., perh derives from *abdere* (*ab*+*dare*), to put away, aside, at a distance, hence

to cover or hide. The basic sense of *dare*, to give, has been lost in the cpds, which take on that of the IE r **dhe-*, to place. **Abdominal**: *abdomin-*, o/s of *abdōmen*+adj suffix *-al*. Cf the element *abdomino-*.

abduct, **abduction**, **abductor**. See **DUKE**, para 6.

aberrant, **aberration**. See **ERR**, para 2.

abet, **abettor**. See **BAIT**.

abeyance is an AF word deriving from MF-EF *abeance*, expectation, from MF-EF *abeer*: a (mod à), to+*baer*, *beer*, to gape (at): cf **ABASH** and esp **BAY**, v. Basic idea: hope deferred, pointless expectation.

abhor, **abhorrence**, **abhorrent**. See **HEARSE**, para 7.

abide. See **BIDE**, para 2.

ability. See **HABIT**, para 5.

abject, **abjection**: f.a.e. JET.—Imm from L *abiectus* (ML *abj-*), pp of *abi(i)cere*, to throw away, and from the derivative *abiectio*, o/s *abiectio-* (ML *abj-*).

abjure, **abjurement** or **abjuration**. Cf **CONJURE**, but see **JURY**, n, para 4.

ablation, **ablution**. See **LAVA**, para 9.

ablaut. See **LOUD**, para 3.

ablaze: *on*, in+**BLAZE**.

able; **ability**. See **HABIT**, para 5.

abluent, **ablution**. See **LAVA**, para 9.

abnegate, **abnegation**. See **NEGATE**, para 2.

abnormal, **abnormality**. See **NORM**, para 3.

Abo, **abo**. See **ORIGIN**, para 6.

aboard. See **BOARD**.

abode. See **BIDE**, para 3.

abolish, **abolishment**, **abolition** (*-ism*, *-ist*): 1st, via *abolissant*, pres p, or (*nous*) *abolissons*, we abolish, from late MF-F *abolir*, to abolish—cf *perish* from F *périr*—from L *abolēre*, to destroy, to abolish, perh ex *abolescere*, to perish (*ab*, away, (hence) not+*alescere*, to nourish, cf **ALIMENT**); 2nd either=*abolish*+suffix *-ment* or, more prob, derives from F *abolissement*; 3rd, *abolition* (whence *abolitionism*, *abolitionist*: cf the suffixes *-ism*, *-ist*): adopted from late MF-F, which took it from *abolitiōnem*, the acc of L *abolitiō*, itself from *abolitus*, pp of *abolēre*.

abominable; **abominate**, **abomination**. See **OMEN**, para 2.

aboriginal, **aborigine**. See **ORIGIN**, para 6.

abort, **abortion**, **abortive**. See **ORIGIN**, para 4.

abound. See **UNDA**, para 4.

about: ME *aboute*, earlier *abouten*, earliest *abuten*: OE *abūtan*, for *onbūtan*, on the outside of:

on+*būtan*, outside, itself contracting *be*, by+*ūtan*, outside, itself deriving from *ūt*, out: cf therefore *ON*, *BY*, *OUT*. Adv from prep. Cf:

above: ME *above*, earlier *aboven*: late OE *abufan*: *a*, *on*+*bufan*, above, itself contracting *be*, by+*ufan*, above: cf therefore *ON*, *BY*, *OVER*. Prep very soon from adv. Cf. prec.

abracadabra: o.o.o., it is explained either (in B & W) as the LL transcription of Gr *ἀβρακάδαβρα* (*abrasadabra*, where *c=s* but was read as *k*), the whole being an elaboration of LL (Church Fathers') *Abraxas*, for Basilides the Gnostic's *Ἀβραάξ*, *Abraxas*, the Lord of Heaven—'The numerical value of this figure is 365, the number of days in the year' (Sophocles)—found on amulets; or else (in Webster) as L *abracadabra* from Aram *abhadda kēdābrah*, 'Disappear (O sickness) as this word'—*abracadabra* written as a diagram resting finally on the initial *a*.

abrade, abrasion, abrasive. See *RASE*, para 1.

abrasax, abraxas. A charm, an amulet. See *ABRACADABRA*.

abreast. See *BREAST*.

abridge, abridgement.

The latter comes from MF-EF *abregement*, from OF-MF *abregier* (F *abrégér*), from ML *abbreviāre*, from L *abbreviāre*: *ab-*, either the assimilation (to *b*) of *ad*, to, or, more prob, *ab*, from, in nuance 'off'+*breuiāre*, to shorten, from *breuis*, short: cf *BRIEF*. OF *abregier* yields ME *abregen*, whence 'to abridge'.

abroad. See *BROAD*.

abrogate, abrogation, abrogator. See *ROGATION*, para 3.

abrupt, abruption, abruptness. See *RUPTURE*, para 3.

abscess: L *abscessus*, a departure, a gathering (esp of bad matter), an abscess. See *CEDE*.

abscissa, abscind, abscission. See the 2nd *SHED*, para 4.

abscond. See *RECONDITE*, para 1.

absence; absent. See *ESSE*, para 5.

absinthe (occ AE *absinth*): EF-F *absinthe*: reshaped from OF-EF *absince*: L *absinthium*: Gr *apsinthion*, wormwood, from OPer. The *v* *absinthiate*, to treat or impregnate with wormwood, comes from the LL *pa absinthiatūs*, flavoured with wormwood.

absolute, absolution, absolve. See *LOSE*, para 5.

absorbant. See *SONABLE*, para 5.

absorb; absorbent (absorbency); absorption; absorptive.

'To *absorb*' comes (perh via MF-F *absorber*) from L *absorbēre*: *ab*, away+*sorbēre* (*s* *sorb-*), to suck in or up, akin to Gr *rhophein* (*s* *rhoph-*) to swallow—cf Ionic *rhuphein*; to Lith *suřbti* (*s* *surb-*), to suck, *srėbti*, to sip, lap up; to Mlr *srub*, snout (esp a pig's), and Ga *srubadh*, to suck, and *sruab*, to drink with smacking lips.

Absorbent (whence, via suffix *-cy*, *absorbency*): **absorbent-**, o/s of L *absorbens*, presp of *absorbēre*.

Absorption: *absorption-*, o/s of L *absorptiō*, formed from *absorpt-*, the s of *absorptus*, pp of

absorbēre; *absorpt-* yields also *absorptive* (cf suffix *-ive*), as if from ML **absorptivus*.

abstain, abstainer. See *TENABLE*, para 5.

abstemious: L *abstēmius*: *abs*, var of *ab*, (away) from+the *r* (*tem-*) of *tēmētum*, potent liquor, perh akin to Skt *tāmyati* (*s* *tam-*), he is dazed or dumfounded.

abstention; abstinence, abstinent. See *TENABLE*, para 5.

abstergent, abstersion. See *TERSE*, para 2.

abstract, abstraction, abstractive. See *TRACT*, para 10.

abstruse. See *THRUST*, para 2.

absurd, absurdity. See *SURD*, para 3.

abundance, abundant. See *UNDA*, para 4.

abuse, n and v; abusive. See *USE*, para 9.

abut, abutment, abuttal. See *BUTT*, to push or strike with the head.

abysm, abysmal; abyss, abyssal.

Both adj simply tack the suffix *-al* to the nn; *abysm* derives from OF-MF *abisme* (F *abîme*), LL **abismus* (by influence of suffix *-ismus*, cf. *-ism*), from LL *abyssus* (whence E *abyss*), bottomless gulf or pit, itself from Gr *abussos*, bottomless: *a-*, not+*bussos*, bottom or depth, akin to *buthos*, bottom (of the sea), itself prob akin to *bathos*, depth, and *bathus*, deep, qq.v. at *BATHOS*.

acacia: L *acacia*: Gr *akakia*, very prob from Egyptian, the name being orig applied to a thorny Egyptian tree or shrub: cf Gr *akakalis*, the seed(s) of the Egyptian tamarisk, with influence from the IE *r* *ak-*, sharp, (hence) thorny. (Boisacq.) Chem *acacetin* and *acacin*=*acacia*+*acetin* (cf *ACID*) and *acacia*+Chem suffix *-in*.

Academe, academy, academic(al), academician, academicism or academism.

The development is natural and easy: the Gr hero *Akadēmos* (L *Acadēmus*), orig *Hekadēmos*, gave his name to *Akadēmeia* (orig a f adj), orig *Hekadēmeia*, that gymnasium in a suburb of Athens where Plato taught, hence (*akadēmeia*) a place of superior learning, the L form *acadēmia* yielding, via F *académie*, the E *academy* and the now literary *academe*; the Gr adj *Akadēmeikos*, hence *akadēmeikos*, became L *acadēmicus*, became alike F *académique* and E *academic* (adj, hence also n), with elaboration *academical* (adj suffix *-al*). *Academism*=*academy*+*-ism*; *academicism*=*academic*+*-ism*. *Academician* derives from F *académicien*, which=L *acadēmic(us)*+suffix *-ien* (cf the suffix *-ian*).

acajou. See *CASHEW*.

acanth, acanthus, acanthine; acantha; cf the element *acantho-*.

Acanth anglicizes *acanthus*, the L trin (whence the adj *acanthīnus*, whence E *acanthine*) of Gr *akanthos*, a herb with spiny flowers, itself from *akantha*, a thorn or prickle (Webster): ? perhaps rather *akantha* from *akanthos*, lit 'spine flower': *akē*, a point+*anthos*, a flower. Cf *ACUTE*.

acariform; acaroid. See element *acari-*, *acaro-*.

acaulous. See *CAUL*.

accede, whence accedence (suffix *-ence*); **access;**

accessary, from **accessory**; **accessible**; **accession**: resp. L *accēdere* (supine *accessum*, s *access-*), to move towards, to approach, *ad*, to+*cēdere* (s *ced-*), to move, cf CEDE; *access*, L *accessus*, from *accedere*; *accessary*, an -ary (as in *necessary*) var of *accessory* (adj, hence n), itself from ML *accessorius*, from *accessus*; *accessible*, from LL *accessibilis*, approachable, from *accedere*—cf the suffix -ible; *accession*, from *accessiōn-*, o/s of L *accessiō*, an approach, from the pp (*accessus*) of *accedere*.

Cf CONCEDE, PRECEDE, RECEDE; PROCEED, SUCCEED; ABSCESS.

accelerate, **acceleration**, **accelerative**, **accelerator**; f.a.e.: CELERITY. Imm from L *accelerātus*, pp of *accelerāre*, to cause to go faster; EF-F *accélération* and EF-F *accélérateur*, both from EF-F *accélérer* (from L *accelerāre*); the 3rd term, anl from 'to accelerate'.

accent (n, hence v); **accentor**, **accentual**; **accentuate**, whence **accentuator**; **accentuation**.

The effective origin resides in L *canere* (s *can-*), to sing: cf CANTO. Resp, *accent*, adopted from MF-F, from L *accentus* (*ad*, to+*cantus*, a singing, a song), from *canere*; *accentor*, adopted from L (*ad*+*cantor*, a singer, from *canere*); *accentual*=*accent*+*-ual* (cf the -ual of *gradual* in relation to *arade*); *accentuate*, ML *accentuātus*, pp of *accentuāre*, from *accentus*; *accentuation*, adopted from EF-F, from *accentuātiōn-*, o/s of ML *accentuātiō*, from *accentuāre*.

accept, **acceptable**, **acceptance**, **acceptant**; **acceptation**—**acceptation**; **acceptive**, **acceptor**.

Here we have two groups: first, the derivatives, via F, from L *acceptāre* (s *accept-*), the freq of *accipere*, to receive, whence, via the pp *acceptus* or its s *accept-*, the second group, *accipere* (s *accip-*) being an *ad-* (to) cpd of *capere* (s *cap-*), to take: cf CAPABILITY. Thus, I: *accept*, MF-F *accepter*, L *acceptāre*; *acceptable*, adopted from OF-F, from LL *acceptabilis*, from *acceptare*—cf the suffix -able; *acceptability*, prob direct from LL *acceptabilitās* (gen -*itatis*); *acceptance*, adopted from OF (*accept-*, s of *accepter*+suffix -*ance*); *acceptant*, prob via F, from *acceptant-*, o/s of *acceptans*, presp of *acceptāre*; *acceptation*, perh via MF-F, from LL *acceptātiō*, o/s *acceptātiōn-*. Group II: *acceptation*, perh via late EF-F, from *acceptiōn-*, o/s of L *acceptiō*, an accepting, acceptance, formed (abstract -*iō*, gen -*iōnis*) upon *accept-*, s of *acceptus* (as above), whence also *acceptor*, adopted by E; *acceptive* (cf the suffix -*ive*), as if from ML **acceptivus*. Cf CAPABILITY, para 7.

access, **accessary**, **accessible**, **accession**, **accessory**. See ACCEDE.

accidence (obs), **accidency**; **gram accidence**; **accident**, adj and n; **accidental**; **accidented**.

L *accidere* (*ad*, to+*cadere*, to fall: cf CADENCE and CHANCE), to befall, to happen, has presp *accidens*, o/s *accident-*, whence the rare adj *accident*, now usu *accidental* (MF-F *accidentel*, from ML *accidentālis*); whence also the n *accidentia*, chance, a chance, whence the obs syn E *accidence* and the extant *accidency* (cf suffix -*cy*).

The gram *accidence* stands for *accidents*, pl of *accident*, something that happens to a word, a special sense of *accident*, a chance event, from the OF-F n *accident*, from the L presp (as above). *Accidented*, uneven of surface, owes much to the syn F *accidenté*.

Cf CADENCE, para 7.

accidia, **accidie**; **acedia**.

The 2nd is the obs form (adopted from OF) of the 1st, itself from ML *accidia*, a faulty shape— influenced by L *accidere*, to happen—of LL *acēdia*, trln of Gr *akēdia*, lit 'a not-caring' (privative *a-*, not+*kēdos*, care, anxiety); LL *acēdia* accounts for E *acedia*, apathy, (eccl) sloth. Gr *kēdos* is akin to HATE, q.v.

acclaim, **acclamation**, **acclamatory**. See CLAIM, para 4.

acclimate, **acclimation**, **acclimatize**, **acclimatization**. See CLIME, para 5.

acclinal, **acclinate**. See CLIME, para 7.

acclivitous, **acclivity**, **acclivous**. See CLIVUS, para 2.

accolade: adopted from EF-F: It *accollata* (s *accol-*), itself from *accollare* (s *accol-*), to embrace: from L *ad*, to+*collum* (r *col-*), neck: cf COLLAR.

accommodate, **accommodation**. See MODAL, para 14.

accompany; **accompaniment**, **accompanist**. See PANTRY, para 9.

accomplice. See COMPLICE at PLY, para 21:

accomplish, adj **accomplished**; **accomplishment**. See PLENARY, para 7.

accountpt: an old form of **account**.

accord, n and v; **accordable**; **accordance**, **accordancy**; **accordant**; **according**; **accordion**.

All except the last come from OF *acorder*, from LL *accordāre*, *ac-* for *ad*, to+*cord-*, the o/s of *cor* (gen *cordis*), heart: cf CORDIAL and HEART. Thus: the n *accord*, ME *ac(c)ord* or *acorde*, from OF *acord(e)*, from *acorder*, whence, via ME *ac(c)orden*, 'to accord', whence the pa *according*, whence the adv *according*, *accordingly*; *accordant*, however, derives from ME *acordant*, adopted from the OF *acordant*, presp of *acorder*, whence also both OF *acordable* (cf suffix -able), whence E *acordable*, and OF *acordance*, whence E *accordance*, with var *accordancy*. The musical *accordion* consists of It *accord-*, the s of *accordare*, to play in tune+the -ion of, e.g., *clarion* and *melodion*.

accost. See COAST, para 3.

accouchement. See COUCH.

account, n and v; **accountable**; **accountancy**; **accountant**; **accounting**. See the 2nd COUNT, para 5.

accouter (AE), **accoutre**; **accouterment** (AE), **accoutrement**. See SEW, para 6.

accredit, **accredited**. See CREDENCE, para 7.

acrescence, **accretion**, **accrete**. See CRESCENT, para 3.

accrual, **accrue**. See CRESCENT, para 4.

accumbent, **accumbency**. See HIVE, para 8.

accumulate, **accumulation**, etc. See CUMULATE, para 2.

accuracy, accurate. See CURE, para 3.

accursed. See CURSE.

accuse; accusable, accusal, accusant, accusation, accusative, accusatorial, accusatory. See CAUSE, para 5.

accustom. See CUSTOM.

ace, n hence **v**: ME *as*, OF-F *as*, L *ās*, a unit of the duodecimal system, hence a monetary standard and, later, a copper coin: perh an Etruscan word. Semantically, what serves as a standard is (or is regarded as) the best: hence the card-game sense: hence the sporting, hence again the aeronautical sense.

acedia. See ACCIDIA.

acerb. See ACRID and cf ACUTE.

acescent, acetate, acetic, acetylene. See ACID, 2nd para.

ache, n and **v**: (to) *ache* derives from ME *aken* (cf the obs spelling *ake*) O E *acan*, o.o.o.—but perh akin to Gr *akē* (s *ak-*), a sharp point, and L *acēre*, to be sharp: cf ACUTE. Whitehall postulates the IE etym **agos*, fault, guilt, and adduces MD *akel*, shame, and LG *āken*, to smart. But, ult, the two IE rr **ag-* and **ak-*, may have been id.

achieve; achievement—heraldic hatchment.

The 3rd either corrupts the 2nd, influenced by F *hachement*, an ornament in heraldry, or (EW) comes direct from F *hachement*, an inferior form of *acesment*, from OF *acesmer*, to adorn, itself o.o.o.; the 2nd derives from MF-F *achèvement* (cf the suffix *-ment*), from OF-F *achever*, to bring to a head, to conclude: *a* (Mod *d*), to + *chef*, head: cf CHIEF; and the 1st derives from ME *acheven*, from the OF-F *achever*.

acid, adj hence **n**; **acidic; acidific, acidify; acidity; acidulate, acidulous; acescence, acescent; acetate; acetic, acetous; acetylene.**

The adj *acid* comes, perh via EF-F, from L *acidus* (s *acid-*, r *ac-*: cf *torrid* from L *torrēre*, s *tor-*); the derivative *n acid* yields the subsidiary adj *acidic* (cf the suffix *-ic*). The derivative L *n aciditas* yields, perh via EF-F *acidité*, the E *acidity* (cf *-ity*). The dim L adj *acidulus* accounts for *acidulous*, whence *acidulate*: *acidul*(ous) + the *v* suffix *-ate*. *Acidific, acidify*: *acid* + *ific* and *-fy*; the latter has derivative *acidification*.

Acescence = *acescent* + *-ce*; *acescent* comes, perh via F, from L *acescent-*, o/s of *acescens*, presp of *acescere*, to become or turn sour, the inch of *acēre*, to be sharp, hence sour. *Acetate* comes from L *acētum*, vinegar, itself from *acēre*, akin to *acer*, sharp; and *acētum* gives us the adj *acetic* (*acid*) and *acetose* or *acetous* (cf *-ose* and *-ous*). In Chem, both L *acētum* and E *acetic* possess numerous derivatives: here we need mention only *acetylene*: *acetyl* (*acet-* + Chem *-yl*) + Chem *-ene* (as in *benzene*). Cf the element *aceti-* or *aceto-*.

F.a.e.: ACUTE.

acknowledge, acknowledgement. See CAN, para 6.

acme: Gr *akmē*, a point, the topmost point, the prime: IE r, *ak-*. Adj: *acmic* (for *acmelc*). F.a.e., ACUTE, s.f.

acne: SciL, perh from Gr *akhnē*, a particle,

hence chaff: s *akhn-*, prob r *akh-*; cf Gr *akhuron* (s *akhr-*, prob r *akh-*), straw.

acolyte: ME *acolyt, acolite*: ML *acolitus*, earlier *acolithus*: LL *acolithus*, acolyte: Gr *akolouthos* (adj hence *n*), attendant: *a-*, with + *keleuthos* (r *kel-*), a path—cf L *collis*.

aconite (plant, hence an extract), whence the adj **aconitic** (unless direct from Gr *akonitikos*) and the Chem **aconitine**: L *aconitum*, Gr *akoniton*, o.o.o.—but perh suggested by *akoniti*, the adv of the adj *akonitos*, without dust (*a-*, not + *konis*, dust), i.e. without the dust of the arena, hence of combat or struggle (L & S; Hofmann): it affords cardiac relief.

acorn: ME *akern*, OE *aecern*, var *aecren*, akin to ON *akarn*, forest-tree fruit, and Go *akran*, fruit, itself prob from Go *akrs*, a field, akin to L *ager*, a field: f.a.e., see ACRE, the basic meaning of *acorn* being 'fruit (or produce) of the field'. The Mod E spelling is folk-etymological for *oak* (OE *āc*) + *corn*.

acoustic, acoustics; catacoustics; dysacusia or -acousis.

The *n acoustics* derives from the adj *acoustic*, much as *ethics* from *ethic*: and *acoustic* descends, perh via F *acoustique*, from Gr *akoustikas*, aural, from *akouein* (s *akou-*), to hear, itself akin to HEAR. *Catacoustics* = *cat-*, for prefix *cata* + *acoustics*; *dysacusia* or *-acousis* = *dys-*, bad(ly) + *acousia*, Sci L for Gr *akousis* (whence *-acousis*), a hearing.

acquaint; acquaintance.

The latter derives from ME *aqueyntance*, from OF-EF *acoinance*, from OF-EF *acointier*, from LL *accognitare*: *ac-* for *ad-*, to + *cognitus*, known, from *cognoscere*, to know (a person), itself = *co-*, with + *gnoscere*, the old form of *noscere*, to know: cf *cognition* and *quaint*: f.a.e., CAN. OF-EF *acointier* becomes ME *acointen*, later *aqueynten*, becomes 'to acquaint'.

acquest. See QUERY, para 7, s.f.

acquesce; acquiescence, acquiescent. See QUIET, para 5.

acquire, acquirement; acquisition, acquisitive. See QUERY, para 7.

acquit; acquitment, acquittal, acquittance. See QUIET, para 6.

acre, whence collective **acreage** (suffix *-age*): ME *aker*, OE *aecer*, akin to ON *akr* (cf Da *ager*)—OHG *achar* (cf G *Acker*)—OS *akkar*—Go *akrs*—all meaning 'a field'; to L *ager*, a field; Gr *agros*, a field; Skt *djras*, a plain. IE r: **agr-*. Basic sense, prob 'pasture' or 'pasture land'—cf L *agere*, to lead or drive flocks or herds. Cf ACORN and PILGRIM.

acrid, acridity; acrimonious, acrimony; acerb, acerbity.

Acridity (suffix *-ity*) derives from *acrid*, which app blends *acr-*, the o/s of L *acer*, sharp, with *acid-*, the s of L *acidus*. *Acrimonious* comes from ML *acrimoniōsus*, the adj of L *ācrimoniā*, sharpness, bitterness, from *acer*; *ācrimoniā* yields *acrimony* perh via F *acrimonie*. *Acerbity* goes, perh via MF-F *acerbité*, back to L *acerbitās*, bitterness, itself from *acerbus*, bitter (whence OF-F *acerbe*).