

THE OXFORD
DICTIONARY OF
ENGLISH
ETYMOLOGY

EDITED BY
C. T. ONIONS

WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF
G. W. S. FRIEDRICHSEN
AND
R. W. BURCHFIELD

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OXFORD
AT THE CLARENDON PRESS

Oxford University Press, Walton Street, Oxford OX2 6DP
London Glasgow New York Toronto
Delhi Bombay Calcutta Madras Karachi
Kuala Lumpur Singapore Hong Kong Tokyo
Nairobi Dar es Salaam Cape Town
Melbourne Auckland
and associates in
Beirut Berlin Ibadan Mexico City Nicosia

OXFORD is a trade mark of Oxford University Press

ISBN 0 19 861112 9

Published in the United States by
Oxford University Press, New York

© Oxford University Press, 1966

First published 1966

Reprinted 1966

Reprinted 1967 (with corrections), 1969 (with corrections)

1974, 1976, 1978, 1979, 1982 (twice)

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Oxford University Press*

Printed in Great Britain
at the University Press, Oxford
by Eric Buckley
Printer to the University

INTRODUCTION

Etymology

ETYMOLOGY has been briefly defined in this book as 'the origin, formation, and development (of a word)'. Some of the words going back to OE. are as old as time, and are represented in many of the Indo-European languages; *acre*, for instance, in OE. *æcer*, has cognates in all the Germanic languages, and can be recognized in Latin *ager*, Greek *agerôs*, and Sanskrit *ágras*, which go back to an Indo-European original **agros*, which is based on a root **ag* to drive, do, ACT.

Other words commence their documented life not before the Middle English period, such as *Lent*, in ME. *lenten*, which is traced to a West Germanic form cognate with LONG, whilst many others appear in written works much later, or derive from or are compounded with words already long in use, such as *handicap* (XVII, = 'hand in cap'), *landslide* (XIX: see LAND).

Acre, *Lent*, *handicap*, *landslide* are native words by descent through a long ancestry of Germanic stock. Other words have come into English from a foreign language such as Greek or Latin, (Old) French or Low Dutch and, later, from many non-Indo-European languages of the East, South, and West.

The forms from which English words are derived, whether by descent or by adoption, are traced to their ultimate source so far as this is known or reasonably to be presumed. Words whose cognates are within the Germanic group of dialects are traced back to the inferred Germanic originals, with mention of any Indo-European collaterals as may be thought expedient. It often happens that a Germanic word is represented in West and North Germanic, but not in Gothic as, e.g., OAK, OE. *ác*, OHG. *eih*, ON. *eik*:—CGerm. (exc. Gothic) **aiks*. Here '(exc. Gothic)' means that no Gothic cognate appears in the extant Gothic fragments, not that the word in question did not exist in Gothic, although that may have been the case, as it seems to be with the West and North Germ. STARK, STRONG, where the notion is expressed in known Gothic by *swinþs* = ἰσχυρός, *swinþei* = κράτος: similarly, s.v. BREAK¹, 'CGerm. (exc. ON.) **brekan*'.

For words derived from French, the ultimate source is given where possible, and the same treatment is given to many Latin originals from which the English has directly or mediately been derived. The etymology of Greek words is usually given in detail, as, for instance, under COMET.

Derivation directly from French or from Latin

One of the permanent difficulties that beset the etymologist is to determine whether a word such as *evident*, which has its counterpart in (O)F. *évident* as well as in L. *ēvidens*-f. *ēvidēns*, is to be derived from the French or the Latin. Since literate Englishmen have been acquainted with both French and

Latin throughout the Middle Ages and down to our own times, either channel, or both, could be assumed as the means of entry into English, other things being equal.

This is especially true of the flood of new words of French-Latin form that came into English during the late xvth and the xvth centuries in the wake of the renaissance. The reader will see that ‘(O)F. or L.’ has been predicated of a very large number of words from this period. In this connexion ‘French or Latin’ is to be understood as ‘French and/or Latin’, or even ‘French and Latin’, according to circumstances.

There was a comparable period during the xivth/xvth centuries when many words were adopted from Latin, especially in translations of scientific and theological works, among which may be mentioned the writings of Trevisa (xiv), Lanfranc (xiv), Arderne (xv), the anonymous translation of Guy de Chauliac’s *Grande Chirurgie* (xv), and the writings of Wyclif (xiv).

For the earlier period, in ME. of the xiith and xiiith centuries, the source is more likely to be Anglo-Norman or Old French, and this is often revealed by the earliest spelling of the English adoptions, which point conclusively to their French origin. Liturgical terms and words relating to the Church or to monasticism are likely to have come into English from the ‘Anglo-Norman of the cloisters’, yet even there the Clerks were conversant with Latin also.

These and other factors have to be taken into consideration, and each word needs to be judged on its own merits, from its form and context. It is hoped that the conclusions arrived at will be as correct as probability and human wit can make them.

Words from Low Dutch

Many words have been adopted into English from Low Dutch, that is from (Middle) Dutch and (Middle) Low German, and that from quite early times, from the xiith century at least, since when there has been constant traffic between England and the adjacent Continent. Where the *O.E.D.* tentatively refers to MDu. and MLG. forms as ‘probably’ being the source of the English word, or with ‘cf.’, these words will in the present work be more often found given as the actual source of the English, see e.g., BOWSPRIT (xiii), DECK¹ (xv).

Development of individual words in English

The etymologist might be content to give the earliest recorded date of each word, with its previous history, whether of English or Germanic descent or admitted to citizenship from other languages, thus accounting for their ‘origin and formation’. There remains, however, the ‘development’ of the word, that is, its progressive development in form and sense in English. This is every whit as important, and to many whose interests are the history of words in English rather than their remoter ancestry, the more useful and important function of etymology.

In the present work the development of spelling, pronunciation, and sense has been considered, so far as this does not usurp the functions of lexico-

graphy. Thus, under ACRE is explained the source of *God's acre*, and under LENT is the added information 'the eccl. sense of the word is peculiar to English', whilst MERRY includes a reference to *merry England*.

The account of individual words includes, where useful or necessary, pronunciation and spelling. Thus under DIE¹ the reader will find 'For the development of *die* from ME. *dēze*, cf. *dye*, *eye*, *high*, *nigh*, *thigh*', and under JOIST 'The development (of ME. *giste*) to *joist* is paralleled by *foist*, *hoist*'; s.v. JOLLY, 'Final *f* was lost as in *hasty*, *tardy*'; s.v. HARBINGER, 'The intrusive *n* occurs xv; cf. *celandine*; *messenger*, *ostringer*, *passenger*, *porringer*, *scavenger*, *wharfinger*; *nightingale*; *popinjay*'; and s.v. ANCIENT¹, 'The addition of homorganic *t* to final *n* (xv) is paralleled in *pageant*, *pheasant*, *tyrant*'. Under MOB² we are reminded that it is 'one of a group of shortened forms (as *cit*, *rep*, *pos*, *incog.*) in Addison's "Spectator"', and comments on the pronunciation and spelling will be found wherever necessary, as, e.g., under ANTHEM and ANTIPODES.

Earlier forms are recorded, as under HIPPOPOTAMUS, 'Earlier forms (from xiv) were *ypotam(e)*, *hippotame*, *ypotamos*, *-anus*, — OF. *ypotame*'. Contemporary, now obsolete, synonyms are given, as under DIGEST: 'In xvi–xvii *disgest*, *disgestion* were also current'.

Words common and current in earlier stages of the language are sometimes replaced by other words. Thus OE. *niman* (see NIM), which was in general literary use until xv, was replaced by *take*, which had been in concurrent use since late OE. times, into which it had been taken from ON. 'In OE. the words for "die" were *steorfan*, *sweltan*, or *wesan dēad*.' OE. *capellān*, from medL. *cappellānus*, was superseded in early ME. by *capelein*, from AN., and that by *chapelain* from Central French (see CHAPLAIN). ACCLIMATIZE (xix) superseded *acclimate* (xviii) which was a direct adoption from French.

Then there are words which come into political history, the connexion being explained in addition to their more general history. Thus under HOLD¹ reference is made to *copy*-, *free*-, *lease*-, *house*-, *stronghold*. Less known words such as *floruit* are referred to the similar forms *habitat*, *tenet*, †*tenent*. Among many items of more general interest are such as the origin of *psychological moment*, *lushington*, *quack*, *tantivy*, etc.

Order and arrangement of articles

The word heading each article is printed in bold type, e.g., **depose**, and any related words which may be grouped under this are printed in the same type; if any of these end in a suffix which is treated in a separate article, this is printed in small capitals, thus **depose** . . . **deposit** . . . **depository** . . . **deposition** . . . **depository**¹ . . . **depot**. References to other articles are printed in small capitals, e.g. under BUSY, 'cf. BUILD; contrast BURY'. These words are arranged in alphabetical order, except when a word is selected to head the article because it best or most conveniently illustrates the etymology of the other words which are associated with it: thus *astrologer*, *astrological* are treated under the catchword *astrology*. The catchword is followed by the pronunciation, the key to which is given below.

INTRODUCTION

After this comes a selection of the senses in order to illustrate the general trend of the sense-development. The meanings are given in their chronological order, which often involves a re-grouping of the uses of the word as given in the *Oxford English Dictionary*. The century in which any word or sense is first recorded is indicated by roman numerals. Thus, under ESTEEM: A. †value, assess xv (Love); hold in (such-and-such) estimation xvi; B. †judge of xv (Fortescue); account, consider xvi. Similarly under FRANK: †free xiii; bounteous, generous; †of superior quality (see FRANKINCENSE) xv; ingenuous, candid xvi. The semicolon serves to separate a sense, or group of senses, from what precedes or follows: thus in the second example the senses 'free' and 'of superior quality' are obsolete, the other two are not.

For dates earlier than those recorded in the *Oxford English Dictionary* this work is indebted especially to the published parts (A-F) of the *Middle English Dictionary*, and for the later period to Craigie and Hulbert's *Dictionary of American English* and M. M. Mathews's *Dictionary of Americanisms*, and for Scottish words to Craigie's *Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue*. Some earlier dates have also been obtained from publications of the Early English Text Society and from miscellaneous sources.

Spelling of Germanic words

In Germanic words, long vowels are distinguished by the macron (ˉ), except in ON., for which the traditional diacritic (˙) has been retained; thus OE., OFris., OS., OHG. *hūs*, ON. *hús* HOUSE.

In Germanic inferred forms (g) is employed for the palatal and the voiced guttural spirants, as in **geþan* GIVE, **gōðaz* GOOD. The unvoiced guttural spirant is represented by (x), as in **doxtēr* DAUGHTER, **χorsam*, -az HORSE. The voiced dental spirant is denoted by the barred d (ð), the unvoiced by the 'thorn' (þ), thus **brūðiz* BRIDE, **brōþar* BROTHER.

In OE. words the voiceless palatal stop, which in manuscripts is written c, is in this work printed č, as in *čild* CHILD, *cycene* KITCHEN, *bičce* BITCH, similarly after s as in *ščield* SHIELD, *blyščan* BLUSH. The palatal spirant (ǵ) is distinguished as (ġ), as in *gāġel* GALE¹, *ēaġe* EYE, *reġn* RAIN, *ġiefan* GIVE; after n, and in gemination, as (ġ), thus *swenġan* SWINGE, *crinġan* CRINGE; *bryġc* BRIDGE¹, *bycġan* BUY (but *byġest*, *byġeþ*, etc.). The letter g without diacritic is used for both voiced guttural spirant and voiced stop, as in *lagu* LAW¹, *fugol* FOWL; *gōd*, GOOD.

The corresponding spirants in ME. are represented by the 'yogh' (ȝ), as in *deȝen* DIE¹, *laȝe* (lawe) LAW¹, *Laȝamon* (personal name).

Dating of Latin words

In Latin words it is important to indicate their age and status, and for this purpose L. is used for words recorded as being in use down to c. A.D. 200, late L. covers the period c. A.D. 200-c. A.D. 600, medL. from then to c. 1500, and modL. after 1500.

KEY TO THE PRONUNCIATION

Vowels

The incidence of main stress is shown by a raised point (ˈ) after the vowel, and a secondary stress by a double point (ː) as in **church**WAˈRDEN, meːditreɪˈnən.

- à *chant* (tʃànt), *enhance* (énhàːns), *bath* (bàp)
 ā *arm* (ārm), *calm* (kām), *bravado* (brāvāːdou)
 ǎ *Marathi* (mārāːti), *alamode* (æːlāmoud), *loofah* (lūːfā)
 æ *man* (mæn), *access* (æːkses), *detach* (ditæːtʃ)
 æ̃ *necessary* (æ̃kseːsəri), *borax* (bōːræks)
 ai *bind* (baind), *rely* (rilaiː)
 au *allow* (əlauː), *bough* (bau)
 e *equity* (eːkwiti), *correct* (kəːrɛkt)
 é *estate* (ésteɪːt), *endow* (éndauː)
 ɛ̃ *accent* (æːksɛnt), *Moslem* (mōːzlɛm)
 ɛ̃ (with glide-vowel) *bare* (bɛ̃ɛɪ), *declare* (diklɛ̃ɛɪ)
 ə *accept* (əkseːpt), *measure* (meːʒɛɪ), (as glide-vowel before ɪ) *desire* (dizaɪəːɪ)
 ɔ̃ *bird* (bōɪd), *occur* (əkɔ̃ɪ)
 ei *delay* (dileiː), *rain* (rein)
 i *bid* (bid), *naked* (neiːkid), *Monday* (māːndi), *acme* (æːkmi), *depart* (dipāːɪt), *gattling* (gæːtliŋ), (with glide-vowel) *beer* (biɛɪ), *career* (kəriɛːɪ)
 i *clarity* (klæːriti), *discrepant* (diːskripənt), *bulletin* (buːlitin)
 i *equal* (iːkwəl), *deviate* (diːvieit)
 ɔ̃ *moral* (mōːrəl), *priority* (praɪəːriti)
 ɔ̃ *oft* (əft), *broth* (brɔ̃p)
 o *boreen* (bōriːn), *cocotte* (kokɔːt)
 ɔ̃ *bodega* (bōdiːgə), *bolero* (bōlɛəːrou), *obedient* (ɔ̃biːdiənt), *diplomatic* (diplōmæːtik)
 ɔ̃ *awful* (əːfəl), (with glide-vowel) *board* (bōɛɪd), *four* (fōɛɪ)
 oi *boy* (boi), *destroy* (distroiː)
 ou *hero* (hiəːrou), *zoology* (zouəːlədʒi)
 u *look* (luk), *bulbul* (buːlbul), (with glide-vowel) *poor* (puɛɪ), *cure* (kjuɛɪ)
 ū *opulent* (ɔːpjulənt), *monument* (mōːnjumənt)
 ū *moon* (mūn), *boudoir* (būːdwāɪ), *few* (fjū), *endue* (ëndjūː)
 ʌ *blood* (blad), *butter* (bʌːtɛɪ), *frustum* (frʌːstəm)

The stressed vowels a, æ, e, i, o, u become obscured with loss of stress, and the indeterminate sounds thus arising, and approximating to the 'neutral' vowel ə, are normally printed ǎ, æ̃, ɛ̃, ĩ, ɔ̃, ū. Examples: *loofah* (lūːfā), *acclivity* (æ̃kliːviti), *accent* (æːksɛnt), *elegy* (eːlidʒi), *brocade* (brōkeiːd), *opulent* (ɔːpjulənt).

Vowels in French Words

- a *Marseillaise* (marsecjēz)
 e *écarté* (ekarte)
 ɛ *gourmet* (gurme)
 ɛ̃ *Gruyère* (grujēr)
 ə *fleur-de-lis* (flördəlis)
 i *lingerie* (lɛʒri)
 o *margaux* (margo)
 ɔ̃, ɔ̄ *œillade* (œjad), *morbleu* (mɔ̃rblø̄)
 ɔ̄ *hauteur* (otör)
 u *bouts-rimés* (burime)
 ũ *bourg* (bür)
 ü *curé* (küre)

Nasal Vowels

- ā *enjamb(e)ment* (ājābmā)
 ē *lingerie* (lɛʒri)
 ẽ *feuilleton* (föjtõ)

Consonants and Semi-Consonants

b, d, f, h, k, l, m, n, p, s, t, v, z have their usual values

- ɹ *her* (hāɹ), *farther* (fāɹðəɹ)
 r *run* (rān), *harrow* (hærou)
 ɸ *thin* (pɪn), *bath* (bàp)
 ɸ *bathe* (beið), *father* (fāðəɹ)
 ʃ *shop* (ʃɔp), *dish* (dɪʃ), *vicious* (viʃəs)
 tʃ *chop* (tʃɔp), *ditch* (dɪtʃ), *butcher* (bʊtʃəɹ)
 ʒ *incision* (ɪnsiʒən), *garage* (gæɹāʒ)
 dʒ *judge* (dʒʌdʒ), *gender* (dʒɛndəɹ), *pigeon* (piʒɪm)
 j *allure* (əljuəɹ), *junker* (juŋkəɹ), *yes* (jes)
 ŋ *bring* (brɪŋ), *hanger* (hæŋəɹ), *finger* (fɪŋɡəɹ)
 ʌ *what* (mət), *wheat* (mɪt), *whether* (mɛðəɹ)
 w *wen* (wen), *away* (əwei)
 x *Sc. loch* (lɔx), *Sassenach* (sæːsənàx)
 lj, nj repr. *gl, gn* in Italian words: *imbroglio* (imbrouːljou), *bagnio* (bæːnjou)

The reversed r and small 'superior' letters (lʰüt, frɪnʰɜ, nɔstæːldʒʰə) are used to denote elements that may or may not be present in a local or an individual pronunciation.

Special symbols

* indicates a hypothetical etymological form

† = obsolete

f. = formed on, as L. *discipulus*, f. *discere* learn

- = adoption of, as OE. *discipul* - L. *discipulus*

:- = normal development of, as ME. *mesel* leper - OF. *mesel* :- L. *misellus*, f. *miser* wretched

) (as in *concave*)(*convex*, means 'contrary to, the opposite of'

|| = alien, or not naturalized

The printing of a word in SMALL CAPITALS indicates that further information will be found under the word so referred to.

ABBREVIATIONS

a.	ante	cf.	<i>confer</i> , 'compare'
abbrev.	abbreviation, -ated	CGerm.	Common Germanic
abl.	ablative	Ch.	Chaucer
abstr.	abstract	chem.	chemistry
acc.	according	CIE.	Common Indo-European
acc., accus.	accusative	classL.	classical Latin
act.	active	cogn.	cognate(s)
add.	addition	coll.	collective
adj.	adjective	colloq.	colloquial
adv., advb.	adverb	comb.	combining
Aeol.	Aeolic	comp.	compound(s)
Afr.	African	compar.	comparative
agric.	agriculture	concr.	concrete
AL.	Anglo-Latin	conj.	conjugation
Alb.	Albanian	conj.	conjunction
alch.	alchemy	cons.	consonant
alt.	altered, -ation	contemp.	contemporary
Amer.	American	contr.	contraction
AN.	Anglo-Norman	Corn.	Cornish
anat.	anatomy	corr.	corresponding
AncrR	'Ancrene Riwe'	correl.	correlative
Angl.	Anglian	Cotgr.	Cotgrave
Anglo-Ind.	Anglo-Indian	CRom.	Common Romanic
Anglo-Ir.	Anglo-Irish	cryst.	crystallography
anthrop.	anthropology	CSl.	Common Slavonic
antiq.	antiquities, -quarian	Cursor M.	'Cursor Mundi'
aor.	aorist	d.	dative
Apocr.	Apocrypha	Da.	Danish
app.	apparently	dat.	dative
Arab.	Arabic	decl.	declension
Aram.	Aramaic	dem.,	demonstrative
arch.	archaic	demonstr.	
archaeol.	archaeology	deriv.	derivative
archit.	architecture	dial.	dialect(al)
arith.	arithmetic	dim.	diminutive
Arm.	Armenian	dissim.	dissimilation
assim.	assimilation, -ated	dissyll.	dissyllable
assoc.	association, -iated	Du.	Dutch
astrol.	astrology	eccl.	ecclesiastical
astr., astron.	astronomy, -ical	EFris.	East Frisian
attrib.	attributive	e.g.	<i>exempli gratia</i> , 'for example'
augm.	augment(ation), -ative	el.	element
Austral.	Australia(n)	electr.	electricity
Av.	Avestan, Avestic	ellipt.	elliptical(ly)
A.V.	Authorized Version	emph.	emphatic
biol.	biology	Eng.	English
bot.	botany	entom.	entomology, -ical
Braz.	Brazilian	equiv.	equivalent
Bulg.	Bulgarian	Ernout & Meillet	A. Ernout et A. Meillet, <i>Dictionnaire étymologique de la langue latine</i>
c.	circa	erron.	erroneous
Cat.	Catalan	esp.	especially
Cath. Angl.	'Catholicon Anglicum'	etym.,	etymology, -ical
Celt.	Celtic	etymol.	
cent.	century		
CEur.	Common European		

euph., euphem.	euphemistic(ally)	J.	(Dr. S.) Johnson
Eur.	European	Jap.	Japanese
ex., exx.	example(s)	joc.	jocular(ly)
exc.	except	L.	Latin
exclam.	exclamation	La3.	Lazamon
expl.	explained	lang.	language(s)
ext.	extended	law-L.	law-Latin
F.	French	LDu.	Low Dutch
f.	formed on	leg.	legal
fem.	feminine	Lett.	Lettic, -ish
fig.	figurative(ly)	LG.	Low German
Finn.	Finnic, Finnish	lit.	literal(ly), literary
Flem.	Flemish	Lith.	Lithuanian
fortif.	fortification	liturg.	liturgy, -ical
freq.	frequent(ly)	Lydg.	Lydgate
Fris.	Frisian	LXX	Septuagint
fut.	future	m.	masculine
G.	German	math.	mathematics
g.	genitive	Maund.	Maundeville
Gael.	Gaelic	MDu.	Middle Dutch
Gallo-Rom.	Gallo-Roman	ME.	Middle English
Gamillscheg	E. Gamillscheg, <i>Etymologisches Wörterbuch der französischen Sprache</i>	med.	medicine, -ical
		med.	mediaeval
Gaul.	Gaulish	metaph.	metaphysics
gen.	general(ly)	metath.	metathetic
gen.	genitive	meteor.	meteorology
geol.	geology	Mex.	Mexican
geom.	geometry	Meyer-Lübke	W. Meyer-Lübke, <i>Romanisches etymologisches Wörterbuch</i>
Germ.	Germanic	MHG.	Middle High German
Goth.	Gothic	midl.	midland
Gr.	Greek	mil.	military
gram.	grammar	min.	mineralogy
Heb.	Hebrew	MIr.	Middle Irish
her.	heraldry	MLG.	Middle Low German
HG.	High German	mod.	modern
Hind.	Hindustani	modL.	modern Latin
hist.	history, -ical	monosyll.	monosyllable
ib., ibid.	<i>ibidem</i> , 'in the same book or passage'	MSc.	Middle Scottish
		mus.	music
Icel.	Icelandic	myth.	mythology
id.	<i>idem</i> , 'the same'	N.	North
i.e.	<i>id est</i> , 'that is'	n.	neuter
IE.	Indo-European	nat. hist.	natural history
imit.	imitative	N. & Q.	<i>Notes and Queries</i>
immed.	immediate(ly)	raut.	nautical
imper.	imperative	NEF.	north-eastern French
imperf.	imperfect	neg.	negative
impers.	impersonal	Nhb.	Northumbria(n)
ind.	indicative	nom.	nominative
indef. art.	indefinite article	north.	northern
Indo-Iran.	Indo-Iranian	Norw.	Norwegian
inf., infin.	infinitive	n. pl.	nominative plural
infl.	influence(d)	N.T.	New Testament
instr.	instrumental	N.Z.	New Zealand
int.	interjection	obj.	object
intr.	intransitive	obl.	oblique
Ir.	Irish	OBret.	Old Breton
irreg.	irregular(ly)	obs.	obsolete
It.	Italian	occas.	occasional(ly)
		ODA.	Old Danish

ABBREVIATIONS

OE.	Old English	pronunc.	pronunciation
OF.	Old French	prop.	proper(ly)
(O)F.	Old and modern French	pros.	prosody
OFris.	Old Frisian	prp.	present participle
OHG.	Old High German	Prud.	Prudentius
OIr.	Old Irish	Ps.	Psalms
OL.	Old Latin	psych.,	psychology
OLG.	Old Low German	psychol.	
OLith.	Old Lithuanian	pt.	past (tense)
ON.	Old Norse	q.v.	<i>quod vide</i> , 'which see'
ONF.	Old Northern French	R.C.Ch.	Roman Catholic Church.
ONhb.	Old Northumbrian	redupl.	reduplicating
OPers.	Old Persian	ref.	reference
opp.	opposed to	refash.	refashioned, -ing
orig.	origin(al)	refl.	reflexive
OS.	Old Saxon	rel.	related (to)
OScand.	Old Scandinavian	rel.	relative
OSl.	Old Slavonic	repl.	replacing, -ed
OSp.	Old Spanish	repr.	representing, -ed, -ation
OSw.	Old Swedish	RGlouc.	Robert of Gloucester
O.T.	Old Testament	rhet.	rhetoric(al)
OW.	Old Welsh	Rom.	Roman, -ic, -ance
palaeogr.	palaeography	Rum.	Rumanian
Palsgr.	Palsgrave	Russ.	Russian
pass.	passive	S.	South
path.	pathology	SAfr.	South African
perf.	perfect	Sandahl	B. Sandahl, <i>Middle English Sea Terms</i> , I (1951), II (1958)
perh.	perhaps	sb.	substantive
pers.	person	sc.	<i>scilicet</i> , 'understand' or 'supply'
Pers.	Persian	Sc.	Scottish
pert.	pertaining	Scand.	Scandinavian
Peruv.	Peruvian	scholL.	scholastic Latin
Peterb.	'Peterborough Chronicle'	Sem.	Semitic
Chron.		S.Eng.Leg.	'South English Legendary'
Pg.	Portuguese	Serb.	Serbian
pharm.	pharmacy	sg.	singular
philol.	philology	Sh.	Shakespeare
philos.	philosophy, -ical	sing.	singular
phon.	phonetics	Sinh.	Sinhalese
photogr.	photography	Skr.	Sanskrit
phr.	phrase	Sl., Slav.	Slavic, Slavonic
phys.	physics	sl.	slang
physiol.	physiology	south.	southern
pl.	plural	Sp.	Spanish
P.L.	'Paradise Lost'	sp.	spelling, spelt
poet.	poetic(al)	spec.	specific(ally)
pop.	popular	str.	stress, -ed
popL.	popular Latin	str.	strong
poss.	possessive	subj.	subject
poss.	possible, -ly	subseq.	subsequent(ly)
pp.	past participle, -ial	superl.	superlative
ppl.	participial	surg.	surgery
PPI.	'Piers Plowman'	s.v.	<i>sub voce</i> , 'under the word'
Pr.	Provençal	Sw.	Swedish
prec.	preceding	s.w.	south-western
pref.	prefix	syll.	syllable
prep.	preposition	syn., synonym.	synonym, -ous
pres.	present	Syr.	Syrian
prob.	probably	techn.	technical
Prompt. Parv.	'Promptorium Parvulorum'	theol.	theology, -ical
pron.	pronoun		

ABBREVIATIONS

Tokh.	Tokharian	vb.	verb
tr.	translating, -ion	vbl.	verbal
tr., trans.	transitive	viz.	<i>videlicet</i> , 'namely'
transf.	transferred	Vulg.	Vulgate
trissyll.	trissyllable	W.	Welsh
Turk.	Turkish	W.	West
typogr.	typography	w.	with
ult.	ultimate(ly)	WF.	western French
unexpl.	unexplained	WGer.m.	West Germanic
unkn.	unknown	WIE	western Indo-European
unstr.	unstressed	wk.	weak
U.S.	United States	wk. vb.	weak verb
usu.	usual(ly)	WS.	West Saxon
var., varr.,	variant(s)	Wycl.	Wyclif
vars.		zool.	zoology

PUBLISHERS' NOTE

DR. C. T. ONIONS, whose lifetime of learning this dictionary harvests, died while it was still going through the press. He was the last of the editors of the original *Oxford English Dictionary* and for many years the doyen unquestioned of English lexicography. The publishers would like to take this last opportunity of saluting the man to whom this etymological dictionary will be an enduring monument.

They also wish to acknowledge the part played in the enterprise by Dr. G. W. S. Friedrichsen, once his collaborator on the *Oxford English Dictionary* and Mr. R. W. Burchfield who is now editing that dictionary's new Supplement. In 1962 they undertook the task of helping him to see the book through the press. The text was already in galley and some of the earlier sheets were in revise. Although Dr. Onions had decided the main points of policy and drafted nearly all the entries, Dr. Friedrichsen and Mr. Burchfield still had much exacting work to do in the way of reading proof and settling knotty points. The publishers would like to thank both of them for their scrupulous diligence and to thank Dr. Friedrichsen not only for his labours in dealing with the revises but for contributing the Introduction.

The publishers are also indebted to the late Professor D. P. Costello and to Mr. I. P. Foote for verifying the Slavonic forms and Professor Norman Davis for checking the spellings of the Lithuanian words.

A, first letter of the alphabet, used in the symbol *Ar*, applied in Lloyd's Register to ships in first-class condition in respect of hull and stores, *A* denoting ships new or renewed, 1 and 2 the state of the stores. Hence *Ar* adj. first-class; in U.S. *A* No. 1.

a¹ a, (emph.) *ei* reduced form of *AN*¹ used since XII immed. before a word beginning with a cons. For the loss of *n* cf. MY, THY, NO¹, and *i'*, *o'* for IN, ON.

a² a ME. *o*, *a* (XII), in a distributive sense, e.g. *twice a day*, reduced form of ON, as in OE. *on dæge*; cf. Icel. *d dag*. Formerly used widely in other idiomatic phrases and surviving in comps. of *A*⁻¹, and NOWADAYS; linked with a gerund, as *go a-begging* XIV.

a³ a, *a* prefixed to proper names in war-cries rallying men to a leader, e.g. *a Warwick*. XIV. — (OF) *a* to:—L. *ad* (see *Ar*).

a⁴ a appended to lines 'in burlesque poetry, to lengthen out a syllable, without adding to the sense' (J.), as in *And merrily hent the stile-a . . . Your sad tyres in a mile-a* (Sh. 'Winter's Tale' iv iii 133, 135); prob. originating in ME. inflexional *-e*; e.g. *sonnē/ yronnē* would be treated as *sun-a/run-a*. XVI.

a⁻¹ a reduced form of ON prep., occurring in late OE., but not general before XII, and varying in ME. with *o*; the first el. of many predicative adjs. and advs. arising from phrases consisting of the prep. and a sb., e.g. *aback*, *abed*, *ʔaknee*, *alive*, *aright*, *asleep*, *asunder*, *away*, all of which have OE. antecedents. Early ME. formations directly modelled on these are *afire*, *afoot*, *aland* (in imitation of which were formed later *aflame*, *a-horseback*, *ashore*); some were modelled on or influenced by Scand. expressions, as *aftoat*, *alee*, *aloft*, *amiss*; some depend upon French, as *aboard*, *abroach*, *across*, *agog*, *around*, in which the preps. *à*, *en* have been assim. to or replaced by the Eng. prefix. In XIII appear formations on adjs. used ellipt. or as sbs., as *abroad*, *ahigh*, *alow*; later are *adry*, *aloud*, *awry*. Partly as a result of analogous formations (e.g. *adrift* after *aftoat*), partly in consequence of the identity of many vbs. and their allied sbs. (e.g. *brood*, whence *abrood* sitting on eggs XIII–XVII), the prefix came to be combined in XVI with a vb.-stem to express the meaning of its present participle, as *ʔalack* lacking, *agape* gaping, *asoak*, *astride*; such formations increased in the foll. centuries, esp. in XIX, when many occasional comps. appear, such as *a-chatter*, *adrip*, *adroop*, *agasp*, *agush*, *a-riot*, *asmoke*, *aspravul*, *avaste*.

Some *ads.* of a prob. different origin came to be apprehended as comps. of this prefix,

e.g. *acold* (XIV), from OE. *ācōlod*, pp. of *ācōlian* become COOL.

The analysis of some naut. terms that appear to have this prefix is obscure, e.g. *ʔabackstays*, *a-burton*, *a-hull*, *ʔaluff* (see ALOOF, LUFF), *a-trip*, *a-try*; in some of them *a-* may repr. *at*, while others may be modelled on *abast*, *athwart*.

In some instances the orig. form with *on* persisted after the comp. had been established, e.g. *on side* (XIV–XVI) beside *ASIDE*.

a⁻² a reduced form of OF prep., as in *adown*, *afresh*, *akin*, *ʔalate* (XIV), *anew*; blended with *A*⁻¹ in AFAR. Cf. *ʔa clock* (XV–XVIII), now O'CLOCK. Not in living use since the ME. period. (In comps. with verbs the prefix *of-* is repr. in *ahungered*, *athirst*.)

a⁻³ a prefix of verbs, OE. *ā-*, orig. *ar-*, or = OS. *ur-*, *ar-*, OHG. *ar-*, *ir-*, *ur-* (G. *er-*), Goth. *us-*, *ur-*, meaning 'away, out', and hence used as an intensive, as in OE. *ābidan* ABIDE, *ālihtan* ALIGHT¹, *ārisan* ARISE, *āmasod* AMAZED, *āscamod* ASHAMED; *āgān* AGO. New formations are ACCURSE, AGHAST.

a⁻⁴ a, *ei*, (stressed) *æ* prefix of negation and privation, repr. Gr. *a-* (before a vowel *AN*⁻²) = UN⁻¹. Occurs in (i) words repr. Gr. comps., mostly adopted through French or Latin, and in which the significance of the prefix is wholly or partially obscured, as *abyss*, *adamant*, *amethyst*, *amorphous*, *atom*, *atrophy*, *azote*; (ii) terms of the arts and sciences, having Gr. bases, but coming mainly through late L., medL., or modL., as *abranchiate*, *aboulia*, *acatalectic*, *acephalous*, *agamic*, *alogical*, *apetalous*, *aphasia*, *aseptic*, *asymmetry*, *athematic*, *atonal*; (iii) such terms derived from other bases, as *acaulous*, *asexual*; (iv) gen. terms modelled on these, as *amoral*, *asocial*.

-a¹ a repr. Gr. and L. *-a* of fem. sgs.; cf. -IA¹.

-a² a repr. Gr. and L. *-a* of n. pls.; cf. -IA².

aardvark *ārdvārk* S. African insectivorous quadruped. XIX. Afrikaans (now *erdvark*), f. *aarde* EARTH + *varken* pig (see FARROW³).

aasvogel *āsvougal* S. African vulture. XIX. Afrikaans (now *aasvoël*), f. *aas* carrion (rel. to EAT) + *vogel* bird, FOWL.

ab- *æb*, *əb* L. prefix, being the adv.-prep. *ab* (*ā*) away, off (= Skr. *apa*, Gr. *apó*, etc., OF), used in composition with vb.-stems, as in *abdicāre*, *abdicere*, *abradere*, *abrumper*, *absorbere*, *abūti* (see ABDICATE, ABJECT, ABRADE, ABRUPT, ABSORB, ABUSE). Some scientific formations, as *abactinal*, *aboral* (XIX) away from the actinal/oral area, have been partly suggested by ABNORMAL. The var. *abs-* appears in ABSCISS, ABSCOND, ABSTAIN, etc.

ab(b)a *æbæ* Arabian sleeveless outer garment. XIX. — Arab. *ʔabā*. Also *abaya* *əbāje*.

aback əbæk at or to the back. ME. *abec*, *abak*, *o bak*, late OE. *on bæc*, i.e. ON prep., *A-¹* and *BACK¹*; reinforced in ME. by ON. *d bak*. From XVII esp. in naut. lang. of the sails of a ship being laid back against the mast by a headwind; hence the phr. (of the ship) *be taken aback* XVIII, fig. (of persons) *be discomfited* XIX. Aphetic *BACK²*.

abacus əˈbækəs calculating frame; (archit.) upper member of the capital of a column. XVI. -L. *abacus*, f. Gr. *abak-*, *abax* table (of various kinds) -Heb. *ʾābāq* dust; the orig. sense of the Gr. word was 'drawing-board covered with dust' (for the use of mathematicians).

Abaddon əbæˈdɒn Apollyon, 'the angel of the bottomless pit' (Rev. ix 11) XVI; hell XVII (Milton). -Heb. *ʾābaddōn* destruction, f. *abad* perish.

abaft əbɑːft (esp. naut.) in or to the rear (of). XIII (Cursor M.). ME. *o(n) baft*, i.e. ON prep., *A-¹* and *baft*, OE. *bæftan*, f. *be by + æftan* behind (see AFTER).

abalone əbəlouni (U.S.) mollusc of the genus *Haliotis*. XIX. -Sp., of unkn. origin.

abandon¹ əbæˈndən †subjugate; give up, orig. to the control of another XIV; †banish XVI. -OF. *abandoner* (mod. *abandonner*), f. phr. *a bandon* (whence ME. adv. *abandon* under control, at one's will, entirely), i.e. *a* to (AD-), *bandon* jurisdiction, control; -Rom. **bandōnem* (cf. Pr. *bandó* permission, freedom), f. **bandum*, var. of medL. *bannum* BAN¹. In pa. ppl. adj. **abandoned¹** given over to evil XVII. Hence, or - (O)F. *abandonnement*, **abandonment**. XVII.

abandon² əbæˈndən, ||abɑːdʒ freedom from restraint. XIX. F., f. *abandonner* (see prec.).

abase əbeɪs lower, depress, humiliate. XIV (Gower). Late ME. *abesse*, *abasse* -OF. *abaissier* (mod. *abaissier*), f. *a* to, AD-+*baissier* lower; -Rom. **bassiāre*, f. late L. *bassus* BASE², by direct assoc. with which the present form *abase* (XVI) has arisen. Hence, or -F. *abaissement*, **abaissement**. XV.

abash əbæʃ confound, discomfit. XIV. ME. *abaiss(e)* -AN. *abaiss-*, for OF. *e(s)baiss-*, lengthened stem (see -ISH²) of *e(s)baïr* (mod. *ébahir*) astound, dumbfound = Pr. *esbahir*, f. *es-EX-*+ (acc. to some) *ba*, int. of astonishment, (acc. to others) OF. *baer* (mod. *bayer*) yawn, with alteration of conjugation after OF. *baïf* astounded.

abate əbeɪt beat down, put or bring down (in various applications) XIII; deduct XIV. -OF. *abatre* (mod. *abattre*) = Pr. *abatre*, It. *abbattere*, etc. -Rom. **abbatt(u)ere*, f. *ad* AD-+L. *batt(u)ere* beat. Cf. BATE². So **abatement**. XV. -OF.

abatis, **abbatis** əbæˈtɪs (fortif.) defence of felled trees. XVIII. -F. *abatis*, OF. *abateis*, f. *abatre* fell (see prec.)+*-eis* -Rom. **-āticium*, f. L. *-ātus* -ATE²+*-icius* (cf. GLACIS).

abattoir əbæˈtwɑː public slaughterhouse. XIX. F. (1806), f. *abattre* fell (see ABATE)+*-oir* -L. *-ōrium* -ORY¹.

abba æˈbɑ father (Mark xiv 36, Rom. viii 15, Gal. iv 6). XIV. ecclL. *abba*, NT.Gr. *abbā* -Aramaic (Syriac) *abbā*.

abbacy əˈbæsi position of abbot or abbess. XV (Wyntoun). -ecclL. *abbācia*, var. of *abbātia*, f. *abbāt*-ABBOT; see -ACV. **abbatial** əbeɪˈʃəl pertaining to an abbot, abbess, abbey. XV. -F. **abbé** əˈbei gen. title for men wearing clerical dress. XVIII. -F. (OF. *abe*, *abet*) -L. *abbātem*. **abbess** əˈbɪs female superior corr. to abbot. XIII (RGlouc.). -OF. *ab(b)esse* (= Pr. *abadesa*) -ecclL. *abbadissa*, -tissa (whence OE. *abbodisse*, -esse), f. *abbāt*; see -ESS¹. **abbey** əˈbi monastery presided over by an abbot. XIII (La3.). -OF. *ab(b)eye* (mod. *abbaye*) = Pr. *abadia* -ecclL. *abbādia*, -tia abbacy; see -Y³. **abbot** əˈbɒt superior of an abbey. OE. *abbud*, -od, -ad, -ot, corr. to MDu. *abbet*, OHG. *abbāt* (Du., G. *abt*) -ecclL. *abbatem*, for *abbātem* (whence Pr. *abat*, F. *abbé*, It. *abate*), nom. *abbās* -Gr. *abbās* -Syriac *abbā* ABBA; the word was formerly applied in the East gen. to monks. The var. sp. *abbat* (XII) was especially freq. XV-XVII.

abbreviate əbrɪˈveɪt cut short, abridge. XV. f. pp. stem of late L. (Vulg.) *abbreviāre*, f. L. *ab* or *ad* (see AB-, AD-)+*breviāre*, f. *brevis* BRIEF; see ATE² and cf. ABRIDGE. So **abbrevia-tion**. XV. -F. or late L. (Vulg.).

abc eɪbɪs alphabet. XIII. ME. *abece* (as in OF.), with vars. *apece*, *apsie*, early mod. *abce*, *abcie* (cf. *absey booke* in Sh. 1st Folio); f. first three letters of the (Roman) alphabet. Cf. OE. *ābēcēdē* alphabet, and *ABECEDARIAN*.

abdicate əˈbdɪkeɪt disown, renounce. XVI. f. pp. stem of L. *abdīcāre* lit. 'announce away' (i.e. as not belonging to one), f. *ab* AB-+*dīcāre* proclaim (as in INDICATE). So **abdica-tion**. XVI. -L.

abdomen əˈbdəmen, əbdouˈmen belly. XVI. -L. *abdōmen*. The variation in pronunc. has obtained since XVIII. So **abdominal¹** əbdəˈmɪnəl XVIII. -modL. *abdōminālis*, f. L. stem *abdōmin-*; **abdo-minous** big-bellied. XVII.

abduct əbɒdʌkt carry off feloniously. XIX. f. *abduct-*, pp. stem of L. *abducere* (whence rare *abduce* XVI), f. *ab* AB-+*ducere* lead, carry (cf. DUKE). So **abduction**. XVII. -late L. *abdu-ctor* (anat.). XVII. modL. (sc. *musculus* muscle); see -OR².

abeam əbiˈm (naut.) at right angles to a ship's length (the beams of a ship being at right angles to the keel). XIX. f. *A-¹*+BEAM, after *ATHWART*.

abear əbeəː endure, tolerate. OE. *āberan*, ME. *abere*, f. *ā-* A-³+*beran* BEAR². The mod. dial. and vulgar use is a new formation (perhaps XIX in Cockney dial.) after *abide* ('can't abide' having suggested 'can't abear').

abecedarian ei:bisideə'riən alphabetical; (one) occupied in learning the alphabet. XVII. f. late L. *abecedarius*, f. first four letters of the alphabet, *abcd*; see -ARIAN. So **abecedary** XVI; also (xv) spelling-book, primer (medL. *abecedarium*, sb. use of n.adj. sc. *manuāle* manual). Cf. ABC.

abed əbe:d in bed. ME. *abedde* (XIII), OE. *on bedde*; see A-¹, BED.

abele əbi:l, ei:bəl white poplar. XVI (*abeel*, Gerarde). - Du. *abeel* - OF. *abel*, *aubel* - medL. *albellu-s*, dim. of *albus* white (cf. ALBUM).

aberdewine əbərdə'vain siskin. XVII. Of unkn. origin.

aberglaube əbərglauba superstition. XIX (M. Arnold). G., f. pejorative or negative prefix *aber-* + *glaube* BELIEF.

Abernethy əbəni:pi kind of hard biscuit. XIX. f. name of John *Abernethy*, surgeon (1764-1831).

aberration əbərei:ʃən straying, deviation. XVI. - L. *aberratio*(n-) (in classL. only in Cicero, relief, diversion), f. *aberrare*, f. *ab* AB- + *errare* ERR. So **aberrant** əbə'rənt going astray XVI (Sc.; rare before XIX); deviating from the normal XIX.

aberuncator see AVERUNCATOR.

abet əbet incite (now, to wrongdoing). XIV. - OF. *abeter*, f. a to, AD- + *beter* BAIT. So **abatement**. XIV. - AN. *abetement*. **abettor**. XVI. - AN. *abettour* (OF. *abetere*); see -OR¹.

abeyance əbei:əns (leg.) state of expectancy XVI; suspension XVII. - AN. *abeiance*, OF. *abeance*, f. *abeer* aspire after, f. a- AD- + *beer*, *baer* gape (mod. *bayer*, *beer*) = Pr., Sp. *badar*, It. *badare* - medL. *batāre* gape (cf. *bay*³), perh. of imit. origin; see -ANCE. ¶ In OF. *abeance* was applied to the condition of the aspirant in whose appetite a property stands; in Eng. law the term was transferred to the condition of the property.

abhor əbhɔ:ɪ regard with horror or loathing. xv. - L. *abhorrere* shrink in dread, be far from or inconsistent with, f. *ab* AB- + *horrere* stand with hair on end, stand aghast, shudder (cf. HORRID); F. *abhorrer* (xvi) prob. influenced the Eng. word. So **abhorrence** əbhɔ:rəns XVII, superseding earlier **abhorrency** (Bacon), which succeeded to **abhorment** (xvi). **abhorrent**. XVII.

abide əbaɪ:d wait, stay; wait for OE.; endure, bear XVI. OE. *abidan* = Goth. *usbeidan*; see A-³, BIDE.

abiet- ə'biət comb. form of L. *abiet-*, *abies* fir, in chem. terms.

abigail ə'bigail waiting-woman, female domestic servant. XVII ('a cousin Abigail to wait upon his lady', Eachard, 1671; 'tawdry Abigails', Oldham, 1678; earlier as vb. 'they did Abigail it each to others', Gayton, 1654). Appellative use of the name of the waiting gentlewoman in Beaumont

and Fletcher's play 'The Scornful Lady' (1610), prob. so named in allusion to the expression 'thine handmaid' freq. applied to herself by *Abigail* the Carmelites in 1 Sam. xxv 24-31.

ability əbi'liti †fitness; sufficient power XIV; faculty of mind XVI. ME. *ablete*, *abilite* - OF. *ablete*, (*h*)*abilite*, the first form being - L. *habilitatem*, -*tās* (f. *habilis* ABLE), the second a later latinization of it (in modF. *habileté*). Forms with *hab-* were common xv-xvii, but the conflict between *hab-* and *ab-* was over before 1700.

abiogenesis əbaɪodʒe'nɪs origination of living organisms from lifeless matter. XIX. modL., f. Gr. *abios* lifeless (f. a- A-⁴ + *bios* life, BIO-) + *genesis* birth, GENESIS.

abject əbdʒekt †pp. rejected xv; adj. degraded, despicable, downcast XVI; sb. outcast, castaway XVI (More). - L. *ab-jectus*, pp. of *abicere* (corr. to Gr. *ἀφίεναι*) cast away, reject, f. *ab* AB- + *jacere* cast, throw, f. base repr. also by Gr. *hēmi* I send, cast (cf. the relation of L. *facere* make, and Gr. *τίθημι* I put, place).

abjure əbdʒuəɪ †cause to forswear xv (Caxton); renounce on oath xv. - (O)F. *abjuror* or L. *abjurare* deny on oath, f. *ab* AB- + *jūrare* swear (see JUROR).

ablactation əblæktei:ʃən weaning xv; grafting XVII. - late L. *ablactatio*(n-), f. *ablactare* wean, f. *ab* AB- + *lactare* suckle; see LACTATION.

ablation əblei:ʃən removal. xv. - F. *ablation* or late L. *ablatio*(n-), f. *ablāt-*, used as pp. stem of *auferre* take away, remove, f. *ab* AB- + *ferre* BEAR²; see -ATION.

ablative ə'blatɪv (gram.) of a case expressing removal, distance, source, cause, agent, etc. xv. - (O)F. *ablatif*, -ive or L. *ablativus* (in *casus a.*, so called from its prominent function of expressing direction away from a place), f. *ablāt-*; see prec. and -IVE.

ablaut ə'blaut (philol.) vowel-gradation, as in *sing*, *sang*, *sung*. XIX. G. (Jacob Grimm, 1819), f. *ab* OFF + *laut* sound (see LOUD).

ablaze əbleɪz in a flame. XIX. f. A-¹ + BLAZE, after *afire*, *aflame*. (Gower had *on blase*.)

able ei:bəl having sufficient power; †apt, fit. XIV. - OF. *able* - L. *habili-s*, f. *habere* have, hold (see -ILE), lit. 'easy to hold, handy'; the later F. sp. *hable* (mod. *habile* clever) was reflected in Eng., and similar conditions prevailed to those in ABILITY. **Able-bodied** (xvii), f. *able body* (cf. Sh. 'All's Well' iv v 86), perpetuates the gen. obs. sense 'physically strong' (xiv). Hence **ably** XIV; see -LY².

-able əbl - (O)F. -*able* - L. -*abilis*, produced orig. by the addition of -*bilis* -BLE to vbs. with *a*-stem, as *amāre*, *amābilis*, but extended to vbs. with other stems, e.g. *capere*, *capābilis* CAPABLE, and to sbs., as *amicābilis* AMICABLE, *favōrābilis* FAVOURABLE, *voluptābilis* pleasurable. In Rom. this

extension went further; so F. *concevable* CONCEIVABLE, *périssable* PERISHABLE. Eng. formations on sbs. are *actionable* (XVI), *clubbable* (Johnson), *pleasurable* (XVI), *saleable* (XVI). The meaning in new formations is now always passive, but the active meaning, always formerly possible, is seen in *agreeable*, *answerable*, *capable*, *comfortable*, *companionable*, *durable*, *equable*, *favourable*, *serviceable*, *suitable*; in some, e.g. *fashionable*, both uses were current from the outset, but only the active survives. The wide application of the suffix in Eng. is largely due to assoc. with *ABLE*, *eatable* (e.g.) being analysed as *eat* + *able* 'able to be eaten'; hence its use in *come-at-able* (XVII), *get-at-able* (XVIII). Alternation between *-able* and *-ible* occurs; e.g. *↑feasable* and *feasible*, *negligeable* and *negligible*. For phonetic reasons and for ease of recognition the retention of *e* before *-able* is necessary in (e.g.) *changeable*, *peaceable*, and *nameable*, *saleable*; but variation occurs in such words as *mov(e)able*, *siz(e)able*. Notable formations are *knowledgeable* and *RELIABLE*. The corr. advs. end in *-ably* *æbli*.

ablution *æbluːʃən* washing. XIV (Ch.). - (O)F. *ablution* or eccl. L. *ablūtīō(n)*, f. L. *abluerē* wash off, f. *ab* AB- + *luere* wash, LAVER; see -TION.

abnegate *æbnɛɡeɪt* renounce. XVII. f. pp. stem of L. *abnegāre*, f. *ab*-AB- + *negāre*; see -ATE³. So **abnegation**. XIV. - F. or late L.

abnormal *æbnɔːməl* deviating from the ordinary. XIX. refash., after *†abnormous* (XVIII-XIX) or its source L. *abnormis*, of earlier *†anormal* - (O)F. *anormal* - medL. *anormalis*, *anormalus*, resulting from blending of late L. *anomalus* ANOMALOUS and *abnormis*; see AB-, NORM-, -AL¹.

aboard *əboʊəd* adv. and prep. on or on to a ship. XIV (Gower). var. of *on board*, partly after (O)F. *à bord*; see A-¹, BOARD.

abode *əboʊd* *†delay*, stay; dwelling-place. XIII. ME. *abād*, *abōd*, f. *abiden* ABIDE, after OE. *bād* waiting, expectation, f. *bīdan* BIDE.

abolish *əboːlɪʃ* do away with. XV. - (O)F. *aboliss-*, lengthened stem of *abolir* - L. *abolere* destroy, f. *ab* AB- + **ol-*, perh. rel. to Gr. *ollínai* destroy, *olethros* destruction; see -IST². So **abolition** *æbəlɪˈʃən*. XVI. - F. or L. Hence **abolitionism**, -IST (early XIX), with ref. to the abolition of slavery.

abominable *əboːmɪnəbl* offensive, loathsome. XIV. - (O)F. *abominable* - L. *abominābilis* deserving imprecation or abhorrence, f. *abomināri* deprecate as an ill omen, f. *ab* AB- + *ōmin-*, OMEN; see -ABLE. In medL., OF., and Eng. (XIV-XVII) commonly spelt *abhom-*, being regarded as f. *ab* and *homin-*, *homō* man, quasi 'away from man, inhuman'; no other sp. occurs in Sh. *1st Folio* (cf. 'Love's Labour's Lost' vi 27). So **abominate**. XVII. f. pp. stem of *abomināri*; see -ATE³. **abomination**. XIV. - (O)F. - L. **aborigines** *əboːrɪˈdʒɪnɪz* original inhabitants.

XVI. - L. *aboriginēs* pl. the first inhabitants of Latium and Italy; usu. explained as f. *ab origine* from the beginning (see OF. ORIGIN) + pl. suffix *-ēs*; but perh. a proper name altered by pop. etym. Naturalized in It. *aborigeni*, Sp., Pg. *aborígenes*. Singularized forms *aborigin(e)*, *aborigen* have been used in Eng.; cf. F. *aborigène* sb. and adj., Sp. *aborigen* adj. Hence **aboriginal**¹. XVII.

abortion *əboːtʃən* untimely birth (spec. artificially produced) XVI; fig. XVII. - L. *abortiō(n)-*, f. *abort-*, pp. stem of *aboriri* miscarry, f. *ab* AB- + *oriri* arise, appear; see ORIENT, -TION. So **abortive** (first as sb.). XIII (Cursor M.). - (O)F. - L.

abound *əbaʊnd* overflow, be plentiful. XIV (Ch., Wyclif). - OF. *abunder*, (also mod.) *abonder* - L. *abundāre* (whence also It. *abbondare*, Sp. *abundar*, and in pop. form Pr. *aondar*), f. *ab* AB- + *undāre* flow, f. *unda* wave (see WATER); by assoc. with L. *habēre* possess, spelt with *hab-* in late OF. and in Eng. (XIV-XVI). Cf. **abundance**.

about *əbaʊt* adv. round, round the outside OE.; afoot, astir; *†(with inf.)* busy or engaged in XIII; going to XVI; prep. in corr. senses; (also) near, approximating to XII; concerning XIII. OE. *onbūtan*, *abūtan* (cf. OFris. *abūta*), ME. *abuten* (XII-XIII), *aboutte*; f. *on* in, ON + *būtan* outside (of); see BUT.

above *əbaʊ* overhead; higher up. ME. *abufan* XII, *abuve-n* XIII, *aboven* XIII-XV (surviving as *aboon*, *abune* in Sc. and north. dial.), f. *a-* (repr. OE. *on*, as in *ABOUT*) + OE. *bufan*, ME. *buven* = OS. *bioban* (Du. *boven*), f. *be* BY + *ufan* = OS. *oban*, OHG. *oban*, *obana* (G. *oben*) from above, above; WGerm. **ufana*, **ubana*, f. **uf*, **ub* UP + **-ana*, suffix expressing motion from.

abracadabra *æˈbrəkədəˈbrə* charm, spell. XVI. orig. a cabalistic word of the gnostic sect of Basilides, first found in a poem by Q. Serenus Sammonicus (III), used as a charm or amulet - (perh. through F.) Gr. *ABPACAΔABPA*, in which C (i.e. S) was read as C (i.e. K); rel. to *abrasax*, *ABRAXAS*.

abrade *əbreɪd* rub away. XVII. - L. *abrādere*, f. *ab* + *rādere* scrape; see AB-, ERASE. So **abrasion** *əbreɪˈʒən*. XVII. - L., f. *abrās-*, pp. stem of *abrādere*.

abraxas *əbræˈksəs* cabalistic word used like *abracadabra*. XVIII. Also **abrasax** *æˈbræksəs*. (*Ἀβρααξ* or *Ἀβραξῆς*, name of the supreme god of the Basilidians, contains the number 65, which is the number of heavens, with their spirits, emanating from him).

abreaction *əbreɪˈkʃən* cathartic process induced by living again emotions associated with forgotten or repressed ideas. XX. f. AB- + REACTION, tr. G. *abreagierung*.

abreast *əbreɪst* with breasts or fronts in line. XVI. Earlier *†on a brest* (XV), also *†of (a) breast* (XVI-XVII), *†in a breast* (XVII); see A-¹, BREAST, and cf. F. *de front* (Froissart).