

THORNDIKE

CENTURY

JUNIOR

DICTIONARY



The  
Thorndike-Century  
· Junior ·  
Dictionary

by  
E. L. THORNDIKE



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## **TO THE PUPIL**

This book has been written for you, to help you learn the meanings, spelling, and pronunciation of words. If you find anything in it which is not helpful, I shall be glad if you will write and tell me. To make the book easier to use there are a number of simple explanations on pages vii, viii, and ix.

## **TO THE TEACHER**

The ideal dictionary for a young learner is a book which will help him to learn the meaning of any word that he needs to understand, the spelling of any word that he needs to write, and the pronunciation of any word that he needs to speak. It will give him the help that he needs when he needs it, with a minimum of eye-strain and fatigue. It will give him a maximum of knowledge and skill and power for reading, writing, and speaking for every minute that he spends. It will fit him to make proper use of a dictionary for adults in due time.

To make a dictionary that comes near to this ideal requires not only adequate knowledge of the English language, but also expert scientific knowledge of children's minds, and of their needs in reading, hearing, and using words. It also requires ingenuity and thoughtfulness for every detail about every word.

### **The selection of words**

Our selection of words is based on a count of the actual occurrences of words in over ten million words of reading matter. These counts enable us to attach to each word a number showing its importance as measured by frequency and range of occurrence. The numbers 1 to 20 stand for successive thousands. A word having no number belongs in the third ten thousand. Some words within these limits are excluded because they are proper names well known to all, such as Smith or Jones, or because they are of little importance to children.

The measures of importance are, of course, not perfect, but are highly reliable except for some of the rarer proper names and semi-

technical words. Some adverbs in *ly*, and some words derived from proper names by the addition of *n*, such as Australian, were counted in with the words from which they were so derived, and so have no numbers attached to them.

### **Teaching the meaning of words**

We have not been satisfied to abbreviate and adapt definitions made originally for adults, and for adults of much ability and knowledge. Definitions are not like clothes that can be cut down and made to fit. What has a clear and correct meaning to a well-informed adult may confuse and mislead a child. We therefore frame our definitions directly to meet the needs of children. We make great use of illustrative sentences containing the word. We use pictures when pictures can teach the child what he needs to know better than words can. The illustrative sentences and pictures are chosen or made with the same unfailing consideration of the young learner's needs as is given to the definitions.

The general arrangement is in one single alphabetical list, obviously the simplest and best for a beginner.

The arrangement and spacing of the material for each word is such as will help children to find what they need to know. No uniform rigid system is followed. Arranging the different meanings of a word always in the sequence of their historical development, or according to grammatical categories, does very little good for children and may do much harm. For them the proper principles of arrangement are: literal uses before figurative, general uses before special, common uses before rare, and easily understandable uses before difficult. Each of these principles is subject to the limitation "other things being equal," and all are subject to the principle that that arrangement is best for any word which helps the learner most.

### **Teaching the spelling of words**

A dictionary is a great aid in spelling if two conditions are met, namely, if the person knows the first three or four letters of the word in question and its general sound, and if the dictionary presents the word conveniently with a suitable description by definition, illustrative sentence, or picture, so that the person can easily find among the words beginning with those letters the one he wants, and can easily be sure that it is the one he wants.

The use of a dictionary in spelling makes it desirable to include and define certain derivatives whose spelling children may need to find in the dictionary, each in its proper alphabetical place, such as *brought*, *done*, or *knew*. It is not sufficient to tell a child who wants to know how to spell *done* that **don** is *to put on* and **done** is the *pp.* of *do*. For the same reason certain proper names, abbreviations, and contractions which some dictionaries omit or hide are included in regular order in our list. Each word is printed with thin spacings, which separate the syllables without unduly decreasing the resemblance of the word in the dictionary to the word as it appears in reading. As a result of these procedures, many children who have been unable to use a dictionary profitably in learning to spell, will now be able to do so.

### Teaching the pronunciation of words

We use the excellent system of diacritical marks of the Century Dictionary. We print a full but simple key in the front and back of the book and on pages x, 101, 201, 301, etc., which will enable even a young child to master it.

### Preparing children to use an adult or "big" dictionary

The most important element in preparation to use a regular adults' dictionary is willingness and interest. If his experiences with his first dictionary have been profitable and interesting, so that he looks upon a dictionary as a help, a saver of time and of trouble, a child will readily make the transfer to using the more elaborate and intricate and difficult book when the proper time comes. The dryness, the incomprehensibility, and the misleading of the ordinary elementary dictionary too often prejudice children against the name and the thing in general.

### Protection against eye-strain

The hygienic aspect is important in any book for children, and especially in a dictionary. The work done by the eye in looking for a word and in reading definitions or illustrative sentences will be much harder than work for the same length of time in ordinary reading, even if the type is equally large and clear. If the type or spacing is too small, the task may become absolute cruelty. The size and style of type, the spacing, and the arrangement on the page in use in THE THORNDIKE-CENTURY JUNIOR DICTIONARY are those

recommended by the latest scientific knowledge and special investigations. We are sure that our care in these respects will be approved by all thoughtful teachers and parents.

We have spared neither time nor trouble to make this dictionary efficient as a word-book for boys and girls. The fundamental principles and the psychology and pedagogy by which they are applied are sound. Twenty-five thousand words, each to be treated in the most useful way for boys and girls from 10 to 15, are, however, twenty-five thousand separate problems, often subtle and many-sided. We cannot hope to have solved every one of them in the best possible manner. Where we have made errors by inadvertence or by insufficient ingenuity or by a failure to realize some difficulty for the young learner, or otherwise, we shall be glad to be informed.

The author is glad to acknowledge the expert assistance of Professor M. T. Whitley of Teachers College, Dr. Laura Kennon, Miss Mildred Thorndike, formerly of Evander Child High School, Miss Margaret V. Cobb, and Miss Martha Colley. Thanks are due Mr. George Watson for his careful reading of the manuscript. The scholarship and wisdom of the editors of the New Century Dictionary have been a safe guide throughout.

*E. L. Thorndike*

## NOTES ON THE USE OF THE DICTIONARY

What words are on any page are shown by the two words printed at the top. Thus, words from **a** to **abdication** are on page 1; words from **abdomen** to **abomination** are on page 2; etc.

The pronunciation of each word is shown right after it. Thus, **Aaron** (ar'ŏn). A full key to the letters and marks which show how to pronounce the words is printed in the front and back of the book, on page x, and also on pages 101, 201, 301, etc. A short key is printed at the bottom of each pair of pages.

The different uses and shades of meaning of a word are shown by numbers. Very, very rare or obsolete meanings, and slangy uses are usually not given. If the word you wish to know the meaning of ends in *ly* or *ness* or *er* or *less* or *ing* or *ed*, and is not in the dictionary, you can learn what it means by finding the word it is made from.

Sometimes there are two or more really different words which have the same spelling. Thus the word **bear** meaning to carry, and the word **bear** meaning an animal are really different words. All such words that are important are printed and defined separately. They are marked <sup>1</sup> and <sup>2</sup>. Thus: **bear**<sup>1</sup>, **bear**<sup>2</sup>.

After the statement of a word's meaning there are words or abbreviations like *adj.*, *adv.*, *n.* in italic type, which tell what parts of speech the words are. The abbreviations used are as follows:

<i>adj.</i> for adjective	<i>p.pr.</i> for present participle
<i>adv.</i> for adverb	<i>prep.</i> for preposition
<i>conj.</i> for conjunction	<i>pron.</i> for pronoun
<i>interj.</i> for interjection	<i>pt.</i> for past tense or preterit
<i>n.</i> for noun	<i>sing.</i> for singular
<i>p.a.</i> for participial adjective	<i>v.</i> for verb
<i>pl.</i> for plural	<i>v.i.</i> for intransitive verb
<i>pp.</i> for past participle	<i>v.t.</i> for transitive verb

Last of all there is a number which tells how widely used the word is. 1 means that the word is one of the thousand most widely used words; 2 means that the word is one of the next most widely used thousand; 3 means that the word is in the third thousand; and so on to 20 for the twentieth thousand. Words less widely used

than this have no number at the end. That is, if there is no number, the word is not in the most widely-used twenty thousand. For a word with different meanings, this number tells the importance of all the meanings together.

### Changes in the form of words

Certain words have irregular forms. When these forms are important enough, they are added after the statement of a word's meaning. Some very important irregular forms are entered in the alphabetical list, especially if they are hard to find or difficult to learn. Words which have no special forms added after their meaning may be considered regular—unless the irregular form is too rarely used to give.

Nouns regularly form their plural by adding *s*, as *book, books; dog, dogs; zero, zeros*, etc. Nouns ending in *ch, sh, s, x*, and *z* form their plurals by adding *es*, as *dish, dishes; glass, glasses; box, boxes*, etc. These two types are usually not included in this dictionary. If no special form is given, simply add *s* or *es*. All irregular plurals like *babies* from *baby*, *oxen* from *ox*, *knives* from *knife*, *formulae* from *formula*, etc., are included.

Verbs regularly form their past tense and past participle by adding *ed*, as *walk, walked; fill, filled*, etc. Verbs ending in *e* simply add *d*, as *manage, managed; advance, advanced*, etc. These forms are not included in this dictionary. If no special form is given, simply add *ed* (or *d* if the word ends in *e*) to form the past tense and past participle. All irregular forms like *caught, bought, done, went, said, broke*, etc., are included after the word's meaning. Most of them are entered in the regular list as well. Verbs which double their final consonant before adding *ed* also have their special spellings shown, as *stop, stopped; grab, grabbed*, etc. Some verbs ending in *l* double the *l* before adding *ed*; others do not. In case of doubt the past tense, past participle, and present participle are given to avoid any confusion, as *travel—traveled, traveling; excel—excelled, excelling*, etc.

Adjectives and adverbs which do not form their comparatives and superlatives by putting *more* and *most* before them have the correct special forms given after the meaning of the word if these special forms are not made by simply adding *er* and *est* (or *r* and *st* if the word ends in *e*). *Good* and *well* have their special forms *better, best* given. *Bad* has *worse, worst* after it. *Gladder, gladdest* is given



after *glad*. *Easier*, *easiest* is put after the meanings of *easy*. But forms like *more difficult*, *most difficult* from *difficult* and *rarer*, *rarest* from *rare* are not included in this dictionary.

### Restrictions of usage

Certain words, or special meanings of certain words, have phrases following or sometimes preceding them to show how, when, or where it is used. Some of the commonest are:

*old use*. A word or meaning not much used at the present time, though it may be found in old stories or stories about the past, is marked in this way.

*not used now*. A word or meaning not used at all at the present time, though it may be found in old stories or stories about the past, is marked *not used now*.

*used in poetry*. A word or meaning used in poems but not in ordinary talking or writing is so marked.

*in common talk*. A word or meaning used in everyday speech but not in formal talking or writing is marked in this way.

*slang*. A new word, or a new meaning of an old word, not accepted by writers and speakers at the present time, is marked *slang*. It may become correct through being used for a long time by many speakers and writers, or it may drop out of the language.

*English* means used in England; *Scotch*, used in Scotland; *British*, used throughout the British Empire, etc.

If the restriction refers to all the meanings of a word, it is put at the end after all the meanings and the grammatical material. If it refers only to one meaning of a word it is put after the definition, examples, and sentences to which it applies.

### Cross references

Sometimes reference is made from one word to another to give additional help or information. For example, **aileron** at the end of its definitions says "See the diagram under **airplane**." On this diagram *aileron* is shown with an arrow pointing out its location on the wing.

Irregular forms of words, usually verbs and nouns, have a cross reference to the word to which they belong. Under **wrote** it says "See **write**." *Write* gives all of the extra help needed.

## FULL PRONUNCIATION KEY

The pronunciation of each word is shown just after the word, in this way: **a bandon** (a-ban'don). The letters and signs used have sounds as in the words shown below. The accented syllable is marked /. / shows a secondary accent.

a at, can	n in, no	zh is the sound of z in azure or s in measure.
ā came, face	ng long, bring	
ä far, father	o on, not	
â all, ball	ō more, open	A single dot under ā, ē, ō, ö or ū means that the sound is made a little shorter and lighter, as in cot'tāge rē-duce', dem'ō-crāt, in'tō, ū-nī'ted.
à ask. This sound varies from a to ä.	ö move, to	
ā care, dare	ô off, song	
ā alone, company	o actor, second	
	oi oil, point	
ä beggar, opera	ou out, found	
b bad, rob	p paper, cup	For foreign words two pronunciations are some- times given, the ones com- monly used by English- speaking people, and the one used by people speak- ing the foreign language.
ch child, much	r run near	
d did, red	s say, yes	
q gradual. This sound varies from d to j.	ş nausea. This sound varies from s to sh.	
	sh she, rush	
e end, bend	t it, tell	
ē equal, be	t picture. This sound varies from t to ch.	
é her, certain	th thin, three	
ē prudent, towel	th then, they	
		In foreign words these sounds also occur:
f fat, effort	u up, but	o is half-way between ō and ô.
g go, bag	ū use, pure	u as in French du
h he, how	ü full, put	ch as in Scotch loch or German ach
hw is the sound of wh in what and when	ü nature, picture	n as in French bon
i it, pin		B as in Spanish Habana (sounded almost like our v)
ī line, mine	v very, save	H as g in Spanish gitana (a rough throaty h sound)
	w will, woman	is to show a sound like uh pronounced so closely with the pre- ceding letter as not to make a separate syllable.
j just, rejoice	y you, yet	
k kill, kind	z lazy, breeze	
l land, gold	z usury. This sound varies from z to zh.	
m am, me		

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# A School Dictionary

OF THE

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE

### A

**A, a** (ā), the first letter of the alphabet. There are two a's in afraid. *pl. A's, a's.*  
**a** (ā or ą), 1. Is there a pencil in the box? 2. Christmas comes once a year. 3. This cloth costs ten cents a yard. *indefinite article. 1.*

**a.**, 1. about. 2. acre or acres.

**Aaron** (ar'ŏn), the brother of Moses, and first high priest of the Hebrews. *n. 9.*

**a back** (ą-bak'), 1. toward the back; backward. 2. **Taken aback** means suddenly surprised. *adv. 15.*

**a baft** (ą-bąft'), 1. at the stern; toward the stern. 2. back of; behind. *adv., prep.*

**a abandon** (ą-ban'dŏn), 1. give up entirely. 2. desert, forsake, or leave (any place, person, or thing) without intending to return. He abandoned his farm and went to sea. A good mother will not abandon her baby. 3. an unthinking, careless freedom of action; letting oneself go; care-free manner. The girls jumped up and down and waved their arms with abandon. *v.t., n. 4.*

**a ban don ed** (ą-ban'dŏn ed), very bad; wicked; immoral. *adj.*

**a ban don ment** (ą-ban'dŏn-męnt), 1. abandoning; giving up; forsaking. 2. being forsaken or given up entirely. 3. freedom from restraint; lack of self-control; enthusiasm; abandon. *n. 15.*

**a base** (ą-bąs'), bring down; make lower; make humble; degrade. A man who betrays a friend abases himself. *v.t. 12.*

**a base ment** (ą-bąs'męnt), humiliation; lowering or loss of self-respect; degradation. *n. 17.*

### ABDICATION

**a bashed** (ą-basht'), embarrassed and confused; uneasy and somewhat ashamed. When the little child saw all the room filled with strangers, he was much abashed. *adj. 11.*

**a bate** (ą-bąt'), 1. grow less. The storm has abated. 2. make less. The medicine abated his pain. 3. do away with; put an end to. We can abate the smoke nuisance by burning oil. *v.i., v.t. 6.*

**a bate ment** (ą-bąt'męnt), lessening; decrease; reduction. *n. 15.*

**ab bé** (ą-bą), 1. French priest or clergyman. 2. abbot. *n. 17.*

**ab bess** (ab'es), the head of an abbey of nuns. *n. 12.*

**ab bey** (ab'i), 1. the buildings where monks or nuns live a religious life ruled by an abbot or abbess; a monastery or convent. 2. the monks or nuns as a group. 3. a church that was once an abbey or a part of it. *n. 6.*

**ab bot** (ab'ŏt), the head of an abbey of monks. *n. 7.*

**ab bre vi ate** (ą-brę'vi-ąt), make shorter, as, to abbreviate hour to hr. *v.t. 16.*

**ab bre vi a tion** (ą-brę-vi-ą'shŏn), 1. making shorter. 2. a shortened form, such as *hrs.* and *hr.* for hours, or *bu.* for bushel or bushels. *n. 13.*

**ab di cate** (ab'di-kąt), give up or formally renounce; resign. The king abdicated his throne, and the country became a republic. *v.t., v.i. 11.*

**ab di ca tion** (ab-di-ką'shŏn), abdicating; giving up an office, power, or authority; resigning. *n. 15.*

**abdomen** (ab-dō'men or ab'dō-men), 1. the lower part of the human body, which contains the stomach and bowels; the belly. 2. the last or hindmost of the three parts of an insect's body. *n.* 9.

**abdominal** (ab-dom'i-nal), of the abdomen; pertaining to the abdomen; in the abdomen. Bending the body exercises the abdominal muscles. *adj.* 9.

**abduct** (ab-duk't'), kidnap; carry off (a person) by force. *v.t.* 19.

**abduction** (ab-duk'shən), kidnapping; carrying off a person by force; as, the abduction of a little child. *n.*

**a beam** (ā-bēm'), 1. opposite the middle of a ship. The enemy's ship was abeam of ours. 2. straight across a ship. *adv.*

**abed** (ā-bed'), in bed. Mary stays abed because she is ill. *adv.* 11.

**Abel** (ā-bēl), the second son of Adam and Eve. Abel was killed by his older brother Cain. *n.* 12.

**Aberdeen** (ab-ēr-dēn'), a city in east central Scotland. *n.* 11.

**aberration** (ab-ē-rā'shən), 1. wandering from the right course or path; deviation from a standard. 2. abnormal behavior; wandering of the mind. *n.* 15.

**abet** (ā-bet'), encourage or help, especially in something wrong. One man did the actual stealing, but the other two abetted him. *v.t.*, *abetted*, *abetting*. 17.

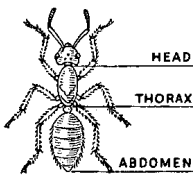
**abeyance** (ā-bā'əns), waiting; suspended activity. If you need more information to settle a question, you should hold the question in abeyance until you have the information. *n.* 15.

**abhor** (ab-hôr'), shrink away from with horror; feel disgust for; hate very, very much. *v.t.*, *abhorred*, *abhorring*. 4.

**abhorrence** (ab-hor'əns), horror; disgust; very great hate. Many people show abhorrence of snakes. *n.* 12.

**abhorrent** (ab-hor'ənt), causing horror; disgusting; hateful. *adj.* 14.

**abide** (ā-bīd'), 1. wait for. He will abide my coming. 2. stay. 3. **Abide by** means remain faithful to. He will abide



The three parts of an insect

by his promise. 4. dwell; continue to live (in a place). 5. endure; put up with. *v.t.*, *v.i.*, *abode*, *abiding*. 4.

**ability** (ā-bil'i-ti), 1. power. A horse has ability to work. 2. skill. Washington had great ability as a general. *n.*, *pl. abilities*. 4.

**abject** (ab'jekt), wretched; miserable; degraded; very discouraged. *adj.* 7.

**abjure** (ab-jör'), renounce; swear to give up. Some kings ordered the Jews to abjure their religion. *v.t.* 14.

**ablaze** (ā-blāz'), in a blaze; on fire. The room was all ablaze with a hundred lights. *adv.* 17.

**able** (ā'bl), 1. having power. Little children are able to walk, but they are not able to earn a living. 2. having more power or skill than others have. She is an able teacher. *adj.* 1.

**ablu tion** (ab-lō'shən), washing; cleansing. *n.* 15.

**ably** (ā'bli), in an able manner; with skill; well. *adv.* 12.

**abnegation** (ab-nē-gā'shən), denial; self-denial; giving up something. *n.* 20.

**abnormal** (ab-nôr'mal), not according to rule; irregular; very different from the ordinary conditions; unusual. It is abnormal for a man to have six fingers on each hand, or to be only three feet tall, or to walk in his sleep. *adj.* 9.

**a board** (ā-bōrd'), on board; on a ship, train, etc. *adv.*, *prep.* 4.

**abode** (ā-bōd'), 1. dwelling; place to live in; house. 2. See **abide**. He abode there one year. *n.*, *pt. and pp. of abide*. 4.

**abolish** (ā-bol'ish), do away with; put an end to. *v.t.* 5.

**abolition** (ab-ō-lish'ən), putting an end to; abolishing. The abolition of slavery in the United States occurred in 1865. *n.* 8.

**abolitionist** (ab-ō-lish'ən-ist), person who wishes to abolish something. The people who wished to put an end to slavery were called abolitionists. *n.* 14.

**abominable** (ā-bom'i-nā-bl), disgusting; hateful. *adj.* 6.

**abominate** (ā-bom'i-nāt), hate very, very much; abhor; detest; loathe. *v.t.*

**abomination** (ā-bom-i-nā'shən), 1. a feeling of disgust; loathing. 2. an evil or hateful thing. *n.* 9.

**aboriginal** (ab-ō-rij/i-nəl), existing from the beginning; of or belonging to the earliest inhabitants. The use of horses was not an aboriginal custom of the American Indians, but was introduced by Europeans. *adj.* 14.

**aborigines** (ab-ō-rij/i-nēz), the earliest inhabitants of a country. *n. pl.* 17.

**abortion** (a-bôr/shon), 1. a birth before the proper time. 2. failure to develop properly. *n.* 16.

**abortive** (a-bôr/tiv), 1. born before the proper time. 2. not developing properly; fruitless; unsuccessful. The early attempts to make airplanes were abortive. *adj.* 14.

**abound** (a-bound/), be plentiful. Fish abound in the ocean. *v.i.* 5.

**about** (a-bout/), 1. A collar goes about the neck. Look about and tell me what you see. 2. He has about finished his work. 3. Turn about is fair play. 4. He is about to go. 5. This story is about horses. 6. Have you a pencil about you? 7. You are going the wrong way. Face about. *adv., prep.* 1.

**above** (a-buv/), 1. in a higher place. 2. higher than; over. Look above the tall building to see the sun. 3. beyond. Go to the first house above the school. 4. too high; superior to. 5. more than. 6. earlier in a book or article. 7. in heaven. *adv., prep., adj., n.* 1.

**above board** (a-buv/bôrd/), in open sight; without tricks or concealment. *adv.*

**Abraham** (ā'brā-ham), a man in the Bible who is called the founder of the Hebrew nation. *n.* 4.

**abrasion** (a-brā'zhon), 1. scraping off. 2. a place that is scraped off. This ointment will heal abrasions of the skin. *n.*

**abreast** (a-brest/), 1. side by side. The soldiers are marching four abreast. 2. keeping up; not behind. *adv.* 11.

**abridge** (a-brij/), 1. make shorter. This story must be abridged. 2. make less. The rights of citizens must not be abridged without proper cause. *v.t.* 10.

**abridgment** (a-brij'ment), 1. abridging; making smaller; reduction in size. 2. shortened form. *n.* 14.

**abroad** (a-brôd/), 1. widely. The news of his coming spread abroad. 2. outside the house. He walks abroad only at night. 3. outside a country; in foreign lands. He is going abroad this summer to travel in France and Germany. 4. going around; in motion. A report is abroad that the school will close. *adv.* 3.

**abrogate** (ab/rō-gāt), repeal; cancel; do away with. A law that cars may not go more than 20 miles an hour would abrogate a law that cars may not go more than 25 miles an hour. *v.t.* 15.

**abrupt** (a-brupt/), 1. steep. The road made an abrupt rise up the hill. 2. sudden. He made an abrupt turn to avoid another car. 3. short, sudden, or blunt. He was very gruff and had an abrupt way of speaking. *adj.* 7.

**Abraham** (ab/sq-lqm), the favorite son of David, in the Bible. *n.* 14.

**abscess** (ab/ses), a collection of pus in any part of the body. An abscess usually causes a painful sore. *n.* 16.

**abscond** (ab-skond/), go away suddenly and secretly; go off and hide. The cashier stole money from the bank and absconded with it, but the police caught him. *v.i.* 20.

**absence** (ab/sens), 1. being away; time of being away. His absence from school was caused by illness. The sailor returned after an absence of two years. 2. being without; lack. Darkness is the absence of light. *n.* 3.

**absent** (ab/sent for 1, 2, and 4, ab-sent/ for 3), 1. away; not present. Three members of the class were absent. 2. lacking. **Be absent** sometimes means not to be or not to exist. Snow is absent in some countries. 3. keep (oneself) away. Do not absent yourself from school without reason. 4. paying no attention to what is going on about one. *adj., v.t.* 3.

**absentee** (ab-sen-tē/), person who is away. An absentee landlord does not live on the land he owns. *n.* 15.

**absent-minded** (ab/sent-mīn/ded), not paying attention to what is going on about one. The absent-minded man put salt in his coffee and sugar on his egg. *adj.*

at, cāme, fār, āll, āsk, cāre, ālone; end, bē, hēr, towġl; it, līne; on, mōre, tō, ôff, actōr; oil, out; up, ūse, pūt, natūre; ch, chip; g, go; th, thin; th, then; y, you. See full key on p. 101.

**absolute** (ab/sō-lūt), 1. unmixed; complete; perfect; pure. Try to tell the absolute truth. 2. not limited in any way. 3. independent. 4. real; actual. 5. positive; certain. *adj.* 2.

**absolutely** (ab/sō-lūt-li), completely; wholly. *adv.* 7.

**absolution** (ab-sō-lū/shōn), absolving; freeing from guilt and punishment for sin; forgiveness. *n.* 12.

**absolve** (ab-solv/), 1. declare free from sin or blame. 2. set free from a promise or duty. *v.i.* 6.

**absorb** (ab-sōrb/), 1. take in or suck up (liquids). A sponge absorbs water. A blotter absorbs ink. 2. take in and hold. Anything black absorbs light that falls on it; that is, none of the light is sent back to the eye. 3. take up all the attention of; interest very much. The boy was absorbed in building a dam in the brook. *v.i.* 6.

**absorbent** (ab-sōr/bēnt), 1. any substance which takes in or sucks up moisture, light, or heat. 2. taking in, or ready to take in, moisture, light, or heat. *n., adj.* 12.

**absorbing** (ab-sōr/bing), extremely interesting, as, an absorbing story of adventure. *adj.* 14.

**absorption** (ab-sōrp/shōn), 1. absorbing, as, the absorption of ink by blotting-paper. 2. being absorbed; great interest. Everybody noticed the absorption of the children in their game. *n.* 7.

**abstain** (ab-stān/), do without something; hold oneself back; refrain. If you abstain from eating candy and rich foods, you will not be so fat. *v.i.* 7.

**abstemious** (ab-stē/mi-us), temperate; moderate; sparing. Mr. Gray was very abstemious in the use of tobacco; he smoked only two cigars a week. *adj.* 17.

**abstinence** (ab/sti-nēns), partly or entirely giving up pleasures, food, drink, etc. *n.* 11.

**abstract** (ab/strakt for 1, 4, 5, and 6, ab-strakt/ for 2 and 3), 1. a brief statement of the main ideas or points in an article or a book or a case in court. 2. take away. Can you abstract the watch from my pocket without my knowing it? 3. think of (a quality, such as goodness, redness, weight, beauty, or

truth) apart from any real thing that has the quality. 4. thought of apart from any real thing. 5. **In the abstract** means in theory rather than in practice.

In the abstract, we approve of the Golden Rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you," but we do not always follow it. 6. hard to understand; difficult. *n., v.i., v.i., adj.* 8.

**abstracted** (ab-strakt/ed), lost in thought; absent-minded. *adj.*

**abstraction** (ab-strakt/shōn), 1. taking away. After the abstraction of the juice from the orange, only a tasteless pulp was left. 2. the idea of a quality apart from the real thing that has the quality. The ideas of whiteness, roundness, bravery, and length are abstractions. 3. forming such an idea. 4. a mere idea. A line that has no width is only an abstraction. 5. being lost in thought. Whenever he studied a problem, his abstraction was so deep that he did not eat for two days. *n.* 10.

**abstruse** (ab-strōs/), hard to understand. *adj.* 16.

**absurd** (ab-sērd/), plainly not true or sensible; so contrary to reason that it is laughable; foolish; ridiculous. *adj.* 6.

**absurdity** (ab-sēr/di-ti), 1. folly; being absurd. You can see the absurdity of wearing shoes on your head and hats on your feet. 2. something absurd. To say that every father has a daughter is an absurdity. *n., pl. absurdities.* 9.

**abundance** (ā-bun/dāns), great plenty; full supply; a quantity that is more than enough. There was such an abundance of apples that year that many were left to rot under the trees. *n.* 3.

**abundant** (ā-bun/dānt), more than enough; very plentiful. *adj.* 3.

**abuse** (ā-būz/ for 1, 3, and 6, ā-būs/ for 2, 4, 5, and 7), 1. make bad use of. 2. bad or wrong use. 3. treat badly. 4. bad treatment. 5. a bad practice or custom. 6. scold very severely; use harsh language to. 7. severe scolding; harsh language. *v.i., n.* 3.

**abusive** (ā-bū/siv), 1. abusing; treating badly. 2. containing abuse. 3. harsh; wrong. *adj.* 16.

**abut** (ā-but/), touch at the end; border (on); end (against). The building abuts

on the sidewalk; the sidewalk abuts on the street; the street abuts against the railroad. *v.i.*, *abutted*, *abutting*. 15.

**abyss** (ə-bis'), a bottomless depth; a very deep crack in the earth. *n.* 6.

**Abyssinia** (ab-i-sin'i-ä), a country in northeastern Africa. The official name is Ethiopia. *n.*

**acacia** (ə-kā'shiä), 1. a thorny tree or shrub with finely divided leaves growing in warm regions. There are many kinds of acacia. 2. the locust-tree, called the "false acacia." *n.* 14.

**academic** (ak-ə-dem'ik),

1. having to do with schools and school studies.

2. scholarly. 3. theoretical; not practical. *adj.* 8.

**academical** (ak-ə-dem'i-kəl), 1. pertaining to a college or university. 2. scholarly. 3. theoretical; not practical. *adj.* 15.

**academy** (ə-kad'ē-mi), 1. a place for instruction; a private high school. 2. school where some special subject can be studied. There are academies of medicine and painting, and military or naval academies. 3. a society to encourage literature, science, or art. *n.*, *pl. academies*. 6.

**Acadia** (ə-kā'di-ä), a French colony in the eastern part of Canada, including what is now Nova Scotia. *n.* 17.

**accede** (ak-sēd'), 1. give in; agree. Please accede to my request. 2. attain. The prince acceded to the throne when the king died. *v.i.* 12.

**accelerate** (ak-sel'ē-rāt), increase the speed of; hasten; cause to move faster; cause to happen sooner. *v.t.*, *v.i.* 14.

**acceleration** (ak-sel-ē-rā'shon), increase in speed; hastening. *n.* 17.

**accelerator** (ak-sel'ē-rā-tōr), thing or person that increases the speed of anything. *n.* 19.

**accent** (ak'sent for 1, 2, 3, and 4, ak-sent' for 5), 1. the greater force or stronger tone of voice given to certain syllables or words, either to direct attention to them or to give rhythm in



Acacia (def. 1)

poetry. 2. a mark (') written or printed to show the nature and place of the spoken force of a syllable, as in yes'ter-day, today', to mor'row. 3. a peculiarity of pronouncing heard in different parts of the same country, or in the speech of a person speaking a language not his own. Hans is German and speaks English with a German accent. 4. tone. She speaks to him in tender accents. 5. pronounce with an accent; play (on the piano, etc.) with force; mark with force; emphasize. *n.*, *v.t.* 4.

**accentuate** (ak-sen'tū-āt), emphasize; pronounce with an accent; mark with an accent. *v.t.* 13.

**accept** (ak-sept'), 1. take what is offered or given to one. 2. consent to; say yes to. 3. take as true and satisfactory. We accepted her excuse. 4. receive with favor; approve. 5. sign and agree to pay. *v.t.*, *v.i.* 2.

**acceptable** (ak-sep'tə-bl), fit to be accepted; satisfactory; agreeable; welcome. The bargain is acceptable. *adj.* 9.

**acceptance** (ak-sep'tāns), 1. taking what is offered or given to one. The President's acceptance of the flowers they brought delighted the children. 2. approval; taking as true and satisfactory. 3. a promise to pay a bill; an accepted bill. *n.* 6.

**acceptation** (ak-sep-tā'shon), the generally accepted meaning. It is more important to know the acceptation of a word than its derivation. *n.* 16.

**access** (ak'ses or ak-ses'), approach to places, persons, or things. Access to mountain-towns is often difficult because of bad roads. Has he access to men who could help him get work? *n.* 5.

**accessible** (ak-ses'i-bl), easy to get at; easy to reach. A public library makes good books accessible. A telephone is put where it will be accessible. *adj.* 11.

**accession** (ak-sesh'ōn), 1. attaining. His accession to the presidency pleased his friends. 2. addition. The school was increased by the accession of forty new pupils. *n.* 14.

**accessory** (ak-ses'ō-ri), 1. something added; a finishing touch. All the ac-

at, cāme, fär, äll, äsk, cāre, ālone; end, bē, hēr, towēl; it, līne; on, mōre, tō, ōff, actōr; oil, out; up, ūse, pūt, natūre; ch, chip; g, go; th, thin; ʒh, then; y, you. See full key on p. 101.



cessories to her costume—gloves, stockings, handkerchiefs, and handbag—were perfectly matched. 2. person who has helped in a crime or who has helped to hide it, or who has not reported it afterwards. 3. added; helping the general effect. His tie supplied an accessory bit of color which was very pleasing. 4. helping; helping to commit or hide a crime. *n., pl. accessories, adj. 10.*

**accident** (ak'si-dent), 1. an event not wanted, intended, or planned to happen, such as dropping a dish, a shipwreck, or the killing of a dog by an automobile. 2. chance. I cut my foot by accident. We found that the front door had been left open by accident and a thief had got in. *n. 3.*

**accidental** (ak-si-den'tal), happening by chance. Breaking Mary's doll was purely accidental; John did not mean to do it. *adj. 7.*

**acclaim** (a-klām'), applaud; salute; welcome; applause. The crowd acclaimed the winner. *v.t., v.i., n. 13.*

**acclamation** (ak-lā-mā'shon), 1. shouts of welcome, praise, or good-will. 2. a unanimous oral vote. *n. 11.*

**acclimate** (a-klī'mā-tīz), accustom to a new climate. *v.t., v.i. 20.*

**accommodate** (ā-kom'ō-dāt), 1. hold; have room for; lodge. This big bedroom will accommodate six beds. Can you accommodate a party of five for two weeks? 2. oblige; help out. He wanted change for a quarter, but I could not accommodate him. 3. make fit; make suitable. Can you accommodate your long legs to this chair? *v.t., v.i. 5.*

**accommodating** (ā-kom'ō-dā-ting), obliging. The man was accommodating enough to lend me a quarter. *adj. 17.*

**accommodation** (ā-kom'ō-dā'shon), 1. room; lodging for a time. 2. a help; a convenience. It would be an accommodation to me if you would meet me tomorrow instead of today. 3. the fitting (of something) to a purpose or situation. The accommodation of our desires to a smaller income took some time. *n. 6.*

**accompaniment** (ā-kum'pā-ni-ment), whatever goes along with something else. There may be some unpleasant accom-

paniments to your trip, but on the whole you will like it. She sang to a piano and violin accompaniment. *n. 11.*

**accompany** (ā-kum'pā-ni), 1. go along with. He will accompany you on your walk. The rain was accompanied by a high wind. 2. make music along with. *v.t., accompanied, accompanying. 2.*

**accomplice** (ā-kom'plis), person who shares in a crime. *n. 10.*

**accomplish** (ā-kom'plish), do; carry out. Did you accomplish your purpose? He can accomplish more in a day than any other boy in his class. *v.t. 2.*

**accomplished** (ā-kom'plisht), 1. completed; finished; expert; as, an accomplished dancer. 2. perfected in social graces, as, an accomplished lady. *adj. 7.*

**accomplishment** (ā-kom'plish-ment), 1. accomplishing; doing. The accomplishment of his purpose took two days. 2. a completed act or undertaking. 3. something that has been done with knowledge, skill, and ability. It was a real accomplishment to finish housecleaning in two days. 4. skill in some social art or grace. She was a girl of many accomplishments. She could play, sing well, and also sew and cook. *n. 7.*

**account** (ā-kount'), account. *v.t., v.i., n. (old use). 17.*

**accord** (ā-kôrd'), 1. agreement; harmony. Their opinion of war was in accord with his. 2. agree; be in harmony. His account of the day accords with yours. 3. **Of one's own accord** means without being asked or without suggestion from anyone else. A boy who washes his hands of his own accord is indeed unusual. 4. give; grant. The newspapers accorded the famous explorer full praise. *n., v.t., v.i. 4.*

**accordance** (ā-kôr'dans), agreement; harmony. What he did was in accordance with what he said. *n. 6.*

**accordingly** (ā-kôr'ding-li), 1. in agreement with something that has been stated. These are the rules. You can act accordingly or leave the club. 2. therefore. He was too sick to stay. Accordingly, we sent him home. *adv. 3.*

**according to**, 1. in agreement with. He came according to his promise. You will be ranked according to the work you do.