

WEBSTER'S NEW WORLD DICTIONARY

1956

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GUIDE TO THE USE OF THE DICTIONARY

I. The entry words

A. Arrangement of entries

All entries, including proper nouns, abbreviations, combining forms, and compounds of two or more words, have been entered in strict alphabetical order. All the elements in bold-face type are to be regarded as of equal value, with the following exceptions: in biographical entries, only the last, or family, name (that part preceding the comma) has been considered in alphabetization, but where there are two or more persons with the same family name, the first, or given, names have determined the order of entries.

John of Gaunt (gōnt), Duke of Lancaster, 1340–1399; son of Edward III.

John-son, Andrew (jon's'n), 1808–1875; seventeenth president of the United States (1865–1869).

Johnson, James Wel-don (wel'd'n), 1871–1938; American writer and diplomat.

Johnson, Samuel, 1709–1784; English writer, critic, and lexicographer; known as *Dr. Johnson*.

Johnson City, a city in northeastern Tennessee: pop., 25,000.

If two or more variant spellings of a single word exist, each is entered in its proper place and the definition and variant spellings are given with the form most frequently used, the others being cross-referred to this.

cas-si-mere (kas's'a-mêr'), *n.* [*< Kashmir*; cf. CASHMERE (wool)], a thin, twilled woolen cloth, used for men's suits; also spelled *casimere*, *casimire*.

In some few cases, where usage is about evenly divided, full definitions are given with each form. Where the variant spellings are so nearly alike that they would normally appear in consecutive or nearly consecutive order, and where they are pronounced alike, the less frequent form or forms are entered directly after the main entry word, preceding the pronunciation.

en-am-el-er, en-am-el-ler (i-nam'el-ēr), *n.* a person or thing that enamels.

Idiomatic phrases listed after a main entry have also been entered alphabetically within each group, all elements in bold-face type, again, being given equal weight. Such phrases have been entered wherever possible under the key word.

few (fū), *adj.* [ME. *fewe*, *few*; AS. *feawe*, *feawa*, *pl.*; akin to OFris. *fē*, Goth. *fawai*, *pl.*; IE. base **pōu-*, etc., small, little, as also in L. *paucus*, little (cf. PAUCITY)], not many; of small number. *pron. & n.* not many; a small number.

quite a few, [Colloq.], a rather large number; a good many.

the few, the minority: contrasted with *the many*.

Biographical entries have been given with the most familiar form of the person's name, fuller forms, pseudonyms, maiden names, etc. being identified in parentheses following the pronunciation.

Henry, O., (pseudonym of *William Sydney Porter*), 1862–1910; American short-story writer.

Dick-ens, Charles (dik'nz, dik'inz), (pseudonym *Boz*), 1812–1870; English novelist.

Prefixes and initial combining forms are indicated by a hyphen following the entry form.

in-tra- (in'trə), [L. *< intra*, within, inside *< *intera*; akin to *interior*, *inter*], a combining form meaning *within*, *inside of*, as in *intramural*, *intravenous*.

Suffixes and terminal combining forms are indicated by a hyphen preceding the entry form.

-ice (is), [ME. *-ice*, *-ise*, *-is*; OFr. *-ice*; L. *-itius*, masc., *-itia*, fem., *-itium*, neut.], a suffix meaning *the condition*, *state*, or *quality of*, as in *justice*, *malice*.

Such affixes and combining forms have been pronounced only where it is feasible to pronounce the element in isolation.

B. Syllabification

The syllabifications used in this dictionary, indicated by centered dots in the entry words, are those adopted by printers in the 18th century and in general use since then to indicate the points at which words may conveniently be divided at the end of a written or printed line.

ox-i-diz-a-ble (ok'sa-diz'a-b'l), *adj.* that can be oxidized.

In adopting this traditional syllabification, the editors are fully aware of its inconsistencies, of its total failure to conform to any scientific principles. They are also aware that to upset the system by adopting one based on the etymological or descriptive, formative elements in words would be to instigate a major revolution in printing practice. (See p. xx, par. 2.4.)

C. Derived forms

Every word entered in this dictionary has been fully defined. Nothing has been left to supposition or guesswork. Wherever a common derived form, such as an adverb from an adjective or a noun from a verb, shows the slightest deviation in spelling or pronunciation or offers the slightest doubt as to meaning, such a form generally has been entered, pronounced, and defined.

It is possible in English to form an almost infinite number of derived forms simply by adding certain prefixes or suffixes to the base word. In very many such cases it is possible to understand immediately the meanings of such derived words, if the meanings of the base word and of the affixes (the most common of which have been entered in this dictionary) are understood. For example, if the suffix *-able* is clearly understood to mean "that can be —ed" or "capable of being —ed," the meanings of such derived forms as *contradictable*, *recallable*, and *moldable* are immediately apparent. An analogous situation exists for words compounded with *-er*, *-less*, *-like*, *-ly*, *-ness*, etc. Space for less easily understood forms is therefore conserved by omitting many such words.

For some of the more common prefixes, such as *re-* and *non-*, sample lists of words compounded with such forms have been entered under the proper prefix or suffix merely to indicate the frequency with which such words occur in usage.

For adjectives ending in *-ic* having alternative forms in *-ical*, the derived adverbs (ending in *-ically*) have generally not been entered where such forms mean only "in (the specified) manner." Where the alternative form in *-ical* does not exist, the derived adverb has been entered.

The names of many sciences or studies ending in *-logy* (as, *psychology*, *histology*) form nouns of agent by replacing the *-y* with *-ist* (as, *psychologist*, *histologist*). In such cases, the derived form is not always entered but can easily be inferred.

D. Foreign terms

Words and phrases borrowed from other languages and not regarded as completely naturalized English terms are indicated by a double dagger (‡) preceding the entry word. The language from which such a word is borrowed is indicated in its etymology and the foreign pronunciation is given first.

†mol-ré (mwá'rā'; Eng. mwá-rā', mō'rā'), *adj.* [Fr., pp. of *moirer*, to water *< moire*; see *MOIRE*], having a

Guide to the Dictionary

II. Pronunciation

A. General introduction and key

With pronunciation, as with all other aspects of lexicography, it cannot be repeated too often that dictionaries are not the lawmakers—they are merely the law-recorders. A pronunciation is not "correct," or standard, because it is given in a dictionary; rather, it should be found in a dictionary because good usage has already made it standard. There is no single hypothetically "correct" standard for all speakers of American English (in the sense that Received Standard is the guide for British English), since the usage of the cultivated speakers in any region or locality constitutes a standard for that area. Hence, since the scope of a desk dictionary prohibits the inclusion of every possible acceptable variant, the editors of such a dictionary are justified in recording those pronunciations used by the greatest numbers of cultivated speakers. Thus, the pronunciations given in this dictionary are those observed among literate speakers of the Central variety of General American English (see p. xvii, par. 1.15). These are symbolized, however, in as broad a manner as is consistent with accuracy, so that speakers of other varieties of American English can readily read their own pronunciations into the symbols used here. In addition, the principal differentiating features of the language as spoken in the East and South are given in variant pronunciations, where these also occur as occasional forms in General American. Thus (häf) as well as (haf), (glō'ri) as well as (glōr'i), and (tūn) as well as (toon) are entered. As a result, the reader can be assured that although no single standard exists for the whole nation, the kind of pronunciation here indicated is acceptable anywhere in the United States.

One of the prime frustrations besetting the editors of a dictionary is the necessity for recording in isolation pronunciations that almost invariably occur in context. Thus, the word *and*, regarded as a unique phenomenon existing independently of the phrases and clauses of which it is always an element, could simply be recorded as (and). In actual practice such a pronunciation occurs only when the particle is deliberately emphasized in speaking (as, "The boys *and* the girls are invited."). In all other instances, the loss of stress results in a neutralization of the vowel to (ə) or even in a total loss of vowel to the following consonant, which becomes syllabic (see Key to Pronunciation, p. xi), and in extreme cases to an additional loss of the final *d*. Hence *ham* and *eggs* becomes (ham' and eggz'), or (ham' nd eggz') or even (ham' n eggz'). In addition to causing phonemic change, loss, and gain, the context in which a word is used often serves to alter its stress pattern. In this way *semifinal* (sem'i-fi'n'l) often becomes (sem'i-fi'n'l round'). Wherever practicable, such contextual variants have been indicated in one way or another. The general principle of the editors has been to record the speech of the unstudied, informal conversation of cultivated speakers. Such words as hardly ever occur in normal conversation necessarily have no colloquial pronunciation except where analogy would inevitably lead to one.

Key to Pronunciation

An abbreviated form of this key appears at the bottom of every alternate page of the vocabulary.

Symbol	Key Words	IPA
a	fat, lap	[æ]
ā	ape, date	[e]
ā	bare, care	[e → ε → æ]
ā	car, father	[a → a]
o	ten, let	[ε]
ē	even, meet	[i]
ē	here, dear	[i → i]
ēr	over, under	[ər or ɔ]
i	is, hit	[i]
i	bite, mile	[ai]
o	lot, top	[a]
ō	go, tone	[o]
ō	horn, fork	[ō → ɒ]
ōō	tool, troop	[u]
oo	book, moor	[u]
oi	oil, boy	[oi]
ou	out, doubt	[au]
u	up, cut	[A]
ū	use, cute	[ju → iu]
ūr	fur, turn	[ər or ɜ]
ə	a in ago	[ə]
e in agent		
i in sanity		
o in comply		
u in focus		

b	bed, dub	[b]
d	did, had	[d]
f	fall, off	[f]
g	get, dog	[g]
h	he, ahead	[h]
j	joy, jump	[dʒ]
k	kill, bake	[k]
l	let, ball	[l]
m	met, trim	[m]
n	not, ton	[n]
p	put, tap	[p]
r	red, dear	[r]
s	sell, pass	[s]
t	top, hat	[t]
v	vat, have	[v]
w	will, always	[w]
y	yet, yard	[j]
z	zebra, haze	[z]
ch	chin, arch	[tʃ]
ŋ	ring, drink	[ŋ]
sh	she, dash	[ʃ]
th	thin, truth	[θ]
th	then, father	[ð]
zh	azure, leisure	[ʒ]

[see explanatory note on p. xi]

Foreign Sounds (see explanatory notes on p. xi)

ä	Fr. <i>bal</i>	[a]
ē	Fr. <i>coeur</i>	[œ]
ö	Fr. <i>feu</i>	[ø]
ô	Fr. <i>coq</i>	[ō → a → ɔ]
ù	Fr. <i>duc</i>	[v]
n	[see explanatory note on p. xi]	
H	G. <i>ich</i>	[ç]
kh	G. <i>doch</i>	[x]

This simplified Key to Pronunciation was evolved on the assumption that the reader is already familiar with the qualities of almost all the symbols as they occur in the key words. A few explanatory notes on the more complex of these symbols follow to give the fullest understanding of the pronunciations recorded. It should be recognized that certain concessions have of necessity been made to practicality and convenience; notably, a few symbols are deliberately intended to cover a relatively narrow range of vowel sounds to allow for regional and individual differences, and several symbols duplicate in essence others to allow a minimum distortion of the orthography in respelling.

- ä This symbol represents essentially the low back vowel of *far* (IPA [ɑ]) but may also represent the low central vowel occasionally heard in New England for *bath* (IPA [a]).
- ā This symbol is used, always followed, and hence colored, by *r*, to represent the range of sounds (ā, e, a) heard variously in such words as *care* and *prayer*.
- ē Like (ā), this symbol followed, and hence colored, by *r*, represents a range of sounds (i through ē) heard variously in such words as *here* and *dear*.
- ī This symbol, representing essentially the vowel in *hit*, has also been used to indicate the neutralization of vowel in the unstressed syllables of such words as *garbage* (gär'bij), *goodness* (good'nis), and *preface* (pref'is). In some persons' pronunciation of such words, total neutralization is heard; hence, (gär'bəj) (good'nəs), and (pref'əs) can be assumed as possible variants.
- o This symbol represents sounds that are essentially identical with those of (ā), but has been used where the original spelling has an o to avoid, as was mentioned above, too great distortion of the orthography.
- ō This symbol, representing essentially the vowel in *fork* (IPA [ɔ]), has also been used to represent the sound midway between (ā) and (ō) heard in an Eastern variant of *foe* (IPA [ɒ]).
- ə This symbol, called the schwa, is borrowed from the International Phonetic Alphabet, and has been used to represent the reduced, weakened, and dulled vowel of neutral coloration heard in the unstressed syllables of *ago*, *agent*, *sanity*, *comply*, and *focus*. Although it must be recognized that the degree and quality of the dulling of such vowels will vary from word to word and from speaker to speaker, it must also be remembered that in

modern conversational English, *all* totally unstressed vowels are neutralized either to (ə) or to (i).

ür and ər These two symbols represent respectively the stressed and unstressed r-colored vowels heard successively in the two syllables of *murder* (mür'dër) and indicated by IPA [ər or ɜ] and [ər or ɐ]. Where these symbols are given, Southern and Eastern speakers will, as a matter of course, pronounce them without the r-coloration, that is, by "dropping their r's," as represented by IPA [ɜ] and the schwa [ə].

ŋ This symbol, also borrowed from the International Phonetic Alphabet, represents the back-tongue nasal sound indicated in spelling by the -*ng* of *sing* and occurring also for *n* before the back consonants *k* and *g*, as in *drink* (drɪŋk) and *finger* (fɪŋ'gër).

The apostrophe occurring before an *l*, *m*, or *n* indicates that this consonant has become a sonant, or syllabic consonant; that is, it has formed a syllable with no appreciable vowel sound, as in *apple* (ap'pl) or *season* (sē'z'n). In some persons' speech such syllabic consonants are often replaced with syllables containing neutralized vowels, as (sē'zən); such variants, though not entered here, can, of course, be inferred.

The apostrophe has also been used after final *l* and *r*, in certain French words, to indicate that they are voiceless after an unvoiced consonant, as in *par exemple* (pär'eg'zän'pl'), *lettre* (let'r'). In such cases the final *l* and *r* often tend to be lost entirely in French speech.

In some Russian words where certain consonants are followed by the "soft sign" in the Cyrillic spelling, this has been indicated by (y'). The sound can be approximated by pronouncing an unvoiced (y) directly after the consonant involved.

B. Foreign sounds

Although virtually no two sounds of different languages can be scientifically regarded as precisely identical, sufficient similarity exists, for all practical purposes, to permit the use of most of the preceding symbols in the recording of foreign pronunciation. The six additional symbols that follow fill adequately the gaps in the main phonetic key. Several of these symbols are, again, intended to convey varying sounds in differing languages, where the similarities are sufficient to permit the use of a single symbol.

â This symbol, representing the *a* in French *bal* (bâl), can perhaps best be described as intermediate between (a) and (ä), corresponding closely to IPA [a].

ë This symbol represents the sound of *eu* in French *leur* (lër) and can be approximated by rounding the lips for (ö) and trying to pronounce (e).

ö This symbol represents the sound of *eu* in French *feu* (fö) or *ö* (oe) in German *Goethe* (Göthe) (gö'te) and can be approximated by rounding the lips for (ö) and trying to pronounce (ä).

ô This symbol represents a range of sounds varying from (ō) to (ò) and heard with such varying quality in French *coq* (kôk), German *doch* (dôkh), Russian *gospodin* (gôs'pô-dën'), Italian *poco* (pô'kô), etc.

ü This symbol represents the sound of *ü* in French *duc* (dük) and German *grün* (grün) and can be approximated by rounding the lips for (ö) and trying to pronounce (ë).

kh This symbol represents the unvoiced velar or uvular fricative, as in German *doch* (dôkh) or Scottish *loch* (lokh) and can be approximated by arranging the speech organs as for (k) but allowing the breath to escape in a continuous stream, as in pronouncing (h).

H This symbol represents a sound similar to the preceding but formed forward in the mouth, as in German *ich* (ih), and frequently misheard by English speakers as (sh).

n This symbol indicates that the vowel sound immediately preceding it is nasalized; that is, the nasal passage is left open so that the breath passes through both the mouth and the nose in voicing the vowel [examples: Fr. *mon* (môn), *en passant* (än' pá'sän')].

C. Stress

A primary, or strong, stress is indicated by a heavy stroke (ˈ) immediately following the syllable so stressed. A secondary, or weak, stress is indicated by a lighter stroke (ˑ) following the syllable so stressed.

qual-i-ta-tive (kwäl'ə-tā'tiv), *adj.* [LL. *qualitativus*], having to do with quality or qualities: distinguished from *quantitative*.

In addition to such accents, some syllables in English receive what may be termed reduced secondary stresses. Such stresses are not indicated but may be inferred where an apparently unstressed syllable retains an unneutralized vowel.

Words of one syllable are regarded, in isolation, as receiving a primary stress, although this is not indicated. In contextual usage such words often receive a secondary stress or no stress at all.

Words of two or more syllables may be characterized by rising stress (i.e., by secondary stress on an early syllable and primary stress on a later one), by falling stress (i.e., by the reverse of this situation), or by level stress (i.e., by primary stress on two syllables). Where such words are characterized by all three of these patterns, space has often been conserved by indicating only the level stress.

D. Variants

Where two or more pronunciations for a single word are given, the order in which they are entered does not necessarily mean that one is preferred to, or "better" than, the others. In most cases the order indicates that, in the opinion of the editors, the form given first is the most frequent in general use. Where usage is about evenly divided, since one form must be given first, the editors' preference generally prevails. Unless a variant is qualified, however, as by "now rarely" or "less commonly," it is understood that all pronunciations here entered represent standard uses.

In order to save space, where variants exist for two or more syllables of a word, a telescoped system has been used whereby two or more forms indicate four or more variants. Thus, for example, where *nucleolate* has (nōō-klē'ə-lit, nū-klē'ə-lāt'), by substituting the variant syllables the following pronunciations may also be inferred: (. . . nōō-klē'ə-lāt', nū-klē'ə-lit).

Where specific parts of speech have variant pronunciations, these are indicated by italicized notes in the pronunciation proper.

re-tic-u-late (ri-tik'yoo-lit; also, and for *v. always*, ri-tik'yoo-lāt'), *adj.* [L. *reticulatus* < *reticulum*; see *RETICULE*], like a net or network; netlike; specifically, in *botany*, having the veins arranged like the threads of a net: said of leaves. *v.t.* [RETICULATED (-id), RETICU-

In some few instances, where the entry was relatively short and it was felt that the pronunciation would not be overlooked, it was entered directly with the part of speech to which it had reference.

Every word used in this dictionary is pronounced in its main entry. Where it occurs in a phrase, the pronunciation is not repeated, unless it was felt that its contextual use created sufficient differences to warrant recording. Where the same family name exists for two or more biographical entries, the pronunciation and syllabification are given only with the first entry.

Math-er, Cot-ton (kot'n math'ër), 1663-1728; American clergyman and writer.

Mather, In-crease (in'krēs), 1639-1723; father of *Cotton*; American clergyman and writer.

Complete pronunciations are given throughout for every main entry. Where truncated forms are given with irregular inflections, it is understood that the part of the form not pronounced is identical in quality and stress with the similar part of the main entry.

fish-y (fish'i), *adj.* [FISHIER (-i-ër), FISHIEST (-i-ist)], 1. of or full of fish. 2. like a fish in odor, taste, etc.

Words borrowed from foreign languages but completely naturalized in English use are given Anglicized pronunciation. Where the foreign pronunciation is also still heard, it has been given in second place, properly labeled.

hors d'oeu-vre (ôr'düvr', ôr'duv'; Fr. ôr'dô'vr'), [pl. HORS D'OEUVRES (-dürvz', -duvz'; Fr. -dô'vr')], [Fr.,

The designation *sp. pronun.* (*spelling pronunciation*) indicates that the variant so labeled has resulted from an attempt to conform with the spelling, which may not be properly phonetic, and in this way deviates from the historical or established pronunciation (cf. *hist.*).

For words beginning with the combination *wh-*, where the pronunciation (hw) has been given, as in *why* (hwi), *while* (hwil), and *white* (hwit), alternative, unaspirated pronunciations are heard today with increasing fre-

quency, as (wī), (wīl), and (wīt). Such variants have not been given with each word, but on those pages of the vocabulary containing words beginning with *wh-*, a note has been added to the bottom of the page indicating their occurrence. Compounds derived from such words and found elsewhere in the vocabulary should also be understood to have such variants.

III. Inflected forms

Inflected forms regarded as irregular or offering difficulty in spelling or pronunciation are entered in brackets immediately following the part-of-speech labels.

en-ti-ty (en'tā-ti), *n.* [*pl.* ENTITIES (-tiz)], [Fr. *entité*; ML. *entitas* < L. *ens*, *entis*, ppr. of *esse*, to be]. 1. being; ex-

Where variant inflected forms exist, all such forms are entered. If the inflected form is so altered in spelling (as by internal inflection) that it would appear at some distance from the main form in the alphabetized list, it is entered additionally in its proper place in the vocabulary.

rode (rōd), past tense and archaic past participle of **ride**.

Forms regarded as regular inflections, and hence not normally entered, include:

- a) Plurals formed by adding *-s* to the singular (or *-es* after *s*, *x*, *z*, *ch*, and *sh*), as *ships*, *brushes*.
- b) Present tenses formed by adding *-s* to the verb (or *-es* after *s*, *x*, *z*, *ch*, and *sh*), as *sorts*, *marches*.
- c) Past tenses and participles formed by simply adding *-ed* to the verb with no other change in the verb form, as *sorted*, *marched*.
- d) Present participles formed by simply adding *-ing* to the verb with no other change in the verb form, as *sorting*, *marching*.
- e) Comparatives and superlatives formed by simply adding *-er* and *-est* to the adjective or adverb with no other change in the positive form, as *taller*, *tallest*.

Where two inflected forms are given for a verb, the first is the form for the past tense and the past participle, and the second is the form for the present participle.

make (māk), *v.t.* [MADE (mād), MAKING], [ME. *maken*; AS. *macian*; akin to G. *machen*; IE. base **mag-*, to

Where three forms are given, separated from one another by commas, the first represents the past tense, the second the past participle, and the third the present participle.

blow (blō), *v.i.* [BLEW (blōw), BLOWN (blōn), BLOWING], [ME. *blowen*; AS. *blawan*; akin to G. *blāhen*; IE. base

Where there are alternative, obsolete, or archaic forms, these are given and properly indicated.

ride (rid), *v.i.* [RODE (rōd), or *archaic* RID (rid), RIDDEN (rid'n) or *archaic* RID or RODE, RIDING], [ME. *riden*; AS. *ridan*; akin to G. *reiten*; IE. base **reidh-*, to go,

In the interest of conserving space, where an irregularly inflected verb is simply compounded from another verb with the addition of a prefix, the inflected forms are not always repeated with the derived word, particularly if the base verb is used in the definition.

IV Etymology

Etymology has deliberately been made one of the strong features of this dictionary. During the years of preparation, the etymologies of all the entries were restudied in light of recent publication, early dated quotations, and the chief new etymological dictionaries. The results of this survey, often original in character, are here presented with a fullness altogether unparalleled in any previous American dictionary. A striking innovation is the exhaustive treatment accorded to words of native origin, hitherto comparatively neglected in most English dictionaries. While it is undoubtedly easier to etymologize words borrowed into English from the Classical languages, the native word-stock deserves the attention accorded it here on the grounds that it comprises much of the everyday vocabulary of the English language. On semantic grounds alone, it is probably more important that the reader should understand the ultimate origins of such words as *arm* (of the body), *left* (hand, etc.), and *hen* than that he should recognize the constituents which make up such borrowed words as *attention* and *adventure*. The careful attention given the native vocabulary is paralleled in the painstaking care given to borrowings from Norse and Low German sources.

Wherever the semantic history of the entries can be illuminated by the procedure, etymologies are carried

back to the Indo-European base and correlated through this with other words, both native and of Classical or Romance origin, which are also ultimately derived from it. A typical example of this treatment is that of *light*:

light (lit), *n.* [ME. *liht*; AS. *leoht*; akin to G. *licht*; IE. base **leug-*, to shine, bright, seen also in L. *lucere*, to shine, *lux*, *lumen*, light (cf. LUCID, LUMINOUS), *luna*, moon (cf. LUNAR), etc.], 1. a) that which makes it

The first section of this etymology provides typical Middle English and Anglo-Saxon forms representing the history of the word *within* English itself. Next comes a cognate form from another Germanic language (in this case, German) introduced by the words *akin to*. The final section of the etymology gives the reconstructed Indo-European base (its hypothetical character is indicated by *), its generalized meaning or meanings, a selected group of Latin words also derived from this base, and cross references to borrowings or derivatives of these found in English. The intention behind this elaborate apparatus is not to present a mere list of historically related forms; it is to elucidate the semantic background of the entry, link it with other words of similar descent and meaning, and prepare the way for the more recent semantic history of the entry represented in the definitions. In short, the editors have thought of the etymologies as a vital part of definition and as a guide to the correct focusing of the definitions proper. Particularly in the longer and more complex words, they have aimed at an organization which flows smoothly from the etymology to the last sense recorded.

Because of the ample space devoted to etymology, the reader will not need to master a long list of abbreviations. He need merely understand the abbreviations for the various languages (see the list of abbreviations, p. xxxv) and remember that the symbol < means "(derived) from," that * indicates a hypothetical, reconstructed base, that "prob." indicates strong scholarly opinion or editorial conviction in favor of what follows, and that "?" indicates uncertainty or unverifiable hypothesis. Where two hypotheses regarding the origins of a word are in conflict, both are usually briefly mentioned. Where the ultimate etymology is uncertain, the most promising direction of approach is given.

For words compounded in Modern English from a base word and an affix or affixes, the etymology contains only these elements. Detailed etymologies can be found with the main entries for such bases and affixes.

fix-a-tive (fik'sə-tiv), *adj.* [*fix* + *-ative*], that can or tends to make permanent, prevent fading, etc. *n.* a sub-

Where the definition makes the compounding elements of such a word perfectly obvious, no etymology is required.

V. The definitions

A Arrangement and styling of senses

Semantic order from the etymology through the most recent sense of a word has been the guiding principle determining the order of senses within any given entry (cf. *common*). In this way, it has been possible to give a logical, progressive flow that permits the reader to see quickly and clearly the development of a word and the relationship of its senses to one another. In longer entries, where the treatment would not seriously disturb the semantic flow, technical senses have been entered, with suitable field labels properly alphabetized, at the end of the entry, to facilitate their being found quickly. For the same reason, archaic, obsolete, colloquial, slang, and dialectal senses are entered just before the technical senses, unless they are firmly anchored on one of the general meanings.

foul (foul), *adj.* [ME.; AS. *ful*; akin to G. *faul*, rotten, putrid, lazy; IE. base **pū-*, **pu-*, etc., to stink (? < exclamation of disgust), seen also in *pus*, *putrid*], 1. so offensive to the senses as to cause disgust; stinking; loathsome: as, a *foul* odor. 2. extremely dirty; dis-

treacherous; dishonest. 11. [Archaic], ugly. 12. [Colloq.], unpleasant, disagreeable, etc. 13. in *baseball*, relating to or having to do with foul balls or foul lines. 14. in *printing*, full of errors or changes: as, *foul* copy. *n.* anything foul; specifically, a) a collision

Obsolete senses that bridge the gap between the etymology and the definitions proper often occur first. Such senses are generally preceded by "originally" or "formerly" rather than by a formal usage label.

Guide to the Dictionary

Where a primary sense of a word can easily be subdivided into several closely related meanings, this has been done; such meanings are indicated by italicized letters after the pertinent numbered sense.

ell (el), *n.* 1. the letter L. 2. something shaped like an L; specifically, *a*) an extension or wing at right angles to the main structure. *b*) an L-shaped joint of piping or tubing.

Where a basic word has very many senses that can conveniently be arranged under a few major headings, such a division has been made (cf. **hand**, **go**). The sections, indicated by Roman numerals, are then further subdivided into numbered (and, where necessary, lettered) senses (cf. **go**).

Synonyms, in addition to being entered separately in discriminative synonymies (see p. xiv), are also incorporated in the definition treatment at those points where their relevance is most easily apparent. Antonyms are frequently indicated following definitions by *opposed to* . . . or *distinguished from* . . .

grand opera, *opera*, generally on a serious theme, in which the whole text is set to music; *distinguished from* operella, comic opera.

If a word is capitalized in all its meanings, the entry word itself is printed with a capital letter.

Eur-asian (yoo-rā'zhən, yoo-rā'shən), *adj.* 1. of Eurasia. 2. of mixed European and Asiatic descent. *n.* 1. a person of mixed European and Asiatic descent. 2. a member of a people of both Europe and Asia.

If it is capitalized in most of its meanings, a lower-case letter in brackets occurs immediately after the numeral or part of speech of any sense not capitalized.

Her-cu-les (hūr'kyoo-lēz'), *n.* [L.; Gr. *Hēraklēs* < *Hēra*, *Hera* + *kleos*, glory], 1. in *Greek & Roman mythology*, the son of Zeus and Alcmene, renowned for feats of strength, particularly the twelve labors imposed on him by Hera. 2. [h-], any very large, strong man. 3. a northern constellation: see **constellation**, chart.

Where it is capitalized in only one or two of the senses, the word is entered with a lower-case letter, and a capital letter in brackets occurs after the numeral or part of speech of each pertinent sense. In some instances these designations are qualified by the self-explanatory "often," "sometimes," or "usually."

or-i-en-tal (ōr'i-en't'l, ō'ri-en't'l), *adj.* [ME. *orientale*], 1. eastern. 2. [O-], of the Orient, its people, or their culture; Eastern. *n.* [usually O-], a native of the Orient or a member of a people native to that region. Opposed to *occidental*, *Occidental*. Abbreviated **Or**.

The designation *pl.* (or *often pl.*, *usually pl.*, etc.) before a definition means that the definition applies to the plural form of the entry word.

gill (gil), *n.* [ME. *gile*, *gille*; prob. < Anglo-N.; cf. ON. *gjǫlnar*, jaws, gills, older Dan. (*fiske*) *gæln*, Sw. *gäl*; IE. base **ghelunā-*, jaw, seen also in Gr. *chelynē*, lip, jaw], 1. the organ for breathing of most animals that live in water, as fish, lobsters, etc. 2. *often pl. a*) a red flap of flesh hanging below the beak of a fowl; wattle. *b*) the flesh under and about the chin and lower jaw of a person. 3. *pl.* the thin, leaflike, radiating plates on the undersurface of a mushroom.

The designation *used in pl.* (or *often in pl.*, *usually in pl.*, etc.) means that although the definition applies to the given singular form of the entry word, the word is used (or often used, usually used, etc.) in the plural.

hand-cuff (hand'kuf'), *n.* *usually in pl.* either of a pair of connected rings that can be locked about the wrists of a prisoner to keep him from using his hands, or to fasten him to a policeman.

The designations *sing.*, *in sing.*, etc. are similarly used. A colon after a definition generally means that the material that follows is not part of the definition proper but is additional information enlarging upon the factual content, examining the connotations, or indicating the usage of the term in the preceding sense.

fig-ur-a-tive (fig'yoor-ə-tiv), *adj.* [LL. *figurativus* < L.

.....
another that may be thought of as analogous with it; metaphorical: to call a fierce fighting man a tiger is a figurative use of *tiger*: abbreviated **fig.** 4. containing or using figures of speech.

If instead of a colon there is a period followed by a capitalized word, the additional information applies to all the preceding senses (in that part of speech).

hy-dro- (hī'drō, hī'dra), [< Gr. *hydōr*, water], a combining form meaning: 1. water, as in *hydrostatic*, *hydrometer*. 2. in *chemistry*, the presence of hydrogen, as in *hydrocyanic*. Also, before a vowel, **hydr-**.

Examples of the use of a term or sense have been liberally supplied, also set off from the definition proper by a colon and preceded, generally, by the word *as*.

gar-nish (gär'nish), *v.t.* [ME. *garnischen* < base of OFr. *garnir*, *guarnir*, *warnir*, to protect; prob. < MHG. *warnen*, to equip oneself, prepare, protect], 1. to decorate; adorn; embellish; trim. 2. to decorate (food) with something that adds color or flavor: *as*, a steak is often *garnished* with parsley. 3. in *law*, to bring

The part-of-speech labels are entered in bold-face italics after the pronunciation, if any. All the senses following such a label (until the next part of speech or the end of the entry) are for that part of speech. In some instances where it was feasible to combine several parts of speech (e.g., *n.* & *adj.* or *v.t.* & *v.i.*), this was done, so that the senses that follow apply to each part of speech.

Erae (ürs), *adj.* & *n.* [Scot. var. of *Irish*], 1. formerly, Scottish Gaelic. 2. in *linguistics*, Irish Gaelic.

In definitions of transitive verbs the specific or generalized objects of the verb, where given, are enclosed in parentheses since such objects are not strictly part of the definition.

ex-hale (eks-hāl', ig-zāl'), *v.i.* [EXHALED (-hāld', -zāld'), EXHALING], [Fr. *exhaler*; L. *exhalare*; *ex-*, out + *halare*, to breathe], 1. to breathe forth air; expire. 2. to be given off or rise into the air as vapor; evaporate. *v.i.* 1. to breathe forth (air or smoke). 2. to give off (vapor, fumes, etc.).

Where certain verbs are, in usage, invariably or usually followed by a specific preposition or prepositions, this has been indicated in either of the following two ways: the preposition has been worked into the definition, italicized and enclosed in parentheses, or a note has been added after the definition indicating that the preposition is so used.

earth (ürth), *n.* [ME. *erthe*; AS. *eorthe*; akin to G. *erde*; IE. base **er-t*, as also in Mfr. *ert*, ground], 1. the

etc. *v.t.* 1. to embed in or cover (*up*) with soil for protection, as seeds, plants, or roots. 2. to chase (an

gloat (glōt), *v.i.* [prob. via dial. < AS. **glotian* or cognate ON. *glotta*, to grin scornfully; akin to G. *glotzen*, Eng. dial. *glout*, to stare; IE. base **ghlud-* < **ghel-*, etc., to shine, as in *glass*, *glow*], to gaze or meditate with malicious pleasure, exultation, or avarice (often with *over*).

In general the aim of the editors has been, wherever possible, to define in such terms that the definition could conceivably replace in context the word being defined.

It is theoretically possible to use almost any word as whatever part of speech is required, although most such uses would be only for the nonce. Thus any transitive verb can be used absolutely as an intransitive verb, with the object understood (e.g., he *defined* the word; you must *define* carefully). Such absolute uses are entered only when they are relatively common. In the same way nouns used as adjectives (e.g., a *cloth* cover; a *family* affair) are indicated only for the most frequent uses.

B. Usage labels

There is no universally accepted system of labeling the various levels of usage in English. It is generally understood that usage varies according to locality, degree of urbanization, level of education, occupation, etc., but any attempt to assign a specific label to every

Guide to the Dictionary

sense of every term entered would be highly complicated by the overlapping of categories and by the fact that most of the basic vocabulary of the language (as *run*, *house*, *man*, *pretty*) occurs at all levels of usage.

The best current practice recognizes that usage labels must be descriptive rather than authoritarian or condemnatory. In this light, the following labels could adequately describe the three basic levels: *formal* (for technical, scientific, and academic writing and for certain restricted types of platform address), *informal* (for the usual writing and speaking of most educated people, as most novels and plays, newspaper and magazine articles, and ordinary conversation), and *vulgate* (for slang and certain restricted shoptalk). It cannot be repeated too often, however, that such classification has no direct connection with *good* (or *standard*) usage and *bad* (or *substandard*) usage. What is good usage in a literary essay may not be the best usage in ordering groceries; what is good usage in a letter to a friend may not be the best usage in a scientific dissertation. Some slang often falls properly into *informal usage*, and some magazine articles often lean heavily upon *formal usage*.

After much deliberation, the editors of this dictionary decided that the familiarity of the more conventional usage designations makes their use advisable *if the meaning of these labels is clearly understood in advance*. The labels, and what they are intended to indicate, are given below. If the label, which is placed in brackets (and often abbreviated), occurs directly after a part-of-speech label, it applies to all the senses of that part of speech; if it occurs after a numeral, it applies only to the sense so numbered.

Colloquial: The term or sense is generally characteristic of conversation and informal writing. It is not to be regarded as substandard or illiterate.

Slang: The term or sense is not generally regarded as standard usage but is used, even by the best speakers, in occasional, highly informal contexts. Slang terms are generally short-lived but may survive and become part of the colloquial or informal vocabulary.

Obsolete: The term or sense is no longer used but occurs in earlier writings.

Archaic: The term or sense is rarely used today except in certain restricted contexts, as in church ritual, but occurs in earlier writings.

Poetic: The term or sense is used only in poetry or, occasionally, in prose where a poetic quality is desired.

Dialect: The term or sense is used regularly only in certain geographical areas.

British: The term or sense is characteristic of British, rather than American, English. When preceded by

especially, it indicates an additional, though less frequent, American usage. Since this dictionary was prepared from the American point of view, terms and senses originating in or restricted to the United States are not so indicated. *British dialect* indicates that the term or sense is used regularly only in certain geographical areas of Great Britain, usually in northern England.

In addition to the above usage labels, supplementary information is often given after the definition, indicating whether the term or sense is generally regarded as obscene, vulgar, profane, or derogatory, used with ironic, familiar, or hyperbolic connotations, etc.

VI. The Synonymies

Synonyms are words that have nearly identical or closely related meanings in one or more of their senses. They are sometimes, but by no means always, interchangeable with one another in these senses. More often, the subtle differences that distinguish them are of greater importance to precision in language than their apparent equivalence. In this dictionary, such synonyms, or related words, are discriminated in a short paragraph entered after that word which may generally be considered the basic or most comprehensive one of the group. Distinctions in the meanings of the words are briefly stated and typical examples of usage given wherever these will be helpful.

SYN.—**happy** generally suggests a feeling of great pleasure, contentment, etc. (a *happy* marriage); **glad** implies more strongly an exultant feeling of joy (your letter made her so *glad*), but both **glad** and **happy** are commonly used in merely polite formulas expressing gratification (I'm *glad*, or *happy*, that you could come); **cheerful** implies a steady display of bright spirits, optimism, etc. (he's always *cheerful* in the morning); **joyful** and **joyous** both imply great elation and rejoicing, the former generally because of a particular event, and the latter as a matter of usual temperament (the *joyful* throngs, a *joyous* family). See also **lucky**.—**ANT.** *sad*.

Each of the words discriminated in the example above is cross-referred to the entry for **happy**, where this synonymy appears. Thus, following the entry for **glad**, there is a note "**SYN.** see **happy**."

Whenever the basic word of a list is treated in another of its senses elsewhere, a cross reference is given to indicate this. Thus, "See also **lucky**" in the paragraph above means that the word **happy**, in its sense of "lucky" or "fortunate" is treated in the synonymy for **lucky**.

In many cases antonyms are given at the end of the synonymy and these, in turn, may receive discriminative treatment themselves. Thus, the antonym **sad** heads a synonymy that includes **melancholy**, **dejected**, **depressed**, and **doleful**, all antonymous to **happy**.

ABBREVIATIONS AND SYMBOLS USED IN THIS DICTIONARY

abbrev., abbreviated; abbreviation
abl., ablative
Abyss., Abyssinian
acc., accusative
act., active
A.D., anno Domini
adj., adjective
adv., adverb
Afr., African
Alb., Albanian
Am., American
a.m., A.M., ante meridiem
Am. Fr., American French
Am. Ind., American Indian
Am. Sp., American Spanish
Anglo-Fr., Anglo-French
Anglo-Ind., Anglo-Indian
Anglo-Ir., Anglo-Irish
Anglo-L., Anglo-Latin
Anglo-N., Anglo-Norse
Anglo-Norm., Anglo-Norman
Ar., Arabic
Aram., Aramaic
Arm., Armaric
art., article
AS., Anglo-Saxon
Assyr., Assyrian
at. no., atomic number
at. wt., atomic weight
Bab., Babylonian
B.C., before Christ
Beng., Bengali
Bohem., Bohemian
Braz., Brazilian
Bret., Breton
Brit., British
Bulg., Bulgarian
c., circa (about, approximately); century
Canad., Canadian
Canad. Fr., Canadian French
Catal., Catalanian
caus., causative
Celt., Celtic
cf., *confer* (compare)
Ch., Chaldean; Chaldee
Chin., Chinese
Chron., Chronicles
coed., coeducational
Col., Colossians
Colloq., Colloquial
comb., combination
comp., compound
compar., comparative
contr., contracted; contraction
Cor., Corinthians
Corn., Cornish
Cym., Cymric
D., Dutch
Dan., Danish; Daniel
dat., dative
def. art., definite article
deriv., derivative
Deut., Deuteronomy
Dial., dial., dialect; dialectal; dialectic
dim., diminutive
Early Mod. D., Early Modern Dutch
Early Mod. Eng., Early Modern English
Eccles., Ecclesiastes
E.Fris., East Frisian
e.g., *exempli gratia* (for example)
Egypt., Egyptian
E.Ind., East Indian
Eng., English
envir., environment
Eph., Ephesians
equiv., equivalent
Esk., Eskimo
esp., especially
est., estimated
Esth., Esther
etc., et cetera (and others, and so forth)
Eth., Ethiopic
etym., etymology
Ex., Exodus
Ez., Ezra

Ezek., Ezekiel
fem., feminine
ff., following
fig., figurative; figuratively
Finn., Finnish
Fl., Flemish
fl., flourished
Fr., French
Frank., Frankish; Franconian
freq., frequentative
Fris., Frisian
ft., feet
fut., future
G., German
Gael., Gaelic
Gal., Galatians
Gaul., Gaulish
Gen., Genesis
genit., genitive
Gmc., Germanic
Goth., Gothic
Gr., Greek
grad., graduate
Hab., Habakkuk
Hag., Haggai
Haw., Hawaiian
Heb., Hebrew; Hebrews
Hind., Hindi; Hindu; Hindustani
Hos., Hosea
Hung., Hungarian
Ice., Icelandic
Idg., Indo-Germanic
IE., Indo-European
i.e., *id est* (that is)
in., inches
Ind., Indian
indef. art., indefinite article
indic., indicative
inf., infinitive
intens., intensified; intensifier; intensive
interj., interjection
IPA, International Phonetic Alphabet
Ir., Irish
Iran., Iranian
irreg., irregular
Isa., Isaiah
It., Italian
Ja., James
Japan., Japanese
Jav., Javanese
Jer., Jeremiah
Josh., Joshua
Judg., Judges
Kor., Korean
L., Latin
Lam., Lamentations
Late Anglo-Fr., Late Anglo-French
Late Gr., Late Greek
Late ME., Late Middle English
Lev., Leviticus
LG., Low German
LGr., Low Greek
lit., literally
Lith., Lithuanian
LL., Late Latin; Low Latin
LWS., Late West Saxon
Mal., Malachi
masc., masculine
Matt., Matthew
MD., Middle Dutch
ME., Middle English
Med., Medieval
Mex., Mexican
MFl., Middle Flemish
MFr., Middle French
MGr., Medieval Greek; Middle Greek
MHG., Middle High German
mi., mile; miles
Mic., Micah
MIr., Middle Irish
MIt., Middle Italian
ML., Medieval Latin
MLG., Middle Low German
MnE., Modern English
Mod., **mod.**, modern

Abbreviations and Symbols

Mod. Gr. , Modern Greek	Prov. , Proverbs
Mod. L. , Modern Latin	prov. , provincial
Mod. Pr. , Modern Provençal	Prov. Eng. , Provincial English
Mongol. , Mongolian	Prov. Scot. , Provincial Scottish
MScand. , Middle Scandinavian	Ps. , Psalms
MScot. , Middle Scottish	p.t. , past tense
N. , Norse	redupl. , reduplication; reduplicative
n. , noun	refl. , reflexive
Nah. , Nahum	resp. , respelling
Neh. , Nehemiah	Rev. , Revelation
neut. , neuter	Rom. , Romans
nom. , nominative	Russ. , Russian
Norm. , Norman	S.Afr.D. , South African Dutch
Norw. , Norwegian	Sam. , Samaritan; Samuel
n.pl. , noun plural	Sans. , Sanskrit
Numb. , Numbers	Scand. , Scandinavian
OAr. , Old Arabic	Scot. , Scottish
Ob. , Obadiah	Sem. , Semitic
Obs. , obs. , obsolete	Serb. , Serbian
OCelt. , Old Celtic	sing. , singular
OCym. , Old Cymric	Singh. , Singhalese
OD. , Old Dutch	Slav. , Slavic; Slavonic
ODan. , Old Danish	S. of Sol. , Song of Solomon
OFr. , Old French	Sp. , Spanish
OFris. , Old Frisian	sp. , spelling
OHG. , Old High German	sq. , square
OIr. , Old Irish	subj. , subjunctive
OIt. , Old Italian	superl. , superlative
OL. , Old Latin	Sw. , Swed. , Swedish
OLG. , Old Low German	Syr. , Syrian; Syriac
ON. , Old Norse	t. , tense
ONorm.Fr. , Old Norman French	Tag. , Tagalog
OPer. , Old Persian	Tart. , Tartar
orig. , origin; original; originally	Thess. , Thessalonians
OS. , Old Saxon	Tibet. , Tibetan
OSlav. , Old Slavic	Tim. , Timothy
OSerb. , Old Serbian	Tit. , Titus
OSp. , Old Spanish	transl. , translation
OW. , Old Welsh	Turk. , Turkish
p. , page	ult. , ultimate; ultimately
pass. , passive	unc. , uncertain
Per. , Persic; Persian	undergrad. , undergraduate
perf. , perfect	v. , verb
pers. , person; personal	var. , variant
Peruv. , Peruvian	v.aux. , verb auxiliary
Phil. , Philippians; Philemon	v.i. , verb intransitive
Phoen. , Phoenician	v.imp. , verb impersonal
phr. , phrase	v.t. , verb transitive
Pid.Eng. , Pidgin English	W. , Welsh
pl. , plural	W.Afr. , West African
p.m. , P.M. , post meridiem	W.Fl. , West Flemish
Pol. , Polish	W.Gmc. , West Germanic
pop. , population	W.Ind. , West Indian
Port. , Portuguese	W.S. , West Saxon
poss. , possessive	Yid. , Yiddish
pp. , pages; past participle	Zech. , Zechariah
ppr. , present participle	Zeph. , Zephaniah
Pr. , Provençal	
Pre-AS. , Pre-Anglo-Saxon	
prec. , preceding	
prep. , preposition	
pres. , present	
prin. pts. , principal parts	
prob. , probable; probably	
prof. , professional	
pronun. , pronunciation	
	* hypothetical
	† foreign word or phrase
	< derived from
	? perhaps; possibly; uncertain
	+ plus
	& and

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A

A, a (ā), *n.* [*pl.* A's, a's, As, as (āz)], 1. the first letter of the English alphabet: from the Greek *alpha*, a borrowing from the Phoenician: see **alphabet**, table. 2. a sound of A or a: in English, the low front vowel, IPA [æ], of *hat*; the low central or low back vowel, IPA [a] or [ɑ], of *father*, *barn*; and the mid front vowel, IPA [e], of *bake*. 3. a type or impression for A or a. 4. a symbol for the first in a sequence or group. *adj.* 1. of A or a. 2. first in a sequence or group; hence, 3. first-class; A 1: see **A one**.

A (ā), *n.* 1. an object shaped like A. 2. in *chemistry*, the symbol for argon. 3. in *education*, a grade first in quality: as, an A in history. 4. in *music*, a) the sixth tone or note in the scale of C major, or the first in the scale of A minor. b) a key, string, etc. producing this tone. c) the scale having A as the keynote. *adj.* shaped like A.

a (ə; stressed, ā), *adj.*, *indefinite article* [form of *an* before consonants; see **AN**, *adj.*], 1. one; one sort of. 2. each; any one. A connotes a thing not previously noted or recognized, in contrast with *the*, which connotes a thing previously noted or recognized. 3. [orig. a prep. < AS. *an*, *on*, in, on, at], to each; in each; for each; per: as, once a day. Before words beginning with a consonant sound or a sounded *h*, *a* is used (a child, a home, a uniform, a eunuch); before words beginning with a vowel sound or a silent *h*, *an* is used (*an eye*, *an ultimatum*, *an honor*).

a (ə), *prep.* [AS. *of*, from, of], of: as, Anthony a Wood.

a (ə) *pron.* [Dial.], 1. he. 2. she. 3. it. 4. they. 5. I.

a (ə) *prep.*, *a-* (ə), *prefix* [weakened form of AS. *an*, *on*, in, on, at], 1. in, into, on, at, to, as in *aboard*, *ashore*, *abed*. 2. in the act or state of, as in *asleep*, *a-crying*, *a-wishing*. The prefix, hyphenated or unhyphenated, is now in general use, but the preposition is found only occasionally, as in *a fishing*.

a, a' (ə, ä), *adj.* [Scot.], all.

a- (ə), a prefix of various origins and meanings: 1. [AS. *ar-*, out of, up], *up*, *out*, as in *awake*, *arise*: now generally used as an intensive. 2. [AS. *of-*, *af-*, off, of], *off*, *out*, as in *akin*. 3. (ā, a, ə), [Gr. *a-*, *an-*, not], *not*, *without*, as in *amentia*, *agnostic*: before vowels *an-* is used, as in *anesthetic*. 4. [L.], *ab-*: used before *m*, *p*, *v*, as in *aversion*. 5. [L.], *ad-*: used before *sc*, *sp*, *st*, as in *ascription*.

a, in *algebra*, a symbol representing a known quantity or a constant.

A., 1. Absolute. 2. Academy. 3. acre. 4. America. 5. American. 6. angstrom unit. 7. April. 8. Artillery. **A.**, angstrom unit.

A., a., [L.], 1. *anno*, in the year. 2. *ante*, before.

a., 1. about. 2. acre; acres. 3. active. 4. adjective. 5. alto. 6. ampere. 7. anonymous. 8. answer. 9. are (in the metric system).

A.A., 1. antiaircraft. 2. antiaircraft artillery.

AAA, Agricultural Adjustment Administration.

A.A.A., 1. Amateur Athletic Association. 2. American Automobile Association. 3. Automobile Association of America.

A.A.A.A., Associated Actors and Artists of America: an A.F. of L. labor union.

A.A.A.L., American Academy of Arts and Letters.

A.A.A.S., 1. American Academy of Arts and Sciences. 2. American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Aa-chen (ä'kən, ä'khən), *n.* a city in the Rhine Province, Germany: pop., 163,000: French name, *Aix-la-Chapelle*.

A.A.E., American Association of Engineers.

A.A.E.E., American Association of Electrical Engineers.

A.A.F., Army Air Forces.

A.A.G., Assistant Adjutant General.

Aal-borg (äl'bôr), *n.* a seaport in northern Denmark: pop., 55,000.

Aalst (älst), *n.* Alost: the Flemish name.

A.A.P.S.S., American Academy of Political and Social Sciences.

Aar (är), *n.* a river in Switzerland, flowing into the Rhine: length, 181 mi.

aard-vark (ärd'värk'), *n.* [D., earth pig, earth farrow; see **FARROW**], a burrowing African mammal that feeds on ants and termites.

aard-wolf (ärd'woolf'), *n.* [*pl.* AARDWOLVES (-woolvz')], [D., earth wolf], a South African flesh-eating mammal somewhat like the hyena and the civet.

Aar-hus (är'hōös), *n.* a seaport in eastern Jutland, Denmark: pop., 100,000.

Aaron (är'ən, ar'ən), [LL.; Gr. *Aarōn*; Heb. *aharōn*, lit., the exalted one], a masculine name. *n.* in the Bible, the older brother of Moses and first high priest of the Hebrews: Ex. 4.

Aa-ron-ic (är-on'ik), *adj.* 1. of or characteristic of Aaron. 2. Levitical.

Aaron's rod, 1. in the Bible, the rod used by Aaron to perform miracles: Numb. 17:8. 2. any of several plants with flowers on a long stem, as the goldenrod and the common mullein: also **Aaron's-rod**. 3. in *architecture*, a long, straight molding with scroll and leaf ornament.

A.A.S., 1. *Academiae Americanae Socius*, [Mod. L.], Fellow of the American Academy. 2. American Academy of Sciences.

A.A.U., Amateur Athletic Union.

A.A.U.P., American Association of University Professors.

A.A.U.W., American Association of University Women. **Ab** (äb, ab; Heb. *äv*), *n.* [Heb.], the eleventh month of the Jewish year: see **Jewish calendar**.

ab- (äb, əb), [L.], a prefix meaning *away*, *from*, *from off*, *down*, as in *abdicate*: shortened to *a-* before *m*, *p*, *v*; often *abs-* before *c* or *t*, as in *abstract*.

Ab, in *chemistry*, alabamine.

ab., about.

A.B., *Artium Baccalaureus*, [Mod. L.], Bachelor of Arts. **A.B., a.b.**, able-bodied (seaman).

a-ba (ä'bä), *n.* [Ar.], 1. a woven fabric of camel's or goat's hair. 2. a loose, sleeveless robe worn by Arabs.

a-ba-cú (ä'bä-kä'), *n.* [Tag.], 1. a kind of hemp. 2. the Philippine plant that produces it.

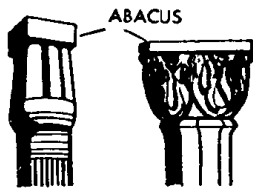
a-back (ə-bak'), *adv.* & *adj.* [AS. *on bæc*, at or on the back], 1. [Archaic], backward; back. 2. in *navigation*,

fat, äpe, báre, cär; ten, even, hère, ovër; is, bite; lot, gō, hōrn, tōōl, look; oil, out; up, üse, fūr; get; joy; yet; chin; she; thin, shen; zh, leisure; ŋ, ring; ə for a in ago, e in agent, i in sanity, o in comply, u in focus; ' as in able (ä'b'l); Fr. bäl; è, Fr. coeur; ö, Fr. feu; Fr. mon; ô, Fr. coq; ü, Fr. duc; H, G. ich; kh, G. doch. See pp. x-xii. † foreign; * hypothetical; < derived from.

a) backward against the mast, as the sails of a square-rigged vessel in a wind from straight ahead. b) in an unmanageable condition because of a sudden shift of wind striking the sails from the side opposite that to which they are trimmed.

taken aback, surprised; startled and confused.

ab-a-cus (ab'ə-kəs), *n.* [*pl.* ABACUSES (-iz), ABACI (-si')]. [*L.* < *Gr.* *abax*, counting board]. 1. a frame with beads or balls sliding back and forth on wires or in slots, for doing or teaching arithmetic. 2. in *architecture*, a slab atop the capital of a column.



ABACUS

A-bad-don (ə-bad'ən), *n.* [*Heb.*, destruction, abyss, in the Bible]. 1. the place of lost souls; hell; bottomless pit. 2. the angel of this place, Apollyon: Rev. 9:11.

a-baft' (ə-baft'), *adv.* [*AS.* *on-be-aftan*; *on*, on + *be*, by + *aftan*, behind], on or toward the stern or rear of a ship; astern; *ait.* *prep.* in *nautical usage*, behind; back of.

ab-a-lo-ne (ab'ə-lō'ni), *n.* [*Sp.*], a sea mollusk with an oval, somewhat spiral shell perforated along the rim and lined with mother-of-pearl.

ab-am-pere (ab-am'pēr), *n.* [absolute + *ampere*], a C.G.S. electromagnetic unit, 10 amperes.

a-ban-don (ə-ban'dən), *v.t.* [*ME.* *abandonen*; *OFr.* *abandoner* < *mettre a bandon*, to put under (someone else's) ban, relinquish; see *BAN*], 1. to give up (something) completely. 2. to leave; forsake; desert. 3. to yield (oneself) completely, as to a feeling, desire, etc. *n.* 1. surrender to one's feelings or impulses; letting oneself go. 2. unrestrained freedom of activity.

SYN.—*abandon* implies leaving a person or thing, either as a final, necessary measure (to *abandon* a drought area) or as a complete rejection of one's responsibilities, etc. (she *abandoned* her child); *desert* emphasizes leaving in willful violation of one's obligation, oath, etc. (the soldier *deserted* his post); *forsake* stresses renouncing a person or thing formerly dear to one (to *forsake* one's friends, ideals, etc.); *quit*, basically implying to leave or give up, is now commonly used to mean stop (she *quit* her job). See also *relinquish*. —*ANT.* *reclaim*.

a-ban-doned (ə-ban'dənd), *adj.* [*pp.* of *abandon*], 1. given up; forsaken; deserted. 2. given up to wickedness; immoral and shameless. 3. unrestrained.

a-ban-don-ment (ə-ban'dən-mənt), *n.* 1. an abandoning. 2. the fact or condition of being abandoned.

ā bas (ā' bā'), [*Fr.*], down with: an expression of disapproval; opposed to *vive*.

a-base (ə-bās'), *v.t.* [*ABASED* (-bāst'), *ABASING*], [*OFr.* *abaissier*; *LL.* *abassare*, to lower, bring down; see *A- & BASE* (low)], to humble; humiliate: as, he *abased* himself before the king. —*SYN.* see *degrade*.

a-base-ment (ə-bās'mənt), *n.* the fact or state of being abased; humiliation; degradation.

a-bash (ə-bash'), *v.t.* [*ME.* *abassen*; *OFr.* *esbahir*, to astonish < *L.* *ex* + *bah* (interj. of surprise)], to make ashamed and uneasy; make self-conscious and embarrassed; disconcert. —*SYN.* see *embarrass*.

a-bash-ment (ə-bash'mənt), *n.* the fact or state of being abashed; feeling of shame and uneasiness.

a-bat-a-ble (ə-bāt'ə-b'l), *adj.* that can be abated.

a-bate (ə-bāt'), *v.t.* [*ABATED* (-id), *ABATING*], [*ME.* *abaten*; *OFr.* *abatre*, to beat down; see *A- & BATTER* (to beat)], 1. to make less in amount, degree, force, etc. 2. to deduct. 3. in *law*, to put a stop to; end; quash. *v.i.* to become less in amount, degree, force, etc.; diminish; subside. —*SYN.* see *wane*.

a-bate-ment (ə-bāt'mənt), *n.* [*ME.*; *OFr.*; see *ABATE*], 1. lessening; reduction. 2. in *law*, the act of putting an end to; quashing. 3. the amount abated.

a-bat-er (ə-bāt'ēr), *n.* a person or thing that abates.

ab-a-tis (ab'ə-tis), *n. sing. & pl.* [*Fr.* < *abatre*, to beat down; see *ABATE*], 1. a barricade of felled trees with branches facing the enemy. 2. a barbed-wire entanglement for defense. Also spelled *abattis*.

a-ba-tor (ə-bā'tēr), *n.* in *law*, a person who abates.

A battery, an electric battery of low voltage used to light the filament of certain radio tubes, etc.

ab-at-toir (ab'ə-twār', ab'ə-twār'), *n.* [*Fr.* < *abatre*, to beat down, fell; see *ABATE*], a slaughterhouse.

ab-ax-i-al (ab-ak'si-əl), *adj.* [*ab-*, from + *axial*], away from the axis: as, an *abaxial* ray of light.

ab-ba (ab'ə), *n.* [*Aram.*], 1. father: title of a bishop in the Syriac, Coptic, and Ethiopic Christian churches. 2. [A-], in the *New Testament*, God: Mark 14:36.

ab-ba-cy (ab'ə-si), *n.* [*pl.* *ABBACIES* (-siz)], [*LL.* *abbatia* < *L.* *abbas*; see *ABBOT*], an abbot's position, jurisdiction, or term of office.

Ab-bas-sid (ə-bas'id, ab'ə-sid), *n. & adj.* Abbasside.

Ab-bas-side (ə-bas'id, ab'ə-sid'), *n.* any caliph of the

dynasty that ruled at Bagdad (750-1258 A.D.) and claimed descent from Mohammed's uncle, Abbas. *adj.* of this dynasty.

ab-ba-tial (ə-bā'shāl), *adj.* [*Fr.*; *LL.* *abbatialis* < *abbatia*; see *ABBACY*], of an abbot or abbey.

ab-bé (ab'ā; *Fr.* ā'bā'), *n.* [*Fr.*; *L.* *abbas*; see *ABBOT*], in France, a title of respect given to a priest, minister, etc.

ab-bess (ab'is, ab'es), *n.* [*ME.* & *OFr.* *abbesse* < *LL.* *abbatissa*, fem. of *abbas*; see *ABBOT*], a woman who is the superior, or head, of a nunnery: abbreviated *abb.*

ab-bey (ab'i), *n.* [*pl.* *ABBEYS* (-iz)], [*ME.* *abbeye*; *OFr.* *abaye* < *L.* *abbatia*; see *ABBACY*], 1. a monastery headed by an abbot or a nunnery headed by an abbess. 2. the monks or nuns in such a place, collectively. 3. a church or building belonging to an abbey. Abbreviated *abb.* —*SYN.* see *cloister*.

Ab-bey, Edwin Austin (ab'i), 1852-1911; American painter.

ab-bot (ab'ət), *n.* [*AS.* *abbod*; *LL.* & *Gr.* *abbas*; *Aram.* *abba*, father], a man who is head of a monastery; father superior: abbreviated *abb.*

Ab-bot, Charles Greeley (grē'li ab'ət), 1872-; American astrophysicist.

Ab-bots-ford (ab'əts-fərd), *n.* the estate (1812-1832) of Sir Walter Scott, on the Tweed River in Scotland.

Ab-bott, Jacob (ab'ət), 1803-1879; American clergyman and author.

Abbott, Lyman, 1835-1922; son of Jacob; American clergyman, editor, and author.

abbr., abbrev., 1. abbreviated. 2. abbreviation.

ab-bre-vi-ate (ə-brē'vi-āt'), *v.t.* [*ABBREVIATED* (-id), *ABBREVIATING*], [*< L.* *abbreviatus*, pp. of *abbreviare* < *ad-*, to + *breviare* < *brevis*, short], 1. to make shorter. 2. to shorten (a word or phrase) by leaving out or substituting letters. —*SYN.* see *shorten*.

ab-bre-vi-a-tion (ə-brē'vi-ā'shən), *n.* [*Fr.*; *L.* *abbreviatio*; see *ABBREVIATE*], 1. a making shorter. 2. the fact or state of being made shorter. 3. a shortened form of a word or phrase, as *N.Y.* for *New York*, *Mr.* for *Mister*, *lb.* for *pound*, *CIO* for *Congress of Industrial Organizations*, etc. Abbreviated *abbr.*, *abbrev.*

ab-bre-vi-a-tor (ə-brē'vi-ā'tēr), *n.* one who abbreviates.

A B C (ā' bē' sē'), *n.* [*pl.* *A B C's* (-sēz')], 1. usually *pl.* the alphabet; hence, 2. the basic or simplest elements (of a subject); rudiments.

ABC, American Broadcasting Company.

ab-cou-lomb (ab-kōo-lom'), *n.* [absolute + *coulomb*], a C.G.S. electromagnetic unit, 10 coulombs.

A B C Powers, Argentina, Brazil, and Chile.

Abd-el-Ka-dir (əb-dool-kā'dir), *n.* Algerian leader in wars against the French; lived 1807?-1883.

Abd-el-Krim (əb-dool-krēm'), Eng. ab'del-krim'), *n.* leader of a revolt of the Moors in the Rif region, Morocco (1919-1926); born c. 1880.

Abd-er-Rah-man Khan (āb'dēr-ra-mān' khān'), 1830?-1901; amir of Afghanistan (1880-1901).

Ab-di-as (ab-di'ās), *n.* Obadiah: form used in the Douay Bible.

ab-di-ca-ble (ab'də-kə-b'l), *adj.* that can be abdicated.

ab-di-cant (ab'də-kənt), *adj.* [*L.* *abdicans*, pp. of *abdicare*; see *ABDICATE*], abdicating. *n.* an abdicator.

ab-di-cate (ab'də-kāt'), *v.t. & v.i.* [*ABDICATED* (-id), *ABDICATING*], [*< L.* *abdicator*, pp. of *abdicare*, to deny, renounce; *ab-*, off + *dicare*, to proclaim], to give up formally (a high office, throne, authority, etc.); surrender (a power or function).

SYN.—*abdicate* most commonly refers to the formal giving up by a sovereign of his throne, but sometimes describes a surrender of any prerogative; *renounce*, often interchangeable with *abdicate*, is the more frequent usage when the voluntary surrender of any right, claim, title, practice, etc. is meant, and often suggests sacrifice (she *renounced* the pleasures of society); *resign* is applied to the deliberate giving up of a position, unexpired term, etc. by formal notice. —*ANT.* *assume*.

ab-di-ca-tion (ab'də-kā'shən), *n.* [*L.* *abdication*; see *ABDICATE*], the act of giving up a high office, authority, or function, especially that of a king.

ab-di-ca-tor (ab'də-kā'tēr), *n.* [*Mod. L.*; see *ABDICATE*], a person who abdicates.

Ab-di-el (ab'di-əl), *n.* [*Heb.*, lit., servant of God], the angel in Milton's *Paradise Lost* who resists Satan's attempts to incite a revolt against God.

ab-do-men (ab'də-mən, ab-dō'mən), *n.* [*L.*], 1. in higher vertebrates, the part of the body situated between the diaphragm and the pelvis, and containing the stomach, intestines, etc.; belly. 2. in insects and crustaceans, the posterior or hind part of the body, below the thorax.

ab-dom-i-nal (ab-dom'ə-n'l), *adj.* [*Mod. L.* *abdominalis* < *abdomen*], of, in, or for the abdomen.

ab-du-cent (ab-dō'sənt, ab-dū'sənt), *adj.* [*L.* *abducens*, pp. of *abducere*; see *ABDUCT*], in *physiology*, abducting: opposed to *adduct*.

ab-duct (ab-duct', əb-duct'), *v.t.* [*< L.* *abductus*, pp. of *abducere*, to lead away; *ab-*, away + *ducere*, to lead], 1. to take (a person) away unlawfully and by force; kidnap. 2. in *physiology*, to move or pull (a part of the body) away from the median axis or from another part: as, a muscle that *abducts* the thumb.

ab-duc-tion (ab-duk'shən, əb-duk'shən), *n.* [L. *abduc-tio*; see **ABDUCT**]. 1. an abducting or being abducted. 2. in *law*, the unlawful carrying off of a person, especially a woman for sexual purposes. 3. in *physiology*, a) the moving of a part of the body away from the median axis or from another part. b) the changed position resulting from this.

ab-duc-tor (ab-duk'tēr, əb-duk'tēr), *n.* [Mod. L.; see **ABDUCT**]. 1. a person who abducts; kidnaper. 2. in *physiology*, a muscle or nerve that abducts.

Abd-ul-A-ziz (āb'dūl-ā-zīz'), *n.* sultan of Turkey (1861-1876); lived 1830-1876; deposed.

Abd-ul-Ha-mid II (āb'dūl-hā-mēd'), 1842-1918; sultan of Turkey (1876-1909); deposed.

Abd-ul-Me-jid (āb'dūl-me-jēd'), *n.* sultan of Turkey (1839-1861); lived 1823-1861.

a-beam (ə-bēm'), *adv.* [a-, on + *beam*]. 1. at right angles to a ship's length or keel. 2. opposite a ship's side (with *of*).

a-be-ce-dar-i-an (ā'bī-si-dār'i-ən), *n.* [ML. *abecedarius* < A, B, C, D]. 1. a person learning the alphabet; beginner. 2. a person teaching the alphabet or the basic elements of a subject. *adj.* 1. of the alphabet; hence, 2. elementary.

a-be-ce-da-ry (ā'bī-sē'dā-ri), *adj. & n.* [pl. **ABECEDARIES** (-riz)], abecedarian.

a-bed (ə-bed'), *adv.* [a-, on, in + *bed*], in bed; on a bed.

A-bed-ne-go (ə-bed'nī-gō'), *n.* [Heb., prob. < *abed nebo*, servant of Nebo], in the *Bible*, one of the three captives who came out of the blazing furnace miraculously unharmed; Dan. 3.

Ab-el (ā'b'l), [L.; Gr. *Abel*; Heb. *hebel*, lit., breath], a masculine name. *n.* in the *Bible*, the second son of Adam and Eve; he was killed by Cain; Gen. 4.

Ab-é-lard, Pierre (ab'ə-lārd'; Fr. ā'bā'lār'), 1079-1142; French scholastic philosopher, teacher, and theologian; see also *Héloïse*.

a-bele (ə-bēl', ā'bəl), *n.* [D. *abeel*; OFr. *abel*, *aubel*; LL. *abellus*, dim. of L. *albus*, white], the white poplar.

a-bel-mosk (ā'b'l-mosk'), *n.* [Ar. *abu al misk*, lit., father of musk], a plant of the mallow family: its seeds are used to make perfume.

Ab-er-deen (ab'ēr-dēn'), *n.* 1. a city in eastern Scotland, on the North Sea: pop., 181,000. 2. a city in western Washington: pop., 19,000. 3. a town in north-eastern Maryland: pop., 3,000: site of Aberdeen Proving Ground of the United States Army.

Ab-er-deen An-gus (ab'ēr-dēn' an'gəs), [after *Aberdeen*, Scotland + *Angus*, a proper name], any of a breed of black, hornless cattle, originally from Scotland.

Ab-er-do-ni-an (ab'ēr-dō-nī-ən), *adj.* of Aberdeen. *n.* a native or inhabitant of Aberdeen.

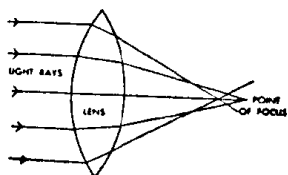
ab-er-rance (ab-er'əns), *n.* [L. *aberrantia* < *aberrans*], the quality or state of being aberrant; deviation.

ab-er-ran-cy (ab-er'ən-si), *n.* [pl. **ABERRANCIES** (-siz)], aberrance.

ab-er-rant (ab-er'ənt), *adj.* [L. *aberrans*, ppr. of *aberrare*, to go astray; *ab-*, from + *errare*, to wander], deviating from what is true, correct, normal, or typical.

ab-er-ra-tion (ab'ēr-ā'shən), *n.* [L. *aberratio* < *aberrare*; see **ABERRANT**]. 1. a departure from what is right, true, correct, etc. 2. a deviation from the normal or the typical. 3. mental derangement or lapse. 4. in *astronomy*, a) a small apparent change in position of a heavenly body, caused by the motion of the earth and of light. b) the amount of such change.

5. in *optics*, a) the failure of light rays from one point to converge to a single focus. b) an error in a lens or mirror causing such failure; see **chromatic aberration**, **spherical aberration**.



ABERRATION

a-bet (ə-bet'), *v.t.* [**ABETTED** (-id), **ABETTING**], [ME. *abetten*; OFr. *abeter*, to incite; *a-*, to + *beter*, to bait], to incite, sanction, or help, especially in wrongdoing.

a-bet-ment (ə-bet'mənt), *n.* an abetting.

a-bet-tal (ə-bet'tl), *n.* abetment.

a-bet-tor (ə-bet'tēr), *n.* [Anglo-Fr. *abettour* < OFr. *abeter*], a person who abets; also spelled **abetter**.

a-bey-ance (ə-bā'əns), *n.* [Anglo-Fr. *abeiance*; OFr. *abeance*, expectation < *bayer*, to gape, wait expectantly < LL. *badare*, to gape], 1. temporary suspension, as of an activity or function. 2. in *law*, a state of not having been determined or settled, as of lands awaiting proof of ownership.

ab-far-ad (ab-far'ad, ab-far'ad), *n.* [absolute + *farad*], a C.G.S. electromagnetic unit, 10⁹ farads.

ab-hen-ry (ab-hen'ri), *n.* [absolute + *henry*], a C.G.S. electromagnetic unit, 10⁻⁹ henry.

ab-hor (ab-hōr', ab-hōr'), *v.t.* [**ABHORRED** (-hōrd'), **ABHORRING**], [L. *abhorrere*; *ab-*, away, from + *horrere*, to

shudder], to shrink from in fear, disgust, or hatred. —*SYN.* see **hate**.

ab-hor-rence (əb-hōr'əns, ab-hor'əns), *n.* [*< abhorrent*], 1. an abhorring; loathing; detestation. 2. something abhorred; something repugnant. —*SYN.* see **aversion**.

ab-hor-rent (əb-hōr'ənt, ab-hor'ənt), *adj.* [L. *abhorrens*, ppr. of *abhorrere*; see **ABHOR**]. 1. causing fear, disgust, hatred, etc.; loathsome; detestable. 2. feeling abhorrence. 3. opposed (to one's principles, reason, etc.). —*SYN.* see **hateful**.

A-bib (ā'bīb; Heb. ā-vēv'), *n.* [Heb.], Nisan: the early Hebrew name; see **Jewish calendar**.

a-bid-ance (ə-bid'əns), *n.* an abiding.

a-bide (ə-bid'), *v.i.* [**ABODE** (-bōd') or **ABIDED** (-id), **ABIDING**], [AS. *abidan* < *bidan*, to remain], 1. to stand fast; remain; go on being. 2. [Archaic or Poetic], to stay; reside (with *in* or *at*). *v.t.* 1. to await. 2. to submit to; put up with. —*SYN.* see **continue**, **stay**.

abide by, 1. to remain true to; live up to (a promise, agreement, etc.). 2. to submit to and carry out: as, *abide by the decision*.

a-bid-ing (ə-bid'ing), *adj.* [ppr. of *abide*], continuing without change; enduring; lasting.

Ab-i-gail (ab'i-gāl', ab'i-g'l), [Heb. *abigayil*, lit., father is rejoicing], a feminine name: diminutives, *Abby*, *Gail*. *n.* 1. in the *Bible*, the wife of Nabal and later of David; I Sam. 25. 2. [a-], [*< Abigail*, name of a maid in *The Scornful Lady* by Beaumont and Fletcher (1616)], a lady's maid.

Ab-i-lene (ab'ə-lēn'), *n.* a city in central Texas: pop., 47,000.

a-bil-i-ty (ə-bil'ə-ti), *n.* [pl. **ABILITIES** (-tiz)], [ME. *abilite*; OFr. *habilité*; L. *habilitas*, ableness (to hold) < *habere*, to have, hold], 1. a being able; power to do (something physical or mental). 2. talent. 3. usually in pl. special skill. 4. seaworthiness.

ab in-i-tio (ab in-ish'i-ō), [L.], from the beginning: abbreviated **ab init**.

ab in-tra (ab in'trə), [L.], from within.

ab-i-o-gene-sis (ab'i-ō-jen'ə-sis), *n.* [Gr. *a-*, without; + *biogenesis*], in *biology*, spontaneous generation; production of living organisms from lifeless matter: a former theory, now rejected.

ab-i-o-ge-net-ic (ab'i-ō-jə-net'ik), *adj.* of or by abiogenesis.

a-bi-o-ge-net-ic-al-ly (ab'i-ō-jə-net'ik-lī), *adv.* in an abiogenetic manner; by spontaneous generation.

ab-i-o-ge-nist (ab'i-ō-jə-nist), *n.* a person who believes in abiogenesis.

ab-ir-ri-tant (ab-ir'ə-tənt), *adj.* relieving or lessening irritation; soothing. *n.* something, especially a medicine or drug, that relieves or lessens irritation.

ab-ir-ri-tate (ab-ir'ə-tāt'), *v.t.* [**ABIRRITATED** (-id), **ABIRRITATING**], in *medicine*, to relieve or lessen irritation in.

ab-ject (ab-jekt', ab'jekt), *adj.* [L. *abjectus*, pp. of *abjicere*, to throw away < *ab-*, from + *jacere*, to throw], 1. miserable; wretched: as, *abject poverty*. 2. poor-spirited; lacking self-respect; degraded; contemptible. —*SYN.* see **base**.

ab-jection (ab-jek'shən), *n.* [Fr.; L. *abjectio*; see **ABJECT**], the state of being abject; degradation.

ab-ju-ra-tion (ab'joo-rā'shən), *n.* [L. *abjuratio* < *abjurare*; see **ABJURE**], an abjuring or being abjured.

ab-ju-ra-to-ry (əb-joor'ə-tōr'i, ab-joor'ə-tō'ri), *adj.* of, or having the nature of, abjuration; abjuring.

ab-jure (əb-joor', ab-joor'), *v.t.* [**ABJURED** (-joord'), **ABJURING**], [L. *abjurare*; *ab-*, away, from + *jurare*, to swear], 1. to give up (rights, allegiance, etc.) on oath; renounce. 2. to give up (opinions) publicly; recant.

Ab-kha-zian Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic (āb-khā'zi-ən), a division of the Georgian S.S.R., on the Black Sea: area, 3,358 sq. mi.; pop., 293,000; capital, Sukhumi.

ab-lac-ta-tion (ab'lak-tā'shən), *n.* [L. *ablactatio* < *ab-*, from + *lac*, milk], the act or process of weaning.

ab-la-tion (ab-lā'shən), *n.* [LL. *ablatio* < L. *ablatus*; see **ABLATIVE**]. 1. removal, especially the surgical removal of a part of the body. 2. in *geology*, a wearing or wasting away, as of a glacier or rock.

ab-la-tive (ab'lə-tiv), *n.* [L. *ablativus* < *ablatus* (pp. of *auferre*), carried away], in *linguistics*, 1. the case expressing removal, deprivation, and direction from. 2. a word or phrase in this case. 3. in Latin, the case expressing source, cause, agency, and instrument, as well as deprivation. 4. a Latin word or phrase in this case. *adj.* of or in the ablative. Abbreviated **abl**.

ablative absolute, in *Latin grammar*, a grammatically independent phrase in the ablative case, used to express time, cause, or circumstance: sometimes applied to English constructions thought to resemble the Latin.

ablaut (ab'lout; G. āp'lout), *n.* [G.; *ab-*, off, from + *laut*, sound], in *linguistics*, patterned change of the root vowels in verbal forms, expressing changes of tense, aspect, etc., as in *drink, drank, drunk*: also called **gradation**. *adj.* of or characterized by ablaut.

a-blaze (ə-blāz'), *adv.* [*a-*, on + *blaze* (a fire)], on fire. *adj.* 1. flaming; gleaming. 2. greatly excited; eager.

a-ble (ā'b'l), *adj.* [ABLER (-blēr), ABLEST (-blist)], [ME.; OFr. *hable*; L. *habilis*, suitable, handy < *habere*, to have, hold], 1. having enough power, skill, etc. (to do something). 2. having much power of mind; skilled; talented. 3. in law, legally qualified or authorized to do a specified act. 4. in nautical usage, seaworthy. **SYN.**—*able* implies power or ability to do something (*able* to make payments) but sometimes suggests superior power or skill (an *able* orator); *capable* usually implies the mere meeting of ordinary requirements (a *capable* machinist); *competent* and *qualified* both imply the possession of the requisite qualifications for the specified work, situation, etc., but *qualified* stresses compliance with specified requirements (a *competent* critic of modern art, a *qualified* voter). —**ANT.** inept.

-a-ble (ə-b'l), [Fr.; L. *-abilis*], a suffix used to form adjectives, and meaning: 1. *able* to, as in *endurable*. 2. *capable of being*, as in *drinkable*. 3. *worthy of being*, as in *lovable*. 4. *having qualities of*, as in *comfortable*. 5. *lending or inclined to*, as in *peaceable*. Also *-ible*, *-ble*.

a-ble-bodied (ā'b'l-bod'id), *adj.* healthy and strong.

able-bodied seaman, a trained, skilled sailor: abbreviated A.B., a.b.: now often *able seaman*.

ab-le-gate (ab'li-gāt'), *n.* [L. *ablegatus*, pp. of *ablegare*, to send away; *ab-*, away + *legare*, to send, depute], a special envoy sent by the Pope to a foreign land.

a-bloom (ə-blōm'), *adv. & adj.* [*a-*, in + *bloom*], in bloom; in flower.

ab-lu-ent (ab'lōō-ənt), *adj.* [L. *abluens* < *abluerē*, to wash off], that makes clean. *n.* any substance used for cleaning; detergent.

ab-lu-tion (ab-lōō'shən, əb-lōō'shən), *n.* [ME. *ablucio*; L. *ablutio* < *ab-*, off + *luere*, to wash], 1. a washing of the body, especially as a religious ceremony. 2. the liquid used for such washing.

ab-lu-tion-ary (ab-lōō'shən-er'i, əb-lōō'shən-er'i), *adj.* of or for ablution.

a-bly (ā'bli), *adv.* in an able manner; skillfully.

-a-bly (ə-bli), a suffix used to form adverbs corresponding to adjectives ending in *-able*.

ab-ne-gate (ab'ni-gāt'), *v.t.* [ABNEGATED (-id), ABNEGATING], [*<* L. *abnegatus*, pp. of *abnegare*; *ab-*, away, from + *negare*, to deny], to deny and refuse; give up (rights, claims, etc.); renounce.

ab-ne-ga-tion (ab'ni-gā'shən), *n.* [L. *abnegatio*; see ABNEGATE], a giving up of rights, etc.; self-denial; renunciation.

ab-ne-ga-tor (ab'ni-gā'tēr), *n.* one who abnegates.

Ab-ner (ab'nēr), [L.; Heb. *ʾabnēr*, lit., the father is a light], a masculine name.

ab-nor-mal (ab-nōr'məl, əb-nōr'məl), *adj.* [earlier *anormal* < Fr. *anormal*, *anomal* < Gr. *anomalos* (see ANOMALOUS); influenced by L. *abnormis* < *ab-*, from + *norma*, rule], not normal; not average; not typical; not usual; irregular; unnatural. —**SYN.** see *irregular*.

ab-nor-mal-i-ty (ab-nōr-mal'ē-ti), *n.* 1. the quality or condition of being abnormal. 2. [*pl.* ABNORMALITIES (-tiz)], an abnormal thing; malformation.

ab-nor-mal-ly (ab-nōr'mə-li, əb-nōr'mə-li), *adv.* 1. in an abnormal manner; irregularly. 2. to an abnormal degree; exceptionally: as, he is *abnormally* clever.

abnormal psychology, the study of the behavior of abnormal people, especially that of the neurotic, psychotic, or feeble-minded.

ab-nor-mi-ty (ab-nōr'mə-ti), *n.* [*pl.* ABNORMALITIES (-tiz)], [L. *abnormitas* < *abnormis*; see ABNORMAL], 1. abnormality. 2. monstrosity.

A-bo (ō'bo), *n.* Turkey, a city in Finland: Swedish name.

a-board (ə-bōrd', ə-bōrd'), *adv.* [*a-*, on + *board*; also < Fr. *à bord*], on board; on, in, or into a ship, airplane, etc. **prep.** 1. on board of; on; in. 2. alongside.

all aboard! 1. get on! get in!: a warning to passengers that the train, car, airplane, etc. will start soon. 2. everyone (is) aboard!: a signal to the driver or pilot that he may start.

a-bode (ə-bōd'), *n.* [ME. *abad*, *abood* < AS. *abidan*; see ABIDE], 1. a staying in a place; sojourn. 2. a place where one lives or stays; home; house; residence.

a-bode (ə-bōd'), alternative past tense and past participle of *abide*.

ab-ohm (ab-ōm'), *n.* [absolute + *ohm*], a C.G.S. electromagnetic unit, 10⁻⁹ ohm.

a-bol-ish (ə-bol'ish), *v.t.* [Fr. *abolir*; L. *abolere*, to retard, destroy; formed, with *ab-*, from, to contrast with *adolere*, to increase, grow; later associated and contrasted with *adolescere* (see ADOLESCENT), in the sense "to burn," and hence used to mean "to burn away"], to do away with completely; put an end to; make (a law, etc.) null and void.

SYN.—*abolish* denotes a complete doing away with something, as an institution, custom, practice, condition, etc. (to *abolish* slavery, ignorance, etc.); *annul* and *abrogate* stress a cancelling by authority or formal action (the marriage was *annulled*, the law *abrogated* certain privileges); *rescind*, *revoke*, and *repeal* all agree in describing the setting aside of laws, orders, permits, etc. (to *rescind* an order, *revoke* a charter, *repeal* an Amendment). —**ANT.** establish.

ab-o-li-tion (ab'ə-lish'ən), *n.* [Fr.; L. *abolitio*; see ABOLISH], 1. an abolishing or being abolished; com-

plete destruction; annulment. 2. [sometimes A-], the abolishing of Negro slavery in the United States.

ab-o-li-tion-ary (ab'ə-lish'ən-er'i), *adj.* of or for abolition.

ab-o-li-tion-ism (ab'ə-lish'ən-iz'm), *n.* the doctrine of abolitionists.

ab-o-li-tion-ist (ab'ə-lish'ən-ist), *n.* 1. a person in favor of abolishing some law, custom, or institution. 2. [sometimes A-], a person who favored the abolition of Negro slavery in the United States.

ab-o-ma-sum (ab'ə-mā'səm), *n.* [L. *ab-*, from + *omasum*, bullock's tripe], the fourth or digesting chamber of the stomach of a cud-chewing animal, as the cow: see *ruminant*, *illus.*

ab-o-ma-sus (ab'ə-mā'səs), *n.* an abomasum.

A-bomb (ā'bom'), *n.* an atomic bomb.

a-bom-i-na-ble (ə-bom'ə-nə-b'l), *adj.* [ME.; OFr.; L. *abominabilis* < *abominari*; see ABOMINATE], 1. nasty and disgusting; vile; loathsome. 2. disagreeable; highly unpleasant; very bad: as, he shows *abominable* taste. —**SYN.** see *hateful*.

a-bom-i-na-bly (ə-bom'ə-nə-bli), *adv.* in an abominable manner.

a-bom-i-nate (ə-bom'ə-nāt'), *v.t.* [ABOMINATED (-id), ABOMINATING], [*<* L. *abominatus*, pp. of *abominari*, to regard as an ill omen; see AB- & OMEN], 1. to have feelings of hatred and disgust for; loathe; abhor. 2. to dislike very much.

a-bom-i-na-tion (ə-bom'ə-nā'shən), *n.* 1. an abominating; hatred and disgust (for a thing or person); loathing. 2. anything hateful and disgusting.

a-bom-i-na-tor (ə-bom'ə-nā'tēr), *n.* a person who abominates.

à bon mar-ché (ā' bōn' mār'shā'), [Fr.], at a good bargain; cheap.

ab-o-ri-gi-nal (ab'ə-rij'ə-n'l), *adj.* [*<* *aborigines*], 1. existing (in a place) from the beginning or from earliest days; first; indigenous. 2. of or characteristic of aborigines. *n.* an aboriginal animal or plant; aborigine. —**SYN.** see *native*.

à b'o-ri-gi-ne (ā b'ō-rij'i-nē'), [L.], from the origin or beginning.

ab-o-ri-gi-nes (ab'ə-rij'ə-nēz'), *n.pl.* [*sing.* ABORIGINE (-nē')], [L., first inhabitants < *ab-*, from + *origo*, the beginning; see ORIGIN], 1. the first or earliest known inhabitants of a region; natives. 2. the native animals or plants of a region.

a-bort (ə-bōrt'), *v.i.* [*<* L. *abortus*, pp. of *aboriri*, to miscarry; *ab-*, from + *oriri*, to arise], 1. to give birth before the fetus is viable; have a miscarriage; hence. 2. to come to nothing. 3. in biology, to fail to develop; stay rudimentary. *v.t.* 1. to cause to have an abortion. 2. to check (a disease) before fully developed.

a-bor-ti-cide (ə-bōrt'ə-sid'), *n.* [*<* L. *abortus* (see ABORT) + *cidium* < *caedere*, to kill], 1. destruction of the fetus in the womb. 2. an abortifacient.

a-bor-ti-fi-cient (ə-bōrt'ə-fā'shənt), *adj.* [*<* L. *abortio*, miscarriage (see ABORT) + ppr. of *facere*, to make], causing abortion. *n.* something that causes abortion.

a-bor-tion (ə-bōrt'shən), *n.* [L. *abortio*; see ABORT], 1. expulsion of a fetus from the womb before it is viable; miscarriage: called *criminal abortion* when unlawful. 2. an aborted fetus; hence. 3. anything immature and incomplete, as a deformed creature, a badly developed plan, etc. 4. in biology, a) arrest of development. b) an organ whose development has been arrested.

a-bor-tion-ist (ə-bōrt'shən-ist), *n.* a person who performs an abortion or abortions, especially a criminal abortion.

a-bor-tive (ə-bōrt'iv), *adj.* [ME. *abortif*; L. *abortivus*; see ABORT], 1. born too soon. 2. coming to nothing; unsuccessful; fruitless. 3. in biology, arrested in development; rudimentary. 4. in medicine, a) causing abortion. b) halting a disease process. —**SYN.** see *futile*.

A-bou-kir (ā'bōō-kir', ə-bōō'kēr), *n.* Abukir.

a-bou-li-a (ə-bōō'li-ə), *n.* abulia.

a-bound (ə-bound'), *v.i.* [ME. *abounden*; OFr. *abonder*; L. *abundare*, to overflow; *ab-* + *undare*, to rise in waves < *unda*, a wave], 1. to be plentiful; exist in large numbers or amounts. 2. to have plenty; be wealthy (*in*): as, a land that *abounds* in grain. 3. to be filled; teem (*with*): as, woods that *abound* with game.

a-bout (ə-bout'), *adv.* [ME. *aboutē(n)* < AS. *abutan*, *onbutan*, around < *on*, on + *be*, by + *utan*, outside < *ut*, out: all senses develop from the sense of "around"], 1. on every side; all around: as, look *about*. 2. here and there; in all directions: as, travel *about*. 3. in circumference; around the outside: as, ten miles *about*. 4. near: as, standing somewhere *about*. 5. in the opposite direction; to a reversed position: as, turn it *about*. 6. in succession or rotation: as, play fair—turn and turn *about*. 7. nearly; approximately: as, *about* four years old. 8. [Colloq.], all but; almost: as, just *about* ready. *adj.* (used predicatively) 1. astir; on the move: as, he is up and *about* again. 2. in the vicinity; prevalent: as, typhoid is *about*. **prep.** 1. around; on all sides of. 2. here and there in; everywhere in. 3. near to. 4. with; on (one's person): as, have your wits *about* you. 5. concerned with; attending to: as, go *about* your business. 6. intending; on the point of (fol-

lowed by an infinitive or a gerund): as, I am *about* to say something. 7. having to do with; concerning. 8. in connection with. Abbreviated *a.*, *ab.*, *abt.*

a-bout-face (ə-bout'fās'), *n.* 1. a turning or facing in the opposite direction; hence, 2. a reversal of attitude or opinion. *v.i.* (ə-bout'fās'), to turn or face in the opposite direction.

a-bout-ship (ə-bout'ship'), *v.i.* to put a ship on the other tack.

a-bove (ə-buv'), *adv.* [ME. *aboven*; AS. *abufan*, *onbufan*, overhead, above < *on-*, intens. + *bufan* < *be*, by + *ufan*, over, on high], 1. in or at a higher place; overhead; up. 2. in heaven. 3. before or earlier (in a book or printed passage); often used in combinations like *above-mentioned*. 4. higher in power, status, etc. *prep.* 1. higher than; over; on top of. 2. beyond; past: as, the road *above* the village. 3. superior to; better than: as, *above* the average. 4. in excess of; more than: as, *above* fifty dollars. *adj.* placed, found, mentioned, etc. above or earlier. *n.* something that is above.

above all, most of all; mainly.

a-bove-board (ə-buv'bōrd', ə-buv'bōrd'), *adv. & adj.* [*above* + *board* (table): orig. a cardplayer's term], in plain view; without dishonesty or concealment: as, be open and *aboveboard* with me.

a-bove-ground (ə-buv'ground'), *adv. & adj.* not buried; not dead.

ab-o-vo (ab ō'vō), [L., from the egg], from the beginning, or origin.

abb., archbishop.

abr., 1. abridge. 2. abridged. 3. abridgment.

ab-ra-ca-dab-ra (ab'rə-kə-dab'rə), *n.* [L.], 1. a word supposed to have magic powers as a charm against diseases, and hence used in incantations, on amulets, etc. 2. a magic spell or formula. 3. gibberish; jargon.

ab-ra-dant (ə-brā'dənt), *adj.* [Ofr. < L. *abradere*; see ABRADE], abrading. *n.* an abrasive.

ab-rade (ə-brād'), *v.t.* [ABRADED (-id), ABRADING], [L. *abradere*; *ab-*, away + *radere*, to scrape], to scrape or rub off; wear away by scraping or rubbing.

A-bra-ham (ā-brā-ham'), [Heb., lit., father of many: the original form, *Abām*, means "father is exalted"; see Gen. 17:5], a masculine name: diminutive, *Abe*. *n.* in the Bible, the first patriarch and ancestor of the Hebrews: Gen. 12-25.

in Abraham's bosom, 1. at rest with one's dead ancestors; hence, 2. in a state of heavenly bliss, peace, etc.

A-bram (ā-brām), Abraham.

a-bran-chi-an (ā-bran'ki-ən), *adj. & n.* abbranchiate.

a-bran-chi-ate (ā-bran'ki-it, ā-bran'ki-āt'), *adj.* [*< Gr. a-*, not + *branchia*, gills], in zoology, without gills. *n.* an animal without gills.

ab-ra-sion (ə-brā'zhən), *n.* [ML. *abrasio* < L. *abradere*; see ABRADE], 1. a scraping or rubbing off, as of skin. 2. a wearing away by rubbing or scraping, as of rock by wind, water, etc. 3. an abraded spot or area.

ab-ra-sive (ə-brā'siv, ə-brā'ziv), *adj.* [L. *abrasus*, pp. of *abradere* (see ABRADE); + *-ive*], causing abrasion. *n.* a substance used for grinding, polishing, etc., as sandpaper or emery.

ab-react (ab'ri-akt'), *v.t.* [back-formation < *abreaction*], in psychoanalysis, to relieve (a repressed emotion), as by talking about it.

ab-reac-tion (ab'ri-ak'shən), *n.* [*ab-* + *reaction*, after G. *abreagierung*], in psychoanalysis, the relieving of a repressed emotion, as by talking about it.

a-breast (ə-brest'), *adv. & adj.* [*a-*, on + *breast*], side by side (in going or facing forward).

abreast of (or with), in line with; not behind.

a-bridge (ə-brij'), *v.t.* [ABRIDGED (-brijd'), ABRIDGING], [ME. *abregier*; Ofr. *abregier*; L. *abbreviare*; < *ad-*, to + *breviare* < *brevi*, short], 1. to reduce in scope, extent, etc.; shorten. 2. to shorten by lessening the number of words but keeping the main contents. 3. to lessen; curtail. 4. to deprive of (rights, privileges, etc.). Abbreviated *abr.* —*SYN.* see *shorten*.

a-bridg-ment, a bridge-ment (ə-brij'mənt), *n.* [Ofr. *abregement* < *abregier*; see ABRIDGE], 1. an abridging or being abridged; reduction. 2. a curtailment, as of rights. 3. an abridged or condensed form of a book, etc. Abbreviated *abr.*

SYN.—**abridgment** describes a work condensed from a larger work by omitting the less important parts, but keeping the main contents more or less unaltered; an **abstract** is a short statement of the essential contents of a book, court record, etc. often used as an index to the original material; **brief** and **summary** both imply a statement of the main points of the matter under consideration (the *brief* of a legal argument), **summary**, especially, connoting a recapitulating statement; a **synopsis** is a condensed, orderly treatment, as of the plot of a novel, that permits a quick general view of the whole; a **digest** is a concise, systematic treatment, generally more comprehensive in scope than a synopsis, and, in the case of technical material, often arranged under titles for quick reference; an **epitome** is a statement of the essence of a subject in the shortest possible form. —*ANT.* expansion.

a-broach (ə-brōch'), *adv. & adj.* [ME. *abroche*; *a-*, on + Ofr. *broche*, a spit], 1. broached; opened so that the liquid contents can come out. 2. astir.

a-broad (ə-brōd'), *adv.* [*a-*, on + *broad*], 1. broadly; far and wide. 2. current; in circulation: as, a report is *abroad* that we have won. 3. outside one's house; outdoors: as, stroll *abroad*. 4. outside one's own country; to or in foreign countries. 5. wide of the mark; in error. *n.* a foreign land or lands (preceded by *from*).

ab-ro-ga-ble (ab'rə-gə-b'l), *adj.* that can be abrogated.

ab-ro-gate (ab'rə-gāt'), *v.t.* [ABROGATED (-id), ABROGATING], [*< L. abrogatus*, pp. of *abrogare*, to repeal; *ab-*, away + *rogare*, to ask, propose], to abolish; repeal; annul; cancel. —*SYN.* see *abolish*.

ab-ro-ga-tion (ab'rə-gā'shən), *n.* [L. *abrogatio*], an abrogating or being abrogated; repeal (of a law, etc.).

ab-ro-ga-tive (ab'rə-gā'tiv), *adj.* abrogating.

ab-ro-ga-tor (ab'rə-gā'tēr), *n.* a person who abrogates.

a-brupt (ə-brupt'), *adj.* [L. *abruptus*, pp. of *abrumper*, to break off; *ab-*, off + *rumpere*, to break], 1. sudden; hasty; unexpected. 2. sudden and short in behavior or speech; gruff; brusque. 3. very steep. 4. jumping from topic to topic without proper transitions; jerky and disconnected: as, *abrupt* writing. 5. in geology, suddenly cropping out: as, *abrupt* strata. —*SYN.* see *steep*, *sudden*.

a-brup-tion (ə-brup'shən), *n.* [L. *abruptio*; see ABRUPT], a sudden breaking away (of parts of a mass).

A-bruz-zi, Duke of the (ā-brōōt'sē), (*Prince Luigi Amedeo*), 1873-1933; Italian naval officer and explorer.

A-bruz-zi e Mo-li-se (ā-brōōt'sē e mō'lē-ze), a former department of central Italy, on the Adriatic.

abs- (abs), *ab-*: used before *t* or *c*, as in *abstract*, *abscond*.

abs., 1. absent. 2. absolute. 3. abstract.

Ab-sa-lom (ab'sə-ləm), *n.* [L.; Heb. *abshalōm*, lit., the father is peace], in the Bible, David's favorite son, killed after rebelling against his father: II Sam. 18.

ab-scess (ab'ses), *n.* [L. *abscessus* < *abscedere*, to go from < *ab(s)-*, from + *cedere*, to go; the notion was formerly held that humors go from the body into the swelling], a swollen, inflamed area in body tissues, in which pus gathers. *v.i.* to form an abscess.

ab-scessed (ab'sest), *adj.* [pp. of *abscess*], having an abscess or abscesses.

ab-scis-sa (ab-sis'sə), *n.* [*pl.* ABSCISSAS (-əz), ABSCISSAE (-ē)], [L. *abscissa* (linea)], (a line) cut off; fem. of

abscissus, pp. of *abscindere*, to cut off; *ab-*, from, off + *scindere*, to cut], in geometry, the line or part of a line drawn horizontally on a graph, by which a point is located *OP'*, abscissa of *P*; *OP''*, ordinate of *P* with reference to a system of co-ordinates: distinguished from *ordinate*.

ab-cis-sion (ab-siz'hən, ab-sish'ən), *n.* [L. *abscissio*; see ABSCISSA], 1. a cutting off, as by surgery. 2. an abrupt stopping, as in the middle of a sentence, for rhetorical effect.

ab-scond (ab-skond', əb-skond'), *v.i.* [L. *abscondere*; *ab(s)-*, from, away + *condere*, to hide; see RECONDUCE], to go away hastily and secretly; run away and hide, especially in order to escape the law.

ab-sence (ab'sns), *n.* [ME.; Ofr.; L. *absentia*; see ABSENT, *adj.*], 1. a being absent; being away. 2. the time of being away. 3. a being without; lack: as, in the *absence* of evidence.

absence of mind, a being absent-minded; preoccupation.

ab-sent (ab'snt; for *v.*, ab-sent'), *adj.* [ME.; Ofr.; L. *absens*, ppr. of *absum*, *absesse*; *ab-*, away + *esse*, to be], 1. not present; away. 2. not existing; lacking. 3. not attentive; absorbed in thought. *v.t.* [Fr. *absenter*; L. *absentare* < *absens*], to take or hold (oneself) away; as, he *absents* himself from classes. Abbreviated *abs.*

ab-sen-tee (ab'sn-tē'), *n.* a person who is absent, as from home, school, work, etc. *adj.* of the nature of an absentee; by an absentee: as, *absentee* ownership.

ab-sen-tee-ism (ab'sn-tē'iz'm), *n.* the condition of being absent, as from home, school, work, etc.; especially, such absence when deliberate or habitual.

absentee landlord, a person who owns land, buildings, etc. in some city or region other than that in which he lives: often implying neglect of tenants or workmen.

ab-sen-te re-o (ab-sen'ti rē'ō), [L.], in the absence of the defendant; abbreviated *abs. re.*

ab-sent-ly (ab'snt-li), *adv.* in an absent or preoccupied manner; inattentively.

ab-sent-mind-ed (ab'snt-min'did), *adj.* 1. so dreamy or lost in thought as not to pay attention to what one is doing or what is going on around one; hence, 2. habitually forgetful.

SYN.—**absent-minded** suggests an aimless wandering of the mind away from the immediate situation, often implying a habitual tendency of this kind (the *absent-minded* professor);

fat, āpe, bāre, cār; ten, ēven, hēre, ovēr; is, bīte; lot, gō, hōrn, tōōl, look; oil, out; up, ūse, fūr; get; joy; yet; chin; she; thin; then; zh, leisure; ŋ, ring; ē for a in ago, ē in agent, ī in sanity, o in comply, u in focus; * as in able (ā'b'l); Fr. bāl; ē, Fr. cœur; ū, Fr. feu; Fr. mon; ō, Fr. coq; ū, Fr. duc; H, G. ich; kh, G. doch. See pp. x-xii. † foreign; * hypothetical; < derived from.

abstracted suggests a withdrawal of the mind from the immediate present, and a serious concern with some other subject; **preoccupied** implies that the attention cannot be readily turned to something new because of its concern with a present matter; **absorbed** implies a total concentration of one's attention; **distract** suggests inability to concentrate, often emphasizing such a condition as a mood; **distraught** implies a similar inability to concentrate, specifically because of worry, grief, etc.; **inattentive** implies a failure to pay attention, emphasizing such behavior as a lack of discipline.

absent without leave, in *military usage*, absent from duty without official permission but with no intention of deserting; abbreviated A.W.O.L., a.w.o.l.

ab-sinthe, ab-sinth (ab'sinth), *n.* [Fr.; L. *absinthium*, wormwood; Gr. *apsinthion*], 1. wormwood or its essence. 2. a green, bitter alcoholic liquor with the flavor of wormwood and anise.

ab-sinth-ism (ab'sinth-iz'm), *n.* a diseased condition caused by habitually drinking too much absinthe.

ab-sit o-men (ab'sit ō'men), [L.], may there be no (ill) omen (in it).

ab-so-lute (ab'sə-lōōt'), *adj.* [ME. *absolut*; L. *absolutus*, pp. of *absolvere*, to loosen from; see **ABSOLVE**], 1. perfect. 2. complete; whole. 3. not mixed; pure. 4. not limited; not conditional; unrestricted: as, an *absolute ruler*. 5. positive; certain; definite. 6. actual; real: as, an *absolute truth*. 7. not dependent on anything else; considered without reference to anything else. 8. in *grammar*, a) forming part of a sentence, but not in the usual relations of syntax: in the sentence "The weather being good, they went," the *weather being good* is an *absolute construction*. b) used without an explicit object: said of a verb usually transitive, such as *steal* in the sentence "Thieves steal." c) with the noun understood: said of a pronoun or an adjective, such as *ours* and *brave* in the sentence "Ours are the brave." 9. in *law*, not encumbered. 10. in *physics*, of the absolute temperature: abbreviated *A.* *n.* something that is absolute. Abbreviated **abs.**

the **Absolute**, in *philosophy*, that which is thought of as existing in and by itself, without relation to anything else.

absolute alcohol, ethyl alcohol containing not over one per cent by weight of water.

absolute ceiling, the greatest altitude above sea level at which aircraft can keep normal horizontal flight.

absolute monarchy, a kingdom in which the king's powers are unlimited.

absolute music, music that does not try to tell a story, describe a scene, etc.; distinguished from *program music*.

absolute pitch, 1. the pitch of a tone as determined by its rate of vibration. 2. the ability to recognize the pitch of any tone heard, or to reproduce a given tone without having it sounded beforehand.

absolute temperature, temperature measured from absolute zero.

absolute zero, a point of temperature, theoretically equal to -273.15°C . or -459.72°F : the hypothetical point at which a substance would have no molecular motion and no heat.

ab-so-lu-tion (ab'sə-lōō'shən), *n.* [ME. *absolucium*; OFr. *absolutio*; L. *absolutio* < *absolvere*, to loosen from; see **ABSOLVE**], 1. a formal freeing (from guilt or obligation); forgiveness. 2. remission (of sin or penalty for it); specifically, in some churches, such remission formally given by a priest after penance by the sinner. 3. the saying or formula of such remission.

ab-so-lu-tism (ab'sə-lōō'tiz'm), *n.* 1. the doctrine or system of government in which the ruler has unlimited powers; despotism. 2. the quality of being absolute, or certain; positivism. 3. in *philosophy*, any doctrine involving the existence of an absolute. 4. in *theology*, predestination.

ab-so-lu-tist (ab'sə-lōō'tist), *n.* a person who believes in or advocates absolutism. *adj.* of or characterized by absolutism.

ab-sol-u-to-ry (ab-sol'yoo-tōr'i, ab-sol'yoo-tō'ri), *adj.* [L. *absolutorius* < *absolvere*; see **ABSOLVE**], absolving; that serves to absolve.

ab-solve (ab-solv', əb-zolv'), *v.t.* [**ABSOLVED** (-solvd', -zolvd'), **ABSOLVING**], [L. *absolvere*; *ab-*, from + *solvere*, to loose], 1. to pronounce free from guilt or blame; acquit. 2. to give absolution to (in the religious sense). 3. to free (from a promise, etc.).

SYN.—**absolve** implies a setting free from responsibilities or obligations (absolved from her promise) or from the penalties for their violation; **acquit** means to release from a specific charge by a judicial decision, usually for lack of evidence; to **exonerate** is to relieve of the blame or consequence for a wrongdoing; to **pardon** is to release from punishment for an offense (the prisoner was *pardoned* by the governor); **forgive** implies giving up all claim to punishment as well as any resentment or vengeful feelings; to **vindicate** is to clear (a person or thing under attack) through evidence of the unfairness of the charge, criticism, etc. —**ANT.** blame.

ab-sol-vent (ab-sol'vant, əb-zol'vant), *adj.* absolving. *n.* a person who absolves.

ab-sorb (ab-sōrb', əb-zōrb'), *v.t.* [L. *absorbere*; *ab-*, from + *sorbere*, to drink in, suck], 1. to suck up; drink in.

2. to engulf wholly. 3. to take up fully the attention, energy, or time of; interest greatly. 4. to take in and incorporate; assimilate. 5. in *physics*, to take in and not reflect; take in and change into heat: as, light rays are *absorbed* by black surfaces.

ab-sorb-a-bil-i-ty (əb-sōrb'ə-bil'ə-ti, əb-zōrb'ə-bil'ə-ti), *n.* the quality or state of being absorbable.

ab-sorb-a-ble (əb-sōrb'ə-b'l, əb-zōrb'ə-b'l), *adj.* that can be absorbed.

ab-sorbed (əb-sōrbd', əb-zōrbd'), *adj.* [pp. of *absorb*], 1. taken in; sucked up. 2. engulfed. 3. assimilated.

4. greatly interested; wholly occupied: as, *absorbed in reading*. —**SYN.** see **absent-minded**.

ab-sorb-e-fa-cient (əb-sōrb'ə-fā'shənt, əb-zōrb'ə-fā'shənt), *adj.* [*<* L. *absorbere* (see **ABSORB**) + ppr. of *facere*, to make, cause], in *medicine*, inducing absorption of fluids. *n.* a drug that induces absorption.

ab-sorb-en-cy (əb-sōrb'ən-si, əb-zōrb'ən-si), *n.* the quality of being absorbent.

ab-sorb-ent (əb-sōrb'ənt, əb-zōrb'ənt), *adj.* [L. *absorbens*, ppr. of *absorbere*; see **ABSORB**], capable of absorbing moisture, light rays, etc. *n.* a thing or substance that absorbs moisture, light rays, etc.

absorbent cotton, raw cotton made absorbent by the removal of its wax; used for surgical dressings, etc.

ab-sorb-ing (əb-sōrb'ing, əb-zōrb'ing), *adj.* [ppr. of *absorb*], 1. taking in, sucking in, etc. 2. very interesting.

ab-sorp-tion (əb-sōrp'shən, əb-zōrp'shən), *n.* [L. *absorptio* < *absorbere*; see **ABSORB**], 1. an absorbing or being absorbed. 2. the fact or state of being much interested or engrossed. 3. assimilation. 4. in *biology*, the passing of nutrient material into the blood stream or lymph. 5. in *physics*, a) a taking in and not reflecting. b) partial loss in power of light or radio waves passing through a medium.

ab-sorp-tive (əb-sōrp'tiv, əb-zōrp'tiv), *adj.* [L. *absorptus*, pp. of *absorbere* (see **ABSORB**) + *-ive*], 1. able to absorb. 2. relating to absorption.

ab-sorp-tiv-i-ty (əb'sōrp-tiv'ə-ti, əb-zōrp-tiv'ə-ti), *n.* 1. the quality of being absorptive. 2. in *physics*, the fraction of a radiant energy absorbed by the surface that it strikes.

abs. re., *absente reo*, [L.], in the absence of the defendant.

ab-stain (əb-stān', əb-stān'), *v.i.* [ME. *abstinen*; OFr. *abstenir*; L. *abstinere*, to keep from < *ab(s)-*, from + *tenere*, to hold], to keep oneself back; voluntarily do without; refrain: as, he *abstains* from alcoholic liquor. —**SYN.** see **refrain**.

ab-stain-er (əb-stān'ēr, əb-stān'ēr), *n.* a person who abstains, especially from drinking alcoholic liquor.

ab-ste-mi-ous (əb-stē'mi-as, əb-stē'myəs), *adj.* [L. *abstemius*, abstaining from alcoholic liquor < *ab(s)-*, from + *temetum*, strong drink], moderate in eating and drinking; not self-indulgent; temperate.

ab-sten-tion (əb-sten'shən, əb-sten'shən), *n.* [L. *abstentio* < *abstinere*; see **ABSTAIN**], an abstaining.

ab-sten-tious (əb-sten'shəs, əb-sten'shəs), *adj.* [*<* *abstentio*], abstaining.

ab-sterge (əb-stūrg', əb-stūrg'), *v.t.* [**ABSTERGED** (-stūrgd'), **ABSTERGING**], [L. *abstergere*; *ab(s)-*, away + *tergere*, to wipe], 1. to wipe away; clean. 2. to purge.

ab-ster-gent (əb-stūrg'jənt, əb-stūrg'jənt), *adj.* [L. *abstergens*, ppr. of *abstergere*; see **ABSTERGE**], cleansing. *n.* a cleansing substance.

ab-ster-sion (əb-stūrg'shən), *n.* [*<* L. *abstersus*, pp. of *abstergere*; see **ABSTERGE**], 1. a cleansing. 2. a purging.

ab-ster-sive (əb-stūrg'siv), *adj.* [*<* L. *abstersus*, pp. of *abstergere*, to wipe off; see **ABSTERGENT**], abstergent.

ab-sti-nence (əb'stā-nəns), *n.* [ME.; OFr.; L. *abstinentia* < ppr. of *abstinere*; see **ABSTAIN**], 1. an abstaining from some or all food, drink, or other pleasures. 2. the act of giving up drinking any alcoholic liquors: also called *total abstinence*.

ab-sti-nent (əb'stā-nənt), *adj.* practicing abstinence.

ab-tract (əb-strakt', əb-strakt'), *adj.* [L. *abstractus*, pp. of *abstrahere*, to draw from, separate; *ab(s)-*, from + *trahere*, to draw], 1. thought of apart from any particular instances or material objects; not concrete. 2. expressing a quality thought of apart from any particular or material object: as, beauty is an *abstract word*.

3. not easy to understand; abstruse; hence, 4. loosely, theoretical; not practical. 5. in *art*, characterized by design or form that is geometric or otherwise not representational. *n.* (əb'strakt), 1. a brief statement of the essential thoughts of a book, article, speech, court record, etc.; summary. 2. that which is abstract: as, the *abstract* fascinates his mind. Abbreviated **abs.**

v.t. (əb-strakt'), 1. to take away; remove. 2. to think of (a quality) apart from any particular instance or material object that has it; form (a general idea) from particular instances. 3. (əb'strakt), to summarize; make an abstract of. —**SYN.** see **abridgment**.

in the **abstract**, in theory as apart from practice.

ab-tract-ed (əb-strakt'id), *adj.* [pp. of *abstract*], 1. removed or separated (from something); hence, 2. withdrawn in mind; preoccupied; absent-minded. —**SYN.** see **absent-minded**.

ab-strac-tion (əb-strak'shən), *n.* [L. *abstractio*; see **ABSTRACT**], 1. an abstracting or being abstracted;