## Webster's Instant Word Guide

35,000 words spelled and divided.

# Webster's INSTANT WORD GUIDE

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### PREFACE

The major feature of Webster's Instant Word Guide is an alphabetical word list which is intended for the use of writers, secretaries, and typists as a handy guide to spelling and to the division of words at the end of lines. The word divisions in this book have been revised to agree with those shown in Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary, copyright 1979. Variant spellings are shown for many words, as are irregular inflections of verbs, adjectives, and nouns. Short identifying glosses and cross-references are provided to help distinguish words of similar sound or spelling that might otherwise be confused, such as allusive, elusive, and illusive or straight and strait.

The division of words in English dictionaries has a long, somewhat complicated history, and the traditions upon which such division is based have developed gradually, not to say haphazardly, over a period of about a century and a half. It is commonly thought that word division is based primarily on pronunciation. In actuality, spelling, etymology (the history of a word), common sense, and occasionally arbitrary choice also play important roles. The question of end-of-line division occurs only in written contexts, and it is perhaps unreasonable to expect the spoken form of the language to dictate a workable set of principles to solve a largely mechanical problem. For one thing, there are many words with perfectly acceptable variant pronunciations. Let us take homicide as an example. Those who pronounce the first syllable of homicide to rhyme with home may prefer an end-of-line division before the m, while those who rhyme it with bomb may prefer a division after the m. Both divisions are correct, but in this book only one of them is shown since an entry such as  $ho \cdot m \cdot i \cdot cide$ would be confusing to many. In order to be consistent in the large number of cases which fall into this category it was decided to show only the leftmost division in each instance. Thus, the entry ho mi cide appears in this book. Etymology is taken into account in the division of such words as accordance and dictionary. These

words were not formed by adding suffixes to the English words accord and diction; rather they are derived from the early French acordance and medieval Latin dictionarium respectively. Thus, in the present book we show the divisions ac·cor·dance and dic·tio·nary rather than ac·cord·ance and dic·tion·ary. Common sense and the established practice of most typists and printers are followed in this book in that a single letter at the beginning or end of a word is not separated from the rest of the word.

The adoption of the above and other principles allows us to achieve a greater degree of consistency of division than in the past and accounts for many differences between this and some of our earlier books. Our general recommendation to those concerned about end-of-line division is to choose a reliable up-to-date dictionary or word guide such as this and to rely upon it without worrying about divisions shown elsewhere. Other books may not be wrong, just different. Greater consistency of division will result from the regular use of a single work. While there are acceptable alternative end-of-line divisions just as there are acceptable variant spellings and pronunciations, we recognize that the purpose of showing divisions in this book is to save the user the time and trouble of making a choice in what is essentially a minor matter.

Variant spellings preceded by or are found in frequent use. Those preceded by also are found less frequently though often enough to be included in this book. All of the variant spellings given are acceptable in standard English writing. The following labels and abbreviations are used in the glosses and cross-references which distinguish between entries:

adj (adjective)
adverb
biol (biology)
chem (chemistry)
comp (comparative)
conj (conjunction)
fem (feminine)

masc (masculine)
math (mathematics)
noun
pl (plural)
prep (preposition)
var (variant)
perh

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For ease of reference guide words are printed in boldface type at the top left and right hand corners of each two page spread. The guide words are the alphabetically first and last words on the spread, including variants and inflected forms. A few exceptions result from the proviso that consecutive guide words themselves must be in alphabetical order. Following the A to Z vocabulary list this book also contains a list of abbreviations, a brief discussion of punctuation, and a table of weights and measures.

All of the features just enumerated make the editors confident that users of Webster's Instant Word Guide will find it to be a convenient and reliable reference tool.

J. K. Bollard Editor

### A

aard · vark aba · cus pl aba · ci or aba · cus · es

ab·a·lo·ne
aban·don
aban·doned
aban·don·ment
abase
abase·ment
abash
abate
abate·ment
ab·a·tis
pl ab·a·tis·es

ab·at·toir ab·ax·i·al ab · ba · cy ab·bé ab · bess ab · bey ab · bot ab · bre · vi · ate ab·bre·vi·a·tion ab∙di∙cate ab · di · ca · tion ab·do·men ab · dom · i · nal ab · duct ab · duc · tion ab.duc.tor abe · ce · dar · i · an abed

ab·er·rant
ab·er·ra·tion
abet
abet·ted
abet·ting
abet·tor
or abet·ter

abey ance
ab hor
ab horred
ab hor ring
ab hor rence
ab hor rent
abide
abil i ty
pl abil i ties

ab iect ab · jec · tion ab · ject · ly ab · ject · ness ab·ju·ra·tion ab•jure ab·late ab·la·tion ab·la·tive ablaze able able-bod·ied ab·lu·tion ab·ne·gate ab·ne·ga·tion ab·nor·mal ab · nor · mal · i · ty ab·nor·mal·ly aboard

abode aboil abol ⋅ ish ab.o.li.tion ab·o·li·tion·ist A-bomb abom·i·na·ble abom∍i∙nate abom · i · na · tion ab·orig·i·nal ab-orig-i-ne aborn · ing abort abor · tion abor · tion · ist abor · tive abound about about-face above above · board ab·ra·ca·dab·ra abrade abra · sion abra · sive ab · re · act abreast abridge abridg · ment or abridge · ment

abroad
ab·ro·gate
ab·ro·ga·tion
abrupt
ab·scess

abscissa 2

ab · scis · sa abut · ting ac · cess ab · scis · sion approach (see excess) abut·ment abut · tals ab · scond ac·ces·si·bil·i·ty ab · sence abys·mal ac · ces · si · ble ab-sent abys·mal·ly ac · ces · sion ab · sen · tee abyss ac·ces·so·ry ab·sen·tee·ism abys sal also ac · ces · sa · ry plac·ces·so·ries ab-sent-mind-ed aca · cia also ac·ces·sa·ries ab sinthe ac•a•deme ac · ci · dence or ab minth ac•a•dem•ic ac · ci · dent also ac · a · dem · i · cal ac · ci · den · tal ab·so·lute ac·a·dem·i·cal·ly ac·ci·den·tal·ly ab · so · lute · lv ac·a·de·mi·cian also ac·ci·dent·ly ab · so · lu · tion ac·a·dem·i·cism ab·so·lut·ism ac · claim acad·e·my ab · solve ac·cla·ma·tion acan · thus ab·sorb ac · cli · mate a cap·pel·la ab · sor · ben · cy ac·cli·ma·ti·za· also a ca pel·la ab·sor·bent tion ab · sorp · tion ac·cli·ma·tize ac · cede ab sorp tive agree (see exceed) ac · cliv · i · tv ab stain ac∍co∍lade ac · ce · le · ran · do ab·ste·mi·ous ac·com·mo·date ac · cel · er · ate ab·sten·tion ac · com · mo · dat · ac · cel · er · a · tion ab∙sti∙nence ing ac·cel·er·a·tor ab stract ac · com · mo · da · ac · cent ab strac tion tion ac∙cen∙tu∙al ab struse ac·com·pa·ni· ac · cen · tu · ate ab · surd ment ac·cen·tu·a·tion ab · sur · di · ty ac · com · pa · nist ac · cept abun dance ac·com·pa·ny receive (see except) abun dant ac · com · plice abuse ac · cept · abil · i · ty  $ac \cdot com \cdot plish$ abu ·sive ac · cept · able ac · com · plished abut ac · cep · tance  $ac \cdot com \cdot plish \cdot$ 

ac · cep · ta · tion

ment

abut · ted

ac · cord	ac·cuse	acorn
ac · cor · dance	ac·cus·er	acous·tic
ac · cor · dant	ac · cus · tom	acous-ti-cal
ac · cord · ing · ly	ac · cus · tomed	acous · ti · cal · ly
ac·cor·di·on	acer·bi·ty	acous · tics
ac · cost	ac·et·al·de·hyde	ac · quaint
ac · count	ac·et·an·i·lide	ac · quain · tance
ac · count · abil · i · ty	or ac·st·an·i·lid	ac · quain · tance ·
ac · count · able	ac·e·tate	ship
ac·coun·tan·cy	ace · tic	ac·qui·esce
ac · coun · tant	chem (see ascetic)	ac · qui · es · cence
ac · count · ing	ac·e·tone	ac · qui · es · cent
ac·cou·tre	acet·y·lene	ac·quire
or ac-cou-ter	ache	$ac \cdot quire \cdot ment$
ac · cou · tre · ment	achieve	ac·qui·si·tion
or ac · cou · ter · ment	achieve · ment	ac·quis·i·tive
_	ach ing	ac·quis·i·tive·ness
ac · cred · it	ach · ro · mat · ic	ac•quit
$ac \cdot cred \cdot i \cdot ta \cdot tion$	ac∙id	ac · quit · ted
ac·cre·tion	acid·ic	ac-quit-ting
ac·cru·al	acid·i·fi·ca·tion	ac · quit · tal
ac · crue	acid·i·fy	acre
ac · cru · ing	acid·i·ty	acre · age
ac·cul·tur·ate	ac·i·do·sis	ac·rid
ac·cul·tur·a·tion	acid·u·late	acrid·i·ty
ac·cu·mu·late	acid·u·lous	ac·ri·mo·ni·ous
ac · cu · mu · la · tion	ack-ack	ac·ri·mo·ny
ac·cu·mu·la·tor	ac·knowl·edge	ac·ro·bat
ac·cu·ra·cy	ac·knowl·edg·	ac·ro·bat·ic
ac·cu·rate	ment	ac·ro·nym
ac·cu·rate·ly	also ac·knowl·edge·	ac·ro·pho·bia
ac·cu·rate·ness	ment	acrop·o·lis
ac · cursed	ac·me	across
ac·cus·al	ac·ne	across-the-board
ac·cu·sa·tion	ac·o·lyte	acros·tic
ac·cu·sa·tive	ac·o·nite	ac·ry·late

acryl·ic	adapt	ad·e·qua·cy
act·ing	to fit (see adept,	ad·e·quate
ac·tin·ic	adopt)	ad·e·quate·ly
ac·tin·i·um	adapt-abil·i·ty	ad·here
ac·tion	adapt-able	ad·her·ence
ac·tion·able	ad·ap·ta·tion	ad·her·ent
ac·ti·vate	adapt · er	ad·he·sion
ac·ti·va·tion	also adapt-or	ad·he·sive
ac·tive	ad·dend	$ad \cdot he \cdot sive \cdot ness$
ac·tive·ly	ad·den·dum	ad hoc
ac·tiv·ism	pl ad-den-da	adi · a · bat · ic
ac·tiv·ist	ad · der	adieu
ac·tiv·i·ty	snake	pl adieus or adieux
ac·tor		ad in·fi·ni·tum
ac·tress	add · er one that adds	ad in ter im
ac·tu·al		adi-os
ac·tu·al·i·ty	ad-dict	ad·i·pose
ac·tu·al·ize	ad-dic-tion	ad·i·pos·i·ty
ac·tu·al·ly	ad · dic · tive	ad·ja·cent
ac·tu·ar·i·al	ad·di·tion	ad·jec·ti·val
ac·tu·ary	ad·di·tion·al	ad·jec·ti·val·ly
ac·tu·ate	ad·di·tion·al·ly	ad.jec.tive
ac·tu·a·tor	ad·di·tive	ad·join
acu-ity	ad·dle	ad · join · ing
acu·men	ad · dress	ad · journ
acu·punc·ture	ad · dress · ee	ad · journ · ment
acute	ad · duce	ad judge
acute·ly	ad·e·noid	ad·ju·di·cate
acute · ness	ad·e·noi·dal	ad·ju·di·ca·tion
ad · age	ad·ept	ad junct
ada gio	an expert	ad·ju·ra·tion
pl ada·gios	adept	ad·jure
_	proficient (see adapt,	ad·just
ad·a·mant	adopt)	ad·just·able
ad · a · man · tine	adept·ly	ad · just · er
$ad \cdot a \cdot mant \cdot ly$	adept·ness	also ad jus tor

ad·just·ment	ad·mo·ni·tion	adul·tery
ad·ju·tant	ad·mon·i·to·ry	adult-hood
ad·ju·vant	ad nau-se-am	ad·um·brate
ad-lib	ado	ad·um·bra·tion
ad·libbed	ado·be	ad va·lo·rem
ad·lib·bing	ad·o·les·cence	ad vance
ad lib	$ad \cdot o \cdot les \cdot cent$	ad vance ment
adverb	adopt	ad·van·tage
	to accept (see adapt,	ad van ta geous
ad li-bi-tum	adept)	ad vent
ad·man	adop·tion	ad·ven·ti·tious
ad·min·is·ter	adop tive	ad ven ture
ad·min·is·tra·ble	ador · able	ad ven tur er
ad·min·is·trant	ad·o·ra·tion	ad ven ture some
ad·min·is·trate	adore	ad ven tur ess
ad·min·is·tra·tion	adorn	ad ven tur ous
ad·min·is·tra·tive	adorn · ment	ad·verb
ad·min·is·tra·tor	ad·re·nal	ad·ver·bi·al
ad·mi·ra·ble	adren · a · line	ad·ver·bi·al·ly
ad·mi·ra·bly	adrift	ad ver sary
ad·mi·ral	adroit	ad·ver·sa·tive
ad·mi·ral·ty	adroit·ly	ad·ver·sa·tive·ly
ad·mi·ra·tion	adroit · ness	ad·verse
ad·mire	ad sorb	unfavorable (see
ad·mir·er	ad·sor·bent	averse)
ad·mis·si·bil·i·ty	ad sorp tion	ad·verse·ly
ad·mis·si·ble	ad sorp tive	ad·ver·si·ty
ad·mis·sion	ad·u·late	ad·vert
ad·mit	ad·u·la·tion	ad·ver·tise
ad·mit·ted	adult	ad·ver·tise·ment
ad·mit·ting	adul·ter·ant	ad·ver·tis·er
ad·mit·tance	adul·ter·ate	ad·ver·tis·ing
ad·mit·ted·ly	adul·ter·a·tion	ad·vice
ad·mix	adul·ter·er	noun (see advise)
ad·mix·ture	adul·ter·ess	ad·vis·abil·i·ty
ad·mon·ish	adul·ter·ous	ad·vis·able
er mon mi	event out one	an. Am. anic

ad · vise af-fin-i-ty aer · o · nom · ic verb (see advice) or aer-o-nom-i-cal af-firm af·fir·ma·tion ad · vis · er aer · on · o · mist or ad-vi-sor af·fir·ma·tive aer · on · o · my af.fix ad · vise · ment aero · pause af-fla-tus ad · vi · sory aero · sol af flict ad·vo·ca·cy aero-space af · flic · tion ad · vo · cate aery af · flic · tive aes · thete ae · gis af·flu·ence or es-thete or egis af•flu•ent ae · o · lian aes · thet · ic af · ford or es thet ic 86.0n af·fray aer-ate aes·thet·i·cal·ly af-fright aer · a · tion aes · thet · i · cism af-front ae · ri · al aes-thet-ics af-ghan adi or es thet ics af · ghani aer · i · al Af•ghan•i•stan aes-ti-vate noun aes · ti · va · tion afi•cio•na•do ae · ri · al · ist pl afi-cio-na-dos af · fa · bil · i · tv ae · rie af · fa · ble aero af · fa · blv afield aer·o·bat·ics af•fair afire aer-obe af · fect aflame aer · o · bic to influence (see afloat aero · drome aflut ter aero · dy · nam · i · af-fec-ta-tion afoot. cal·ly af · fect · ed afore · men · tioned aero · dy · nam · ics af · fect · ing afore said aer·o·log·i·cal af · fec · tion afore thought aer · ol · o · gist af·fec·tion·ate a for · ti · o · ri aer · ol · o · gv af · fer · ent afraid aero-naut af•fi•ance afresh aero•nau•ti•cal af-fi-da-vit Af∙ri∙can or aero-peu-tic af-fil-i-ate Af•ri•kaans

af-fil-i-a-tion

Af.ro

aero · nau · tics

	•	
af·ter	ag·glu·ti·na·tion	agrar·i·an
af·ter·birth	ag · gran · dize	agree
af·ter·burn·er	ag·gran·dize·ment	agree-abil·i·ty
af · ter · care	ag·gra·vate	agree · able
af·ter·deck	ag · gra · va · tion	agree · able · ness
af·ter·ef·fect	ag-gre-gate	agree ably
af·ter·glow	ag·gre·ga·tion	agree · ment
af·ter·life	ag · gres · sion	ag·ri·cul·tur·al
af·ter·math	ag · gres · sive	ag·ri·cul·ture
af·ter·noon	ag · gres · sive · ness	ag·ri·cul·tur·ist
af·ter·taste	ag · gres · sor	ag·ro·nom·ic
af·ter·tax	ag · grieve	or ag·ro·nom·i·cal
af·ter·thought	aghast	ag·ro·nom·i·cal·
af·ter·ward	ag·ile	ly
or af-ter-wards	agil·i·ty	agron · o · mist
again	ag·i·tate	agron·o·my
against	ag·i·ta·tion	aground
Aga · na	ag·i·ta·tor	ague
agape	agleam	ahead
adj, gaping	aglit · ter	ahoy
aga · pe	aglow	aid
noun, love	ag·nos·tic	help
ag·ate	ag·nos·ti·cism	_
ag·ate·ware	ago	aide
aga · ve	agog	assistant
age · less	ag·o·nize	aide-de-camp
agen · cy	ag·o·niz·ing·ly	pl aides de camp
agen · da	ag·o·ny	ai · grette
agent	ag·o·ra	ail
age-old	marketplace, pl ag·o· ras	to be ill (see ale)
ag · gior · na · men · to	or ag·o·rae	ai·le·ron
pl ag∙gior•na•men• tos	ago·ra	ail·ment
_	coin, pl ago·rot	aim·less
ag.glom.er.ate		aim·less·ness
ag · glom · er · a · tion	ag·o·ra·pho·bia	air
ag·glu·ti·nate	ag·o·ra·pho·bic	gas (see heir)

airborne 8

air · borne al · ca · zar air·way al · che · mist air · wor · thi · ness air · brush air · bus air · wor · thy al·che·mv air-con · di · tion airy al·co·hol aisle air-cool al∙co∙hol∙ic passage (see isle) air · craft al·co·hol·ism air crew al·cove ajar air - drome al · der akim · bo al ·der · man air · drop Ak · ron air-dry ale Al∙a∙bama beverage (see ail) air•field al·a·bas·ter air · flow a la carte ale · a · tor · ic air · foil alac·ri·tv ale · house air · frame a la mode ale · wife air · glow alarm alert air · lift also ala-rum alert · ness air·line alarm · ist Al·ex·an·dria air·lin·er Alas · ka al·ex·an·drine air · mail al·ba·core al ∙fal ∙fa air · man Al∙ba∙nia al·fres·co air mile Al∙ba∙nian al ga air-mind ·ed pl al gae also al gas  $Al \cdot ba \cdot ny$ air·mo·bile al·ba·tross air · plane al ge bra al∙be∙it air · port al · ge · bra · ic Al∙ber∙ta air · post Al·ge·ria al·bi·nism air · ship Al·ge·ri·an al∙bi∙no air · sick al · go · rithm al · bum air · sick · ness alias al·bu·men air·space al∙i∙bi egg white air · speed alien al∙bu∙min air · stream alien · able protein air-strip alien · ate air · tight al·bu·min·ous alien · ation Al·bu·quer·que air-to-air alien · ist air·wave al · cal · de alight

al · ler · gic

align al·ler·gist al·lure·ment also aline al·lu·sion al·ler·gy reference (see illusion) al⋅le⋅vi⋅ate align · ment al·le·vi·a·tion also aline ment al·lu·sive al·ley suggestive (see elusive) alike passage (see ally) al·i·ment al·ley·way al·i·men·ta·ry al·lu·sive·ness All · hal · lows al·i·mo·ny al·lu·vi·al al·i·quot al·li·ance al·lu·vi·um al·lied alive al·lv al·li·ga·tor al∙ka∙li to unite, friend (see alley) al·lit·er·ate al·ka·line al·lit·er·a·tion al·ka·lin·i·ty al∙ma ma∙ter al·lit·er·a·tive al·ka·lin·ize al·ma·nac al·lo·cate al·ka·loid al·mighty al·lo·ca·tion al·kyd al·mond al·lo·ge·ne·ic all al·mo·ner the whole (see aw]) al · lot al·most al·lot·ted Al∙lah alms al·lot·ting all-Amer·i·can alms · house al·lot·ment all-around al·ni·co al·lot·tee al·lay al·oe all-out al·le·ga·tion aloft all•over al·lege alo•ha al·low al·leg·ed·ly alone al·low·able Al·le·ghe·ny along al·low·ance al·le·giance along · shore al·loy al·le·gor·i·cal along side all-round al·le·go·ry aloof All Saints' Day al·le·gro aloof ness All Souls' Day al∙le∙lu∙ia aloud all-spice Al·len·town al·paca al·lude al·ler·gen al pen stock to refer (see elude) al·ler·gen·ic al·pha

al·lure

al·pha·bet

## alphabetic

al mba bat ta	al	3 * • •
al·pha·bet·ic or al·pha·bet·i·cal	al·um	am·bi·gu·ity
or at pila bet I cal	alu·mi·na	am·big·u·ous
al·pha·bet·ize	alu·mi·num	am·bi·tion
al·pha·nu·mer·ic	alum · na	am·bi·tious
also al pha nu mer	pl alum·nae	am·biv·a·lence
i-cal	alum·nus	am·biv·a·lent
Al·pine	<i>pl</i> alum∙ni	am·ble
al·ready	al	am·bro·sia
al·so	al·ways	$am \cdot bro \cdot sial$
al·so-ran	amal · gam	am·bu·lance
al·tar	amal gam ate	am·bu·lant
noun (see alter)	amal · gam · ation	am·bu·la·to·ry
-1 4	aman · u · en · sis	am·bus·cade
al·tar·piece	pl aman·u·en·ses	am·bush
al·ter	am·a·ranth	ame-ba
verb (see altar)	am · a · ran · thine	var of amoeba
al·ter·ation	Am·a·ril·lo	_
al·ter·cate	am·a·ryl·lis	ame·ban
al·ter·ca·tion	amass	var of amoeban
al·ter ego	am·a·teur	ame·bic
al·ter·nate	am·a·to·ry	var of amoebic
al·ter·nate·ly	amaze	ame·lio·rate
al·ter·nat·ing	·	
al·ter·na·tion	amaze·ment	ame·lio·ra·tion
al·ter·na·tive	amaz·ing·ly	ame·na·ble
al·ter·na·tor	am·a·zon	amend
al though	am·a·zo·nian	to change (see emend)
also al-tho	am bas sa dor	amend · ment
	am·bas·sa·do·ri·	ame·ni·ty
al·tim·e·ter	al	amerce
al·ti·tude	am·bas·sa·dress	amerce · ment
al·to	am · ber	Amer·i·can
pl al-tos	am·ber·gris	Amer·i·ca·na
al·to·geth·er	am·bi·dex·trous	Amer·i·can·ism
al·tru·ism	am·bi·ence	Amer·i·can·ism
al·tru·ist	or am·bi·ance	
CT . AT AT . TOA		tion

Amer·i·can·ize

al·tru·is·tic am·bi·ent