
DICTIONARY OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE

Second Edition

Compiled and Edited by
Benjamin B. Wolman

Second Edition

Dictionary of Behavioral Science

Compiled and edited by

Benjamin B. Wolman
New York, New York



Academic Press, Inc.

Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Publishers

San Diego New York Berkeley Boston
London Sydney Tokyo Toronto

Academic Press thanks the following publishers who permitted adaptation of their copyrighted material.

(1) Appleton-Century Crofts: Adapted material from "Schedules of Reinforcement," C. B. Ferster and B. F. Skinner, copyright 1957 by Appleton-Century-Crofts, Inc. Reprinted by permission of Appleton-Century-Crofts, Educational Div., Meredith Corp. (2) Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc.: Adapted material from "Introduction to Psychology," Fifth Edition, Ernest R. Hilgard, et al., copyright 1953, 1957, 1962, 1967, 1971, by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc. Reprinted with their permission. Adapted material from "Personality and Motivation Structure and Measurement," Raymond B.

Cattell, copyright 1975 by Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, Inc. Reprinted with their permission. (3) Houghton Mifflin Co.: Adapted material from "Abilities: Their Structure, Growth and Action," Raymond B. Cattell, copyright 1971 by Houghton Mifflin Co. Reprinted with their permission. (4) Penguin Books Inc.: Adapted material from "The Scientific Basis of Personality," Raymond B. Cattell, copyright 1965 by Penguin Books Ltd. Reprinted with their permission. (5) American Psychiatric Association: Adapted material from "Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-III-R)," copyright 1980 by American Psychiatric Association. Reprinted with their permission.

Copyright © 1989 by Academic Press, Inc.
All rights reserved.

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

Academic Press, Inc.
San Diego, California 92101

United Kingdom Edition published by
Academic Press Limited
24-28 Oval Road, London NW1 7DX

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

Dictionary of behavioral science / compiled and edited by Benjamin B. Wolman. — 2nd ed.

p. cm.

ISBN 0-12-762455-4 (alk. paper).

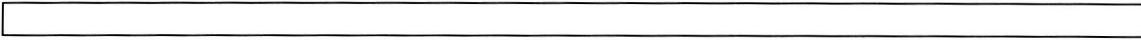
1. Psychology—Dictionaries. I. Wolman, Benjamin B.
BF31.D48 1988
150'.3—dc19

88-14128
CIP

Printed in the United States of America
89 90 91 92 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Second Edition

Dictionary of Behavioral Science



Contributors to the First Edition

Gerhard Adler
Kurt A. Adler
Leonore L. Adler
George W. Albee
Anne Anastasi
Petr K. Anokhin
Silvano Arieti
Benjamin Balinsky
Nancy Bayley
Leopold Bellak
Lauretta Bender
Arnold Bernstein
Manfred Bleuler
Medard Boss
Francis J. Braceland
Jerome S. Bruner
Charlotte Buhler
Leonard Carmichael
George M. Carstairs
Raymond B. Cattell
Isidor Chein
Lee J. Cronbach
Florence L. Denmark

Gordon F. Derner
Morton Deutsch
John Dollard
John C. Eccles
David Elkind
Albert Ellis
John E. Exner
H. J. Eysenck
Charles B. Ferster
Anna Freud
Erich Fromm
G. Allen German
Eleanor J. Gibson
Gustave M. Gilbert
Edward Glover
Joy P. Guilford
Harry F. Harlow
Donald O. Hebb
Edna Heibreder
Harry Helson
Mary Henle
Ernest R. Hilgard
Robert R. Holt

Lewis A. Hurst
Lothar B. Kalinowsky
Abram Kardiner
Otto Klineberg
David Krech
Wolfgang Kretschmer
Lawrence S. Kubie
Stanley Lesse
Konrad Lorenz
Juan J. Lopez-Ibor
Arthur R. Luria
Margaret S. Mahler
Jules H. Masserman
David C. McClelland
Margaret Mead
Neal E. Miller
Henryk Misiak
Jacob L. Moreno
O. Hobart Mowrer
Gardner Murphy
Lois B. Murphy
Theodore M. Newcomb
Joseph M. Notterman

Carl Pfaffmann
Jean Piaget
Karl H. Pribram
Harold M. Proshansky
John D. Rainer
Carl R. Rogers
Nathaniel Ross
William N. Schoenfeld
Robert R. Sears
Hanna Segal
Virginia S. Sexton
B. F. Skinner
Hans H. Strupp
John J. Sullivan
Leona E. Tyler
David Wechsler
Michael M. Wertheimer
E. D. Wittkower
Joseph Wolpe
Paul T. Young
Joseph Zubin

Preface to the Second Edition

Since the first edition of the dictionary was published, it has become the standard reference work in psychology, psychiatry, and related disciplines. Seasoned professionals and college students alike have used it as a dependable source in their work and study. The American Library Association selected the dictionary as an outstanding reference book in 1973.

For this edition, every single item in the dictionary was carefully examined and scores of items were revised or added. It was a major job, and I have followed recent developments and discoveries in the fields covered by the

dictionary. I owe profound thanks to the contributors of the first edition, who, whenever necessary, revised and/or rewrote their contributions.

In revising and rewriting the dictionary I was greatly assisted by Mrs. Morrell G. Binkley, my editorial assistant, and Ms. Susan B. Friedman, Mrs. Mahala Buckingham-Clark, and Mrs. Christine Smith, my research assistants. It gives me great pleasure to convey my profound gratitude to the staff of Academic Press for its cordial and unswerving cooperation.

Benjamin B. Wolman

Preface to the First Edition

There are hundreds of thousands of professionals and millions of college and university students who read psychological, psychiatric, and related literature and millions of interested laymen who are unable to avail themselves of useful information because of the barriers of technical terms. There are, indeed, a few dictionaries on the market covering partial areas; but at the present time, there is not even one comprehensive and authoritative dictionary that covers the entire field. The need for such a dictionary has been apparent and the authors of the present *Dictionary of Behavioral Science* intend to fill the gap.

Our dictionary covers all areas of psychology, such as experimental and developmental psychology, personality, learning, perception, motivation, and intelligence. It also includes all aspects of applied psychology, such as diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders and social, industrial, and educational psychology. The dictionary covers the disciplines of psychiatry, biochemistry, psychopharmacology, and clinical practice.

The dictionary includes terms related to neurology, neurosurgery, genetics, endocrinology, and presents the concepts and techniques of the orthodox and non-Freudian psychoanalysis. The motto of the dictionary is *concision and precision*.

The planning of the dictionary was done according to the specific disciplines, but it is printed in alphabetic order. Compiling and editing of this dictionary resembled the writing and editing of close to 20,000 short papers.

It certainly required the joint efforts of a large team of prominent psychologists, psychiatrists, and other scholars, and the help of a selected group of editorial assistants and secretarial staff. I am deeply indebted to all of them.

I must thank especially Drs. G. F. Derner, E. Glover, R. R. Holt, and H. Proshansky for their wise comments. Mr. Mike Hamilton gets the credit for initiating this project and Mr. Barry R. Nathan and Mrs. Alberta W. Gordon have earned my profound gratitude for their most cordial help.

B. B. Wolman

Explanatory Remarks

The guiding ideas of this dictionary are usefulness, simplicity, and flexibility. We have tried to keep matters as simple as possible and to avoid whatever could hinder easy access and readability. There was no reason to mark the pages with phonics, phonetics, and so on. We have assumed that people who read psychology in English do not need to be instructed in pronunciation.

We have avoided as much as possible superfluous indicators such as *q.v.*, *see*, *synonym*, *opposite*, for we do not believe that someone looking for a specific fact (e.g., a definition of operant conditioning) must be bothered with a host of signs indicating related terms. Thus, the word *see* was used sparingly and only when it was absolutely necessary.

The logic of a dictionary requires giving priority to nouns. For instance, *phlegmatic*

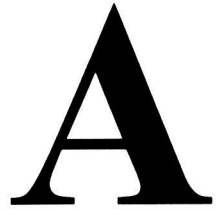
type was defined under *type*, *phlegmatic*. It was necessary, however, to cross-reference many terms, and *phlegmatic type* was listed as *see type, phlegmatic*. The same principle was applied to several key terms such as *complex*, *conditioning*, *reinforcement*, *scale*, *syndrome*, *test*, and *type*. Abbreviations have been avoided, for they are usually more handicap than help. Adjectives were defined only when necessary; for example, *narcotic* was defined as a noun. When a term could be spelled in more than one way, both versions were usually given.

The term *mental disorder* was used interchangeably with *behavior disorder*.

No entries were signed; the name in front of an entry does not give the author of the entry, but rather indicates the author of the concept, idea, or technique.

Contents

Preface to the Second Edition	vii
Preface to the First Edition	ix
Explanatory Remarks	xi
Dictionary of Behavioral Science	1



Å See *angstrom*.

a% Traditional Rorschach scoring calculation, representing the proportion of animal content responses in a protocol. Since it is easy to see animal forms in the inkblots, it is expected that they will represent from one-third to one-half of all the responses in most records. Unusually high numbers of animal responses are generally associated with constriction and/or stereotypy, while unusually low numbers are associated with the records of the more seriously disturbed subjects.

A scale See *scale, A*.

AA See *achievement age*.

AAT See *test, auditory apperception*.

A/S ratio (D. O. Hebb) Association-sensation ratio.

Abadie's sign (J. M. C. Abadie) The absence of pain when pressure is put on the Achilles tendon.

abalienated; abalienation Obsolete terms meaning mental illness.

abalienatus Total destruction of the senses; loss of mental faculties. This term is no longer in use.

abasement Degradation of oneself; excessive complying, surrendering, accepting punishment.

abasement need See *need, abasement*.

abasia The inability to walk due to lack of motor coordination, usually the result of a psychological disturbance rather than an organic cause. This condition often accompanies hysteria. Types of abasia: (1) Astasia-abasia involves the inability to stand or to walk as a result of mental conflict. (2) Ataxic abasia is awkward locomotion. (3) Choreic abasia is the inability to walk because of muscle spasms in the lower limbs. (4) Paralytic abasia is the inability to stand or walk due to organic paralysis. (5) Paroxysmal trepidant abasia is a form of astasia-abasia in which the legs become spastic when walking is attempted. (6) Trembling abasia is the inability to walk because of continuous trembling in the legs.

abative scoring standardization (R. B. Cattell) The third possibility in standardization, after normative (across people) and ipsative (across the same response to different stimuli). Like the ipsative score, it is standardized within one person, but with regard to the same response to the same stimulus made across a population of occasions. (Hence, P technique gives abative standardization.)

ABBA Counterbalanced order of presentation of independent variables in a psychological experiment. The one independent variable, condition A is followed by the second independent variable condition B, this followed first by condition B then A.

Abderhalden reaction (E. Abderhalden) The appearance of an abnormal enzyme in the serum.

abderite A stupid person.

abdominal reflex See *reflex, abdominal*.

abducens nucleus A mass of nerve cells located in the fourth ventricle from which the abducent nerve originates.

abducent nerve See *nerve, abducent*.

abduction (R. B. Cattell) One of the personality dimensions characterized by rejection of acculturation and refusal to conform to cultural patterns.

aberrant energy expression The abnormal and unorganized methods of releasing energy that are found as symptoms in psychoses and neuroses.

aberration 1. A deviation from the normal or typical. 2. In an optical system, the passage of light by any pathway other than the most efficient; particularly, passage of light in such a way that rays emanating from the same point fail to converge on the same focus.

aberration, mental Deviation from normal mental functioning.

abetalipoproteinemia See *syndrome, Bassen-Kornzweig*.

abeyance A cessation of a physiological or of a mental function.

abience Avoidance. Abient behavior moves the organism away from exposure to a stimulus.

ability The power to perform an act, either physical or mental, whether innate or acquired by education and practice. *Ability*, as distinguished from aptitude, implies that an act can be performed now. *Aptitude* implies that the individual can develop by training the ability to perform a certain act. *Capability* is the maximum effectiveness a person can attain under optimal conditions of training.

ability grouping Dividing pupils into relatively homogeneous groups with regard to ability, either in a specific subject or in general ability.

ability test See *test, ability*.

abiotrophy An early loss of function or vitality of cells or tissues.

ablation Removal of all or part of an organ, often with the purpose of studying its function.

ablution 1. The act of washing the body. 2. A form of hydrotherapy given for insomnia that usually brings quiet, restful sleep. This treatment involves vigorously rubbing with water and then drying each part of the body.

ablutomania A preoccupation with thoughts about washing that frequently accompanies an obsessive-compulsive neurosis.

Abney's Law The principle that the luminance of a given monochromatic light is proportional to the luminosity, V_λ , of the light and the radiance, E . In mathematical form the law is expressed as follows:

$$B = K \zeta V_\lambda E \lambda d\lambda$$

where:

- B = luminance
- V_λ = relative luminosity at wavelength
- $E\lambda$ = energy distribution of light according to a specified physical measure
- K = a constant allowing for differences in the magnitude of B and E .

abnormal 1. Diverging from the normal, not conforming with the general rule. The term usually connotes pathology or deviation from what is considered psychologically adjustable. 2. In a statistical distribution, descriptive of scores which are outside the normal or expected range of scores, departing from the mean interval of the distribution.

abnormal impulse to work See *ergasiomania*.

abnormal polychromate An individual who is able to distinguish most colors except for one or two, which he or she fails to perceive or confuses.

abnormal psychology See *psychology, abnormal*.

abnormality Deviation from the norm. The various definitions of abnormality depend on the kind of norm one has in mind: 1. (statistics) Deviant from the mode, mean, or any other statistical norm. Also unusual, rare, coincidental, improbable. 2. (biology and medicine) Sickness, disease, defect, malformation, malfunction, invalidism, and any other somatic or physiological pathology. 3. (psychology) Disturbed, disorganized, maladjustive behavior; irrational, disturbed, uncontrollable and disbalanced mental processes and/or disintegrated personality structure.

aboiement The uncontrollable and involuntary production of abnormal or unusual sounds. For example, some severely regressive schizophrenic patients make many animalistic noises.

abomination A term that has been used to convey loathing for food. Presently it is used only to express a general loathing and extreme disgust.

aboral The region of the body opposite to the mouth. The term is used in animal psychology.

abortive decision Rushed, premature, ineffectual decision.

aboulia; abulia Inability, usually pathological, to make decisions; loss of willpower, inability to carry out decisions.

above and below (A. Adler) The unconscious belief that maleness is superior to femaleness; the conception of man as above and female as below. According to Adler, femininity is a position of inferiority; masculinity is to be strived for as a goal of superiority.

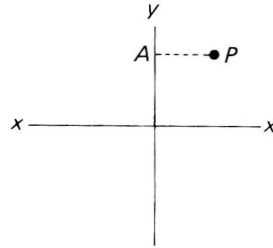
Abraham, Karl (1877–1925) One of the earliest disciples of S. Freud and the first German psychoanalyst. Developed a theory of etiology of mental disorders linked to Freud's psychosexual stages and wrote extensively about characterology and manic-depressive psychosis.

abreaction (psychoanalysis) Lessening the anxiety associated with an experience that originally involved the

repression of emotions, by reliving the experience in feeling, thought, or action. The freeing of psychic energy by converting repressed ideas or experiences into consciousness. In the early stages of psychoanalysis, abreaction was part of the cathartic method.

abreaction, motor (psychoanalysis) Living through an unconscious emotion or experience by muscular or motor expression.

abscissa 1. The horizontal line used as a base line in a two-dimensional graph of Cartesian coordinates. Used to plot measures of the independent variable. Synonym: x axis, horizontal axis. 2. The distance of a point P along a line parallel to the x axis as measured from the y axis (or vertical axis). Synonym: x value, x distance.



xx is the axis of abscissa. AP is the abscissa of P .

absence The short period of time when there is a temporary loss of consciousness during attacks of hysteria and epileptic seizures. During this loss of consciousness there is either suspended or merely automatic activity. Also there is amnesia for the events that occur during such periods.

absentmindedness The tendency to be largely unaware of surrounding conditions due to absorption in one's own thoughts.

Absicht (from German *ab-sehen*) *Absicht* refers to an intention, aim, goal, or purpose. The usage arises when conceiving of humans as cognitively purposive or as controlled presently by anticipated future states or conditions. The term was important in ethics, for a traditional distinction is made between intention, action, and results. Ethical responsibility, particularly in the Graz school at the beginning of the 20th century, was viewed as residing in the intention. Intention has frequently been confused with intentionality, which as a primarily perceptual or cognitive term does not imply purposive behavior. The root notion is the Aristotelian conception of four types of causality: material, efficient, formal, and final. In human actions *Absicht* refers to a final causality.

absinthism A pathological state caused by abuse of absinthe, often associated with hyperesthesia, paralysis, convulsions, and hallucinations.

absolute 1. Independent of comparison with other objects of judgments; not relative. 2. Not subject to change with time or circumstances.

absolute accommodation See *accommodation, absolute*.

absolute error See *error, absolute*.

absolute impression See *impression, absolute*.

absolute judgment See *judgment, absolute*.

absolute-judgment method See *method, absolute-judgment*.

absolute limen (AL) See *threshold, absolute*.

absolute luminosity See *luminosity, absolute*.

absolute measurement See *measurement, absolute*.

absolute pitch See *pitch, absolute*.

absolute refractory period See *period, absolute refractory*.

absolute scale See *scale, absolute*.

absolute sensitivity See *sensitivity, absolute*.

absolute threshold See *threshold, absolute*.

absolute value See *value, absolute*.

absolute zero See *zero, absolute*.

absorption 1. Focusing attention on one object, thereby excluding other objects. 2. Excluding reality because the focus of one's attention is on autistic thoughts.

abstinence syndrome See *syndrome, abstinence*.

abstract (noun) 1. A summary. 2. That which contains within itself all the essential qualities of a larger thing. (adjective) 1. Referring to a quality or aspect that is considered apart from other qualities or from the object itself. 2. That which is applicable in general rather than in concrete or particular situations. (verb) 1. To separate a part from the whole, to consider a single quality or aspect of an object apart from other aspects and from the object itself. 2. To summarize briefly and uncritically the content of a piece of writing.

abstract intelligence See *intelligence, abstract*.

abstract symbolism See *symbolism, abstract*.

abstract thinking See *thinking, abstract*.

abstracting-sensation (C. G. Jung) The isolation of a content or meaning, characterized by sensation, from other irrelevant elements.

abstracting-thinking (C. G. Jung) Bringing out a content or meaning that is distinguished from other elements by its logical and intellectual qualities.

abstraction 1. Separation and isolation of a particular aspect from a concrete whole; the development of a concept by drawing from a class of objects or events. 2. The concept arrived at by the isolation of a meaning or characteristic from the specific totality considered. 3. Inattention to surrounding situations due to an absorption with one's own thoughts.

absurdities test See *test, absurdities*.

absurdity Something self-contradictory or meaningless.

abulia See *aboulia*.

abulic An individual or act characterized by abulia, loss of willpower.

abundancy motive Desire to experience enjoyment, to obtain gratification, to seek novelty, to discover and understand, to attempt to achieve and create. This motive includes the goals of satisfaction and stimulation. It may often involve the search for tension increase rather than tension reduction.

AC/A (psychophysics) The ratio of accommodative convergence to accommodation; it is a description of the

near response of an individual which is constant for that individual.

academic 1. Relating to formal education, particularly involving the study of books. 2. Pertaining to the theoretical rather than practical issues. In psychology, referring to those experimental programs and schools of thought whose goals are theoretical as opposed to practical application.

acalculia A form of aphasia that involves the loss of ability to carry out even simple arithmetic operations.

acanthesthesia A variety of paresthesia in which the individual experiences the sensations of pinpricks.

acarophobia 1. A morbid fear of mites. 2. Extended to include a wide variety of small animals and objects.

acatalepsia Abnormal inability to understand or to reason; impairment of reasoning function.

acatalepsy An obsolete term that was used as synonymous with dementia.

acatamathesia 1. Inability to understand perceived objects or situations. 2. Impaired ability to comprehend the meaning of spoken language.

acataphasia The inability to arrange words in the correct phrasing and sentence structure of common speech. Also called syntactical aphasia.

acathexia Partial or complete inability to retain secretions and excretions of the organism.

acathexis (psychoanalysis) The absence of a cathexis. Particular ideas or thoughts that hold no feelings or emotions for an individual are said to be acathected.

acathisia The inability to sit down because the thought of such an act or the act itself produces intense anxiety in the individual.

acathisia paraesthetica Presently called paresthetic acathisia; another name for acathisia—the inability to sit down due to emotional factors.

acathisia psychasthenica Presently called psychasthenic acathisia; the inability to sit down because the thought of such an act or the act itself produces intense anxiety in the individual.

acathisia spastica Presently called spastic acathisia; the inability to sit down because the thought or act of sitting results in hysterical convulsive seizures.

acceleration 1. A quickening or speeding up. 2. An increase in the rate of change. Constant acceleration—an increase that is the same in each successive time unit. Positive acceleration—an increase that is more with each successive time unit. Negative acceleration—an increase that is less with each successive time unit.

acceleration, developmental Uneven growth; precocious growth of some or all functions.

acceptance 1. A positive attitude toward an idea or judgment. 2. A relationship or attitude that involves the recognition of an individual's worth without condoning or condemning the person's behavior or verbalizations and without implying emotional attachment.

acceptance in social relations (B. B. Wolman) Social relations are viewed in the two dimensions of "power" and "acceptance," power being measured in terms of the ability or inability to satisfy needs, and acceptance in terms of willingness or unwillingness to do so. Individuals who are willing to satisfy the needs of others are

perceived as friendly, those who act against the needs of others are perceived as hostile.

acceptor of action results (AAR) An apparatus of the functional system which corresponds to decision making. The apparatus of AAR consists of several functional structures. One of them concerns the ascending tonic influences of the hypothalamus and reticular formation. These influences sustain AAR as a rather heterogeneous apparatus in a long-lasting stable state until the program of action is formed and the result that was programmed is attained. Another mechanism of the AAR can be called the "mechanism of collation." Due to the afferent synthesis the afferent features of a probable result are mobilized from memory, as predicted. By means of return afferentation at the acceptor of action results, a collation of features of the real result is combined with the features of what has been predicted by the AAR.

accessory Additional help, contributory, assisting. Used to refer to those parts of a sense organ that aid in the organ's more effective functioning.

accessory catalepsy See *cataplexy, accessory*.

accident Unusual, unpredictable event, usually harmful.

accident, cerebrovascular Apoplexy; stroke. A serious and sudden damage caused to the cerebrum by hemorrhage or thrombosis or embolism, associated with partial or complete paralysis, brain damage, and psychotic state.

accident, intentional An accident occurring because of an unconscious motive.

accident proneness 1. Tendency to experience harm or damage. 2. Unconscious wish to be harmed.

accident, purposeful An accident that satisfied some need of the individual. Also called intentional accident. See *accident, intentional*.

accidental chaining See *chaining, accidental*.

accidental errors See *errors, chance*.

accidental reinforcement See *reinforcement, accidental*.

accidental stimuli See *stimuli, accidental*.

accidental symptom A symptom that occurs during a mental disorder but is not related to the etiology or symptomatology of the disorder.

accommodation 1. The adjustment and adaptation of an organ, a part of an organ, or an organism to existing situations. 2. The changes in the lens and ciliary muscle of the eye for focusing at different distances. 3. (J. Piaget) The modification of an existing schema by which a person perceives or thinks as a result of new experiences.

accommodation, absolute The adjustment or change in the shape of the lens in response to different distances as considered for each eye separately.

accommodation, binocular Simultaneous accommodation of both eyes.

accomplishment quotient Also called achievement quotient; the ratio of achievement age, the actual performance in school or on a standardized test and the performance level expected, indicated by the chronological age or estimated by the mental age.

acculturation 1. The processes by which children learn the characteristic behavior patterns of their social group. 2. The processes through which an individual learns the behavior patterns of a particular group, thus enabling the person to get along within that group. 3. The acquisition of the cultural elements of one people by individuals of another group or culture.

accuracy 1. Pertaining to exactness, freedom from error. 2. Relating to the degree of correspondence between that which is said or measured and a fact, thing, or event. 3. Ratio between number of test items correctly answered and the number of test items attempted.

accuracy compulsion (Rorschach) A tendency of the subject to be overly concerned with the form of the ink-blots and dissatisfied with his own associations or responses.

accuracy score See *score, accuracy*.

accuracy test See *test, accuracy*.

ACE Test See *Test, ACE*.

acedia Listlessness, carelessness, melancholia, and apathy. (This term is rarely used.)

acenesesthesia Absence or lack of the feeling or perception of one's own body.

acerophobia Also acerbophobia; an intense fear of sourness.

acetylcholine A compound released at the endings of parasympathetic postganglionic and all preganglionic nerve endings. This base is believed to be responsible for the passage of impulses across synapses thus activating muscles. It also lowers blood pressure and increases peristalsis.

acetylcholine, metabolism of Acetylcholine, produced from acetylation of choline by the enzyme choline acetylase, is present in the brain almost entirely in bound form. On nerve stimulation, it is released in its "free" form and is rapidly inactivated by the enzyme cholinesterase through hydrolysis to acetate and choline.

Ach, Narziss Kaspar (1871–1946) Member of Oswald Külpe's "Würzburg school" of imageless thought in Germany, later professor of psychology at Berlin, Königsberg, and Göttingen. His 1904 work on the determining tendency in thought (such as being ready to add or to multiply two digits before they are presented) was a landmark in the psychology of set.

achievement 1. Accomplishment, success in bringing about a desired end. 2. That which is successfully attained. 3. The degree or level of success in some specified area or in general. The level of proficiency attained in scholastic or academic work.

achievement age Achievement described in terms of age; the level of attainment that is considered normal for a particular age; the chronological age that is equivalent to a specific level of performance.

achievement battery A group of tests that measure the degree of attainment of skills and knowledge in several areas.

achievement drive See *drive, achievement*.

achievement motive (D. C. McClelland) Technically in psychology a concern to improve, to do things better than one has done them before; measured by counting the frequency with which people think spontaneously in

terms of improvement in imaginative stories; related to certain action characteristics like taking moderate risks and preferring concrete feedback on quality of performance which in turn facilitate entrepreneurship and rapid economic growth. Not related to fame or school achievement, or to one's own opinion of how concerned he or she is to get ahead.

achievement need See *need, achievement*.

achievement quotient Less commonly called accomplishment quotient; the ratio of actual performance level to the expected level of performance.

achievement test See *test, achievement*.

Achilles jerk The reflex movement of the ankle when the Achilles tendon is tapped lightly.

achluophobia An intense fear of darkness.

achromatic 1. Lacking in chroma; that is, possessing no hue or saturation but only the dimension of brilliance. Such stimuli are considered "colorless colors," running from black through gray to white. 2. Referring to a lens that has been corrected for chromatic aberration.

achromatic color response A type of Rorschach response in which the black, white, and/or gray features of the inkblots are specifically used to represent color, as for example, "a black bat." The scoring symbol 'C' is generally used to denote such responses.

achromatism Complete color blindness.

achromatopsia Inability to discriminate between all hues; all stimuli are perceived as achromatic-gray; total color blindness; also called achromatism.

acidosis, diabetic Occurs in diabetes mellitus and is due to a loss of base in the urine along with the accumulation of ketone acids in the tissues and blood. May result in coma.

acmaesthesia Also acmesthesia; perceiving sharp points by touch but lacking the sensation of pain usually associated with such perceptions.

acme 1. The highest point. 2. The highest point of pleasure occurring during sexual intercourse. 3. (medicine) The critical stage or crisis point of a disease.

acolasia An old term for unrestrained self-indulgence or lust.

aconuresis Also enuresis; the uncontrolled or involuntary passage of urine.

acoria 1. An insatiable desire for food because the individual never feels full after eating. 2. A form of hunger as a result of the absence of feeling satiated after a meal.

acoumeter Also acumeter; an instrument used to determine auditory acuity or sensitivity of hearing. Hearing loss is measured in terms of decibels at the various frequencies within the normal range of sensitivity. More commonly called audiometer.

acousia Involuntary behavior.

acousma A simple auditory hallucination such as hissing or buzzing. A condition on the borderline between illusion and true hallucinosis.

acousmatagnosia Pathological inability to understand spoken words and recognize meaningful sounds.

acousmatamnesia Pathological inability to remember spoken words and recognize meaningful sounds.

acoustic agraphia Pathological inability to take dictation.

acoustic spectrum The range of sound waves within the range of human hearing from about 16,000 to 20,000 Hz.

acoustico-mnestic aphasia See *aphasia, acoustico-mnestic*.

acousticomotor epilepsy An epileptic seizure provoked by a loud and sudden noise.

acousticophobia A morbid fear of sounds.

acoustics 1. The science of sound, specifically the physics of sound. 2. Those characteristics of a room that affect the distinctness with which sounds can be heard within that enclosure.

acquired 1. Obtained. 2. (psychology) Behavior or response that is gained primarily through practice, experience, and learning. 3. (biology) Development that is due to environmental influences.

acquired amentia See *amentia, acquired*.

acquired drive See *drive, acquired*.

acquired fear Fear resulting from conditions.

acquisition 1. That which is gained or added by the organism, such as ideas, information, or new ways of responding. 2. Increase in the response strength after the behavior has been rewarded.

acquisition cumulative curve See *curve, acquisition cumulative*.

acquisition curve See *curve, acquisition cumulative*.

acquisitiveness A strong tendency or desire to possess, and sometimes to hoard certain objects.

acrai An Arabian term, no longer used in the United States, that is synonymous with nymphomania and satyriasis.

acrasia, acrasia Absence of self-control; intemperance.

acratia Impotence; inefficiency; loss of power.

acroaesthesia Also acroesthesia; exaggerated sensitivity in the extremities, especially to pain.

acroanesthesia Loss of feeling or sensitivity in the extremities.

acrocinesia Also acrocinesis; excessive motion or movement as sometimes observed in certain cases of hysteria.

acrocyanosis Blueness of the extremities as a result of a vasomotor disturbance. If this condition is chronic and progressive, there is hypertrophy of the soft tissues of the hands and feet. One of the symptoms which accompany severe schizophrenia.

acrocyanotic Pertaining to the condition characterized by bluish discoloration of the extremities.

acrohypothermic Relating to abnormal coldness of the extremities.

acrokinesis Involuntary movement of the limbs.

acromania An obsolete term that was used to refer to a chronic, incurable, and violent form of behavior disorder.

acromegaly A condition involving the overgrowth of bones and connective tissue caused by hypersecretion of the anterior pituitary gland during adulthood. The characteristics are enlarged head, hands, feet, and some internal organs.

acromicria Term used in constitutional medicine especially by E. Kretschmer and N. Pende, for a condition characterized by the underdevelopment of the extremities and the skull as compared to visceral development. Acromicria congenital is an expression introduced by C. E. Benda for mongolism. See *syndrome*, *Down's*.

acroneurosis A vasomotor neurotic disorder.

acroparesthesia 1. A sense of numbness, sometimes recurring, in the extremities. 2. A neurosis, chiefly seen in middle-aged women, involving tingling or crawling sensations and coldness in the hands.

acrophobia An intense fear of being in high places.

act A basic or primitive term in act psychology, but in association or Gestalt psychology a derived term. The "act issue" is whether to conceive relations or acts as primitive terms of a theory of mind. If mental acts are basic, then relations between elements of experience are formed by mental acts. If relations are embedded in the nature of experience (K. Stumpf; Wm. James), then both mental acts and laws of association, which function to relate elements in experience, are not necessary.

If relations are formed by the integrative action of the nervous system (Koehler), then both mental acts and laws of association are not necessary. The act issue starts with two notions: (1) that experience comes in mosaic-like elements and (2) that the unity of consciousness is a psychologically real phenomenon which must be explained. For Aristotle the common sensibilities related the elements of experience; for the British empiricists after J. Locke, the laws of association performed that function; for Gestalt psychologists the integrative activity of the nervous system related elements of experience; but for act psychologists the unity of experience is achieved by means of cognitive functions of mind.

act-habit Repetitive activities on the part of a child that represent habituation and personality-rooted character traits. This term points out the importance of different cultural aspects of the environment in influencing the development of certain aspects of a child's personality.

act psychology Within the domain of mental phenomena, act psychology can be distinguished on ontological grounds from other psychological constructions as follows: (1) what exists are contents and their relations (W. Wundt), (2) what exists are contents, relations, and mental acts or functions (O. Külpe), and (3) what exists are primarily mental acts within which contents have a secondary existence (F. C. Brentano).

Some forms of act psychology, following Aristotle's and Aquinas' philosophical realism, also assert the existence of objects external to the individual. For the Brentano school, only real objects are capable of being presented in the sensorium. This position leads to controversies about the existence of objects like mermaids, golden mountains, and so on. A realist position was defended by B. Russell, who made a distinction between knowledge by acquaintance and knowledge by description.

Closely related to the tradition of act psychology is J. P. Guilford's structure-of-intellect model. This model categorizes knowledge according to contents (figural, symbolic, semantic, behavioral), form (units, classes, re-

lations, systems, transformations, implications), and mental operations or acts, into cognition, memory, divergent production, convergent production, and evaluation.

Act psychology can be distinguished from two other views: association psychology and Gestalt psychology. Association psychology relations arise as a result of the operation of laws of association; in Gestalt psychology they arise as a result of an integrative activity of the nervous system; in act psychology they occur by a mental act.

act, pure stimulus (C. L. Hull) An act which, although it does not serve to move the organism closer to a goal, initiates the proprioceptive stimuli that tend to elicit the appropriate operant response.

ACTH See *hormone*, *adrenocorticotrophic*.

acting in The patient's acting out in a psychotherapeutic session.

acting out (psychoanalysis) The reproduction of forgotten attitudes, memories, or conflicts by action rather than words without conscious awareness or recognition on the part of the individual. Carrying into action behavior patterns that are appropriate to an older situation but are brought out by the symbolic similarity of the present situation. During psychoanalytic treatment, the patient behaves toward the therapist in ways that are reproductions of past attitudes toward parental authority. This is called "acting out in the transference." Acting out can occur outside of the analytic situation but related to it. In these instances, the patient projects his feelings toward the therapist onto people in his everyday environment. Externalization of conflicts through acting out can, with some persons, occur without being related to treatment, as in character disorders. This term is often applied indiscriminately to any aggressive or antisocial activity. Such behaviors have an unclear relationship to acting out and, therefore, the term lacks precision except within the context of an analytic situation.

actinic rays Short-wavelength light rays, violet and ultraviolet, which produce chemical change.

action currents The changes in the electrical potential of nerves or muscles that occur during physiological activity.

action, deferred (psychoanalysis) When an experience becomes significant and meaningful not at the time the experience took place; that is, when the original experience is revived by some subsequent occurrence.

action interpretation (S. R. Slavson) The nonverbal reaction of a therapist to the statements or acts of a patient. A technique used almost exclusively in activity group psychotherapy.

action potential The entire sequence of changes in the electrical potential associated with impulses in nerves and muscles. Often used as synonymous for action current.

action, psychomotor A behavioral response or action that is the direct result of an idea or perception.

action psychotherapy See *psychotherapy*.

action research Scientific programs or studies designed to yield results that are practical rather than theoretical.

action, symbolic Unconscious and automatic actions that are considered accidental by the individual doing them. These acts may be simple or complex; but either

type conceals a definite meaning. Symbolic actions may manifest themselves in such unconscious mannerisms as jingling coins or playing with a moustache.

action system 1. All the glands, nerves, and muscles involved in the production of a particular response. 2. All the physiological and psychological structures participating in accomplishing a specific behavioral result.

activation A desynchronization of the electrical recordings made from the brain (EEG) when the organism becomes alert.

activation theory of the emotions The assumption that defines emotion as one end of a continuum of activation. The continuum ranges from sleep (no activity) to violent emotion (maximum activity).

active 1. Dynamic, functioning, working. 2. Possessing the qualities of movement or change. 3. Alert, showing spontaneity or initiative. 4. Causing action.

active analysis (psychoanalysis) A technique in which the analyst takes a more dominating role in the treatment process. The analyst would offer advice, give interpretations, and give suggestions for the direction of free association. Wilhelm Stekel and Sandor Ferenczi advocated various types of active psychoanalysis.

active fantasizing A psychotherapeutic procedure involving the analysis of the patient's spontaneous imagery. Through the analysis of fantasied images, the analyst can uncover the unconscious roots of the patient's conflicts and help the patient bring them into conscious awareness.

active imagination See *imagination, active*.

active-passive 1. A polarity believed to be important in governing mental life and most commonly applied to opposing aims of instinctual drives. Activity is evident when a person seeks objects to gratify needs. Passivity is manifested when a person wishes to have someone gratify instinctual needs, with him or her being the receiver of gratification. 2. Children move from passivity to activity as they learn to perform for themselves functions previously performed for them by adults. 3. A specialized psychoanalytic usage referring to the structural concepts of id, ego, and superego, which are considered to be, at various times, either active or passive in relation to one another.

active therapy See *psychotherapy, active analytic*.

activities, graded Occupations and handicrafts that have been classified according to their difficulty; that is, the amount of mental and physical effort needed to complete them. This system is used in occupational therapy to make possible a simultaneous increase in difficulty and in the patient's capacity to perform.

activity catharsis A catharsis in which the repressed feelings and thoughts are conveyed through action rather than verbally. This situation occurs often in activity group psychotherapy.

activity, group An activity in which several individuals participate. In occupational therapy, the main value of such a group is its socializing effect on the members.

activity, group immobilizing (S. R. Slavson) A form of group psychotherapy in which activities are limited to one specific interest or task for the purpose of binding libidinal energy.

activity group therapy See *psychotherapy, activity group*.

activity, libido-binding (S. R. Slavson) Activities that tie an individual to a particular interest or occupation.

activity, socializing Referring to therapy groups, any activity that results in the interaction of an individual with other members of the group.

activity wheel A drum in which the subject, usually a rat, may run turning the drum. The measure of the activity is the number of revolutions of the drum.

actual neurosis See *neurosis, actual*.

acuity The accurateness or sharpness of perception.

acuity grating A square with alternate black and white lines printed very close together, used to measure visual acuity by determining the minimum separability that is needed so that the objects will be perceived as two distinct things.

acute 1. Sharp or pointed at the end. 2. Sensitive to fine discriminations in both perception and thinking. 3. Severe or sharp pains. 4. Of rapid onset and lasting a short time. 5. An angle of less than 90° or containing one or more angles of less than 90°. 6. (psychopathology) Acute disorder or disease with a sudden onset and usually short duration.

acute affective reflex See *reflex, acute affective*.

acute brain disorder A complex of symptoms resulting from temporary impairment of the functions of brain tissue such as the disordered behavior occasionally induced by drugs.

acute delirium A condition of mental confusion and excitement characterized by convulsions and sometimes death.

acute hallucinosis A condition in which the individual experiences hallucinations for not longer than a few weeks. Hallucinosis is typically toxic in origin, particularly associated with acute alcoholism.

acute mania See *mania, acute*.

acute preparation An animal that must be destroyed for humane reasons following an experiment involving unusual surgical techniques.

acute shock psychosis See *psychosis, acute shock*.

adaptation 1. (physiology) The change or adjustment of a sense organ to the incoming stimulation. Sensory adaptation: (a) decreased sensitivity to stimuli due to prolonged stimulation, also called negative adaptation; (b) continued effective sensory responsiveness under changing stimulation. 2. (biology) Structural or behavioral changes of an organism or part of an organism that fits it more perfectly for the environmental conditions under which it must live; changes that have survival value. 3. More generally, any beneficial modification that is necessary to meet environmental demands. Social adaptation: accepting and meeting societal and interpersonal demands. 4. Elimination of irrelevant behavior as learning progresses. 5. (A. Adler) A process of upward adjustment and compensation for man's innate deficiencies. 6. (E. Fromm) Modifications in drives, attitudes, and emotions in adjusting to the environment. Although people can adjust themselves to most circumstances, there are some limits to the malleability of human nature. 7. (H. Hartmann) A critical concept in Hartmann's theory of the ego. The newborn child has an

innate perceptual and protective apparatus which, after the id-ego separation, becomes the conflict-free ego sphere. This apparatus performs the tasks of mastering the reality, called by Hartmann adaptation.

adaptation, brightness A decrease in the brilliance of a stimulus which is caused by an increase in the general illumination of the surrounding visual field.

adaptation, color See *color adaptation*.

adaptation level (H. Helson) 1. A hypothesized momentary state of the organism at which stimuli are neutral or indifferent on any attribute. The stimuli above this point have specific characteristics and those below have complementary qualities. For example, in the transition from pleasant stimuli to unpleasant stimuli there is a stimulus or group of stimuli that is neutral. This transitional zone represents the stimuli to which the organism is adapted so far as the particular quality, magnitude, or attribute is concerned. 2. Also known as AL, the adaptation level can be operationally defined as the value of that stimulus which elicits a neutral response when a subject judges a set of stimuli in terms of qualitative or numerical rating scales. 3. The theory of adaptation level attempts to evaluate the factors that influence this neutral zone in terms of focal, background, and residual stimuli. The AL is seldom, if ever, at the center or at the arithmetic mean of the series. The phenomenon is called decentering. As a result of decentered AL, the usual tendency is to overestimate small values of stimuli and to underestimate large values of stimuli, although the contrary is sometimes found. These and other puzzles in classical psychophysics are easily explained if it is assumed that the prevailing AL is the effective norm in psychophysical judgments. Harry Helson and his co-workers have proposed quantitative theories embodying AL as a parameter to deal with difficulties in such classical formulations as the Weber-Fechner law and phenomena associated with changed states of adaptation in color vision. It is generally accepted that AL is a weighted geometric mean of focal, background (or contextual), and residual stimuli. While AL denotes the value of stimulus that elicits a neutral or indifferent response, to predict or fit the responses to each of the members of a class of stimuli being judged, it is necessary to know the proper type of S-R function or curve for the data in question.

The adaptation level theory has been utilized in studies of psychophysical judgment, sensory and perceptual processes, language and communication, and in aesthetic, social, and personality studies, to mention a few of its numerous applications.

adaptation, photopic See *adaptation, brightness*.

adaptation syndrome See *syndrome, adaptation*.

adaptation time The duration of time from the onset of a stimulus to the moment when the consequent changes in the sense organ being stimulated cease.

adaptational psychodynamics See *psychodynamics, adaptational*.

adaptive Relating to that which aids in adjustment or improvement; appropriate.

adaptive act (H. A. Carr) Adaptation to the environment is of central importance. In the adaptive process, motives act on the organism; there is always a sensory situation and a response to the stimulus. Response is the activity that leads to a change in the entire situation in the direction of satisfaction of the motive. Once the mo-

tive is satisfied, the organism does not react to it any longer. The object by which the motive is satisfied is called an incentive. A motive represents a genuine need; the satisfaction of a motive is necessary for the survival and the well-being of the organism. When the adaptive act is completed the action of the motivating stimulus is terminated and the goal of the response accomplished.

adaptive behavior Any behavior that aids the organism in meeting the demands of its environment; adjustive or appropriate responses.

adaptometer Any instrument used to measure the degree of sensory adaptation, but specifically applied to a device that measures dark adaptation.

addephagia Bulimia.

addiction 1. Compulsive craving for something. 2. Overdependence on the intake of certain substances such as alcohol and drugs, or performing of certain acts such as smoking. 3. Inability to overcome a habit or behavioral pattern.

Addison's disease A progressive condition of anemia accompanied by digestive disturbances, weakness, and some pigmentation of the skin, which is caused by ineffective functioning of the adrenal cortex.

additional response Used in Rorschach testing to note instances in which the subject reports a percept during the inquiry phase of the test which he or she did not report during the free-association period.

additional scores See *scores, additional*.

additive scale See *scale, additive*.

additive W A type of response to the Rorschach inkblot test that involves the report of details which the subject eventually combines to form a whole response. See *test, Rorschach inkblots*.

ademonia A term used in the past for severe mental anxiety or distress; sometimes used as synonymous with melancholy.

ademosyne A term that was used as synonymous with nostalgia.

adenoid type A hypertrophied pharyngeal tonsil or adenoid that is believed to be a sign of a serious constitutional problem. The extreme cases of this type are frequently associated with cretinism and deaf-mutism.

adepthagia Also addephagia; a term used in the past indicating an abnormal and insatiable appetite; synonymous with bulimia.

adequate stimulus See *stimulus, adequate*.

adermonervia An obsolete term for anesthesia.

ADH Antidiuretic hormone. See *vasopressin*.

adhesion 1. (physics) The molecular attraction between body surfaces that are in contact with one another. 2. (medicine) The abnormal connection between organs or parts of organs due to inflammatory growth of new tissues. 3. The connection or sticking together of substances, events, or ideas.

adiadochokinesis Also adiadochokinesis or adiadochokinesia; adiadochokinesis or adiadochokinesia. 1. Inability to perform movements that involve rapid alteration. 2. Continuous movement.

adience (adient behavior) Behavior that moves the organism toward a specific stimulus or exposes the or-