


THE DICTIONARY OF **HEALTH EDUCATION**

DAVID A. BEDWORTH ▪ ALBERT E. BEDWORTH

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The Dictionary *of* Health Education

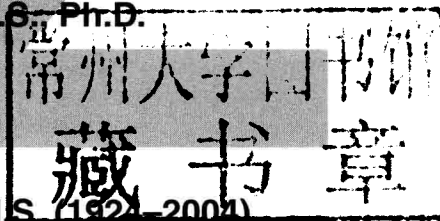
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The Dictionary *of* Health Education

ALBERT E. BEDWORTH and I began work on this dictionary in the mid-1980s. At that time, there was no other dictionary of health education on the market; the necessity of such a publication was clear in order to further the development of professionalism among health educators and to clearly identify the language of health education as it is used in the field.

Mr. Bedworth conceived of this project and completed much of the research for it prior to his death in January 2004. I continued work on the dictionary after his passing and was fortunate to have come to an agreement with Oxford University Press to publish it.

The contributions to the field of health education by Mr. Bedworth are numerous. He began working in the field in 1951. He taught health education

in several school districts in New York State, most notably teaching in the Ithaca City School district for 17 years. During that time, Mr. Bedworth developed and implemented a regional model for the coordination of school health education, what was to become known as the BOCES health coordinator network in New York State, and which was widely replicated throughout the nation. He served in the New York State Education Department from 1970 until his retirement in 1979.

Mr. Bedworth was the coauthor of four other books in the field of health education, the author of numerous papers in professional journals, and the founding Executive Editor of the *Journal of Drug Education*.

DAVID A. BEDWORTH, PH.D.

FORMS OF HEALTH EDUCATION have existed in many cultures throughout the world for centuries. Some of these were intertwined with the political or religious practices of ancient civilizations. Some became traditional childrearing practices within family structures.

Health education was introduced into the schools as a subdiscipline about one hundred years ago. In some instances, it was implemented as a separate discipline, but it was not until the middle 1960s that this approach was more-or-less universally accepted as effective. Health education has also greatly expanded in scope in official and voluntary health agencies, in the workplace, and in clinical settings.

Over the decades, many books have been written about health education. Many have been devoted to the philosophy, problems, and practices of health education. Many of these publications have attempted to define many of the terms used in the health education profession. However, none is complete or useable as a definitive reference. *The Dictionary of Health Education* brings together for the first time in one volume all of the pertinent, important, and vital health education terms and expressions. It clearly defines, explains, and illustrates the entire profession of health education, its professional language, and its technical language. It

is the authoritative and definitive source of the language of the profession of health education and all of its subspecialties.

The definitions provided in this book are alphabetically arranged, and the descriptions of terms and expressions are cross referenced where appropriate, and illustrated as needed, for further clarity and understanding. In addition, the dictionary contains tables of important health and medical terms.

The dictionary includes terminology used by health educators and related professions as their foundational language. The terms and expressions presented focus specifically on those that are appropriate to education as they are applied to health education: the principles of learning, the principles of health education methodology, organization, strategies, evaluation, curriculum design, ethics, standards, goals, and objectives. The dictionary also includes technical terms and expressions that health educators must understand to function effectively.

The Dictionary of Health Education is concluded with complete documentation in the form of a bibliography. This section contains a listing of current and classical sources that have used the terms, expressions, and other descriptions contained in this volume.

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Symbols and Abbreviations Used

cf:	Defined elsewhere. Compared to.
ct:	Defined elsewhere. In contrast to.
e.g.	For example
i.e.	That is
esp.	Especially
ex.	Example
q.v.	Defined elsewhere.
qq.v.	The immediately preceding list defined elsewhere.
~	The term or phrase being defined.

The Dictionary *of* Health Education

A

A Angstrom unit *q.v.*

AA An acronym for Alcoholics Anonymous *q.v.*; Addicts Anonymous *q.v.*

AAA An acronym for 1. American Academy of Allergists. 2. American Association of Anatomists. 3. American Automobile Association.

AAAS An acronym for American Association for the Advancement of Science.

AACCN An acronym for American Association of Critical Care Nurses.

AAFP An acronym for American Academy of Family Practice.

AAHB An acronym for American Academy of Health Behavior.

AAIN An acronym for American Association of Industrial Nurses.

AAMA An acronym for American Association of Medical Assistants.

AANA An acronym for American Association for Nurse Anesthetists.

AAP An acronym for American Academy of Pediatrics.

AAPA An acronym for American Academy of Physician's Assistants.

AAPCC An acronym for American Association of Poison Control Centers.

AART An acronym for American Association for Respiratory Therapy.

AASMUS 1. Breathing. 2. Pertaining to asthma *q.v.* related to a physiogenic *q.v.* etiology *q.v.*

AB An acronym for Aid to the Blind.

ABASIA A condition characterized by the inability to walk resulting from motor *q.v.* incoordination *q.v.* or paralysis *q.v.* cf: ataxia.

ABATEMENT In law, the termination of a lawsuit.

ABBEY SCHOOL Monastic school *q.v.*

ABC An acronym for alternative birth center *q.v.*

AB DESIGN In research, a time-series design in which a control phase called the baseline (A) frequently precedes a treatment phase (B).

ABDOMEN 1. The area of the body between the diaphragm *q.v.* and the pelvis. 2. The belly. cf: abdominal cavity.

ABDOMINAL CATASTROPHE The most sudden and severe form of an acute abdominal injury.

ABDOMINAL CAVITY One of the three major body cavities located below the diaphragm *q.v.* and the chest cavity *q.v.* and above the pelvic cavity *q.v.* The ~ contains the stomach, spleen, pancreas, intestines, liver, and gallbladder.

ABDOMINAL MUSCLES The trunk-flexor muscle group that form the supporting wall for the organs of the abdomen *q.v.* and the pelvic *q.v.* regions.

ABDOMINAL PREGNANCY A type of displaced or ectopic *q.v.* pregnancy *q.v.* in which the embryo *q.v.* becomes attached to mislocated endometrial *q.v.* tissue in the abdominal *q.v.* wall.

ABDOMINOPLASTY A surgical procedure for reshaping the abdomen *q.v.*

ABDUCT To move away from the midline. ct: adduct.

ABDUCTION The movement of a body part in the frontal plane *q.v.* away from the midline of the body. ct: adduction.

ABERRATION Deviation from what is common or normal.

ABIC The Adaptive Behavior Inventory for Children, a part of SOMPA *q.v.*

ABIENT The tendency to move away from a stimulus or situation. ct: adient.

ABILITY 1. A pattern of behavioral tendencies responsible for skillful performance in a variety of related tasks. 2. In health, the capacity for self-sufficiency. 3. The present level of performance on some task. ct: aptitude.

ABILITY GROUPING Organizing learners into homogeneous groups based on perceived intellectual ability resulting from intelligence tests *q.v.* and previous performances.

ABILITY TO PAY 1. A theory characterized by a wage determination concept based on the employer's ability to pay certain wage rates. 2. In health, the ability of an individual to pay health/medical expenses given existing health insurance or other means of paying the provider.

ABIOTIC 1. Spontaneous generation *q.v.* 2. Obsolete doctrine of the origin of life from lifeless matter.

ABIOSIS The absence of life.

ABLATIVE THERAPY A treatment by the removal or eradication of a body part.

ABNORMAL 1. Deviation from the normal *q.v.* 2. Deviation. 3. Uncommon. 4. In psychology, psychological *q.v.* deviation from the norm or usual; behavior that is detrimental to the person or to the society. 5. Those characteristics that disable a person from functioning in all types of human societies. *ct:* normal. *cf:* deviant.

ABNORMAL BEHAVIOR 1. Any behavior *q.v.* that includes at least one of the following characteristics: (a) extreme social deviance *q.v.*, (b) subjective distress, or (c) psychological *q.v.* handicap. 2. Used in the field of psychology to designate behavior that does not meet the criteria of normal *q.v.*

ABNORMAL INTELLIGENCE Pertaining to either unusually low or unusually high intelligence *q.v.*

ABORAL In biology, opposite to the mouth.

ABORTIFACIENT 1. A drug or substance capable of inducing abortion *q.v.* 2. Any substance that causes the pregnant uterus *q.v.* to rid itself of its contents.

ABORTION 1. Terminating a pregnancy *q.v.* 2. The intentional removal (induced) or the spontaneous (natural) expulsion of the fetus *q.v.* or embryo *q.v.* from the uterus *q.v.* before it can survive on its own. 3. Premature expulsion from the uterus of the products of conception *q.v.*: the embryo or a nonviable fetus. ~ may be therapeutic or elective. *cf:* miscarriage; spontaneous abortion; induced abortion.

ABRADE 1. To wear away by mechanical action. 2. To scrape away the epidermis *q.v.*

ABRASION 1. The scraping off of the superficial layers of the skin. 2. A wound caused when the skin or mucous membrane *q.v.* is scraped off the body.

ABREACTION 1. Catharsis *q.v.* 2. In psychoanalysis *q.v.*, the removal of a suppressed desire or complex *q.v.* by talking it out. 3. Expression of pent-up emotions *q.v.*

ABRUPTION 1. The placenta *q.v.* separates from the uterus *q.v.* during the third trimester of pregnancy *q.v.* 2. A tearing away from.

ABCESS 1. An inflamed area of the body characterized by swelling and an accumulation of pus *q.v.* 2. An infection *q.v.* restricted to a localized area. 3. A localized collection of pus in a cavity formed by the disintegration of tissues. 4. An ~ of the apex of a tooth.

ABSCISSION 1. In biology, a zone of tissue formed in order that separation may take place. 2. In botany, the

dropping of leaves, flowers, fruits, or other plant parts, usually following the formation of a separation layer.

ABSENTEEISM Failure to be in a certain place, e.g., work or class, at a specified time.

ABSOLUTE ALCOHOL One hundred percent alcohol; also called anhydrous alcohol.

ABSOLUTE GLAUCOMA A nonremediable condition of the eye that causes the destruction of the optic nerve *q.v.* and the retina *q.v.*

ABSOLUTE THRESHOLD 1. The lowest intensity of a stimulus *q.v.* that produces a response *q.v.* 2. Detection threshold. 3. The minimal level of stimulation that a person can detect.

ABSOLUTELY REFRACTORY PHASE The period immediately after firing, during which time a neuron *q.v.* is completely unresponsive to a stimulus *q.v.*

ABSOLUTIST ETHIC A system of beliefs in which right and wrong are unchanging and absolute. *cf:* relativistic; hedonistic ethics.

ABSORBENT An agent that takes up water or fluid and increases in bulk. *cf:* adsorbent.

ABSORPTION 1. In nutrition, the movement of digested *q.v.* food from the lumen *q.v.* of the intestine *q.v.* into intestinal cells, and from there, into the bloodstream for distribution to other parts of the body. 2. The taking up of a liquid or gas through a mucous membrane *q.v.* or skin. 3. The passage of a substance from the stomach and intestine into the bloodstream, lymph, and cells. 4. Sucking up or imbibing, as a sponge absorbs water.

ABSTENTION 1. Abstinence *q.v.* 2. Voluntarily not engaging in some act.

ABSTINENCE 1. Completely avoiding the use of substances, such as alcohol, tobacco, caffeine, and the like. ~ is also used in other areas of health practices and lifestyles. ~ from sexual intercourse *q.v.* or birth control techniques. 2. A condition of not using a particular substance or refraining from using a drug *q.v.*

ABSTINENCE SYNDROME 1. Withdrawal syndrome *q.v.* 2. Physiological *q.v.* and psychological *q.v.* symptoms *q.v.* that result from an abrupt withdrawal from certain drugs. 3. A set of symptoms that occur together, resulting from withdrawal from alcohol, depressants *q.v.*, and opiates *q.v.*

ABSTRACT IDEAS The concept *q.v.* of creative thoughts that are unsupported or only partially supported by concrete evidence. Things that may not be real or concrete.

ABSTRACT MODELING The act of applying what has been learned to other related situations.

ABULIA 1. Loss of will power. 2. The impairment of the ability to initiate voluntary action and to make decisions.

ABUSE To frequently use improperly or to misuse. cf: child abuse; drug abuse.

ACADEMIC FREEDOM A teaching/learning environment characterized by the freedom and opportunity for a teacher to teach without coercion, censorship, or restrictive interference so long as such teachings are within certain socially acceptable boundaries.

ACADEMIC SUPPORT Generally refers to financial support. ~ includes expenditures for support services that are an integral part of an educational institution's basic functions.

ACADEMIC YEAR The period of time that an educational institution is in session. Pre-college schools usually are in session from late August or early September through June of the next calendar year. Colleges and universities may vary somewhat from this designated year, depending upon their adherence to a semester system.

ACADEMY American secondary school during colonial times which stressed practical subjects.

ACALCULIA 1. Loss of the ability to calculate. 2. Inability to successfully manipulate number symbols.

ACANTHAMOEBA KERATITIS A disease of the eye associated with contact lenses *q.v.* ~ can result in blindness from lesions *q.v.* of the cornea *q.v.*

ACAPNIA A marked decrease in blood carbon dioxide *q.v.* content.

ACCELERATED PROGRAM Educational program established in some schools to make it possible for superior learners to advance more rapidly through the educational program or curriculum *q.v.*

ACCELERATION A process that allows students to achieve at a rate that is consonant with their capacity or ability *q.v.*

ACCEPTANCE The process in qualitative research by which subjects being observed become sufficiently accustomed to the observer that their behavior is normal. cf: qualitative evaluation; qualitative variable.

ACCESS 1. In the health care system, a person's ability to obtain health care. ~ is generally influenced by geographic location of the person or health care providers, social standing, ethnicity, financial status, and psychological *q.v.* and intellectual *q.v.* status. 2. A way or means of approach.

ACCESSIBILITY The degree to which an adaptive specialization *q.v.* in intellectual functioning can be separated from its original function and brought in conscious, deliberate application to other problems for which a similar solution is appropriate.

ACCIDENT 1. An event that happens by chance, or by unforeseen or remote causes. 2. Coincidental happening resulting in tragedy from mild and unimportant to severe. 3. An unintentional, unexpected, avoidable and usually undesirable event. 4. An unplanned happening or circumstance that results in body injury, death, or property damage.

ACCIDENT PRONE A person who experiences a greater number of accidents *q.v.* than would be expected under the circumstances.

ACCOMMODATION 1. The adaptation *q.v.* by the person to the assimilated *q.v.* experience. 2. In health, incorporation of a health fact influencing one's health attitude and subsequent health behavior *q.v.* 3. Complete adaptation *q.v.* to the external environment *q.v.* 4. The way a person changes his or her schemas as he or she continues to interact with the environment. 5. In physiology, the process by which the eye lens is thickened or flattened to focus on an object. 6. A primary cue to depth and distance. 7. In psychology, the tendency to revise an existing schema as the result of a new experience. 8. In sociology, a social process whereby individuals and groups minimize their differences in order to reach adjustment in interactions. 9. The process of intellectual adaptation complementary to assimilation *q.v.*

ACCOMMODATION PROCESS IN SOCIAL EXCHANGE

The tendency to engage in relationships so as to provide maximum pleasure and minimal pain to each participant.

ACCOUNTABILITY 1. In education, the requirement that teachers specify objectives *q.v.* at the beginning of a course and present evidence of how well learners have achieved these objectives by the end of the course. 2. Responsibility related to quality of educational programs. 3. Accepting responsibility for one's actions to another. 4. The management philosophy that individuals are held liable or accountable for how well they use their authority and live up to their authority and live up to their responsibility of performing predetermined activities. 5. To furnish justification or detailed explanation of financial activities. 6. To furnish reasons or explanations. account giving. The primary means by which persons make themselves seem intelligible or reasonable to others.

ACCREDITATION 1. Acknowledgment by an outside group that an educational institution or program meets certain standards. 2. The process by which a review agency evaluates an institution. Persons representing the review agency determine whether the institution meets certain predetermined criteria of acceptability. 3. In the case of

higher education, students graduating from an accredited school are given the opportunity to become certified *q.v.* 4. Certification *q.v.* by an accrediting agency in accordance with established standards. 5. In reference to hospitals, a voluntary process that indicates that certain minimal standards of institutional care are in effect.

ACCREDITING AGENCY An organization that establishes criteria and standards for judging the quality of an educational institution and its programs. The ~ submits a report concerning the institution's quality.

ACCRETION An increase in size by external addition. *ct.* intussusception.

ACCRETION AND DELETION OF TEXTURE A dynamic cue that provides information about the relative distance of objects. The cue is created whenever objects move relative to their background.

ACCRETIVE The collection or accumulation of hypotheses derived from scientific investigations that were completed.

ACCULTURATION The process whereby members of a subculture and minorities acquire cultural characteristics such as values, beliefs, language, and acceptable behaviors of the dominant group in the community or society.

ACCUMULATIVE INCIDENCE The occurrence of an event or act by a given time or age.

ACCURACY 1. In testing, the ratio of the number of test items correctly answered to the number of test items attempted. 2. Evaluation *q.v.* related to the number of errors made; the fewer the errors, the greater the ~. 3. In reading or language, the precision in pronouncing words: the exactness of comprehension in reading.

ACCURACY IN REASONING The degree of conformity between an assertion resulting from a reasoning process and an assertion that might logically be deduced from the given premises or from previous assertions.

ACCURATE BODY CONCEPT Pertaining to the ability of a person to evaluate his or her body with accuracy. *cf.* self-concept.

AC/DC Slang for a bisexual *q.v.* person.

ACENTRIC CHROMOSOME A chromosome *q.v.* fragment lacking a centromere *q.v.*

ACEP An acronym for American College of Emergency Physicians.

ACETABULUM In anatomy, the large cup-shaped depression in the hipbone into which the head of the thighbone (femur) fits.

ACETALDEHYDE 1. A colorless, soluble liquid with the chemical formula C_2H_4O . 2. An organic compound. 3. A

toxic breakdown of ethyl alcohol. 4. The chemical product of the first step in the liver's metabolism *q.v.* of alcohol *q.v.* It is normally present only in small amounts, as it is rapidly converted to acetic acid *q.v.*

ACETAMINOPHEN 1. An active ingredient in some non-prescription *q.v.* drugs that relieve pain and reduce fever. ~ is taken for headaches and other pains as a preference to aspirin *q.v.* 2. A substitute analgesic *q.v.* useful for persons who are sensitive to aspirin. 3. A pain reliever. *cf.* acetylsalicylic acid; ibuprofen.

ACETONE 1. A chemical compound found in the urine in trace amounts. When large amounts are present, it gives off a fruity odor to the urine or breath. This may be present in a diabetic *q.v.* 2. An organic *q.v.* compound in the urine in any condition in which insufficient carbohydrates *q.v.* oxidize in the body.

ACETONE BODIES 1. Ketone bodies *q.v.* 2. Acids *q.v.* formed during the first part of fat catabolism *q.v.* acetoacetic acid, beta-hydroxybutyric acid, and acetone *q.v.*

ACETOPHENAZINE 1. An antipsychotic *q.v.* drug. Tindal is a commercial preparation of ~.

ACETYLCHOLINE 1. An acetic acid ester *q.v.* of choline *q.v.* that is normally present in many parts of the body and functions in the transmission of nerve impulses *q.v.* 2. A chemical neurotransmitter *q.v.* in many parts of the body, including neuromuscular *q.v.* functions and the nervous system *q.v.* 3. The neurotransmitter secreted by motor nerves *q.v.* to excite skeletal muscles *q.v.* 4. A neurotransmitter in the parasympathetic nervous system *q.v.* 5. Abbreviation Ach. 6. A neurotransmitter that acts as an excitatory transmitter at the synaptic *q.v.* junction between muscle fibers and motor neurons *q.v.*

ACETYLCHOLINESTERASE (AChE) An enzyme *q.v.* that stops the action of acetylcholine *q.v.*

ACETYL COENZYME A (acetyl CoA) An important metabolic intermediate that provides energy *q.v.* for cellular function, and is used for the synthesis *q.v.* of cholesterol *q.v.*, fatty acids *q.v.*, and other biological compounds.

ACETYSALICYLIC ACID 1. The active ingredient in aspirin *q.v.* 2. A drug that is an anti-inflammatory agent, an antipyretic *q.v.*, and an analgesic *q.v.* 3. Aspirin. *cf.* acetaminophen; ibuprofen.

ACH Acetylcholine *q.v.*

ACHA Acronym for American College Health Association.

ACHALASIA An obstruction that occurs in the lower esophagus *q.v.* that is thought to be due to a loss of nerve function. The obstruction may be the result of the retention of food in the upper esophagus.

ACHe Acetylcholinesterase *q.v.*

ACHIEVED STATUS In sociology, a social position allocated to a person because of his or her achievement *q.v.* or uniquely achieved qualities.

ACHIEVEMENT 1. Reaching a goal *q.v.* 2. Accomplishment or proficiency of performance in a particular skill or in knowledge of a subject. ~ may be categorized into academic, learner, age, quotient, ratio, record of, a scale, score, standards, tests or general.

ACHIEVEMENT AGE The age of a person associated with the level of acquired learning determined by a proficiency test and related to the chronological age of the average with the level of achievement.

ACHIEVEMENT MOTIVATION Behavior that results from the need for achievement, the desire to do something better or more efficiently than it had been done before. *cf.*: achievement motive.

ACHIEVEMENT MOTIVE 1. The desire to meet or exceed some standard of excellence. 2. Techniques used to encourage learners to strive for success. *cf.*: motive; motivation; achievement motivation.

ACHIEVEMENT TEST 1. A device (written, oral, or manipulative) that measures the degree of proficiency already attained in some specific skill or ability (intellectual, social, emotional, or manual). 2. A measure directed toward ascertaining intellectual, social, emotional, or physical skills. 3. In health education, a measure of a learner's level of health knowledge, attitudes, or behavior. 4. An examination that measures the extent to which a person has acquired certain information or mastered certain skills, usually as a result of specific instruction or educational experiences.

ACHILLES TENDON 1. The large tendon *q.v.* at the back of the heel which moves the foot up and down at the ankle joint. 2. The tendon inserted on the calcaneus *q.v.* 3. From Greek mythology, that Achilles' mother held him by the heels when she dipped him in the river Styx, thereby making him invulnerable except in the area of the heel.

ACHLORHYDRIS A lack of hydrochloric acid *q.v.* in the stomach.

ACHONDROPLASIA A condition occurring in fetal life in which cartilage is absorbed during the development of bone tissue resulting in a disproportionate growth of the trunk and extremities producing achondroplastic dwarfism *q.v.*

ACHONDROPLASTIC DWARFISM A peculiar type of dwarfism *q.v.* caused by defective development of the ends of the long bones during fetal development.

ACHROMATIC Colorless visual sensations. *cf.*: rods; cones; retina.

ACHROMATIC VISION Color blindness *q.v.*

ACHROMATIN The substance of the cell nucleus *q.v.* that is not readily stained by staining agents.

ACID Any substance that releases hydrogen ions *q.v.* in solution. The hydrogen ions may be displaced by a metal to form salt. *cf.*: base; alkali.

ACID-BASE BALANCE The ratio of acidity and alkalinity of body fluids.

ACIDOPHIL Eosinophil *q.v.*

ACIDOSIS 1. An elevation in the acidity of the blood. 2. A poisonous chemical imbalance in the blood that may lead to coma and death.

ACID RAIN Rain containing nitric and sulfuric acid, formed when nitrogen and sulfur oxides from motor vehicles and coal-burning power plants and factories react with moisture in the atmosphere.

ACINI The milk-producing glands in the breast.

ACNE 1. A skin disorder occurring naturally in most adolescents and is apparently the result of increased amounts of androgens *q.v.* 2. An inflammatory condition of the oil glands of the skin.

ACOELOMATE In biology, without a body cavity or coelom *q.v.*

ACOUASM A false perception of some sounds such as ringing or hissing.

ACOUMETER An instrument for testing hearing. The Politzer ~ produces a clicking tone that can be heard up to about 45 feet.

ACOUSTIC Pertaining to the sense of hearing or to the science that is concerned with this sense.

ACOUSTIC METHOD Developed by Max A. Foldstein, a method of teaching the deaf. Speech and speech understanding are achieved by training the auditory *q.v.* and tactile *q.v.* senses to recognize sound vibrations produced by the voice or sonorous instruments.

ACOUSTIC BASIS The foundation of phonetic language. The ~ is used to determine the variations in language pronunciations.

ACOUSTICS 1. The science of sound. 2. The science concerned with the cause and characteristics of vibrations resulting in sound.

ACP An acronym for 1. American College of Physicians. 2. American College of Pathologists *q.v.*

ACQUAINTANCE RAPE Rape *q.v.* in which the assailant and the victim know each other. Sometimes involves date rape characterized by a social date ending in unwanted sexual intercourse.

ACQUIRED Characteristics of a person that are not ascribable to heredity *q.v.*

ACQUIRED CHARACTER A modification impressed on an organism by environmental *q.v.* influences during development. cf: acquired traits.

ACQUIRED DRIVE A learned motive *q.v.* cf: primary drive.

ACQUIRED EQUIVALENCE OF CUES In psychology or social science, the tendency to treat persons or object in the same way when they are called by the same name.

ACQUIRED IMMUNE DEFICIENCY SYNDROME (AIDS)

1. The end-stage manifestations of infection *q.v.* with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) which destroys important components of the human immune system *q.v.* Persons with the disease develop infections that would not occur with normal immunity *q.v.* The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention have strict criteria for a diagnosis of AIDS. These include a positive test for exposure to HIV and certain abnormalities in T-cell *q.v.* ratios, as well as a number of infections and cancers *q.v.* including the following: histoplasmosis *q.v.*, isoporiasis *q.v.*, candidiasis *q.v.*, various forms of pneumonia *q.v.*, esp. *Pneumocystis carinii q.v.*, pneumonia enterocolitis *q.v.*, meningitis *q.v.* esophagitis, encephalitis *q.v.*, chronic mucocutaneous herpes simplex *q.v.*, cytomegalovirus infection, chronic progressive multifocal leukoencephalopathy, Hodgkin's disease *q.v.*, non-Hodgkin's lymphoma *q.v.*, Burkitt's lymphoma *q.v.*, liver cancer, cancer of the oropharynx, chronic lymphocytic leukemia, lung cancer *q.v.*, and Kaposi's sarcoma *q.v.* in persons under 60 years. Also included in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's definition are central nervous system *q.v.* abnormalities caused by infection with HIV itself. 2. A condition in which the immune system is weakened so that it becomes vulnerable to disease and infection. 3. A disease in which the body's immune system breaks down, leading eventually to death. Because the disease is spread through the mixing of body fluids, it is prevalent in intravenous drug users who share needles. 4. A disease that attacks the body's defense system, gradually rendering it incapable of fighting disease. 5. Also immunodeficiency syndrome *q.v.* A disease believed to be caused by a retrovirus (HIV) and characterized by a deficiency of the immune system. The primary defect is an acquired, persistent, quantitative functional depression within the T4 subset of lymphocytes which often leads to infections caused by opportunistic microorganisms in HIV-infected persons.

ACQUIRED IMMUNITY 1. The major component of the immune system *q.v.* associated with the formation of antibodies *q.v.* and specialized blood cells that are capable of destroying pathogens *q.v.* 2. The potential to resist an infection or disease.

ACQUIRED TRAITS Characteristics developed with growth. cf: acquired character.

ACQUISITION 1. Learning. 2. Assimilation *q.v.*

ACROANESTHESIA A condition characterized by the absence of feeling in the extremities. ct: acroesthesia.

ACROESTHESIA A condition in which there is an increased sensitivity in the extremities, esp. to pain. ct: acroanesthesia.

ACROLEIN 1. A volatile, irritating liquid that results from overheating fat. 2. A decomposition product of glycerol *q.v.*

ACROMANIA A form of manic *q.v.* behavior characterized by extreme motor *q.v.* activity.

ACROMEGALY 1. A progressive disease associated with hyperfunction of the pituitary gland *q.v.* and characterized by enlargement of the skeleton, hands, feet, and face. 2. ~ is characterized by hypertrophy *q.v.* of the bones, and connective tissues *q.v.* of the hands, feet, face, and head. ct: gigantism (gigantism).

ACROMELALGIA A disease condition of the extremities, esp. the feet, characterized by pain upon walking. cf: erythromelalgia.

ACROMIO 1. Pertaining to the clavicular joint. 2. The union between the clavicle *q.v.* and the scapula *q.v.* and the supporting ligaments. cf: acromion.

ACROMION 1. The bony process on the superior/lateral region of the scapula *q.v.* 2. The outward extension of the spine of the scapula forming the point of the shoulder. cf: acromio.

ACRONYM A mnemonic device made up of the first letter of a set of several words to be memorized.

ACROPHOBIA 1. An irrational, morbid fear of high places. 2. One of the many human phobias *q.v.*

ACROSOME 1. A chemical reservoir in the head of the spermatozoa *q.v.* 2. The cap-like structure in the head of the sperm *q.v.* that contains chemicals that digest a hole into the ovum *q.v.* allowing penetration of the sperm.

ACROSTIC A mnemonic device made up of a sentence consisting of words that begin with the same letter as a set of words to be memorized.

ACRYLONITRATE A plastic material formerly used as a food container. In 1977, the Food and Drug Administration *q.v.* suspended use of these containers because studies showed that test animals fed ~ had significantly

lowered body weight, growths in the ear ducts, and lesions of the central nervous system *q.v.*

ACS An acronym for 1. American Chemical Society. 2. American College of Surgeons. 3. American Cancer Society.

ACSM An acronym for American College of Sports Medicine.

ACT An acronym for American College Testing Program *q.v.*

ACTH An acronym for adrenocorticotrophic hormone *q.v.*

ACTING In psychology, to actually do something about a decision that a person values when the opportunity arises. The third step in the valuing process.

ACTING OUT In psychology, manifesting conflicts *q.v.* in overt behavior *q.v.* rather than controlling them through suppression *q.v.* or other defense mechanisms *q.v.* ~ is a characteristic of antisocial *q.v.* personalities *q.v.*

ACTION 1. In law, a lawsuit. 2. An ordinary proceeding in a court by which one party prosecutes another for the enforcement or protection of a right, the redress of a wrong, or the punishment of a public offense. 3. A suit. 4. In sociology or psychology *q.v.*, group action, discussion by two or more people to achieve results or solutions to a problem not likely to occur by actions of one person. Frequently, used in problem solving techniques *q.v.* Also referred to as group action or group problem solving. Used also in group therapy *q.v.* 5. Impulsive ~ is a form of behavior *q.v.* that takes place without conscious deliberation and without regard for the consequences of the behavior. 6. Reflective ~ is a form of behavior occurring after one selects a response to a stimulus *q.v.* Thinking about the consequences of the action taken.

ACTIONABLE 1. In law, that which furnishes legal grounds for action *q.v.* 2. The circumstances are such that there is a ground for court action.

ACTION AT LAW Court action *q.v.* in a law case. *ct.*: equity.

ACTION PLAY Bodily movements associated with verse for the purpose of developing a child's sense of rhythm and large muscles *q.v.* and releasing tensions and stress *q.v.*

ACTION POTENTIAL 1. A brief change in the electrical potential of an axon *q.v.* that is the physical basis of the nervous system impulse *q.v.* 2. A technique for measuring the presence of muscular activity of the speech organs in silent reading by the use of a galvanometer *q.v.*

ACTION PROJECT A school-based activity with specific carryover into the community. ~s are intended to make the learning experience relevant in the social life of learners. Examples include surveying the community,

environmental cleanup, and participating in screening programs sponsored by a clinic.

ACTION-SPECIFIC ENERGY In ethology *q.v.*, the proposition that the energy for instinctive behavior *q.v.* is specifically available to certain reactions in the presence of certain stimuli *q.v.* referred to as releasers.

ACTIVATED CHARCOAL Powdered charcoal that has been treated to increase its powers of absorption *q.v.*

ACTIVATING EFFECTS In psychology, influences on the motivation *q.v.* or stimulation of behavior *q.v.* *ct.*: organizing effects.

ACTIVATION 1. Energy mobilization. 2. In reproduction, a series of biochemical changes in the sperm *q.v.* to allow it to fuse with an egg.

ACTIVATOR In chemistry, any substance, usually a particular metal ion *q.v.* that is very low concentration significantly accelerates the speed of a chemical reaction.

ACTIVE COPING In psychology, adjusting that results when people assume they can control their own behavior *q.v.* and patterns of interaction. *cf.*: reactive coping.

ACTIVE EUTHANASIA Direct euthanasia *q.v.*

ACTIVE IMMUNITY 1. The body's immune system *q.v.* is stimulated to develop antibodies *q.v.* to a particular antigen *q.v.* 2. A type of acquired immunity *q.v.* resulting from the body's response to naturally occurring pathogens *q.v.* 3. Protection against a disease resulting from the production of antibodies in a host that has been exposed to a disease-producing antigen.

ACTIVE INGREDIENT 1. In botany, the specific chemical in a plant responsible for the drug action ascribed to the entire plant. 2. In medicine, the chemical or chemicals that affect a reaction in the body.

ACTIVE LEARNING In education, learning *q.v.* situations in which the learner *q.v.* is directly involved in the experiences by doing.

ACTIVE LISTENING 1. In communication theory, paraphrasing what others have said which demonstrates interest and understanding of the conversation. 2. A communication technique that avoids the interference of a listener's judgments. 3. Listening that involves giving complete attention to the communicator as well as reflecting precisely what is being communicated. 4. Critical listening. 5. Evidenced by learners' response to what is being communicated, observed by feedback *q.v.*

ACTIVE METABOLITE In a pharmacological *q.v.* preparation, the chemical substance that is responsible for the effects of a drug or medicine.

ACTIVE-PASSIVE MODEL A model of the practitioner-patient relationship that occurs when the patient is unable,