

THE
Penguin Macquarie
DICTIONARY

企鹅麦夸里英语词典



The up-to-date
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- 30,000 entries
and idioms
- 10,000
collocations
- 10,000
expressions
- 10,000
phrases

THE

Penguin Macquarie DICTIONARY

The International Dictionary for all Australians

General Editor: A. Delbridge



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Introduction

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When *The Macquarie Dictionary* was first published, in 1981, the first 50,000 copies were sold in little more than three months. Since then, reassured by a continuing public acceptance, the same editorial group has produced a number of smaller dictionaries, each one designed to meet the needs of a clearly perceived set of readers varying in age, in vocational interests, or in levels or types of language use. The rapid production of these spin-off dictionaries has been made possible by the use of computers, through which the products of our continuous research in current usage are immediately available to us and directly adaptable to the requirements of any of our current publishing projects. The hard work of writing each book still has to be faced, but the writers are cheered by knowing that the records of usage are both accurate and up to date, and that the whole database of our research from 1970 onward is available for words to be selected from.

Behind *The Penguin Macquarie* there is a support library comprising the big *Macquarie* in its 1985 revision, the *Concise*, the *Handy*, the *Pocket*, *The Macquarie Thesaurus*, and (for colloquialisms) *Aussie Talk*.

The intended users of *The Penguin Macquarie* have been thought of as adults wanting a well-established and reliable dictionary covering the central core of the vocabulary of our community; not too highly specialised or technical, not giving too much space to archaic expressions or regionalisms, not going overboard for obscure colloquialisms or rare abbreviations, not cluttering up its pages with information that any intelligent reader would already have known, or specifying extensions in grammar or sense that would have been assumed by readers with some general understanding of how our language works. After all, bigger or more specialised dictionaries are there to be consulted if the reader wants such things spelt out.

The Penguin Macquarie has over 24,000 headwords, and a much greater number of definitions of senses, chosen because they are current and most likely to be useful. Etymologies have been omitted, to make more room for words and definitions. There is a very full set of entries for local flora and fauna, drawn from the comprehensive lists of *The Macquarie Thesaurus*. If you are looking for New Zealand words (like **kamahi**, **Maoritanga**, **bach**, or **cattlestop**) you will find them readily supplied. There is a generous helping of colloquialisms, both words and phrases, so you will not be stumped by **Barcoo sandwich**, or **cocky's joy**. And if your newspaper leaves you mystified about **fax**, **electronic funds transfer**, **low-joule** or **user-friendly**, *The Penguin Macquarie* will bring you up with the times.

It is not only the technology of producing dictionaries that has changed. Author and reader now have a new relationship, far different from the one expressed in Ford Chesterfield's letter, published in 1754, when Dr Johnson's great dictionary was about to appear:

"I hereby declare that I make a total surrender of all my rights and privileges in the English language, as a freeborn British subject, to the said Dr Johnson, during the term of his dictatorship!"

For the *Macquarie* editors the writing of dictionaries calls for a close interactive relationship with their readers. Our aim is for this dictionary to be a response to the immediate needs of dictionary users, and to assist them with the lexicographical demands of modern life.

Explanatory Notes

THE ENTRY

All information within one complete entry has been arranged for the convenience of the user. In general, information about spelling and pronunciation comes first, meanings next, and run-on headwords last.

Abbreviations used in this dictionary have been limited as far as possible to familiar ones. All abbreviations used can be found in the table on pages x and xi.

HEADWORD

The headword is the word or words which are being defined in a particular entry; it appears in large bold-face type at the left, slightly farther into the left margin than the usual line of text.

Words which, though spelt identically, are of quite distinct derivation, are given separate entries; in such cases, each headword is followed by a small superscript number. (Example: **gum**¹ and **gum**².) Entries are arranged under headwords in strict alphabetical order. A particular headword can be located by taking each successive letter of the headword in alphabetical order, ignoring hyphens, apostrophes and word spaces. For example, **bush band** is found between **bush** and **bushcraft**.

PRONUNCIATION

The pronunciation follows the headword within slant brackets. It is given in the International Phonetic Alphabet, for which keys may be found on pages xii and xiii.

For some headwords more than one pronunciation is given, the first of these being the one more widely used.

PARTS OF SPEECH

The pronunciation is usually followed by an abbreviation in italics which indicates the part of speech of the headword, for example, *n.*, *adj.*

If the headword is used in more than one grammatical form, the part-of-speech label precedes each set of definitions to which it applies.

INFLECTED FORMS

If a headword has irregularly inflected forms (any form not made by the simple addition of the suffix to the main entry), the summary of these forms is given immediately after the pronunciation. Regularly inflected forms, not generally shown, include:

1. Nouns forming a plural merely by the addition of *-s* or *-es*, such as *dog (dogs)* or *class (classes)*;
2. Verbs forming the past tense by adding *-ed*, such as *halt (halted)*;
3. Verbs forming the present tense by adding *-s* or *-es*, such as *talk (talks)* or *smash (smashes)*;
4. Verbs forming the present participle by adding *-ing*, such as *walk (walking)*;
5. Adjectives forming the comparative and superlative by adding *-er*, *-est*, such as *black (blacker, blackest)*.

Regular forms are given, however, when necessary for clarity or the avoidance of confusion.

The past tense, past participle and present participle are given as the inflected forms of verbs; where, as commonly happens, the past tense and past participle are the same in form, this form is shown once. (Example: the inflected forms indicated for **put** are **put**, **putting**, where **put** is both the past tense and past participle.)

If necessary, variants of inflected forms are labelled as to level of usage or distribution.

RESTRICTIVE LABELS

Entries that are limited in usage as to level, region, time, or subject, are marked with such labels as *Colloq.*, *U.S.*, *Obs.*, *Electronics*, etc.

If the restrictive label applies to the entire entry, it appears before the definition(s). If, however, the restrictive label applies to only one grammatical form, it appears after that part-of-speech label but before the definition numbers to which it applies. If the restrictive label applies to only one definition, it appears before that definition, after the definition number.

DEFINITIONS

Definitions are individually numbered; numbers appear in a single sequence which does not begin afresh with each grammatical form. In some cases in which two definitions are very closely related, usually within the same field of information, they are marked with bold-face letters of the alphabet under the same definition number.

SECONDARY HEADWORDS

Idiomatic phrases, prepositional verb phrases, etc., are usually listed in bold face under main headwords. Such entries are usually placed under the difficult or key word.

VARIANT SPELLINGS

Definitions always appear under the commonest spelling of a word. In many cases, less common variants are given cross-references to the main headword. For example, the word *gipsy* has a variant *gypsy* which appears as a headword followed by → **gipsy**, indicating that the reader should seek information at the headword.

Regularly formed variants are usually not given. These include:

- the *-ize* variant of verbs ending in *-ise*, such as *realise/realize*, *generalise/generalize*.
- the *-or* variant of words ending in *-our*, such as *honour/honor*, *flavour/flavor*.
- the variant inflection of verbs in which the final consonant is not doubled before the addition of *-ed* and *-ing*, such as *travelled/traveled*, *travelling/traveling*.

RUN-ON HEADWORDS

Words which are related to the headword and which are an extension of the meaning are run on after the last definition in the entry. Such headwords appear in secondary bold-face type, followed by an indication of their grammatical form.

Abbreviations used in the Dictionary

abbrev. abbreviation

A.C.T. Australian Capital Territory

adj. adjective

adv. adverb

Aeron. Aeronautics

Agric. Agriculture

Alg. Algebra

Anat. Anatomy

Anc. Hist. Ancient History

Anthrop. Anthropology

Archaeol. Archaeology

Archit. Architecture

Astrol. Astrology

Astron. Astronomy

Aus. Australian

aux. auxiliary

Biochem. Biochemistry

Biol. Biology

Bot. Botany

Bldg Trades Building Trades

Brit. British

Carp. Carpentry

Chem. Chemistry

Class. Myth. Classical Mythology

Colloq. Colloquial

Comm. Commerce

conj. conjunction

derog. derogatory

Ecol. Ecology

Econ. Economics

Educ. Education

Elect. Electronics, Electrical

Eng. English

Engin. Engineering

esp. especially

etc. et cetera

euph. euphemism

Europ. European

fem. feminine

fig. figurative

fol. followed

Fr. French

Geog. Geography

Geol. Geology

Geom. Geometry

Ger. German

Gk Greek

Govt Government

Gram. Grammar

Gymn. Gymnastics

Hist. History

indic. indicative

interj. interjection

Internat. Law International Law

Jap. Japanese

Jew. Hist. Jewish History

joc. jocular

Journal. Journalism

lit. literally

Lit. Literature

masc. masculine

Mech. Mechanics

Med. Medicine

Mediev. Hist. Medieval History

Metall. Metallurgy

Mil. Military

Mineral. Mineralogy

Mod. Hist. Modern History

Myth. Mythology

n. noun

Naut. Nautical

N.S.W. New South Wales

N.T. Northern Territory

N.Z. New Zealand

obs. obsolete

oft. often

orig. original(ly)

Parl. Parliament

Pharm. Pharmacy

Philos. Philosophy

Phonet. Phonetics

Photog. Photography

Phys. Physics
pl. plural
p.p. past participle
prep. preposition
pres. part. present participle
pron. pronoun
Psychiat. Psychiatry
Psychol. Psychology

Qld Queensland

Rom. Cath. Ch. Roman Catholic
Church

Russ. Russian

S.A. South Australia

Scand. Scandinavian

Scot. Scottish

Shipbldg Shipbuilding

sing. singular

Stats Statistics
subj. subjunctive
Surg. Surgery

Tas. Tasmania

Tech. Drawing Technical Drawing

Theat. Theatre

Theol. Theology

U.S. United States of America

usu. usually

v. verb

Vet. Sci. Veterinary Science

v.i. intransitive verb

Vic. Victoria

v.t. transitive verb

W.A. Western Australia

Zool. Zoology

International Phonetic Alphabet Sy

(a) Vowels	i	as in "peat"	/pit/
	ɪ	as in "pit"	/pɪt/
	e	as in "pet"	/pet/
	æ	as in "pat"	/pæt/
	a	as in "part"	/pat/
	ɒ	as in "pot"	/pɒt/
	ʌ	as in "but"	/bʌt/

(b) Diphthongs	aɪ	as in "buy"	/baɪ/
	eɪ	as in "bay"	/beɪ/
	ɔɪ	as in "boy"	/bɔɪ/
	əʊ	as in "how"	/haʊ/

(c) Consonants	(i) Plosives		
	p	as in "pet"	/pet/
	b	as in "bet"	/bet/
	t	as in "tale"	/teɪl/
	d	as in "dale"	/deɪl/
	k	as in "came"	/keɪm/
	g	as in "game"	/geɪm/
	(ii) Fricatives		
	f	as in "fine"	/faɪn/
	v	as in "vine"	/vaɪn/
	θ	as in "thin"	/θɪn/
	ð	as in "then"	/ðen/
	s	as in "seal"	/seɪl/
	z	as in "zeal"	/zeɪl/
	ʃ	as in "show"	/ʃəʊ/
	ʒ	as in "measure"	/ˈmeɪʒə/
	h	as in "heat"	/hi:t/
	r	as in "rain"	/reɪn/

(d) Stress	ˈ	as in "clatter"	/ˈklætə/
	ˌ	as in "multimillionaire"	/ˌmʌltɪmɪljəˈneə/

mbols for use in Australian English

ɔ	as in "port"	/pɔt/
ʊ	as in "put"	/put/
u	as in "pool"	/pul/
ɜ	as in "pert"	/pɜt/
ə	as in "apart"	/ə'pat/
õ	as in "bon voyage"	/bõ vwa'jaʒ/

ou	as in "hoe"	/hou/
ɪə	as in "here"	/hɪə/
ɛə	as in "hair"	/hɛə/
uə	as in "tour"	/tuə/

(iii) Affricatives

tʃ	as in "choke"	/tʃouk/
dʒ	as in "joke"	/dʒouk/

(iv) Nasals

m	as in "mile"	/maɪl/
n	as in "neat"	/ni:t/
ŋ	as in "sing"	/sɪŋ/

(v) Semi-vowels

j	as in "you"	/ju/
w	as in "woo"	/wu/

(vi) Laterals

l	as in "last"	/last/
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Aa

A, *a*, *n.*, *pl.* **A's**, *a's*, or **As**. 1. the first letter of the English Alphabet. 2. the highest mark for school work, etc. 3. *Music*: the sixth note in the scale of C major.

a /eɪ/, *weak form* /ə/, *adj.* or *indef. article*. a word used esp. before nouns beginning with a consonant to mean: 1. some (indefinite singular referring to one individual of a class). 2. another. 3. one. 4. any (a single). 5. indefinite plural. Also, *before a vowel*, *an*.

a /eɪ/, *weak form* /ə/, *adj.* or *indef. article*. each; every.

a-, a prefix, a reduced form of Old English prep. *on*, meaning 'on', 'in', 'into', 'to', 'towards', preserved before a noun in a prepositional phrase, forming a predicate adjective or an adverbial element, as in *afloat*, *abed*, *ashore*, *apart*, *aside*, and in archaic and dialectal use before a present participle in -ing, as in *to set the bells aringing*.

a-, a prefix, a reduced form of Old English *of*, as in *akin*, *afresh*, *anew*.

a-, a prefix indicating 1. up, out, or away, as in *arise*, *awake*. 2. intensified action, as in *abide*, *amaze*.

a-, variant of **ab-** before *m*, *p*, and *v*, as in *aperient*, *avert*.

a-, variant of **ad-**, used: 1. before *sc*, *sp*, *st*, as in *ascend*. 2. in words of French derivation (often with the sense of increase, addition), as in *amass*.

a-, variant of **an-** before consonants, as in *achromatic*.

A-1 /eɪˈwʌn/, *adj.* *Colloq.* 1. first-class; excellent. 2. in good health. Also, **A-one**.

aardvark /ˈadvɜːk/, *n.* a large, African, nocturnal, burrowing mammal of the genus *Orycteropus*, subsisting largely on termites.

ab-, a prefix meaning 'off', 'away', 'from', as in *abduct*, *abjure*.

aback /əˈbæk/, *adv.* in the phrase *taken aback*, suddenly disconcerted.

abacus /ˈæbəkəs/, *n.*, *pl.* **-ci** /-si/, a contrivance for calculating, consisting of beads or balls strung on wires or rods set in a frame.

abalone /əˈbəlouni/, *n.* any of the various univalve, marine molluscs of the genus *Haliotis*. The flesh is used for food and the shell for mother-of-pearl ornaments; sea-ear; mutton-fish.

abandon /əˈbændən/, *v.t.* 1. to leave completely and finally; forsake utterly; desert. 2. to give up (something begun) without finishing. 3. to yield (oneself) unrestrainedly. - **abandoner**, *n.* - **abandonment**, *n.*

abandon /əˈbændən/, *n.* freedom from constraint or conventionality.

abase /əˈbeɪs/, *v.t.*, **abased**, **abasing**. to reduce or lower, as in rank, office, estimation; humble; degrade. - **abasement**, *n.* - **abaser**, *n.*

abashed /əˈbæʃt/, *adj.* ashamed or embarrassed.

abate /əˈbeɪt/, *v.*, **abated**, **abating**. - *v.t.* 1. to reduce in amount, intensity, etc.; lessen; diminish. - *v.i.* 2. to decrease or become less in strength or violence. - **abatable**, *adj.* - **abatement**, *n.*

abattoirs /ˈæbətɔːz/, *n.pl.* a building or place where animals are slaughtered for food; a slaughterhouse. Also, **abattoir**.

abbess /ˈæbəs/, *n.* the female superior of a convent.

abbey /ˈæbi/, *n.*, *pl.* **-beys**. 1. the religious body or establishment under an abbot or abbess; a monastery or convent. 2. the monastic buildings.

abbot /ˈæbət/, *n.* the head or superior of a monas-

tery. - **abbots**, *n.*

abbreviate /əˈbrɪviət/, *v.t.*, **-ated**, **-ating**. to make brief; make shorter by contraction or omission.

- **abbreviator**, **abbreviation**, *n.*

ABC /eɪ biˈsi/, *n.* 1. Also, **ABCs**, the alphabet. 2. the main or the basic facts, principles, etc. (of any subject).

abdicate /ˈæbdəkeɪt/, *v.*, **-cated**, **-cating**. - *v.i.* 1. to renounce a throne or some claim; relinquish a right, power, or trust. - *v.t.* 2. to give up or renounce (office, duties, authority, etc.), esp. in a voluntary, public, or formal manner. - **abdication**, *n.* - **abdicator**, **abdicator**, *n.*

abdomen /ˈæbdəmən, əˈbdʊmən/, *n.* 1. that part of the body of a mammal between the thorax and the pelvis; the visceral cavity containing most of the digestive organs; the belly. 2. (in vertebrates below mammals) a region of the body corresponding to but not coincident with the human abdomen. - **abdominal**, *adj.*

abduct /əbˈdʌkt, æb-/ *v.t.* to carry off surreptitiously or by force, esp. to kidnap. - **abductor**, *n.* - **abduction**, *n.*

Aberdeen Angus /ˈæbdɪn ˈæŋɡəs/, *n.* one of a breed of hornless beef cattle with smooth black hair.

aberrant /əˈberənt, ɐˈberənt/, *adj.* 1. straying from the right or usual course. 2. deviating from the ordinary or normal type. - **aberrance**, **aberrancy**, *n.*

aberration /əˈberɪʃən/, *n.* 1. the act of wandering from the usual way or normal course. 2. lapse from a sound mental state. - **aberrational**, *adj.*

abet /əˈbet/, *v.t.*, **abetted**, **abetting**. to encourage or countenance by aid or approval (used chiefly in a bad sense). - **abetment**, *n.* - **abetter**, *Law*: **abettor**, *n.*

abeyance /əˈbeɪəns/, *n.* temporary inactivity or suspension.

abhor /əbˈhɔː/, *v.t.*, **-horred**, **-horring**. to regard with repugnance. - **abhorrence**, *n.*

abhorrent /əbˈhɒrənt/, *adj.* exciting horror; detestable. - **abhorrence**, *n.* - **abhorrently**, *adv.*

abide /əˈbaɪd/, *v.*, **abode** /əˈbʊd/ or **abided**, **abiding**. - *v.i.* 1. to remain. 2. to continue in a certain condition. 3. **abide by**, *a.* to stand by. *b.* to await or accept the consequences of. - *v.t.* 4. *Colloq.* to put up with. - **abider**, **abidance**, *n.* - **abiding**, *adj.*

ability /əˈbɪləti/, *n.*, *pl.* **-ties**. 1. power or capacity to do or act in any relation. 2. competence in any occupation or field of action. 3. (pl.) talents.

abject /əbˈdʒekt/, *adj.* 1. utterly humiliating or disheartening. 2. contemptible. 3. humble. - **abjection**, *n.* - **abjectly**, *adv.* - **abjectness**, *n.*

abjure /əbˈdʒʊə/, *v.t.*, **-jured**, **-juring**. 1. to renounce or repudiate. 2. to forswear. - **abjuratory**, *adj.* - **abjurer**, **abjuration**, *n.*

ablation /əˈblɪʃən/, *n.* 1. *Med.* removal, esp. of organs, abnormal growths, or harmful substances from the body by mechanical, physical or chemical means, as surgery or irradiation. 2. *Physics, Geol.* etc. erosion of a solid body by a fluid.

ablaze /əˈbleɪz/, *adv.* 1. on fire. - *adj.* 2. gleaming as if on fire. 3. excited. 4. very angry.

able /əˈbeɪl/, *adj.*, **abler**, **ablest**. 1. having sufficient power, strength, or qualifications. 2. showing talent or knowledge.

-**able**, a suffix used to form adjectives, esp. from verbs, to denote ability, liability, tendency, worthiness, or likelihood, as in *teachable*, *perishable*, *obtainable*, but also attached to other parts of speech (esp. nouns) as in *objectionable*, *peaceable*, and even verb phrases, as in *get-at-able*. Also, -**ible**, **-ible**.

able-bodied /ˈeɪbəl-bɒdɪd/, *adj.* physically competent.

able-bodied seaman /əˈbeɪbəl-ˈsiːmən/, *n.* an experienced seaman. Also, **able seaman**.

ablution /əˈblʊʃən/, *n.* 1. a cleansing with water or other liquid, as in ceremonial purification. 2. (pl.) the act of washing oneself. - **ablutionary**, *adj.*

ably /'eibli/, *adv.* 1. competently. 2. energetically.

abnegate /'æbneigeit/, *v.t.*, **-gated**, **-gating**. to refuse or deny to oneself. - **abnegation**, *n.* - **abnegator**, *n.*

abnormal /'æbnɔ:məl/, *adj.* not conforming to rule. - **abnormality**, *n.* - **abnormally**, *adv.*

aboard /ə'bo:d/, *adv.* 1. on board; on or in a ship, train, bus, etc. - *prep.* 2. on board of.

abode /ə'bo:d/, *n.* 1. a dwelling place. - *v.* 2. past tense and past participle of **abide**.

abolish /ə'bolif/, *v.t.* to do away with; put an end to. - **abolisher**, *n.* - **abolishment**, *n.*

abolition /ə'bɔ:lifən/, *n.* annulment; abrogation. - **abolitionary**, *adj.*

A-bomb /'ei-bɒm/, *n.* → **atomic bomb**.

abominable /ə'bɒməneɪbəl, ə'bɒmtəbəl/, *adj.* 1. detestable. 2. *Colloq.* shocking. - **abominableness**, *n.* - **abominably**, *adv.*

abominate /ə'bɒmineit/, *v.t.*, **-nated**, **-nating**. 1. to regard with intense aversion; abhor. 2. to dislike strongly.

abomination /ə'bɒmə'neiʃən/, *n.* 1. an object greatly disliked or abhorred. 2. intense aversion. 3. a detestable action.

aboriginal /ə'bɔ:ridʒənəl/, *adj.* 1. of or pertaining to an aborigine. 2. (*usu. cap.*) of or pertaining to the Australian Aborigines. - *n.* 3. (*usu. cap.*) an aborigine (def. 1).

aborigine /ə'bɔ:ridʒəni/, *n.* 1. (*usu. cap.*) one of a race of tribal peoples, the earliest inhabitants of Australia. 2. a descendant of these people, sometimes of mixed blood. 3. (*pl.*) (generally) the primitive inhabitants of a country; the people living in a country at the earliest period.

abort /ə'bo:t/, *v.t.* 1. to miscarry before the foetus is viable. 2. to fail. 3. *Colloq.* to fail to complete a mission, test, etc. - *v.t.* 4. to cause to abort. - **abortive**, *adj.*

abortion /ə'bɔ:ʃən/, *n.* 1. the expulsion or removal of a human foetus before it is viable. 2. a miscarriage. 3. *Biol.* the arrested development of an embryo or an organ at its (more or less) early stage. 4. anything which fails in its progress before it is matured or perfected, as a design or project. - **abortionist**, *n.*

abound /ə'baʊnd/, *v.i.* 1. to be in great plenty. 2. to be rich (fol. by *in*). 3. to teem (fol. by *with*). - **abounding**, *adj.*

about /ə'baʊt/, *prep.* 1. of; concerning. 2. near; close to. 3. on every side of; around. 4. on or near (one's person). 5. on the point of (fol. by an infinitive). 6. in various directions around. 7. concerned with. - *adv.* 8. approximately. 9. *Colloq.* nearly; almost. 10. nearby. 11. on every side in every direction. 12. half round; in the reverse direction. 13. to and fro; here and there. 14. alternately. - *adj.* 15. up and about, astir; active (after sleep).

about-face /ə'baʊt-'feɪs/, *n., v.*, **-faced**, **-facing**. - *n.* 1. a complete, sudden change in position, principle, attitude, etc. - *v.t.* 2. to turn in the opposite direction.

above /ə'baʊ/, *adv.* 1. in or to a higher place; overhead. 2. higher in rank or power. 3. before in order, esp. in a book or writing. - *prep.* 4. in or to a higher place than. 5. more in quantity or number than. 6. superior to, in rank or authority. 7. not capable of (an undesirable thought, action, etc.). 8. in preference to. 9. above all, principally. - *n.* 10. the above, that which was said, mentioned, or written previously.

aboveboard /ə'baʊ'bɒd/, *adv.* 1. openly; without deceit. - *adj.* 2. open; frank. Also: (*esp. in predicative use*), above board.

abrade /ə'breɪd/, *v.*, **abraded**, **abrading**. - *v.t.* 1. to scrape off. - *v.i.* 2. to wear down by friction. - **abrader**, *n.* - **abradant**, *adj.*, *n.*

abrasion /ə'breɪʒən/, *n.* 1. an abraded spot or place. 2. the act or process of abrading.

abrasive /ə'breɪsɪv, -zɪv/, *n.* 1. any material or substance used for grinding, polishing, lapping, etc., as emery or sand. - *adj.* 2. tending to produce abrasion. 3. (of a personality) irritating.

abreast /ə'breɪst/, *adv.* 1. side by side. 2. equally advanced (fol. by *of* or *with*).

abridge /ə'brɪdʒ/, *v.t.*, **abridged**, **abridging**. 1. to shorten by condensation or omission, or both. 2. to lessen. - **abridgeable**, **abridgable**, *adj.* - **abridged**, *adj.* - **abridger**, **abridgment**, **abridgement**, *n.*

abroad /ə'brɒd/, *adv.* 1. in or to a foreign country or countries. 2. astir; at large. 3. broadly; widely.

abrogate /ə'brɒgeɪt/, *v.t.*, **-gated**, **-gating**. to abolish summarily; repeal. - **abrogative**, *adj.* - **abrogator**, *n.* - **abrogation**, *n.*

abrupt /ə'brʌpt/, *adj.* 1. terminating or changing suddenly. 2. sudden. 3. lacking in continuity. 4. brusque. 5. precipitous. - **abruptly**, *adv.* - **abruptness**, *n.*

abs-, variant of **ab-** before *c, q, t*, as in **abscond**, **abstergent**.

abscess /'æbsəs/, *n.* a localised collection of pus in a cavity, caused by disintegration of body tissue. - **abscessed**, *adj.*

abscond /əb'skɒnd/, *v.t.* to cut off; sever. - **absconder**, *n.*

abscond /əb'skɒnd, əb-,/ *v.i.* to depart in a sudden and secret manner, esp. to avoid legal process. - **absconder**, *n.*

absell /'æbsel/, *v.i.* *Mountaineering* to lower oneself with a double rope down a rock face.

absent /'æbsənt/, *adj.*; /əb'sent/, *v.* - *adj.* 1. away (opposed to *present*). 2. lacking. 3. absent-minded. - *v.t.* 4. to take or keep (oneself) away. - **absence**, *n.* - **absenter**, *n.* - **absentness**, *n.* - **absently**, *adv.*

absentee /'æbsen'ti/, *n.* 1. one who is absent. 2. one who habitually lives away from his country, place of work, etc.

absenteeism /'æbsen'tiizəm/, *n.* 1. the practice of absenting oneself from duties, studies, employment, etc., often for inadequate reasons. 2. the practice of living away from one's estates, country, employment, source of income, etc.

absent-minded /'æbsənt-'maɪndəd/, *adj.* forgetful of one's immediate surroundings; preoccupied. - **absent-mindedly**, *adv.* - **absent-mindedness**, *n.*

absinth /'æbsɪnθ/, *n.* a strong, bitter, green-coloured, aromatic liqueur made with wormwood, anise, and other herbs. Also, **absinthe**.

absolute /'æbsəlu:t/, *adj.* 1. free from imperfection. 2. not mixed; pure. 3. free from restriction or limitation. 4. arbitrary or despotic. 5. not comparative or relative. 6. positive. 7. *The Absolute* (sometimes *I.c.*) *Metaphys.* that which is free from any restriction, or is unconditioned; the ultimate ground of all things. - **absolutely**, *adv.* - **absoluteness**, *n.*

absolute alcohol /- 'ælkəhɒl/, *n.* ethyl alcohol containing not more than one per cent by weight of water.

absolute majority /- mə'dʒɔ:rətɪ/, *n.* the difference in number between the votes for the leading candidate and the (lower) total of all other votes cast. See **majority** (def. 2).

absolute zero /- 'zɪərəʊ/, *n.* the lowest possible temperature at which the particles whose motion constitutes heat would be at rest, being defined as **zero kelvin** - 273.15 degrees Celsius (or -459.67 degrees Fahrenheit).

absolution /əb'səlu:ʃən/, *n.* release from consequences, obligations, or penalties.

absolve /əb'zɒlv/, *v.t.*, **-solved**, **-solving**. 1. to free from the consequences or penalties of actions (fol. by *from*). 2. to set free or release, as from some duty, obligation, or responsibility (fol. by *from*). 3. to grant pardon for. - **absolvable**, *adj.* - **absolvent**, *adj.*, *n.* - **absolver**, *n.*

absorb /əb'sɒb, -'zɒb/, *v.t.* 1. to swallow up the identity or individuality of. 2. to engross wholly. 3. to suck up or drink in (liquids). 4. to assimilate (ideas, knowledge, etc.). 5. to take up or receive in by chemical or molecular action. 6. to take in without echo or recoil. — **absorbable**, *adj.* — **absorbability**, *n.*

absorbent /əb'sɒbənt, -'zɒ-, *adj.* capable of absorbing; performing the function of absorption. — **absorbency**, *n.*

absorption /əb'sɒpʃən, -'zɒp-, *n.* 1. assimilation. 2. a taking in or reception by molecular or chemical action. 3. preoccupation. — **absorptive**, *adj.* — **absorptiveness**, *n.*

abstain /əb'steɪn/, *v.i.* 1. to refrain voluntarily, esp. from doing or enjoying something (fol. by *from*). 2. to refrain deliberately from casting one's vote. — **abstainer**, *n.*

abstemious /əb'stɪmiəs/, *adj.* moderate in the use of food and drink. — **abstemiously**, *adv.* — **abstemiousness**, *n.*

abstention /əb'stenʃən/, *n.* 1. a holding off or refraining. 2. a deliberate withholding of one's vote. — **abstentious**, *adj.*

abstinence /əb'stɪnəns/, *n.* 1. forbearance from any indulgence of appetite, esp. from the drinking of alcohol. 2. self-restraint. Also, **abstinency**. — **abstinent**, *adj.* — **abstinently**, *adv.*

abstract /'æbstrækt/, *adj.*, *n.*; /əb'strækt/ *for def. 7*, /'æbstrækt/ *for def. 8*, *v.* — *adj.* 1. conceived apart from matter and from special cases. 2. theoretical. 3. abstruse. 4. of or pertaining to art which rejects the function of art as portraying perceived reality; non-representational. — *n.* 5. a summary of a statement, document, speech, etc. 6. an idea or term considered apart from some material basis or object. — *v.t.* 7. to draw or take away; remove. 8. to summarise. — **abstracter**, *n.* — **abstractly**, *adv.* — **abstractness**, *n.*

abstracted /əb'stræktəd/, *adj.* 1. preoccupied. 2. withdrawn.

abstraction /əb'strækʃən/, *n.* 1. an abstract or general idea or term. 2. an idea which cannot lead to any practical result. 3. the act of taking away or separating; withdrawal. 4. absent-mindedness; reverie.

abstract noun /əb'strækt 'naʊn/, *n.* 1. a noun having an abstract (as opposed to *concrete*) meaning, as *dream*. 2. a noun made with an abstract suffix, as *wisdom*.

abstruse /əb'strus/, *adj.* difficult to understand; esoteric. — **abstrusely**, *adv.* — **abstruseness**, *n.*

absurd /əb'sɜ:d, -'zɜ:d/, *adj.* contrary to reason or common sense. — **absurdly**, *adv.* — **absurdity**, *n.*

abundant /ə'bʌndənt/, *adj.* 1. present in great quantity. 2. abounding (fol. by *in*). — **abundance**, *n.* — **abundantly**, *adv.*

abuse /ə'bju:z/, *v.*, **abused**, **abusing**; /ə'bju:s/, *n.* — *v.t.* 1. to use wrongly or improperly; misuse. 2. to do wrong to. 3. to malign. — *n.* 4. wrong or improper use; misuse. 5. insulting language. 6. ill treatment of a person. — **abuser**, *n.* — **abusive**, *adj.*

abut /ə'bʌt/, *v.i.*, **abuted**, **abutting**, to be adjacent to (oft. fol. by *on*, *upon*, or *against*). — **abutal**, *n.*

abysmal /ə'bɪzml/, *adj.* 1. immeasurable. 2. immeasurably bad. — **abysmally**, *adv.*

abyss /ə'bɪs/, *n.* a bottomless gulf; any deep, immeasurable space. — **abyssal**, *adj.*

ac-, variant of *ad-* (by assimilation) before *c* and *qu*, as in *accede*, *acquire*, etc.

-ac, an adjective suffix meaning 'pertaining to', as in *elegiac*, *cardiac*.

acacia /ə'keɪʃə, ə'keɪsiə/, *n.* 1. any tree or shrub of the genus *Acacia*, native in warm regions; wattle. 2. any of certain related plants.

academic /ə'kædɪmɪk/, *adj.* 1. pertaining to an ad-

vanced institution of learning. 2. pertaining to those university subjects which are concerned with the refinement of the mind rather than the learning of skills (opposed to *technical*). 3. theoretical; not practical. — *n.* 4. a member of a college or university. — **academically**, *adv.*

academy /ə'kædəmi/, *n.*, *pl. -mies*. 1. an association or institution for the promotion of literature, science, or art. 2. a school for instruction in a particular art or science.

accede /ə'kɛsɪd/, *v.t.*, **-ceded**, **-ceding**. 1. to give consent. 2. to attain, as an office or dignity; arrive at (fol. by *to*). — **accedence**, *n.* — **acceder**, *n.*

accelerate /ə'kɛləreɪt, æk-, *v.*, **-rated**, **-rating**, *v.t.* 1. to cause to move or advance faster. 2. *Physics*. to change the magnitude and/or direction of the velocity of a body. — *v.i.* 3. to become faster. — **acceleration**, *n.* — **accelerative**, *adj.*

accelerator /ə'kɛləreɪtə, æk-, *n.* *Motor Vehicles*. a device which increases the speed of the machine by opening and closing the throttle, esp. one operated by the foot.

accent /'æksnt/, *n.*; /æk'snt/, *v.* — *n.* 1. the distinctive character of a vowel or syllable determined by its degree or pattern of stress or musical tone. 2. any one of the degrees or patterns of stress used in a particular language as essential features of vowels, syllables, or words. 3. a mark indicating stress, musical tone, or vowel quality. 4. *Pros.* a regularly recurring stress. b. a mark indicating stress or some other distinction in pronunciation or value. 5. characteristic style of pronunciation. 6. *Music*. stress or emphasis given to certain notes. 7. distinctive character or tone. — *v.t.* 8. to pronounce (a vowel, syllable, or word) with one of the distinctive accents of the language, esp. with a stress accent. 9. to mark with a written accent or accents. — **accentual**, *adj.*

accentuate /ə'ksntʃueɪt/, *v.t.*, **-ated**, **-ating**. to emphasise. — **accentuation**, *n.*

accept /ək'sept/, *v.t.* 1. to take or receive (something offered). 2. to admit and agree to. 3. to take with formal acknowledgment of responsibility or consequences. 4. to accommodate oneself to. — **acceptance**, *n.* — **accepter**, *n.*

acceptable /ək'septəbəl/, *adj.* 1. capable or worthy of being accepted. 2. agreeable; welcome. — **acceptability**, **acceptableness**, *n.* — **acceptably**, *adv.*

accepted /ək'septəd/, *adj.* customary; approved.

access /'ækses/, *n.* 1. the act or privilege of coming (fol. by *to*). 2. way, means, or opportunity of approach. 3. a parent's right to see a child. — *v.t.* 4. *Computers*. to locate and provide means of getting (information) to out of or into a computer storage. — *adj.* 5. *Radio, T.V., etc.* run by special-interest or minority groups who wish to transmit their own programs.

accessible /ək'sesəbəl/, *adj.* 1. easy of access; approachable. 2. open to the influence of (fol. by *to*). — **accessibility**, *n.* — **accessibly**, *adv.*

accession /ək'seɪʃən/, *n.* 1. the act of coming into the possession of a right, dignity, office, etc. 2. an increase by something added. 3. consent. — **accessional**, *adj.*

accessory /ək'sesəri/, *n.*, *pl. -ries*, *adj.* — *n.* 1. something added or attached for convenience, attractiveness, etc. 2. (*pl.*) the additional parts of an outfit, as shoes, gloves, hat, handbag, etc. 3. Also, **accessory**. *Law*. he who is not the chief actor at a felony, nor present at its perpetration, but yet is in some way concerned therein, (either before or after the fact committed). — *adj.* 4. subsidiary. — **accessorial**, *adj.* — **accessorily**, *adv.* — **accessoriness**, *n.*

access time /'ækses taɪm/, *n.* the time taken to reach information stored in a computer.

accident /'æksədənt/, *n.* 1. an undesirable or unfortunate happening. 2. anything that happens by chance. 3. the operation of chance. 4. a non-essential circumstance.

accidental /æksədəntəl/, *adj.* 1. happening by chance or accident, or unexpectedly. 2. subsidiary. — *n.* 3. *Music.* any sign placed before a note showing a sharp, flat, or natural not in the key signature. — **accidentality**, *n.* — **accidentally**, *adv.*

acclaim /ə'kleim/, *v.t.* 1. to applaud. 2. to announce or proclaim by acclamation. — *n.* 3. an oral vote, often unanimous. — **acclaimer**, *n.*

acclamation /æ'kleimeɪʃən/, *n.* 1. a shout or other demonstration of welcome, goodwill, or applause. 2. → **acclaim** (def. 3). — **acclamator**, *adj.*

acclimatise /ə'klaɪmətaɪz/, *v.* — **-tised**, **-tising**. — *v.t.* 1. to habituate to a new climate or environment. — *v.i.* 2. to become habituated to a new climate or environment. — **acclimatisable**, *adj.* — **acclimatisation**, *n.* — **acclimatise**, *n.*

acclivity /ə'klɪvəti/, *n.* **-ties**. an upward slope, as of ground.

accolade /'ækəleɪd/, *n.* 1. a ceremony used in conferring knighthood, consisting of giving the candidate a light blow upon the shoulder with the flat of a sword. 2. any award; honour.

accommodate /ə'kɒmədeɪt/, *v.* — **-dated**, **-dating**. — *v.t.* 1. to do a kindness or a favour to. 2. supply (fol. by *with*). 3. to provide with lodging. 4. to adapt. 5. to adjust; reconcile. 6. to find or provide space for (something). — *v.i.* 7. to act conformably; agree. — **accommodator**, *n.*

accommodating /ə'kɒmədeɪtɪŋ/, *adj.* easy to deal with; obliging. — **accommodatingly**, *adv.*

accommodation /ə'kɒmədeɪʃən/, *n.* 1. the act of accommodating. 2. adjustment of differences; reconciliation. 3. lodging, or food and lodging.

accompaniment /ə'kɒmpənɪmənt/, *n.* 1. something incidental or added for ornament, symmetry, etc. 2. *Music.* that part of a composition which provides the harmonic and rhythmic backing to a melodic line, esp. a song.

accompany /ə'kəmpani/, *v.* — **-panied**, **-nying**. 1. to go in company with. 2. to be or exist in company with. 3. *Music.* to play or sing an accompaniment to. — **accompanier**, *n.* — **accompanist**, *n.*

accomplice /ə'kɒmplɪs/, *n.* an associate in a crime.

accomplish /ə'kɒmplɪʃ/, *v.* — **-tish**. — **accomplishable**, *adj.* — **accomplisher**, *n.*

accomplished /ə'kɒmplɪʃt/, *adj.* 1. completed; effected. 2. expert. 3. perfected in the graces and attainments of polite society.

accomplishment /ə'kɒmplɪʃmənt/, *n.* 1. the act of carrying into effect; fulfilment. 2. an achievement. 3. (*oft. pl.*) an acquired art or grace.

accord /ə'kɒd/, *v.i.* 1. to be in correspondence or harmony; agree. — *v.t.* 2. to grant; concede. — *n.* 3. harmony of relation. 4. agreement. 5. a settlement of questions outstanding between nations. 6. of one's own accord, voluntarily. 7. with one accord, with spontaneous agreement. — **accordable**, *adj.* — **accorder**, *n.* — **accordance**, *n.* — **accordant**, *adj.*

according /ə'kɒdɪŋ/, *adv.* 1. according to, a. in accordance with. b. proportionately. c. on the authority of; as stated by. — *adj.* 2. agreeing. — **accordingly**, *adv.*

accordion /ə'kɒdɪən/, *n.* 1. a portable wind instrument with bellows and button-like keys wound by means of metallic reeds. 2. a piano accordion. — **accordionist**, *n.*

accost /ə'kɒst/, *v.t.* 1. to approach, esp. with a greeting or remark. 2. to solicit as a prostitute.

accouchement /ə'kʊtʃmənt/, *n.* **-ment**. a period of confinement in childbirth; labour.

account /ə'kaʊnt/, *n.* 1. a narrative. 2. a statement

of reasons, causes, etc., explaining some event. 3. reason; consideration. 4. consequence; importance. 5. estimation; judgment. 6. *Bookkeeping.* a. a formal record of debits and credits. b. a balance of a specified period's receipts and expenditures. 7. bring or call to account, demand explanation or justification of actions. 8. give a good account of (oneself), to acquit (oneself) well. 9. in account with, having a credit arrangement with. 10. on account of, a. because of. b. for the sake of. 11. on or to account, as an interim payment. — *v.t.* 12. to give an explanation (fol. by *for*). 13. to cause death, capture, etc. (fol. by *for*). — *v.i.* 14. to count; consider as.

accountable /ə'kaʊntəbəl/, *adj.* 1. responsible (to a person, for an act, etc.). 2. that can be explained. — **accountability**, *n.* — **accountableness**, *n.* — **accountably**, *adv.*

accountant /ə'kaʊntənt/, *n.* a person whose profession is inspecting and auditing business accounts. — **accountancy**, *n.* — **accountantship**, *n.*

accounting /ə'kaʊntɪŋ/, *n.* the theory and system of setting up, maintaining, and auditing the books of a firm.

accoutrements /ə'kuːtrəmənts/, *n.pl.* equipage; trappings.

accredit /ə'kredɪt/, *v.t.* 1. to ascribe or attribute to (fol. by *with*). 2. to attribute. 3. to furnish (an officially recognised agent) with credentials. 4. to certify as meeting official requirements. 5. to invest with credit or authority. 6. to believe. — **accreditation**, *n.*

accretion /ə'kriʃən/, *n.* 1. growth in size or extent. 2. an extraneous addition. 3. the growing together of separate parts into a single whole. — **accretive**, *adj.*

accrue /ə'kruː/, *v.i.* — **-rued**, **-ruing**. to arise in due course; come or fall as an addition or increment. — **accrual**, *n.* — **accrue**, *n.*

acculturation /ə'kʌltʃə'reɪʃən/, *n.* 1. the process of borrowing between cultures, resulting in new and blended patterns. 2. the modification of a primitive culture through direct and prolonged contact with an advanced society, (distinguished from *assimilation*). — **acculturative**, *adj.*

accumulate /ə'kjuːmjəleɪt/, *v.* — **-lated**, **-lating**. — *v.t.* 1. to heap up; collect. — *v.i.* 2. to form an increasing quantity. — **accumulation**, *n.* — **accumulative**, *adj.*

accumulator /ə'kjuːmjəleɪtə/, *n.* *Elect.* a secondary cell, or battery of secondary cells connected in series or parallel, used for storing electrical energy; a storage battery.

accurate /ə'kjʊərət/, *adj.* free from error or defect. — **accuracy**, *n.* — **accurateness**, *n.* — **accurately**, *adv.*

accursed /ə'kʌsəd/, *adj.* 1. subject to a curse; ruined. 2. detestable. Also, **accurs**. — **accursedly**, *adv.* — **accursedness**, *n.*

accusation /ə'kjuːzeɪʃən/, *n.* 1. a charge of wrongdoing. 2. the specific offence charged.

accusatory /ə'kjuːzətəri/, *adj.* containing an accusation.

accuse /ə'kjuːz/, *v.t.* — **-cused**, **-cusing**. 1. to charge with the fault or crime (*of*). 2. to blame. — **accuser**, *n.* — **accusable**, *adj.* — **accusingly**, *adv.*

accused /ə'kjuːzd/, *adj.* 1. charged with a crime or the like. — *n.* 2. the defendant or defendants in a criminal law case.

accustom /ə'kʌstəm/, *v.t.* to familiarise by custom or use; habituate.

accustomed /ə'kʌstəmd/, *adj.* customary; habitual.

ac-de /ə'siː'diː/, *adj.* of or pertaining to an electric device, as a radio, which can operate from either an alternating current or direct current power source.

ace /eɪs/, *n.* 1. a single spot or mark on a card or die. 2. the card or die so marked. 3. (in tennis, badminton, etc.) a serve which the opponent fails to touch. 4. a very small quantity, amount, or

degree. 5. an adept. -adj. *Colloq.* 6. excellent; first in quality; outstanding.

-aceous, a suffix of adjectives used in scientific terminology, indicating: 1. of or pertaining to, as in *sebaceous*. 2. of the nature of, or similar to, as in *crabaceous*. 3. belonging to a scientific grouping, esp. a botanic family, as in *lihaveous*, *fabaceous*.

acerbity /ə'səbətɪ/, *n.*, *pl.* -ties. 1. astringency of taste. 2. harshness or severity, as of temper or expression. -**acerbic**, *adj.*

acetaldehyde /ə'setəl'deɪdʒ/, *n.* a volatile, colourless, aromatic liquid, used commercially in the silvering of mirrors and in organic synthesis.

acetate /ə'setət/, *n.* a salt or ester of acetic acid.

acetic /ə'setɪk, ə'setɪk/, *adj.* pertaining to, derived from, or producing vinegar or acetic acid.

acetic acid /- 'esəd/, *n.* a sour, colourless acid with a sharp smell, being the main compound in vinegar; ethanoic acid. -**aceticus**, *adj.*

acetone /'esə'təʊn/, *n.* a colourless, volatile, inflammable liquid, formed in the distillation of acetates, etc., used as a solvent and in smokeless powders, varnishes, etc.

acetylene /ə'setəlɪn, -lən/, *n.* a colourless gas, used in metal welding and cutting, as an illuminant, and in organic synthesis.

ache /eɪk/, *v.* **ached**, **aching**, *n.* -*v.i.* 1. to have or be in continuous pain. 2. to yearn. -*n.* 3. pain of some duration, in opposition to spasmodic pain.

achieve /ə'tʃi:v/, *v.t.*, **achieved**, **achieving**. 1. to bring to a successful end. 2. to gain or obtain. -**achievable**, *adj.* -**achiever**, *n.*

achievement /ə'tʃi:vmənt/, *n.* 1. a great or heroic deed. 2. the act of achieving; accomplishment.

Achilles heel /ə'kɪlɪz 'hi:l/, *n.* a single major weakness or point of vulnerability.

Achilles tendon /- 'tendən/, *n.* the tendon joining the calf muscles to the heelbone; the hamstring.

achromatic /eɪkrə'mætɪk/, *adj.* 1. of colour perceived to have no hue, such as neutral greys. 2. *Mus.* without accidentals or changes in key. -**achromatically**, *adv.*

acid /'esəd/, *n.* 1. *Chem.* a compound (usu. having a sour taste and capable of neutralising alkalis and reddening blue litmus paper) containing hydrogen which can be replaced by certain metals or an electropositive radical to form salt. 2. a substance with a sour taste. 3. **put the acid on**, *Colloq.* to ask (something) of (someone) in such a manner that refusal is difficult. -*adj.* 4. *Chem.* belonging or pertaining to acids or the anhydrides of acids. 5. tasting sharp or sour. 6. ill-tempered. -**acidic**, *adj.* -**acidity**, *v.*

acid² /'esəd/, *n.* *Colloq.* LSD.

acid rain /- 'reɪn/, *n.* highly acidic rain, caused by pollution in the atmosphere.

acid test /- 'test/, *n.* a critical test.

acidulous /ə'sɪdʒələs/, *adj.* slightly acid.

-acious, an adjective suffix made by adding -ous to nouns ending in -acity (the -ty being dropped), indicating a tendency towards or abundance of something, as *audacious*.

-acity, a suffix of nouns denoting quality or a state of being, and the like.

acknowledge /ə'knɒlɪdʒ/, *v.t.*, -**edged**, -**edging**. 1. to admit to be real or true. 2. to express recognition of. 3. to recognise the authority or claims of. 4. to indicate gratitude for. 5. to admit the receipt of. 6. *Law.* to own as of legal force. -**acknowledgeable**, *adj.* -**acknowledger**, **acknowledgment**, **acknowledgement**, *n.*

acme /'ækmi/, *n.* the highest point; culmination.

acne /'ækni/, *n.* an inflammatory disease of the sebaceous glands, characterised by pimples, esp. on the face.

acolyte /'ækələɪt/, *n.* 1. an altar attendant of minor rank. 2. an attendant; an assistant.

acorn /'eɪkɒn/, *n.* the fruit of the oak, a nut in a hardened scaly cup.

acoustic /ə'kustɪk/, *adj.* 1. Also, **acoustical**. pertaining to the sense or organs of hearing, or to the science of sound. 2. *Mus.* of or pertaining to instruments whose sound is not electronically amplified. -**acoustically**, *adv.*

acoustics /ə'kustɪks/, *n.* 1. *Physics* the science of sound. 2. (*construed as pl.*) acoustic properties, as of an auditorium. -**acoustician**, *n.*

acquaint /ə'kweɪnt/, *v.t.* 1. to make more or less familiar or conversant (fol. by *with*). 2. to inform.

acquaintance /ə'kweɪntəns/, *n.* 1. a person (or persons) known to one, esp. a person with whom one is not on terms of great intimacy. 2. personal knowledge. -**acquaintanceship**, *n.*

acquiesce /'ækwi:əs/, *v.i.*, -**esced**, -**escing**. to agree; consent (oft. fol. by *in*). -**acquiescence**, *n.* -**acquiescent**, *adj.* -**acquiescently**, *adv.*

acquire /ə'kwɪə/, *v.t.*, -**quired**, -**quiring**. 1. to come into possession of. 2. to gain for oneself through one's actions or efforts. -**acquirable**, *adj.* -**acquirer**, *n.* -**acquisition**, *n.*

acquired immune deficiency syndrome, *n.* a disease caused by a virus (HTLV-III) which destroys the body's white cells resulting in severe infections, skin tumours and death. Also, **AIDS**.

acquisition /'ækwi:zɪʃən/, *n.* 1. the act of acquiring or gaining possession. 2. something acquired. -*v.t.* 3. to order and acquire new material, as books for a library. -**acquisitionist**, *n.*

acquisitive /ə'kwɪzɪtɪv/, *adj.* fond of acquiring possessions. -**acquisitively**, *adv.* -**acquisitiveness**, *n.*

acquit /ə'kwɪt/, *v.t.*, -**quitted**, -**quitting**. 1. to pronounce not guilty (fol. by *of*). 2. to release or discharge (a person) from an obligation. 3. to settle (a debt, obligation, claim, etc.). 4. **acquit oneself**, *a.* to bear or conduct oneself. *b.* to clear oneself. -**acquittal**, *n.* -**acquitter**, *n.*

acre /'eɪkə/, *n.* 1. a unit of land measurement in the imperial system, equal to 4840 square yards or 160 perches, and equivalent to approximately 0.405 hectares. *Symbol:* ac 2. (*pl.*) fields or land in general. 3. (*pl.*) *Colloq.* large quantities.

acreege /'eɪkri:dʒ/, *n.* extent in acres.

acrid /'ækrɪd/, *adj.* 1. sharp or biting to the taste. 2. stinging. -**acridity**, **acridness**, *n.* -**acridly**, *adv.*

acrimony /'ækrəməni/, *n.*, *pl.* -**nies**. sharpness or severity of temper. -**acrimonious**, *adj.*

acro-, a word element meaning 'tip', 'top', 'apex', or 'edge', as in *acrogen*. Also, before vowels, **acr-**.

acrobat /'ækrəbeɪ/, *n.* a skilled performer who can walk on a tightrope, perform on a trapeze, etc. -**acrobatic**, *adj.* -**acrobatically**, *adv.*

acrobatics /'ækrə'bætɪks/, *n.* (*construed as sing.*) gymnastics.

acronym /'ækrənɪm/, *n.* a word formed from the initial letters of other words, as *radar* (from *radio detection and ranging*) or *ANZAC* (from *Australian and New Zealand Army Corps*).

acrophobia /'ækrə'fəʊbiə/, *n.* abnormal fear of being in high places.

acropolis /'ækrəpələs/, *n.* the citadel of an ancient Greek city.

across /ə'kros/, *prep.* 1. from side to side of. 2. on the other side of. 3. so as to meet or fall in with. -*adv.* 4. from one side to another. 5. on the other side. 6. crosswise. 7. **come across**, *Colloq.* *a.* to settle an outstanding debt. *b.* (usually of a woman) to grant sexual favours.

across-the-board /ə'kros-ðə-bɒd/, *adj.* embracing all categories; general.

acrostic /ə'krostɪk/, *n.* a series of lines or verses in which the first, last, or other particular letters form a word, phrase, the alphabet, etc.

acrylic /ə'krɪlɪk/, *adj.* 1. of or pertaining to fibres