

牛津 高阶英语词典

OXFORD

ADVANCED LEARNER'S DICTIONARY

第六版·英语版

★ The world's best-selling
learner's dictionary

商务印书馆

The Commercial Press

牛津大学出版社

Oxford University Press

牛津 高阶英语词典

OXFORD

**Advanced Learner's Dictionary
of Current English**

第六版·英语版

A S Hornby

Edited by **Sally Wehmeier**

Phonetics Editor **Michael Ashby**

商务印书馆

The Commercial Press

OXFORD

UNIVERSITY PRESS

牛津大学出版社

图书在版编目(CIP)数据

牛津高阶英语词典:第六版·英语版/(英)韦迈尔
(Wehmeier, S.)编. —北京:商务印书馆, 2004

ISBN 7-100-03919-3

I. 牛... II. 韦... III. 英语—词典 IV. H316

中国版本图书馆 CIP 数据核字(2003)第 071324 号

所有权利保留。

未经许可,不得以任何方式使用。

NIÚJĪN GÀOJIÉ YĪNGYŪ CÍDIǎN

牛津高阶英语词典

第六版·英语版

出版:商务印书馆

(北京王府井大街 36 号 邮政编码 100710)

牛津大学出版社(中国)有限公司

(香港鲗鱼涌英皇道 979 号太古坊和城大厦东翼十八楼)

国内总发行:商务印书馆

国外以及香港、澳门、台湾地区总发行:牛津大学

出版社(中国)有限公司

印刷:北京新华印刷厂印刷

ISBN 7-100-03919-3/H · 980

2004 年 1 月第 1 版


开本 880 × 1230 1/32

2004 年 1 月北京第 1 次印刷

印张 48 1/2 插页 16

印数 30 000 册

定价:75.00 元



Originally published by Oxford University Press,
Great Clarendon Street, Oxford
© Oxford University Press 2000

This reprint of The Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary 6th Edition originally published in English in 2000 is published by arrangement with Oxford University Press for distribution in the Chinese Mainland only and not for export therefrom


Oxford is a registered trademark of Oxford University Press

原版由牛津大学出版社出版

© 牛津大学出版社 2000

本影印版《牛津高阶英语词典》(第六版)的英文原版出版于2000年,本版由牛津大学出版社授权出版,仅在中国大陆发行,不得出口到其他地区

Oxford 是牛津大学出版社的商标

此扉页用含有商务印书馆注册商标的水印防伪纸印制,有这种扉页的《牛津高阶英语词典》是正版图书。请注意识别。

老蚌出新珠

——《牛津高阶英语词典》(第六版)代序

陆谷孙

(一)

隙驷不留！对于我这般年龄的非英语国家（尤其像日本、印度等亚洲国家）的英语教师来说，英人 A. S. Hornby 的名字可能是永远难忘的。个中缘由，容我由远及近道来。

我是 1957 年进的大学。由于中学连续六年“一边倒”学俄语，初入英文系从 ABC 学起，尤需合用的词典。当年人手一册的是老前辈郑易里先生根据英日辞书改编而成的《英华大词典》。我等的英文之所以能够达到今天这么一点水平，郑书功不可没。《英华大词典》内容赅通，对于第二次世界大战前后美语各种用法的记录尤为详备，查得率高，其主要功能集中在 receptive 方面，亦即帮助读者求解释疑，而由于对 productive 功能兼顾不够，足观佳例无多，若要遣词造句作文而依靠郑书，那就难以得到多少帮助了。

这时，班上个别侨生和有海外关系的同学开始使用一本舶来品词典。借来一看，书题叫做 The Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary（以下用中文简称《牛津高阶》），主要编者名叫 A. S. Hornby，是位久在日本教授英语的专家。用过几次便发现，这部词典主要是替英语为非本族语的读者设计的，不但例证丰赡，而且还把结构主义语言学和二语习得（虽说当时还不流行这种术语）的不少研究成果移植到了词典编纂中来，讲究“易简之理”，对动词用法模式、名词可数抑或不可数的特征、名词和形容词后随补足成分的各种常见搭配关系（如 a decision to resign 和 be certain to need help）等分别以缩写字母或数码代号一一标出，对指导 production（学用）极有帮助。后来，不知是哪家出版社在大陆翻印了这部词典，而词典的编者似也以前瞻目光看到了巨大的中国市场，把一些大陆难以通过的政治色彩强烈的例证一一改去。如我记忆不谬，在 down with 这一短语之下原例为打倒某一政治派

别,后被改为“无害的”“打倒语法学家!”。就这样,《牛津高阶》与郑易里的《英华大辞典》如同锦桃对襟,或者说是一道成了我们这一代大学生学用英文的双拐! Hornby 其人在英国文化委员会同侪口中昵称“灰兄”(ash——A. S. H. 的连写,鉴于他活到八十,文坛尊宿,称之为兄,当不算过),在我们同学中间也有雅号,叫做“红皮”,那是某位仁兄读他名字时发音不准,他人觉得滑稽,模仿着叫开了。《牛津高阶》就此成了“红皮”,回想起来,还颇有一点亲切的意味。

(二)

老蚌出新珠! 时过半个多世纪,《牛津高阶》今天已出到第六版了,而当年拄着这根拐棍的我去年应邀参与了第六版英汉双解本的部分审订工作,对于这部迭经更新的词典何以始终深受欢迎的道理,似乎有了进一步的体认。


首先,《牛津高阶》把学习词典普遍采用的以简释繁的原则贯彻得十分出色,在第六版中把原来用于释义的 3500 词减至 3000 词,删削幅度达 $\frac{1}{5}$ 。释义文字的削减符合我们中国人古话说的“辞尚体要,不惟好异”的道理;只求达意,不图妍巧,更是释文写作更高一层的境界。释义文字的削减还给非英语民族学生另一种启示,那就是学外语词汇量固然重要,但决非绝对的决定性因素。我常对学生说 Edgar Allen Poe 只用了 3000 多词就写出了诸如 *Annabel Lee* 这样的全部诗歌作品(小说用词自然不在此列),如今《牛津高阶》第六版削减释义文字似又进一步说明 3000 左右的词汇量,只要用得准确、娴熟,用出创意,表达还是大有可为的。

第二,与 Hornby 时代不同,今日的学习词典在淋漓尽致发挥 production 功能的同时,越来越注意加强 reception 的功能,各大出版社的竞争往往也把学习词典的收词量——特别是新词数量——视作重要方面之一。《牛津高阶》第六版一方面继承传统,注意教会学生活用,如在 most 条内以实例 What did you enjoy (the) most? 指明两可用法的同时强调非正式英语表达中通常省略 the 的事实,另一方面并不一味法故,而是根据语料库语言学最新的研究成果,遴选收录新词、新义 4500 条,以至收词总数多达 8 万,是为《牛津高阶》问世以来之最。不少新词新义完全利用语料库的积累,连 1998 年出版的大型《牛津英语词典》也未收录,如 control freak, call centre, feel-

good factor, multi-skilling, stalking 等。察视新词新义是件有趣的工作,如表示办公桌轮番使用而免空置的 hot-desking 一词已被包括《牛津高阶》的多种英语词典收录。近读外刊,说到南欧客籍工人去北欧或西欧打工,往往错开班头,以便两三人合租同一张床铺,减少费用,因称 hot bed,似与 hot-desking 有异曲同工之妙。试查《牛津高阶》hotbed 未见此义,想来还是语料佐证不足之故吧。然而对一个词义衍生意识较强的学生来说,从此注意 hot 是否形成新的搭配表示轮番使用而免空置的意思,应该说是查词典的附带收获。

第三,今年,一名学生的学位论文写到辞书的美学问题——视觉美、工具美及其他。自 20 世纪 90 年代以来,不少学习词典都采用“夹心彩页”以求满目奇胜。彩页包含何种内容反映编者的美学趣味和独特匠心。如以一组简图动人视觉,经由通感作用而刺激听觉(以挥鞭传 crack 声,碰杯传 clink 声,泡腾片溶于水传 fizz 声,等等),就是很有创意的做法。《牛津高阶》第六版除寻常衣食、游戏、动物、地图等插页外亦有佳思,那就是将实用美和观赏美相结合的 16 面“学习页”,从词的连接、搭配到如何撰写文电、履历以及如何构成新词,给读者具体而微的指导,批阅一遍,得益之多时辈未见其比。

不揣鄙陋,谨以上述两段文字祝贺《牛津高阶英语词典》(第六版)在中国大陆出版!



复旦大学教授

2003 年 10 月

Advisory Board

Dr Keith Brown
Dr Alan Cruse

Ms Moira Runcie
Prof Gabriele Stein

Dr Norman Whitney
Prof Henry Widdowson

Chief Editor Sally Wehmeier
Senior Editor Diana Lea

Editors Joanna Florio, Dilys Parkinson
Phonetics Editor Michael Ashby

Preface

In 1998 we celebrated both the centenary of the birth of A S Hornby, the creator of the *Advanced Learner's Dictionary* and the fiftieth anniversary of the publication of the dictionary by Oxford University Press. Hornby's great contribution to lexicography was to apply his experience as a teacher of English to producing a dictionary that met the needs of learners, and his success can be measured by the fact that the *Advanced Learner's* has become one of the best-selling books of all time.

Now, in the first year of the new millennium, this edition, the sixth, breaks new ground, sharpening further the learner-centred focus of the original. We have learnt a great deal from our research into how learners use dictionaries and benefited from suggestions from very many teachers and students.

Dictionary users need to be able to find the information they need quickly, understand it once they have found it, and make use of it in their own speaking or writing. This dictionary arranges and presents information in a clear way, using **short cuts** in longer entries to help the user pinpoint the meaning they are looking for. The definitions are all written using a **defining vocabulary** of just under 3000 words, 500 fewer than in the previous edition. This defining vocabulary (listed on page 1531) includes all the items used in definitions and is not made artificially shorter by allowing prefixes and suffixes to be attached to the stem of a listed word. Learners can be sure that, if they are familiar with the words in this list, the definitions in the dictionary will pose no problems.

Our new **usage notes**, **word-family boxes**, **topic** and **study pages** show links between vocabulary items and, together with the user-friendly **help notes**, give invaluable guidance on usage. The **origin notes** provide fascinating insights into the etymology of some colourful words and expressions. All these features ensure that less experienced learners receive all the support they need, while the most advanced will always find something new and interesting to challenge them.

I am very grateful to all those both within and

outside Oxford University Press who have helped with the writing and production of this dictionary. For this edition Michael Ashby, the Phonetics Editor, has improved our representation of the pronunciation of American English. Susan Wilkin helped with the implementation of his policy. Keith Brown gave advice on aspects of the grammatical information shown in the dictionary, especially the verb coding system. The following worked as lexicographers: Evadne Adrian-Vallance, Ruth Blackmore, Michael Britton, Alexandra Clayton. Eunice Dalleres, Margaret Jull Costa, Michael Mayor, Kate Mohideen, Allene Tuck and Annie Watson. Rosalind Combley, Stella O'Shea and Laura Wedgeworth helped with the editing in the later stages of the project. Andrew Delahunty researched and wrote the usage notes. Lisa Iserman, Diane Pecorari and Ruth Urbom were American English editors. Fran Holdsworth was responsible for the exceptionally clear and elegant page design, and for the design of the topic and study pages. Christopher Howson designed the colour pages.

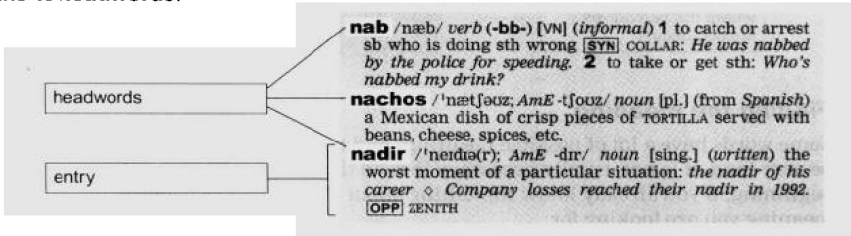
In-house Sandra Pyne, Deborah Tempest and Miranda Steel worked on the dictionary in its early stages. Jane Taylor commissioned the illustrations. Our Publishing Systems Group kept the schedule on track and oversaw the capture and manipulation of data. Very many thanks are due to Anna Cotgreave, Bill Coumbe, Julie Darbyshire, Julia Hiley, Kay Pepler, Katrina Ransom and, especially, Frank Keenan. I should like to express my gratitude for their hard work and commitment to Jo Florio and Dilys Parkinson and to my senior editor, Diana Lea. Jo developed the 'short cuts', Dilys was responsible for the help and usage notes and Diana gave invaluable input into all aspects of the dictionary, particularly the topic, study and illustrations pages. Moira Runcie was unstinting in her support throughout the project. I am indebted to her. Finally, I should like to acknowledge my debt to Jonathan Crowther, whose meticulous work on the fifth edition was an inspiration to me.

Sally Wehmeier
January 2000

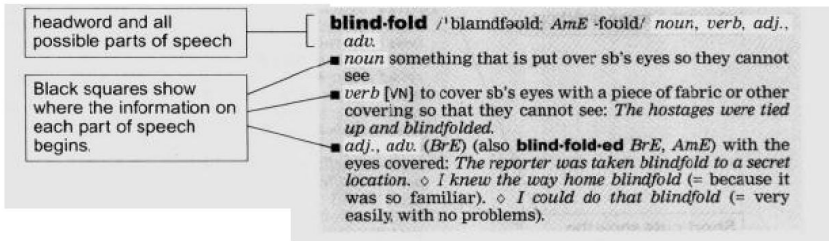
Key to dictionary entries

Finding the word

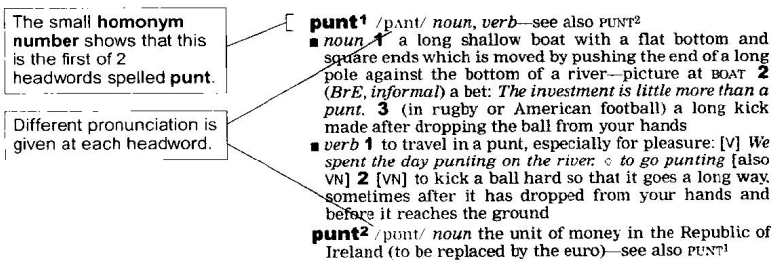
Information in the dictionary is given in **entries**, arranged in alphabetical order of **headwords**.



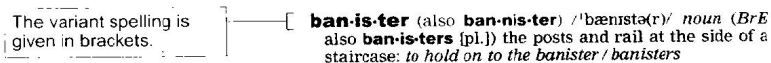
Some headwords can have more than one part of speech:



There are some words in English that have the same spelling as each other but different pronunciations and completely different meanings:



There are also some words in English that have more than one possible spelling or form, when both spellings or forms are acceptable. Information about these words is given at the most frequent spelling or form:



At the entry for the less frequent spelling a cross-reference directs you to the main entry:

ban-nis-ter = BANISTER

American English variants and irregular forms of verbs are treated in the same way.

Some words that are **derivatives** of other, more frequent words, do not have their own entry in the dictionary, because they can be easily understood from the meaning of the word from which they are derived (the root word). They are given in the same entry as the root word, in a specially marked section:

The black triangle shows where the derivatives section begins.

diffi-dent /'dɪfɪdnt/ *adj.* ~ (about sth) not having much confidence in yourself; not wanting to talk about yourself
[SYN] shy: a *diffident* manner / smile ◊ He was *modest and diffident* about his own success. ▶ **diffi-dence** /-dʌns/ *noun* [U]; She *overcame her natural diffidence* and spoke with great frankness. **diffi-dent-ly** *adv.*

Finding the meaning

Some words have a lot of possible meanings and the entries for them can be very long. It is not usually necessary to read the whole entry from the beginning, if you already know something about the context or general meaning you are looking for:

Meanings that are closely related to each other share the same short cut.

Short cuts show the general meaning or context of each meaning.

re-lief /rɪ'li:f/ *noun*
REMOVAL OF ANXIETY/PAIN 1 [U, sing.] the feeling of happiness that you have when sth unpleasant stops or does not happen: a *sense of relief* ◊ We all *breathed a sigh of relief* when he left. ◊ She *sighed with relief*. ◊ *Much to my relief* the car was not damaged. ◊ *News of their safety* came as a great relief. ◊ It was a relief to be able to talk to someone about it. ◊ *What a relief!* 2 [U] ~ (from/of sth) the act of removing or reducing pain, anxiety, etc: *modern methods of pain relief* ◊ the relief of misery / poverty / suffering
HELP 3 [U] food, money, medicine, etc. that is given to help people in places where there has been a war or natural disaster: *famine relief* ◊ a relief agency / organization / worker 4 [U] (especially AmE) financial help given by the government to people who need it
TAX 5 [U] = TAX RELIEF: *relief on mortgage interest payments*
STH DIFFERENT 6 [U, sing.] ~ (from sth) something that is interesting or enjoyable that replaces sth boring, difficult or unpleasant for a short period of time: a few moments of *light relief* in an otherwise dull performance ◊ There was little *comic relief* in his speech. ◊ The calm of the countryside came as a welcome relief from the hustle and bustle of city life.
WORKERS 7 [C+sing. / pl. n.] (often used as an adjective) a person or group of people that replaces another when they have finished working for the day or when they are sick: The next crew *relief* comes on duty at 9 o'clock. ◊ relief drivers

By looking down the left-hand side of the entry and just reading the short cuts, you can quickly find the meaning you want.

Using the word

The entries in this dictionary contain a lot more than just the meanings of words. They show you how to use the word in your own speaking and writing.

pronunciation, with American pronunciation where it is different (see inside back cover)

aard-vark /'ɑ:dvɑ:k; AmE 'ɑ:rdvɑ:k/ *noun* an animal from southern Africa that has a long nose and tongue and that eats insects

Stress marks show stress on compounds.

bird of 'paradise *noun* (pl. **birds of paradise**) a bird with very bright feathers, found mainly in New Guinea

Irregular forms of verbs, with their pronunciation. Irregular plurals of nouns are also given.

prepositions, adverbs and structures that can be used with this word (see Study page B2)

examples of use in *italic type*

label giving information about usage (see inside front cover)

cling /kɪŋ/ *verb* (*clung, clung* /kɪŋ/) [V] **1** ~ (on) to sb/sth | ~ on/together to hold on tightly to sb/sth: *survivors clinging to a raft* ◊ *She clung onto her baby.* ◊ *Cling on tight!* ◊ *They clung together, shivering with cold.* **2** ~ (to sth) to stick to sth: *a dress that clings (= fits closely and shows the shape of your body)* ◊ *The wet shirt clung to his chest.* ◊ *The smell of smoke still clung to her clothes.* **3** ~ (to sb) (usually *disapproving*) to stay close to sb, especially because you are emotionally dependent on them: *After her mother's death, Sara clung to her aunt more than ever.* **PHRV** 'cling to sth, cling 'on to sth to be unwilling to get rid of sth, or stop doing sth: *Throughout the trial she had clung to the belief that he was innocent.* ◊ *He had one last hope to cling on to.* ◊ *She managed to cling on to life for another couple of years.*

fixed form of noun

information on different types of noun (see Study pages B4–5)

common phrase in **bold type** in example, with extra explanation in brackets (see Study page B3)

word not in the defining vocabulary (see Appendix 7)

dock /dɒk; AmE dɑ:k/ *noun, verb*

noun **1** [C] a part of a port where ships are repaired or where goods are put onto or taken off them: *dock workers* ◊ *a dock strike* ◊ *The ship was in dock.*—see also *dry dock* **2** (**docks**) [pl.] a group of docks in a port and the buildings around them that are used for repairing ships, storing goods, etc. **3** [C] (AmE) = **JURY** **4** [C] (AmE) a raised platform for loading vehicles or trains **5** [C] the part of a court of law where the person who has been accused of a crime stands or sits during a trial: *He's been in the dock (= on trial for a crime) several times already.* **6** [U] a wild plant of Northern Europe with large thick leaves that can be rubbed on skin that has been stung by **NETTLES** to make it less painful: *dock leaves*

comparatives and superlatives of adjectives given

information on usage of adjectives (see Study pages B4–5)

hearty /'hɑ:ti; AmE 'hɑ:ti/ *adj., noun*

adj. (**heart-ier, heart-est**) **1** [usually before noun] showing friendly feelings for sb: *a hearty greeting/reception/welcome* **2** (sometimes *disapproving*) loud, cheerful and full of energy: *a hearty and boisterous fellow* ◊ *a hearty voice/handshake* **3** [only before noun] (of a meal or sb's **APPETITE**) large; making you feel full: *a hearty breakfast* ◊ *to have a hearty appetite* **4** [usually before noun] showing that you feel strongly about sth: *He nodded his head in hearty agreement.* ◊ *Hearty congratulations to everyone involved.* ◊ *a hearty dislike of sth* **IdM** see **HALE** ▶ **heartiness** *noun* [U]

verb grammar codes (see Study pages B6–9.)

idioms section with special symbol **IdM** (see Study page B12)

phrasal verbs section with special symbol **PHRV** (see Study pages B10–11)

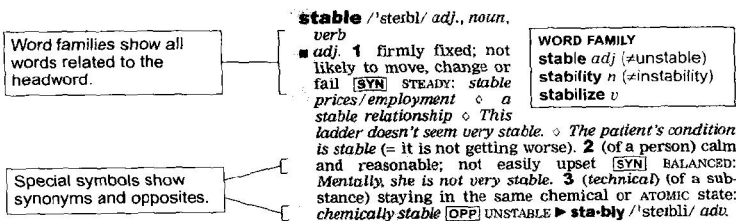
fetch /fetʃ/ *verb* **1** (especially BrE) to go to where sb/sth is and bring them/it back: [VN] *to fetch help/a doctor* ◊ *The inhabitants have to walk a mile to fetch water.* ◊ *She's gone to fetch the kids from school.* ◊ [VNN] *Could you fetch me my bag?* **2** [VN] to be sold for a particular price: *The painting is expected to fetch £10 000 at auction.* **IdM** **fetch and 'carry (for sb)** to do a lot of little jobs for sb as if you were their servant **PHRV** **fetch 'up** (informal, especially BrE) to arrive somewhere without planning to: *And then, a few years after leaving college, he somehow fetched up in Rome.*

Short notes help you to avoid common errors.

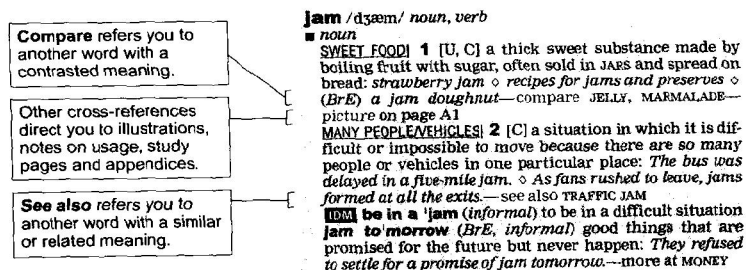
exam /ɪg'zæm/ (also formal **exam-in-ation**) *noun* a formal written, spoken or practical test, especially at school or college, to see how much you know about a subject, or what you can do: *to take an exam* ◊ (formal) *to sit an exam* ◊ *to pass/fail an exam* ◊ (BrE) *to mark an exam* ◊ (AmE) *to grade an exam* ◊ *an exam paper* ◊ *I got my exam results today.* ◊ (BrE) *She did well in her exams.* ◊ (AmE) *She did well on her exams.* ◊ A lot of students suffer from **exam nerves**. ◊ *He's practising hard for his piano exam.* **HELP** Use *take* / *do* / *sit* an exam not *write an exam*.

Build your vocabulary

The dictionary also contains a lot of information that will help you increase your vocabulary and use the language productively:



Cross-references refer you to information in other parts of the dictionary:



Understanding definitions

All the definitions in the dictionary are written using a vocabulary of 3 000 common words. (The complete list is on pages 1531–9 at the back of the dictionary.) This makes them clear and easy to understand.

Reading through the following points before you start to use the dictionary will make understanding the definitions even simpler.

Important

The following are used a very large number of times:

sb = somebody/someone

sth = something

etc. = 'and other things of the same sort'

For example, if you say that something is 'used in books, newspapers, etc.', you mean that you are also including magazines and journals.

particular is used to emphasize that you are referring to one individual person, thing or type of thing and not others.

especially is used to give the most common or typical example of something.

For example, the meaning of the verb to **train** is shown as 'to prepare yourself for a particular activity, especially a sport'

Describing objects and substances

The definition might refer to the **shape** and or **size** of an object. Make sure that you know what the following words mean: *round, square, circular, hollow, solid, broad, narrow.*

Other **features** of the object might be mentioned:

appearance: *simple, plain, complicated, decorative, rough, smooth, pointed*

colour: *dark, light, pale, bright, coloured, colourless*

According to its **function**, the object might be a *container, device, instrument, machine, mechanism* or *tool*.

It might be **made of fabric or cloth** (including *cotton, wool, fur, silk*), *metal* (including *iron, steel, gold, silver*) or *glass*.

Material is a general word that means anything that something is made of. For example a **cushion** is 'a fabric bag filled with soft *material*', and **adobe** is 'mud that is ... used as a building *material*'.

Matter [U] is any substance that physically exists, used especially when defining more technical words. For example, a technical meaning of **suspension** is 'a liquid with very small pieces of solid *matter* floating in it'.

A **substance** may be *liquid* or *solid* or it may be a *gas*.

REMEMBER a **vehicle** could be a *car, lorry/truck/van* or *train*. An **aircraft** could be a *plane* or a helicopter.

Describing food

Food and drink are described as *bitter, sweet, salty, sour, or spicy*. An amount of a food prepared in a particular way and served at a meal is called a **dish**.

Describing people

People (or *human beings*) are *male or female, adults or children*. They, their **behaviour** or their **attitude** could be *friendly, bad-tempered, aggressive, honest, dishonest, sincere, calm, anxious, nervous, pleasant, unpleasant, intelligent, stupid, polite or rude*.

The **way** or **manner** in which somebody does something may be important.

People do things *deliberately* or *on purpose* (= they mean to do it) or *accidentally* or *by mistake* (= they do not mean to do it).

Somebody may *have* or *show* a **quality** or **feeling** such as *respect, interest, pleasure, skill, emotion, excitement, enthusiasm, sympathy, courage or determination*. Or they may show a **lack** of one of these qualities or a **desire** to do something.

Describing organizations

An **organization** may be a *business, a company, an institution, a club* or a *group of people* who work together for a particular aim. The people who lead an *organization*, a

government or *society* can be called *people in authority*.

Describing actions

An **event** may be a *ceremony, a festival* or a *celebration*. It could be *public, private, official* or *social*.

An **occasion** is a time when something happens. For example, a **referendum** is 'an *occasion* when all the people of a country can vote on an important issue'.

Something that somebody does, or something that happens may be described as an *act, an action, an activity* or a *process* (= a series of connected actions). When a noun is very closely linked to a verb, it may be defined in terms of the verb as *the act/action/activity/process of...* For example, one of the meanings of **achievement** is 'the *act* or *process* of achieving sth'.

Your **experience** [U] is the things you have done and the knowledge you have gained; an **experience** [C] is something that has happened to you. For example, **cosmopolitan** means 'having or showing wide *experience* of people and things'. **Conversion** is 'the process or *experience* of changing your religion'.

Things happen *repeatedly* (= several times, one after the other), *continuously* (= without stopping), *occasionally* or *rarely* (= not very often).

Describing situations

A **matter** [C] is a subject or situation that you must consider or deal with. For example, a **case** is 'a *matter* that is being officially investigated ...'

State and **condition** are both used to describe how something or somebody looks or is physically or mentally. A **medical condition** is a particular health problem that somebody has.

A situation that exists or a *habit* or *practice* that somebody has can be described as *the fact of...* or *the practice of...* For example, **gender** is '*the fact of* being male or female'.

Describing ideas

A strong opinion can be called a *belief*. A *set of beliefs* can be a *theory* about a particular subject. Some actions are *the expression of* particular ideas. A set of beliefs and practices can make a whole *system*, especially a *political* or *economic* system such as **capitalism**.

Numbers

- 1040 form** /,ten 'fɔ:ti fɔ:m; *AmE* 'fɔ:rti fɔ:rm/ *noun* (in the US) an official document in which you give details of the amount of money that you have earned so that the government can calculate how much tax you have to pay
- 12** /twelv/ *noun* (in Britain) a label that is given to a film/movie to show that it can be watched legally only by people who are at least twelve years old; a film/movie that has this label: *I can take the kids too – it's a 12.*
- 15** /,fif'tin/ *noun* (in Britain) a label that is given to a film/movie to show that it can be watched legally only by people who are at least fifteen years old; a film/movie that has this label
- 18** /,eɪ'tin/ *noun* (in Britain) a label that is given to a film/movie to show that it can be watched legally only by people who are at least eighteen years old; a film/movie that has this label
- 18-wheeler** /,eɪtɪn 'wi:lə(r)/ *noun (AmE)* a very large truck with nine wheels on each side
- 20/20 vision** /,twenti twenti 'vɪʒn/ *noun* the ability to see perfectly without using glasses or CONTACT LENSES
- 2.1** /,tu: 'wʌn/ *noun* the upper level of the second highest standard of degree given by a British or an Australian university: *I got a 2.1.*
- 2.2** /,tu: 'tu:/ *noun* the lower level of the second highest standard of degree given by a British or an Australian university
- 24-hour clock** /,twenti fɔ:r əʊə 'klɒk; *AmE* əʊər 'klɔ:k/ *noun* the system of using twenty four numbers to talk about the hours of the day, instead of dividing it into two units of twelve hours
- 24/7** /,twenti fɔ:(r) 'sevən/ *adv. (informal)* twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week (used to mean 'all the time'): *She's with me all the time—24/7.*
- 3-D** (also **three-D**) /,θri: 'di:/ *noun [U]* the quality of having, or appearing to have, length, width and depth: *These glasses allow you to see the film in 3-D.*
- 35mm** /,θɜ:tɪfəv 'mɪlɪmɪtə(r); *AmE* ,θɜ:rti-/ *noun* the size of film that is usually used in cameras for taking photographs and making films/movies
- 4×4** /,fɔ: baɪ 'fɔ:/; *AmE* ,fɔ:r baɪ 'fɔ:/ *noun* a vehicle with a system in which power is applied to all four wheels, making it easier to control
- 911** /,naɪn wʌn 'wʌn/ the telephone number used in the US to call the police, fire or ambulance services in an emergency: (*AmE*) *Call 911.*
- 99** /,nænti'næm/ *noun (BrE)* an ice cream in a CONE with a stick of chocolate in the top
- 999** /,næm næm 'næm/ the telephone number used in Britain to call the police, fire or ambulance services in an emergency: (*BrE*) *Dial 999.*

Symbols

- = equals; is the same as
- ≠ does not equal; is different from
- ≈ is approximately equal to
- > is more than
- < is less than
- ∴ because
- ∴ therefore
- ✓ correct
- ✗ incorrect
- * used to mark important points (called an **ASTERISK**)
- & and (called an **AMPERSAND**)
- # (*BrE*) **HASH** (*AmE*) **POUND SIGN** the symbol used for example on telephones, and in addresses in the US
- " **DITTO**; the same word as above
- @ at
- % (on an envelope) **CARE OF**. You address a letter to a person 'care of' sb else when the place you are sending it to is not their permanent home.
- £ pound sterling
- \$ dollar
- € euro
- © copyright
- ⓘ information
- Ⓟ parking
- ♂ male
- ♀ female
- ♻ used on the packaging of products to show that they are made from recycled materials (= that have been used once then treated so that they can be used again), or to show that they can be recycled after use

Contents

Preface vi
 Key to the dictionary vii-x
 Understanding definitions x-xi
 Numbers and symbols xii

The Dictionary 1-1508

Topic pages

Computing 250-1
 Cooking 274-5
 Health 598-9
 Musical instruments 840-1
 Sport 1250-1

Colour illustrations between 372 and 373

Bread, cakes and desserts A1
 Fruit A2
 Vegetables A3
 Clothes and fabrics A4-5
 The animal kingdom A6-7
 Games and toys A8

Language study pages between 756 and 757

Linking words together B2
 Collocation B3
 Nouns and adjectives B4-5
 Verbs B6-9
 Phrasal verbs B10-11
 Idioms B12
 Informal letters, faxes, memos and e-mails B13
 Formal letters B14
 Writing a CV or resum B15
 New words B16

Maps between 1140 and 1141

The globe and the seasons C1
 The world C2-3
 The British Isles C4-5
 Canada, the United States and the Caribbean C6-7
 Australia and New Zealand C8

Appendices

1 Irregular verbs 1509
 2 Geographical names 1512
 3 Numbers 1517
 4 Punctuation 1523
 5 The language of literary criticism 1526
 6 Notes on usage 1528
 7 Defining vocabulary 1531

Inside front cover

Abbreviations, symbols and labels used in the dictionary
 Key to verb patterns

Inside back cover

Pronunciation and phonetic symbols in the dictionary

Aa

A /eɪ/ *noun, symbol, abbr.*

- noun** (also **a**) (*pl. A's, a's* /eɪz/) **1** [C, U] the first letter of the English alphabet: 'Apple' begins with (an) A / 'A'. **2** (A) [C, U] (*music*) the 6th note in the scale of C MAJOR **3** [C, U] the highest mark/grade that a student can get for a piece of work or course of study: *She got (an) A in: for Biology.* ◊ *He had straight A's* (= nothing but A's) *all through high school.* **4** (A) [U] used to represent the first of two or more possibilities: *Shall we go for plan A or plan B?* **5** (A) [U] used to represent a person, for example in an imagined situation or to hide their identity: *Let's assume A knows B is guilty.*—see also A-FRAME, A LEVEL, A-ROAD
- IDM** **from A to B** from one place to another: *I don't care what a car looks like as long as it gets me from A to B.* **from A to Z** including everything there is to know about sth: *By the end of the week we knew the subject from A to Z.*
- symbol** **1** used in Britain before a number to refer to a particular important road: *the A31 to Newbury* **2** used (but not in the US) before numbers which show standard metric sizes of paper: *a sheet of A4 paper* (= 297×210mm)
- abbr.** (in writing) AMP(S)

- a** /ə/ (*strong form eɪ/* (also *an* /ən/; *strong form ən/*) *indefinite article* **HELP** The form **a** is used before consonant sounds and the form **an** before vowel sounds. When saying abbreviations like 'FM' or 'UN', use **a** or **an** according to how the first letter is said. For example, **F** is a consonant, but begins with the sound /e/ and so you say: *an FM radio.* **U** is a vowel but begins with /j/ and so you say: *a UN declaration.* **1** used before countable or singular nouns referring to people or things that have not already been mentioned: *a man/horse/unit* ◊ *an aunt/egg/hour/x-ray* ◊ *I can only carry two at a time.* ◊ *There's a visitor for you.* ◊ *She's a friend of my father's* (= one of my father's friends). **2** used before uncountable nouns when these have an adjective in front of them, or phrase following them: *a good knowledge of French* ◊ *a sadness that won't go away* **3** any; every: *A lion is a dangerous animal.* **4** used to show that sb/sth is a member of a group or profession: *Their new car's a BMW.* ◊ *She's a Buddhist.* ◊ *He's a teacher.* ◊ *Is that a Monet* (= a painting by Monet)? **5** used in front of two nouns that are seen as a single unit: *a knife and fork* **6** used instead of one before some numbers: *A thousand people were there.* **7** used when talking about prices, quantities and rates **SYN** **PER**: *They cost 50p a kilo.* ◊ *I can type 50 words a minute.* ◊ *He was driving at 50 miles an hour.* **8** a person like sb: *She's a little Hitler.* **9** used before sb's name to show that the speaker does not know the person: *There's a Mrs Green to see you.* **10** used before the names of days of the week to talk about one particular day: *She died on a Tuesday.*

a- /eɪ/ *prefix* (in nouns, adjectives and adverbs) not; without: *atheist* ◊ *atypical* ◊ *asexually*

AA /eɪ'eɪ/ *abbr.* Automobile Association (a British organization which provides services for car owners)

AAA /eɪ'eɪ'eɪ/ *abbr.* American Automobile Association (an American organization which provides services for car owners)

A & E /eɪ and 'i:/ *abbr.* ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY

aardvark /'ɑ:dvɑ:k/ *noun* (AmE 'ɑ:rdvɑ:k/ *noun* an animal from southern Africa that has a long nose and tongue and that eats insects

aback /ə'bæk/ *adv.* **IDM** **be taken a back** (by sb/sth) to be shocked or surprised by sb/sth: *She was completely taken aback by his anger.*—see also TAKE SB ABACK

aba-cus /'æbəkəs/ *noun* (*pl. aba-cuses* /-kəsɪz/) a frame

containing rods with small balls that slide along them. It is used as a tool or toy for courting.

abandon /ə'bændən/ *verb, noun*

- verb** [VN] **1** ~ **sb** (to sth) to leave sb, especially sb you are responsible for, with no intention of returning: *The baby had been abandoned by its mother.* ◊ *People often simply abandon their pets when they go abroad.* ◊ *The study showed a deep fear among the elderly of being abandoned to the care of strangers.* **2** ~ **sth** (to sb/sth) to leave a thing or place, especially because it is impossible or dangerous to stay: *Snow forced many drivers to abandon their vehicles.* ◊ *They had to abandon their lands and property to the invading forces.* ◊ *He gave the order to abandon ship* (= to leave the ship because it was sinking). **3** to stop supporting or helping sb; to stop believing in sth: *The country abandoned its political leaders after the war.* ◊ *By 1930 he had abandoned his non-violent principles.* **4** to stop doing sth, especially before it is finished; to stop having sth: *They had to abandon the match because of rain.* ◊ *I have abandoned hope of any reconciliation.* **5** ~ **yourself** to sth (*literary*) to feel an emotion so strongly that you can feel nothing else: *He abandoned himself to despair.*

noun [U] (*written*) an uncontrolled way of behaving that shows that sb does not care what other people think: *He signed cheques with careless abandon.* **IDM** see GAY *adj.*

abandoned /ə'bændənd/ *adj.* **1** left and no longer wanted, used or needed: *an abandoned car/house* ◊ *The child was found abandoned but unharmed.* **2** (*written*) (of people or their behaviour) wild; not following accepted standards

abandonment /ə'bændənmənt/ *noun* [U] (*written*)

1 the act of leaving a person, thing or place with no intention of returning: *their childhood abandonment by their mother* **2** the act of giving up an idea or stopping an activity with no intention of returning to it: *the government's abandonment of its new economic policy*

abase /ə'beɪs/ *verb* [VN] ~ **yourself** (*formal*) to act in a way that shows that you accept sb's power over you

► **abase-ment** *noun* [U]

abashed /ə'bæʃt/ *adj.* [not before noun] embarrassed and ashamed because of sth that you have done **OPP**

UNABASHED

abate /ə'beɪt/ *verb* (*formal*) to become less strong; to make sth less strong: [V] *The storm showed no signs of abating.* ◊ [VN] *Steps are to be taken to abate pollution.*

► **abate-ment** *noun* [U]

ab-at-toir /'æbətwa:(r)/ *noun* (BrE) = SLAUGHTERHOUSE

ab-bess /'æbes/ *noun* a woman who is the head of a CONVENT

abbey /'æbi/ *noun* a large church together with a group of buildings in which MONKS or NUNS live or lived in the past: *Westminster Abbey* ◊ *a ruined abbey*

abbot /'æbət/ *noun* a man who is the head of a MONASTERY or an ABBEY

ab-bre-viate /ə'bri:vɪeɪt/ *verb* [VN] [usually passive] ~ **sth** (to sth) to make a word, phrase or name shorter by leaving out letters or using only the first letter of each word: *the Jet Propulsion Laboratory* (usually abbreviated to JPL) ► **ab-bre-viated** *adj.* Where appropriate, abbreviated forms are used.

ab-bre-vi-ation /ə'bri:vɪ'eɪʃn/ *noun* [1] C ~ (of/for sth) a short form of a word, etc: *What's the abbreviation for 'Saint'?* **2** [U] the process of abbreviating sth

ABC /eɪ bi: 'si:/ *noun, abbr.*

noun [sing.] (BrE) (AmE **ABCs** [pl.]) **1** all the letters of the alphabet, especially as they are learnt by children: *Do*

æ	ɑ:	e	ɜ:	ə	i	i:	i	ɒ	ɔ:	ʌ	o	u	u:
cat	father	ten	bird	about	sit	see	many	got	saw	cup	put	actual	too

(BrE)

A

you know your ABC? **2** the basic facts about a subject: *the ABC of gardening* **IDM** see EASY

abbr. American Broadcasting Company (a large national American television company)

ab-di-cate /'æbdɪkeɪt/ *verb* **1** to give up the position of being king or queen: [V] *He abdicated in favour of his son.* ◊ [VN] *She was forced to abdicate the throne of Spain.* **2** [VN] ~ responsibility/your responsibilities to fail or refuse to perform a duty ► **ab-di-ca-tion** /'æbdɪ'keɪʃn/ *noun* [U, C]

ab-do-men /'æbdəmən/ *noun* **1** the part of the body below the chest that contains the stomach, bowels, etc. **2** the end part of an insect's body that is attached to its THORAX—picture on page A7 ► **ab-dom-in-al** /'æbdəmɪnəl/ *AmE* 'dɑ:m-/ *adj.* [only before noun]: *abdominal pains*

ab-duct /'æbdʌkt/ *verb* [VN] to take sb away illegally, especially using force **(SYN)** KIDNAP: *He had attempted to abduct the two children.* ► **ab-duc-tion** /'æbdʌkʃn/ *noun* [U, C]: *child abduction* **ab-duct-or** *noun*

Aber-do-nian /'æbədəʊniən/; *AmE* 'æbər'doʊ-/ *noun* a person from Aberdeen in Scotland ► **Aber-do-nian** *adj.*

ab-er-rant /'æberənt/ *adj.* (*formal*) not usual or not socially acceptable: *aberrant behaviour*

ab-er-ra-tion /'æbər'eɪʃn/ *noun* [C, U] (*formal*) a fact, an action or a way of behaving that is not usual, and that may be unacceptable

abet /'æbet/ *verb* **(-tt-)** [VN] to help or encourage sb to do sth wrong: *He was abetted in the deception by his wife.* **IDM** see AID L

abey-ance /'æbeɪəns/ *noun* [U] **IDM** in **abeyance** (*formal*) not being used, or being stopped for a period of time

abhor /'æb'hɔ:(r)/ *verb* **(-rr-)** [VN] (not used in the progressive tenses) (*formal*) to hate sth, for example a way of behaving or thinking, especially for moral reasons

ab-hor-rence /'æb'hɔ:rəns/; *AmE* 'hɔ:r-; 'hɑ:r-/ *noun* [U, sing.] (*formal*) a feeling of strong hatred, especially for moral reasons

ab-hor-rent /'æb'hɔ:rənt/; *AmE* 'hɔ:r-; 'hɑ:r-/ *adj.* (*formal*) ~ (to sb) causing hatred, especially for moral reasons: *Discrimination of any sort is abhorrent to a civilized society.*

abide /'əbaɪd/ *verb* (*abided*, *abided*) **HELP** In sense **2** **abode** /'əboʊd/; *AmE* 'əboʊd/ is also used for the past tense and past participle. **1** [VN] **can't/couldn't** ~ sb/sth to dislike sb/sth so much that you hate having to be with or deal with them: *I can't abide people with no sense of humour.* ◊ *He couldn't abide the thought of being cooped up in an office.* **2** [V+adv./prep.] (*old use or formal*) to stay or live in a place: *May joy and peace abide in us all.* **PHRV**

'abide by sth to accept and act according to a law, an agreement, etc: *You'll have to abide by the rules of the club.* ◊ *We will abide by their decision.*

abiding /'əbaɪdɪŋ/ *adj.* (*written*) (of a feeling or belief) lasting for a long time and not changing

abil-ity /'æbɪləti/ *noun* [sing.] ~ to do sth the fact that sb/sth is able to do sth: *The system has the ability to run more than one program at the same time.* ◊ *Everyone has the right to good medical care regardless of their ability to pay.* ◊ *A gentle form of exercise will increase your ability to relax.* **OPF** **INABILITY** **2** [C, U] a level of skill or intelligence: *Almost everyone has some musical ability.* ◊ *He was a man of extraordinary abilities.* ◊ *Students of mixed abilities* ◊ *A woman of her ability will easily find a job.* ◊ *I try to do my job to the best of my ability* (= as well as I can).

-ability, -ibility ⇨ **-ABLE**

ab-ject /'æbdʒekt/ *adj.* [usually before noun] (*formal*) **1** terrible and without hope: *abject poverty/misery/failure* **2** without any pride or respect for yourself: *an abject apology* ► **ab-ject-ly** *adv.*

ab-jure /'æb'dʒʊə(r)/; *AmE* 'æbdʒʊr-/ *verb* [VN] (*formal*) to promise publicly that you will give up or reject a belief or a way of behaving **(SYN)** RENOUNCE

ablaze /'æbleɪz/ *adj.* [not before noun] (*written*) **1** burning quickly and strongly: *The whole building was soon ablaze.* ◊ *Cars and buses were set ablaze during the riot.* **2** ~ (with sth) full of bright colours or light: *The trees*

were ablaze with the colours of autumn. ◊ *There were lights still ablaze as they drove up to the house.* **3** ~ (with sth) full of strong emotion or excitement: *He turned to her, his eyes ablaze with anger.*

able /'eɪbl/ *adj.* **1** ~ to do sth (used as a modal verb) to have the skill, intelligence, opportunity, etc. needed to do sth: *You must be able to speak French for this job.* ◊ *A viral illness left her barely able to walk.* ◊ *I didn't feel able to disagree with him.* ◊ *Will you be able to come?* **OPF** **UNABLE** ⇨ note at **CAN** **2** (**abler** /'eɪblə(r)/, **ablest** /'eɪblɪst/) intelligent; good at sth: *the ablest student in the class* ◊ *We aim to help the less able in society to lead an independent life.*—see also **ABLY**

WORD FAMILY
able *adj.* (≠ unable)
ability *n.* (≠ inability)
disabled *adj.*
disability *n.*

-able (*BrE* also **-ible**) *suffix* (in adjectives) **1** that can or must be: *calculable* ◊ *taxable* **2** having the quality of: *fashionable* ◊ *comfortable* ◊ *changeable* ► **-ability, -ibility** (in nouns): *capability* ◊ *responsibility* **-ably, -ibly** (in adverbs): *noticeably* ◊ *incredibly*

able-bodied *adj.* physically healthy, fit and strong in contrast to sb who is weak or **DISABLED**: *Military service is compulsory for every able-bodied male between 18 and 27.*

able seaman *noun* a sailor of lower rank in the British navy

ab-lu-tions /'æblu:ʃnz/ *noun* [pl.] (*formal* or *humorous*) the act of washing yourself

ably /'eɪblɪ/ *adv.* skilfully and well: *We were ably assisted by a team of volunteers.*—see also **ABLE** (2)

ab-nor-mal /'æbnɔ:ml/; *AmE* 'nɔ:rm-/ *adj.* different from what is usual or expected, especially in a way that is worrying, harmful or not wanted: *abnormal levels of sugar in the blood* ◊ *They thought his behaviour was abnormal.* **OPF** **NORMAL** ► **ab-nor-mal-ly** /'æbnɔ:məli/; *AmE* 'nɔ:rm-/ *adv.*: *abnormally high blood pressure*

ab-nor-mal-ity *noun* /'æbnɔ:'mæləti/; *AmE* 'nɔ:rm-/ (*pl. -ies*) [C, U] a feature or characteristic in a person's body or behaviour that is not usual and may be harmful, worrying or cause illness: *abnormalities of the heart* ◊ *congenital/foetal abnormality*

aboard /ə'bo:əd/; *AmE* 'əbo:rd/ *adv., prep.* on or onto a ship, plane, bus or train: *We finally went aboard.* ◊ *He was already aboard the plane.* ◊ *The plane crashed killing all 157 passengers aboard.* ◊ **All aboard!** (= the bus, boat, etc. is leaving soon) ◊ **Welcome aboard!** (= used as a greeting to passengers or to a person joining a new organization, etc.)

abode /'əboʊd/; *AmE* 'əboʊd/ *noun* [usually sing.] (*formal* or *humorous*) the place where sb lives: *homeless people of no fixed abode* (= with no permanent home) ◊ *You are most welcome to my humble abode.*—see also **ABIDE** v., **RIGHT** OF **ABODE**

abol-ish /'əbɒlɪʃ/; *AmE* 'əbɔ:l-/ *verb* [VN] to officially end a law, a system or an institution: *This tax should be abolished.*

aboli-tion /'æbəlɪʃn/ *noun* [U] the ending of a law, a system or an institution: *the abolition of slavery/apartheid/the death penalty*

aboli-tion-ist /'æbəlɪʃənɪst/ *noun* a person who is in favour of the abolition of sth

abom-in-able /'əbɒmɪnəbl/; *AmE* 'əbɑ:m-/ *adj.* extremely unpleasant and causing disgust: *The judge described the attack as an abominable crime.* ◊ *We were served the most abominable coffee.* ► **abom-in-ably** /'əbɒmɪnəbli/; *AmE* 'əbɑ:m-/ *adv.*: *She treated him abominably.*

A, abominable **Snowman** *noun* = **YETI**

abom-in-ate /'əbɒmɪneɪt/; *AmE* 'əbɑ:m-/ *verb* [VN] (not used in the progressive tenses) (*formal*) to feel hatred or disgust for sth/sb

abom-in-ation /'əbɒmɪneɪʃn/; *AmE* 'əbɑ:m-/ *noun* (*formal*) a thing that causes disgust and hatred, or is considered extremely offensive: *a concrete abomination masquerading as a hotel*

ab-or-tig-nal /'æbɔ:'rɪdʒənl/ *adj., noun*

aɪ	aʊ	eɪ	əʊ	oʊ	ɔɪ	ɪə	eə	ʊə	j	w
my	now	say	go	go	boy	near	hair	pure	yes	wet
			(BrE)	(AmE)						