

最新柯林斯英语学习词典

COLLINS *new* SCHOOL DICTIONARY



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Collins

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Introduction

Collins New School Dictionary is an indispensable language and literacy resource for today's students.

In Britain, the National Literacy Strategy set ambitious targets for students to acquire dictionary skills at every stage of their education. This is because if you know how to use a dictionary effectively you can improve your performance in all subjects, not just English or Modern Languages.

Collins New School Dictionary has been created to meet the needs of students today. Through research among teachers and students, Collins discovered the features that would be most helpful, and incorporated these into this dictionary.

Collins New School Dictionary is easy to use. On the outer edge of each page is a marker highlighting the letter of the alphabet shown on the page. At the top of each page the first and last words featured on the page are clearly shown. The type is large and clear, and extra features are marked by helpful symbols. Each definition within an entry is separated by a sense number, so even longer entries are easy to read and understand.

The entries themselves are written in simple, straightforward language, without any confusing abbreviations. Many of them are full sentences, and all of them are easy to follow. There are helpful examples of the word in use in real English sentences. Spelling help is given for all forms of the entry word. Simple pronunciations are given for awkward words.

Collins New School Dictionary has even more ways to help. There are interesting word histories that increase knowledge of language. Similar words features at many entries offer alternative words for common words and help build vocabulary. Usage notes give spelling tips, advice on when to use a word, and reminders on which words should be used together. Grammar boxes give helpful information on how English works.

Special attention has been given to the vocabulary of a wide range of school examination subjects, so you can find definitions for key words in Geography, RE, Science, and many other subjects.

For easy access Collins has included the Key Words feature at the front of the dictionary. This lists, by topic, entries where you will find some extra help. So, for instance, you can check up on confusable words; words that come from Latin; terms used in Geography. These groupings can be the starting point for projects to increase your knowledge and understanding of English. There is also a photocopyable Dictionary Skills workpack to accompany this dictionary, containing dozens of classroom activities to develop dictionary skills.

Collins New School Dictionary is relevant, accessible, and student-friendly, and offers essential help on the route to success.

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How To Use The Dictionary


Collins New School Dictionary is easy to use and understand. Below are some entries showing the dictionary's main features, along with an explanation of what they are.

The entry word	fiend fiends Said "feend" NOUN 1 a devil or evil spirit. 2 a very wicked or cruel person. 3 AN INFORMAL USE someone who is very keen on a particular thing eg a <i>fitness fiend</i> . [C] from Old English <i>feond</i> meaning 'enemy'	Advice on when to use the word
How to say the word		An example of the word being used
What the word means	fish fishes fishing fished NOUN 1 a cold-blooded creature living in water that has a spine, gills, fins, and a scaly skin. 2 Fish is the flesh of fish eaten as food. ▶ VERB 3 To fish is to try to catch fish for food or sport. 4 If you fish for information, you try to get it in an indirect way.	Word history [C] explains where the word comes from
Other words that come from the entry word	fishing NOUN, fisherman NOUN [C] The plural of the noun <i>fish</i> can be either <i>fish</i> or <i>fishes</i> , but <i>fish</i> is more common.	Definition number
Similar words list	flinch flinches flinching flinched VERB If you flinch, you make a sudden small movement in fear or pain. [C] cringe, recoil, wince	Usage note [C] gives more information on how the word is used
The word's part of speech	full stop full stops NOUN the punctuation mark (.) used at the end of a sentence and after an abbreviation or initial.	Other forms of the word
	What does the Full Stop do? The full stop (.) marks the end of any sentence which is not a question or an exclamation. The train is leaving. A full stop is also used after an abbreviation or initial. etc. Dr. Jenkins J.R. Hartley A full stop is also used after an expression that stands by itself but is not a complete sentence. Good morning.	Grammar box gives more information on the way English works

Key Words

As well as all the usual information you expect to find in a dictionary - definitions, spelling help, pronunciations, and examples - *Collins New School Dictionary* contains extra features that will help you understand more about the English language, and feel more confident about your reading and writing. These extra features are word histories, usage notes, similar words lists, grammar boxes, and school subject vocabulary. To find out more about these features, look at the entries for the words listed on these pages.

Word Histories

If you want to find out where words come from you can look at the word histories in many entries. The word histories are marked by the symbol . Modern English words have come from many different sources. Below are some examples.

Words from Latin

apricot
chapel
dismal
hibernate
migraine
muscle
slave
vaccine

Words from Greek

acrobat
dinosaur
encyclopedia
gorilla
hippopotamus
moustache
parasite
toxic

Words from Old English

acre
bless
daisy
earwig
fiend
holiday
walnut
werewolf

Words from Arabic

alcove
assassin
checkmate
cotton
genie
giraffe
hazard
racquet

Words from Hindi

bangle
bungalow
gymkhana
juggernaut
loot
mandir
shampoo
thug

Words from French

interfere
menagerie
oboe
parlour
plumber
sabotage
souvenir
suede

Words named after people

boycott
platonian
sandwich
saxophone
shrapnel
sideburn
tarmac
teddy bear

Other interesting words

anorak
berserk
bikini
chocolate
denim
jumbo
paper
tulip

☑ Usage Notes

If you want to know more about how words should be used, you can look at the usage notes in many entries. The usage notes are marked by the symbol ☑. There are several kinds of usage note: tips on spelling; help with words that are often confused; advice on when you should use a word and when to avoid it; and reminders on which words go together. Below are some examples of entries where you can find this help.

Spelling Tips

accommodate
black
environment
hamster
licence
pronunciation
yank

Confusing Words

amoral & immoral
flaunt & flout
hoard & horde
loath & loathe
loose & lose
principal & principle
their & there

When to use a word

alternative
between
chairman
disinterested
elder
less
plus

Words which go together

acquainted
bored
demand
inside
outside
provided
try

☐ Similar Words

When you are writing, it is good to vary the words you use. This keeps your reader interested, and helps to increase your vocabulary. If you want to know another word to use instead of one you have used already, look to see if there is a *similar word list* at the entry for the word you want to replace. Similar words lists are marked by the symbol ☐. Then you can pick a similar word, or synonym, to put in your writing. Below are some examples of common words that have similar words lists in their entries.

Common Verbs

appear
beat
catch
finish
harm
imagine
mix
recognize
scare
warn

Common Nouns

area
choice
energy
fight
grief
job
noise
opinion
thought
victory

Common Adjectives

brave
depressed
excellent
happy
lively
modern
ordinary
rude
silly
weird

Grammar Boxes

Throughout the dictionary there are grammar boxes at the end of entries. These boxes contain rules and advice on English grammar, as well as helpful examples. Below are some entries where you can find out more about grammar.

Punctuation

apostrophe
bracket
colon
comma
dash
exclamation mark
full stop
hyphen
inverted comma
punctuation
question mark
semicolon

Parts of Speech

adjective
adverb
conjunction
interjection
noun
part of speech
preposition
pronoun
verb

Parts of a Sentence

clause
phrase
sentence

Gender

feminine
gender
masculine
neuter

Verbs

active
future
passive
past tense
present tense
tense
verb

Nouns

noun
plural
possessive

Adjectives

adjective
comparative
superlative

School Subject Vocabulary

As an extra feature of this dictionary we have included a wide range of words related to school subjects. Subjects like History, Geography, Science and Religious Studies have their own specialist vocabulary, and many of these words have been added to give extra help to students who are studying these subjects. Below are some of the subjects covered, and examples of entries relating to them.

History

armistice
civil war
colony
conquest
democracy
emperor
ghetto
holocaust
nationalism
republic
treaty

Geography

acid rain
climate
deforestation
ecosystem
equator
glaciation
mineral
plateau
rainforest
settlement
stratum

Mathematics

addition
division
fraction
median
multiplication
parallelogram
scale
square
subtraction
trapezium
volume

Modern Languages

article
case
comparative
imperative
infinitive
subjunctive
superlative
vocabulary

Sociology

alienate
capitalism
discriminate
hierarchy
Marxism
polygamy
racism
welfare state

Food Technology

carbohydrate
cholesterol
fat
gelatine
monounsaturated
nutrient
polyunsaturated
salmonella

Science

acid
amplitude
capillary
cell
current
DNA
enzyme
frequency

English

comedy
dialect
limerick
paragraph
register
simile
slang
tragedy

Psychology

attitude
ego
extrovert
introvert
neurosis
peer
self-esteem
stereotype

Business Studies

asset
cash flow
fiscal
inflation
liquidation
privatization
spreadsheet
VAT

Science

kinetic energy
nucleus
ovary
protein
radiation
solution
velocity
xylem

Poetry

alliteration
couplet
foot
irony
meter
rhyme
sonnet
stanza

Religious Studies

apostle
bar mitzvah
dharma
hajj
khanda
puja
scripture
sin

Media Studies

broadsheet
director
libel
producer
royalties
screenplay
tabloid
World Wide Web

Design and Technology

alloy
cantilever
forge
hacksaw
laminated
plastic
rivet
template



BANK of ENGLISH

This dictionary has been compiled by referring to the Bank of English, a unique database of the English language with examples of over 323 million words enabling Collins lexicographers to analyse how English is actually used today and how it is changing. This is the evidence on which the changes in this dictionary are based.

The Bank of English was set up as a joint initiative by HarperCollins Publishers and Birmingham University to be a resource for language research and lexicography. It contains a very wide range of material from books, newspapers, radio, TV, magazines, letters, and talks reflecting the whole spectrum of English today. Its size and range make it an unequalled resource and the purpose-built software for its analysis is unique to Collins Dictionaries.

This ensures that Collins Dictionaries accurately reflect English as it is used today in a way that is most helpful to the dictionary user as well as including a range of rarer and historical words and meanings.

a an

ADJECTIVE The indefinite article 'a', or 'an' if the next sound is a vowel, is used when you are talking about one of something eg *an apple... There was a car parked behind the hedge.*

The Indefinite Article

The word *a* is known as the **indefinite article**. You use it before a singular noun to refer to any example of that noun, or to avoid being specific about which example you mean.

a school a woman

The word *an* is used instead of *a* when a word begins with a vowel sound.

an elephant an empire

The word *an* is also used instead of *a* when words sound as though they begin with a vowel.

an hour an honour

The word *a* is used instead of *an* when words that begin with a vowel sound as though they begin with a consonant.

a union a European

Also look at the grammar box at **the**.

aardvark aardvarks

NOUN an ant-eating African animal with a long snout.

from obsolete Afrikaans meaning 'earth pig'

aback

ADVERB If you are taken aback, you are very surprised.

abacus abacuses

NOUN a frame with beads that slide along rods, used for counting.

from Greek *abax* meaning 'board covered with sand for doing sums on'

abalone abalones

Said "ab-a-lone-ee" **NOUN** a shellfish which can be eaten.

abandon abandons abandoning abandoned

VERB 1 If you abandon someone or

something, you leave them or give them up for good. ▶ **NOUN** 2 If you do something with abandon, you do it in an uncontrolled way eg *He began to laugh with abandon.*

abandoned **ADJECTIVE**, **abandonment** **NOUN**

(sense 1) desert, forsake, leave

abate abates abating abated

VERB If something abates, it becomes less eg *His anger abated.*

abattoir abattoirs

Said "ab-a-twah" **NOUN** a place where animals are killed for meat.

abbey abbeys

NOUN a church with buildings attached to it in which monks or nuns live.

abbot abbots

NOUN the monk or priest in charge of all the monks in a monastery.

abbreviate abbreviates**abbreviating abbreviated**

VERB To abbreviate something is to make it shorter.

abbreviation abbreviations

NOUN a short form of a word or phrase. An example is 'W', which is short for 'West'.

abdicate abdicates abdicating abdicated

VERB If a king or queen abdicates, he or she gives up being a king or queen.

abdication **NOUN**

abdomen abdomens

NOUN the front part of your body below your chest, containing your stomach and intestines.

abdominal **ADJECTIVE**

abduct abducts abducting abducted

VERB To abduct someone is to take them away by force.

abduction **NOUN**

aberration aberrations

NOUN something that is not normal

abet - above

or usual.

abet abets abetting abetted

VERB If you abet someone, you help them to do something eg *You've aided and abetted criminals to evade justice.*

abhor abhors abhorring abhorred

VERB; A FORMAL WORD If you abhor something, you hate it.

abhorrence NOUN, **abhorrent** ADJECTIVE

abide abides abiding abided

VERB **1** If you can't abide something, you dislike it very much. **2** If you abide by a decision or law, you act in agreement with it.

ability abilities

NOUN the intelligence or skill needed to do something eg *the ability to get on with others.*

☐ capability, proficiency, skill

abject

ADJECTIVE very bad eg *abject failure.*

abjectly ADVERB

ablaze

ADJECTIVE on fire.

able abler ablest

ADJECTIVE **1** If you are able to do something, you can do it.

2 Someone who is able is very clever or talented.

ably

Said "ay-blee" **ADVERB** skilfully and successfully eg *He is ably supported by the cast.*

abnormal

ADJECTIVE not normal or usual.

abnormally ADVERB

abnormality abnormalities

NOUN something that is not normal or usual.

☐ irregularity, oddity, peculiarity

aboard

PREPOSITION OR ADVERB on a ship or plane.

abode abodes

NOUN; AN OLD-FASHIONED WORD Your abode is your home.

abolish abolishes abolishing

abolished

VERB To abolish something is to do away with it eg *the campaign to abolish hunting.*

abolition NOUN

☐ do away with, eliminate, end

abominable

ADJECTIVE very unpleasant or shocking.

abominably ADVERB

Aborigine Aborigines

Said "ab-or-rij-in-ee" **NOUN** someone descended from the people who lived in Australia before Europeans arrived.

Aboriginal ADJECTIVE

☐ borrowed from *aborigines*, the Latin word for the pre-Roman inhabitants of Italy

abort aborts aborting aborted

VERB **1** If a plan or activity is aborted, it is stopped before it is finished. **2** If a pregnant woman aborts, the pregnancy ends too soon and the baby dies.

abortion abortions

NOUN If a woman has an abortion, the pregnancy is ended deliberately and the baby dies.

abortive

ADJECTIVE unsuccessful eg *an abortive bank raid.*

abound abounds abounding

abounded

VERB If things abound, there are very large numbers of them.

about

PREPOSITION OR ADVERB **1** of or concerning. **2** approximately and not exactly. ▶ **ADVERB** **3** in different directions eg *There were some bottles scattered about.* ▶ **ADJECTIVE** **4** present or in a place eg *Is Jane about?* ▶ **PHRASE** **5** If you are about to do something, you are just going to do it.

above

PREPOSITION OR ADVERB **1** directly over or higher than something eg *above the clouds.* **2** greater than a level or amount eg *The temperature didn't rise above freezing point.*

above board

ADJECTIVE completely open and legal
 EG *They assured me it was above board and properly licensed.*

☞ an allusion to the difficulty of cheating at cards with your hands above the table

abrasion abrasions

NOUN an area where your skin has been broken.

abrasive

ADJECTIVE **1** An abrasive substance is rough and can be used to clean hard surfaces. **2** Someone who is abrasive is unpleasant and rude.

abroad

ADVERB in a foreign country.

abrupt

ADJECTIVE **1** sudden and quick EG *His career came to an abrupt end.*

2 unfriendly and impolite.

abruptly ADVERB, **abruptness** NOUN

abscess abscesses

Said "ab-sess" NOUN a painful swelling filled with pus.

abseiling

NOUN Abseiling is the sport of going down a cliff or a tall building by sliding down ropes.

absent

ADJECTIVE Something that is absent is not present in a place or situation.

absence NOUN

absentee absentees

NOUN someone who is not present when they should be.

absent-minded

ADJECTIVE forgetful.

absolute

ADJECTIVE **1** total and complete EG *absolute honesty.* **2** having total power EG *the absolute ruler.*

absolutely ADVERB

absolve absolves absolving**absolved**

VERB To absolve someone of something is to state they are not to blame for it.

absorb absorbs absorbing**absorbed**

VERB If something absorbs liquid or gas, it soaks it up.

☞ soak up, take in

absorbent

ADJECTIVE Absorbent materials soak up liquid easily.

absorption

NOUN **1** Absorption is the soaking up of a liquid. **2** Absorption is great interest in something EG *my father's absorption in his business affairs.*

abstain abstains abstaining**abstained**

VERB **1** If you abstain from something, you do not do it or have it EG *The patients had to abstain from alcohol.* **2** If you abstain in a vote, you do not vote.

abstention NOUN

☞ (sense 1) forbear, keep from, refrain

abstinence

NOUN Abstinence is deliberately not doing something you enjoy.

abstract

ADJECTIVE **1** An abstract idea is based on thoughts and ideas rather than physical objects or events, for example 'bravery'. **2** Abstract art is a style of art which uses shapes rather than images of people or objects. **3** Abstract nouns refer to qualities or ideas rather than to physical objects, for example 'happiness' or 'a question'.

abstraction NOUN

absurd

ADJECTIVE ridiculous and stupid.

absurdly ADVERB, **absurdity** NOUN

☞ ludicrous, preposterous, ridiculous

abundance

NOUN Something that exists in abundance exists in large numbers EG *an abundance of wildlife.*

abundant ADJECTIVE, **abundantly** ADVERB

☞ plenty, profusion

abuse abuses abusing abused

NOUN Said "ab-yoose" **1** Abuse is cruel treatment of someone EG *child abuse.* **2** Abuse is rude and unkind

abusive – accession

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remarks directed towards someone.

3 The abuse of something is the wrong use of it *eg an abuse of power... alcohol abuse.* ▶ **VERB** Said "ab-yooze" **4** If you abuse someone, you speak insultingly to them. **5** To abuse someone also means to treat them cruelly. **6** If you abuse something, you use it wrongly or for a bad purpose.

☐ (sense 1) ill-treatment, injury, maltreatment

☐ (sense 5) ill-treat, maltreat

abusive

ADJECTIVE rude and unkind.

abusively ADVERB, **abusiveness** NOUN

abysmal

Said "ab-biz-ml" ADJECTIVE very bad indeed *eg an abysmal performance.*

abysmally ADVERB

abyss abysses

NOUN a very deep hole.

☐ from Greek **abussos** meaning 'bottomless'

acacia acacias

Said "a-kay-sha" NOUN a type of thorny shrub with small yellow or white flowers.

academic academics

ADJECTIVE **1** Academic work is work done in a school, college, or university. ▶ NOUN **2** someone who teaches or does research in a college or university.

academically ADVERB

academy academies

NOUN **1** a school or college, usually one that specializes in one particular subject *eg the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art.* **2** an organization of scientists, artists, writers, or musicians.

☐ from Greek **akadēmeia**, the name of the grove where Plato taught

accelerate accelerates

accelerating accelerated

VERB To accelerate is to go faster.

acceleration

NOUN Acceleration is the rate at which the speed of something is

increasing.

accelerator accelerators

NOUN the pedal in a vehicle which you press to make it go faster.

accent accents

NOUN **1** a way of pronouncing a language *eg She had an Australian accent.* **2** a mark placed above or below a letter in some languages, which affects the way the letter is pronounced. **3** An accent on something is an emphasis on it *eg The accent is on action and special effects.*

accentuate accentuates

accentuating accentuated

VERB To accentuate a feature of something is to make it more noticeable.

accept accepts accepting accepted

VERB **1** If you accept something, you say yes to it or take it from someone. **2** If you accept a situation, you realize that it cannot be changed *eg He accepts criticism as part of his job.* **3** If you accept a statement or story, you believe it is true *eg The board accepted his explanation.* **4** If a group accepts you, they treat you as one of the group.

acceptance NOUN, **acceptable** ADJECTIVE, **acceptably** ADVERB

access accesses accessing accessed

NOUN **1** Access is the right or opportunity to use something or to enter a place. ▶ VERB **2** If you access information from a computer, you get it.

accessible

ADJECTIVE **1** easily reached or seen *eg The village was accessible by foot only.* **2** easily understood or used *eg guidebooks which present information in a clear and accessible style.*

accessibility NOUN

accession

NOUN A ruler's accession is the time when he or she becomes the ruler

of a country.

accessory accessories

NOUN **1** an extra part. **2** An accessory to a crime is someone who helps another person commit the crime.

accident accidents

NOUN **1** an unexpected event in which people are injured or killed. **2** Something that happens by accident happens by chance.

accidental

ADJECTIVE happening by chance.

accidentally ADVERB

inadvertent, unintentional, unplanned

acclaimed

ADJECTIVE If someone or something is acclaimed, they are praised enthusiastically.

accolade accolades

NOUN; A FORMAL WORD An accolade is great praise or an award given to someone.

accommodate accommodates

accommodating accommodated

VERB **1** If you accommodate someone, you provide them with a place to sleep, live, or work. **2** If a place can accommodate a number of things or people, it has enough room for them.

Accommodate has two *cs* and two *ms*.

accommodation

NOUN Accommodation is a place provided for someone to sleep, live, or work in.

accompaniment accompaniments

NOUN **1** The accompaniment to a song is the music played to go with it. **2** An accompaniment to something is another thing that comes with it *eg Melon is a good accompaniment to cold meats*.

accompany accompanies

accompanying accompanied

VERB **1** If you accompany someone, you go with them. **2** If one thing accompanies another, the two things exist at the same time *eg*

severe pain accompanied by fever. **3** If you accompany a singer or musician, you play an instrument while they sing or play the main tune.

accomplice accomplices

NOUN An accomplice is a person who helps someone else to commit a crime.

accomplish accomplishes

accomplishing accomplished

VERB If you accomplish something, you succeed in doing it.

The *com* part of *accomplish* can sound like *kum* or *kom*.

accomplished

ADJECTIVE very talented at something
eg an accomplished cook.

accomplishment

accomplishments

NOUN Someone's accomplishments are the skills they have gained.

accord accords according

accorded

VERB **1** If you accord someone or something a particular treatment, you treat them in that way *eg He was accorded a proper respect for his status*. ▶ NOUN **2** Accord is agreement. ▶ PHRASE **3** If you do something of your own accord, you do it willingly and not because you have been forced to do it.

accordance

PHRASE If you act in accordance with a rule or belief, you act in the way the rule or belief says you should.

according to

PREPOSITION **1** If something is true according to a particular person, that person says that it is true. **2** If something is done according to a principle or plan, that principle or plan is used as the basis for it.

accordion accordions

NOUN An accordion is a musical instrument like an expanding box. It is played by squeezing the two sides together while pressing the keys on it.

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accost - acid rainA
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V
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X
Y
Z**accost accosts accosting accosted**

VERB If someone accosts you, especially someone you do not know, they come up and speak to you *EG She says she is accosted when she goes shopping.*

account accounts accounting accounted

NOUN **1** a written or spoken report of something. **2** If you have a bank account, you can leave money in the bank and take it out when you need it. ▶ **PLURAL NOUN** **3** Accounts are records of money spent and received by a person or business. ▶ **PHRASE** **4** If you take something into account, you include it in your planning. **5** On account of means because of. ▶ **VERB** **6** To account for something is to explain it *EG This might account for her strange behaviour.* **7** If something accounts for a particular amount of something, it is that amount *EG The brain accounts for three per cent of body weight.*

accountable

ADJECTIVE If you are accountable for something, you are responsible for it and have to explain your actions *EG The committee is accountable to Parliament.*

accountability **NOUN**

accountancy

NOUN Accountancy is the job of keeping or inspecting financial accounts.

accountant accountants

NOUN a person whose job is to keep or inspect financial accounts.

accounting

NOUN Accounting is the keeping and checking of financial accounts.

accrue accrues accruing accrued

VERB If money or interest accrues, it increases gradually.

accumulate accumulates accumulating accumulated

VERB If you accumulate things or they accumulate, they collect over a period of time.

accurate

ADJECTIVE completely correct or precise.

accurately **ADVERB**, **accuracy** **NOUN**
 correct, exact, precise

accuse accuses accusing accused

VERB If you accuse someone of doing something wrong, you say they have done it.

accusation **NOUN**, **accuser** **NOUN**

accustom accustoms accustoming accustomed

VERB If you accustom yourself to something new or different, you get used to it.

ace aces

NOUN **1** In a pack of cards, an ace is a card with a single symbol on it.

▶ **ADJECTIVE** **2** AN INFORMAL USE good or skilful *EG an ace squash player.*

acerbic

Said "as-ser-bik" **ADJECTIVE**; A FORMAL WORD Acerbic remarks are harsh and bitter.

ache aches aching ached

VERB **1** If you ache, you feel a continuous dull pain in a part of your body. **2** If you are aching for something, you want it very much.

▶ **NOUN** **3** a continuous dull pain.

achieve achieves achieving achieved

VERB If you achieve something, you successfully do it or cause it to happen.

accomplish, attain, fulfil

The *i* comes before the *e* in *achieve*.

achievement achievements

NOUN something which you succeed in doing, especially after a lot of effort.

acid acids

NOUN **1** a chemical liquid that turns litmus paper red. Strong acids can damage skin, cloth, and metal.

▶ **ADJECTIVE** **2** Acid tastes are sharp or sour.

acidic **ADJECTIVE**, **acidity** **NOUN**

acid rain

NOUN Acid rain is rain polluted by acid in the atmosphere which has come from factories.

acknowledge acknowledges acknowledging acknowledged

VERB **1** If you acknowledge a fact or situation, you agree or admit it is true. **2** If you acknowledge someone, you show that you have seen and recognized them. **3** If you acknowledge a message, you tell the person who sent it that you have received it.

acknowledgment or acknowledgement
NOUN

(sense 1) accept, admit, grant
 Acknowledgment and *acknowledgement* are both correct spellings.

acne

Said "ak-nee" **NOUN** Acne consists of lumpy spots that cover someone's face.

acorn acorns

NOUN the fruit of the oak tree, consisting of a pale oval nut in a cup-shaped base.

acoustic

Said "a-koo-stik" **ADJECTIVE** **1** relating to sound or hearing. **2** An acoustic guitar is not made louder with an electric amplifier.

acoustics

PLURAL NOUN The acoustics of a room are its structural features which are responsible for how clearly you can hear sounds made in it.

acquaintance acquaintances

NOUN someone you know slightly but not well.

acquainted

ADJECTIVE If you are acquainted with someone, you know them slightly but not well.

You say that you are *acquainted* with someone.

acquire acquires acquiring acquired

VERB If you acquire something, you obtain it.

acquisition acquisitions

NOUN something you have obtained.

acquit acquits acquitting acquitted

VERB **1** If someone is acquitted of a crime, they have been tried in a court and found not guilty. **2** If you acquit yourself well on a particular occasion, you behave or perform well.

acquittal **NOUN**

acre acres

NOUN a unit for measuring areas of land. One acre is equal to 4840 square yards or about 4047 square metres.

from Old English *æcer* meaning 'field'

acid

ADJECTIVE sharp and bitter eg *the acid smell of burning plastic*.

acrimony

Said "ak-rim-on-ee" **NOUN**; A FORMAL WORD Acrimony is bitterness and anger.

acrimonious **ADJECTIVE**

acrobat acrobats

NOUN an entertainer who performs gymnastic tricks.

acrobatic **ADJECTIVE**, **acrobatics** **PLURAL NOUN**

from Greek *akrobates* meaning 'someone who walks on tiptoe'

acronym acronyms

NOUN a word made up of the initial letters of a phrase. An example of an acronym is 'BAFTA', which stands for 'British Academy of Film and Television Arts'.

across

PREPOSITION OR ADVERB **1** going from one side of something to the other. **2** on the other side of a road or river.

acrylic

Said "a-kril-lik" **NOUN** Acrylic is a type of man-made cloth.

act acts acting acted

VERB **1** If you act, you do something eg *It would be irresponsible not to act*