



柯林斯精华英语词典

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上海译文出版社

柯林斯袖珍英语词典

COLLINS POCKET ENGLISH DICTIONARY



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ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THE DICTIONARY

<i>AD</i>	anno Domini	<i>masc</i>	masculine
<i>adj</i>	adjective	<i>Med</i>	Medical
<i>adv</i>	adverb	<i>Meteorol</i>	Meteorology
<i>Afr</i>	Africa(n)	<i>Mil</i>	Military
<i>Anat</i>	Anatomy	<i>Myth</i>	Mythology
<i>approx.</i>	approximately	<i>n</i>	noun
<i>Archit</i>	Architecture	<i>N</i>	North
<i>Astrol</i>	Astrology	<i>Naut</i>	Nautical
<i>Aust</i>	Australia(n)	<i>NZ</i>	New Zealand
<i>BC</i>	before Christ	<i>Obs</i>	Obsolete
<i>Biol</i>	Biology	<i>Offens</i>	Offensive
<i>Brit</i>	Britain, British	<i>oft.</i>	often
<i>Chem</i>	Chemistry	<i>orig.</i>	originally
<i>C of E</i>	Church of England	<i>Photog</i>	Photography
<i>conj</i>	conjunction	<i>pl</i>	plural
<i>E</i>	East	<i>prep</i>	preposition
<i>e.g.</i>	for example	<i>pron</i>	pronoun
<i>esp.</i>	especially	<i>Psychol</i>	Psychology
<i>etc.</i>	et cetera	®	Trademark
<i>fem</i>	feminine	<i>RC</i>	Roman Catholic
<i>fol.</i>	followed	<i>S</i>	South
<i>Geom</i>	Geometry	<i>Scot</i>	Scottish
<i>Hist</i>	History	<i>sing</i>	singular
<i>interj</i>	interjection	<i>US</i>	United States
<i>kg</i>	kilogram(s)	<i>usu.</i>	usually
<i>km</i>	kilometre(s)	<i>v</i>	verb
<i>lb(s)</i>	pound(s)	<i>W</i>	West
<i>Lit</i>	Literary	<i>Zool</i>	Zoology

USING THE DICTIONARY

Main Entry Words

printed in large red type

abbey

All main entry words, including foreign words, abbreviations, and combining forms, in one alphabetical sequence

ensue

en suite

ensure

ENT

Variant Spellings

shown in full

adrenalin, adrenaline

guerrilla, guerilla

Note: -ize, -ization spellings are used but -ise, -isation are equally acceptable.

Pronunciations

given for words that are difficult or confusing by respelling, with the stressed syllable in bold type

acerbic [ass-**air**-bik]

aisle [rhymes with **mile**]

Parts of Speech

usually shown as an abbreviation

ablaze *adj*

When a word can be used as more than one part of speech, the change of part of speech is shown after a dash

absent *adj* 1 not present. ... —*v* 4 stay away.

Parts of speech combined for some words

alone *adj, adv* without anyone or anything else.

Cross References

shown in small capital letters

aether *n* same as **ETHER**.

Irregular Parts

or confusing forms of verbs, nouns, adjectives, and adverbs shown in red

abut *v* **abutting**, **abutted**.

benefit ... —*v* **-fiting**, **-fited**.

ability *n*, *pl* **-ties**.

handy *adj* **handier**, **handiest**.

well *adv* **better**, **best**.

Meanings

divided into numbered categories

afraid *adj* **1** frightened. **2** regretful.

Phrases and Idioms

shown in red after the main entry word meanings

neck *n* **1** ... —*v* **4** *Slang* kiss and cuddle.

neck and neck absolutely level in a race or competition. **stick one's neck out** *Informal* risk criticism or ridicule by speaking one's mind.

Related Words

shown in red after any phrases

malice *n* ... **malice aforethought** ...

malicious *adj* **maliciously** *adv*

Note: where the definition of a related word is not given it may be understood from the meaning of the main entry word or of another related word.

Compounds and Phrasal Verbs

made up of the main entry word and another word, shown in alphabetical order, in red, after any related words

crack *v* ... **cracking** *adj* ... **crackdown** *n* severe disciplinary measures. **crack down on** *v* take severe measures against.

Usage

shown at the end of some entries, preceded by ►

acquiesce ...

► The idiom is *acquiesce in* something.

A

- a** *adj* indefinite article, used before a noun being mentioned for the first time.
- A** *n*, *pl* **A's**, **As**. highest grade in an examination. **from A to Z** from start to finish.
- Å** angstrom unit.
- a-** *prefix* not or without, e.g. *apolitical*, *amoral*.
- A1** *adj* *Informal* first-class, excellent.
- AA** 1 Alcoholics Anonymous. 2 Automobile Association.
- aardvark** *n* S African anteater with long ears and snout.
- AB** 1 able-bodied seaman. 2 Alberta.
- aback** *adv* **taken aback** startled or disconcerted.
- abacus** [**ab-a-cuss**] *n* beads on a wire frame, used for doing calculations.
- abaft** *adj*, *adv* *Naut* closer to the rear of (a ship).
- abalone** [**ab-a-lone-ee**] *n* edible sea creature with a shell lined with mother-of-pearl.
- abandon** *v* 1 desert or leave (one's wife, children, etc.). 2 give up (hope etc.) altogether. —*n* 3 lack of inhibition. **abandoned** *adj* 1 deserted. 2 uninhibited. **abandonment** *n*.
- abase** *v* humiliate or degrade (oneself). **abasement** *n*.
- abashed** *adj* embarrassed and ashamed.
- abate** *v* make or become less strong. **abatement** *n*.
- abattoir** [**ab-a-twahr**] *n* slaughterhouse.
- abbess** *n* nun in charge of a convent.
- abbey** *n* dwelling place of, or a church belonging to, a community of monks or nuns.
- abbot** *n* head of an abbey or monks.
- abbreviate** *v* shorten (a word) by leaving out some letters. **abbreviation** *n* shortened form of a word or words.
- ABC** *n* 1 alphabet. 2 basics of a subject.
- abdicate** *v* give up (the throne or a responsibility). **abdication** *n*.
- abdomen** *n* part of the body containing the stomach and intestines. **abdominal** *adj*.
- abduct** *v* carry off, kidnap. **abduction** *n*. **abductor** *n*.
- aberration** *n* 1 sudden change from what is normal, accurate, or correct. 2 brief lapse in control of one's thoughts or feelings. **aberrant** *adj* showing aberration.
- abet** *v* **abetting**, **abetted**. help or encourage in wrongdoing. **abettor** *n*.
- abeyance** *n* in **abeyance** state of not being in use.
- abhor** *v* -**horring**, -**horred**. detest utterly. **abhorrent** *adj* hateful, loathsome. **abhorrence** *n*.
- abide** *v* 1 endure, put up with. 2 *Obs* stay or dwell, e.g. *abide with me*. **abide by** *v* obey (the law, rules, etc.). **abiding** *adj* lasting.
- ability** *n*, *pl* -**ties**. 1 competence, power. 2 talent.
- abject** *adj* 1 utterly miserable. 2 lacking all self-respect. **abjectly** *adv*.
- abjure** *v* deny or renounce on oath.
- ablative** [**ab-lat-iv**] *n* case of nouns in Latin and other languages, indicating source, agent, or instrument of action.
- ablaze** *adj* 1 burning fiercely. 2 emotionally aroused, e.g. *ablaze with desire*.
- able** *adj* capable, competent. **ably** *adv*. **able-bodied** *adj* strong and healthy. **able-bodied seaman** seaman who is trained in certain skills.
- able** *adj* *suffix* able to be acted on as specified, e.g. *washable*. **-ably** *adv* *suffix*. **-ability** *n* *suffix*.
- ablutions** *pl n* act of washing.
- ABM** antiballistic missile.
- abnormal** *adj* not normal or usual. **abnormally** *adv* **abnormality** *n*.
- aboard** *adv*, *prep* on, in, onto, or into (a ship, train, or plane).
- abode** *n* home, dwelling.
- abolish** *v* do away with. **abolition** *n* **abolitionist** *n* person who wishes to do away with something, esp. slavery.
- A-bomb** *n* short for **ATOMIC BOMB**.
- abominable** *adj* detestable, very bad. **abominable snowman** large apelike

- creature said to live in the Himalayas. **abominably** *adv*
- abomination** *n* 1 someone or something that is detestable. 2 strong dislike.
- aborigine** [ab-or-rij-in-ee], **aboriginal** *n* original inhabitant of a country or region, esp. (A-) Australia. **aboriginal** *adj*
- abort** *v* 1 have an abortion or perform an abortion on. 2 have a miscarriage. 3 end a plan or process before completion.
- abortion** *n* 1 operation to end a pregnancy. 2 *Informal* something grotesque.
- abortionist** *n* 1 person in favour of legal abortion. 2 person who performs abortions, esp. illegally. **abortive** *adj* unsuccessful.
- abound** *v* be plentiful. **abounding** *adj*
- about** *prep* 1 concerning, on the subject of. 2 in or near (a place). —*adv* 3 nearly, approximately. 4 nearby. **about** to shortly going to, e.g. *about to leave*. **not about to** determined not to, e.g. *I'm not about to give up now*. **about-turn** *n* complete change of attitude.
- above** *adv, prep* 1 over or higher (than). 2 greater (than). 3 superior (to). **above board** in the open, without dishonesty.
- abracadabra** *n* supposedly magic word.
- abrasion** *n* scraped area on the skin.
- abrasive** *adj* 1 harsh and unpleasant in manner. 2 tending to rub or scrape. —*n* 3 substance for cleaning or polishing by rubbing.
- abreast** *adv, adj* side by side. **abreast of** up to date with.
- abridge** *v* shorten by using fewer words. **abridgment, abridgement** *n*
- abroad** *adv* 1 to or in a foreign country. 2 at large.
- abrogate** *v* cancel (a law or agreement) formally. **abrogation** *n*
- abrupt** *adj* 1 sudden, unexpected. 2 blunt and rude. **abruptly** *adv* **abruptness** *n*
- abscess** [ab-sess] *n* inflamed swelling containing pus.
- abscond** *v* leave secretly.
- abseil** [ab-sail] *v* go down a steep drop by a rope fastened at the top and tied around one's body.
- absent** *adj* 1 not present. 2 lacking. 3 inattentive. —*v* 4 stay away. **absently** *adv*
- absence** *n* 1 being away. 2 lack. **absentee** *n* person who should be present but is not. **absenteeism** *n* persistent absence from work or school. **absent-minded** *adj* inattentive or forgetful. **absent-mindedly** *adv*
- absinthe** *n* strong green aniseed-flavoured liqueur.
- absolute** *adj* 1 complete, perfect. 2 not limited, unconditional. 3 pure, e.g. *absolute alcohol*. **absolute zero** *Physics* lowest possible temperature, -273.15°C. **absolutely** *adv* 1 completely. —*interj* 2 certainly, yes. **absolutism** *n* government by a ruler with unrestricted power.
- absolve** *v* declare to be free from blame or sin. **absolution** *n*
- absorb** *v* 1 soak up (a liquid). 2 take in. 3 engage the interest of (someone). **absorption** *n* **absorbent** *adj* able to absorb liquid. **absorbency** *n*
- abstain** *v* 1 choose not to do something. 2 choose not to vote. **abstainer** *n* **abstention** *n* abstaining, esp. from voting. **abstinence** *n* abstaining, esp. from drinking alcohol. **abstinent** *adj*
- abstemious** [ab-steem-ee-uss] *adj* taking very little alcohol or food. **abstemiousness** *n*
- abstract** *adj* 1 existing as a quality or idea rather than a material object. 2 theoretical. 3 (of art) using patterns of shapes and colours rather than realistic likenesses. —*n* 4 summary. 5 abstract work of art. 6 abstract word or idea. —*v* 7 summarize. 8 remove. **abstracted** *adj* lost in thought. **abstractedly** *adv* **abstraction** *n*
- abstruse** *adj* not easy to understand.
- absurd** *adj* incongruous or ridiculous. **absurdly** *adv* **absurdity** *n*
- abundant** *adj* plentiful. **abundantly** *adv* very, e.g. *abundantly clear*. **abundance** *n*
- abuse** *v* 1 use wrongly. 2 ill-treat violently. 3 speak harshly and rudely to. —*n* 4 violent ill-treatment. 5 harsh and vulgar comments. 6 wrong use. **abuser** *n* **abusive** *adj* **abusively** *adv* **abusiveness** *n*
- abut** *v* abutting, abutted. be next to or touching.
- abuzz** *adj* noisy, busy with activity etc.
- abysmal** *adj* *Informal* extremely bad, awful. **abysmally** *adv*
- abyss** *n* very deep hole or chasm.
- Ac** *Chem* actinium.
- AC** alternating current.
- a/c** account.

- acacia** [a-kay-sha] *n* tree or shrub with yellow or white flowers.
- academy** *n*, *pl* -mies. 1 society to advance arts or sciences. 2 institution for training in a particular skill. 3 *Scot* secondary school. **academic** *adj* 1 of an academy or university. 2 of theoretical interest only. — *n* 3 lecturer or researcher at a university. **academically** *adv* **academician** *n* member of an academy.
- acanthus** *n* 1 prickly plant. 2 ornamental carving in the shape of an acanthus leaf.
- ACAS** Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service.
- acc.** account.
- accede** *v* 1 consent or agree (to). 2 take up (an office or position).
- accelerate** *v* (cause to) move faster. **acceleration** *n* **accelerator** *n* pedal in a motor vehicle to increase speed.
- accent** *n* 1 distinctive style of pronunciation of a local, national, or social group. 2 mark over a letter to show how it is pronounced. 3 stress on a syllable or musical note. — *v* 4 place emphasis on.
- accentuate** *v* stress, emphasize. **accentuation** *n*
- accept** *v* 1 receive willingly. 2 agree to. 3 consider to be true. **accepted** *adj* generally approved. **acceptance** *n* **acceptable** *adj* 1 tolerable. 2 satisfactory. **acceptably** *adv* **acceptability** *n*
- access** *n* 1 means of or right to approach or enter. — *v* 2 obtain (data) from a computer. **accessible** *adj* 1 easy to reach. 2 easy to understand. **accessibility** *n*
- accession** *n* taking up of an office or position.
- accessory** *n*, *pl* -ries. 1 supplementary part or object. 2 person involved in a crime although not present when it is committed.
- accident** *n* 1 mishap, usu. one causing injury or death. 2 event happening by chance. **accidental** *adj* 1 happening by chance or unintentionally. — *n* 2 *Music* symbol indicating that a sharp, flat, or natural note is not a part of the key signature. **accidentally** *adv* **accident-prone** *adj* often having accidents.
- acclaim** *v* 1 applaud, praise. — *n* 2 enthusiastic approval. **acclamation** *n*
- acclimatize** *v* adapt to a new climate or environment. **acclimatization** *n*
- accolade** *n* 1 award, honour, or praise. 2 award of knighthood.
- accommodate** *v* 1 provide with lodgings. 2 have room for. 3 oblige, do a favour for. 4 adapt or adjust (to something). **accommodation** *n* house or room for living in. **accommodating** *adj* obliging.
- Note the double 'c' and double 'm'. This word is very commonly misspelled.
- accompany** *v* -nying, -nied. 1 go along with. 2 occur with. 3 provide a musical accompaniment for. **accompaniment** *n* 1 something that accompanies. 2 *Music* supporting part that goes with a solo. **accompanist** *n*
- accomplice** *n* person who helps another to commit a crime.
- accomplish** *v* 1 manage to do. 2 finish. **accomplishment** *n* 1 completion. 2 personal ability or skill. **accomplished** *adj* expert, proficient.
- The usual pronunciation of the syllable 'com' in British English sounds like 'kum', but the sound 'kom' is increasingly used.
- accord** *n* 1 agreement, harmony. — *v* 2 grant or give. 3 fit in with. of one's own **accord** voluntarily.
- Do not confuse of one's own accord with on one's own account 'for one's own benefit'.
- accordance** *n* in accordance with conforming to or according to.
- according** *adv* according to 1 as stated by. 2 in conformity with. **accordingly** *adv* 1 in an appropriate manner. 2 consequently.
- accordion** *n* portable musical instrument played by moving the two sides apart and together, and pressing a keyboard or buttons to produce the notes. **accordionist** *n*
- accost** *v* approach and speak to.
- account** *n* 1 report, description. 2 importance, value. 3 person's money held in a bank. 4 record of money received and paid out with the resulting balance. — *v* 5 judge to be. on account of because of. **accountable** *adj* responsible to someone or for something. **accountability** *n* **account for** *v* 1 explain. 2 make up, constitute.
- accounting** *n* skill or practice of maintaining and auditing business accounts.

accoutrements

- accountant** *n* person who maintains and audits business accounts. **accountancy** *n*
- accoutrements** [ak-koo-tra-ments] *pl n* clothing and equipment for a particular activity.
- accredited** *adj* authorized, officially recognized.
- accretion** [ak-kree-shun] *n* 1 gradual growth. 2 something added.
- accrue** *v* -cruing, -crued. increase gradually. **accrual** *n*
- accumulate** *v* gather together in increasing quantity. **accumulation** *n* **accumulative** *adj* **accumulator** *n* rechargeable electric battery.
- accurate** *adj* exact, correct. **accurately** *adv* **accuracy** *n*
- accursed** [a-kurse-id] *adj* 1 under a curse. 2 detestable.
- accusative** *n* grammatical case indicating the direct object.
- accuse** *v* charge with wrongdoing. **accused** *n* Law person or people accused of a crime in a lawsuit. **accuser** *n* **accusing** *adj* **accusation** *n* **accusatory** *adj*
- accustom** *v* become used to. **accustomed** *adj* 1 usual. 2 used (to). 3 in the habit (of).
- ace** *n* 1 playing card with one symbol on it. 2 Informal expert. 3 Tennis unreturnable serve. -*adj* 4 Informal excellent.
- acerbic** [ass-sir-bik] *adj* harsh or bitter. **acerbity** *n*
- acetate** [ass-it-tate] *n* 1 Chem salt or ester of acetic acid. 2 (also **acetate rayon**) synthetic textile fibre.
- acetic** [ass-see-tik] *adj* of or involving vinegar. **acetic acid** colourless liquid used to make vinegar.
- acetone** [ass-it-tone] *n* colourless liquid used as a solvent.
- acetylene** [ass-set-ill-een] *n* colourless flammable gas used in welding metals.
- ache** *n* dull continuous pain. -*v* 2 be in or cause continuous dull pain. **aching** *adj*. **achingly** *adv*
- achieve** *v* gain by hard work or ability. **achievement** *n* something accomplished. **achiever** *n*
- Note the 'ie'. This word is very commonly misspelled.
- Achilles heel** [ak-kil-eez] *n* small but fatal weakness.

- Achilles tendon** *n* cord connecting the calf to the heel bone.
- achromatic** *adj* 1 colourless. 2 Music with no sharps or flats.
- acid** *n* 1 Chem one of a class of compounds, corrosive and sour when dissolved in water, that combine with a base to form a salt. 2 Slang LSD. -*adj* 3 containing acid. 4 sour-tasting. 5 sharp or sour in manner. **acidly** *adv* **acidic** *adj* **acidify** *v* -fying, -fied. **acidity** *n* **Acid (House)** *n* type of funk-based electronically edited disco music with hypnotic sound effects. **acid rain** rain containing acid from atmospheric pollution. **acid test** conclusive test of value.
- acknowledge** *v* 1 admit, recognize. 2 indicate recognition of (a person). 3 say one has received. **acknowledgment, acknowledgement** *n*
- The alternative spellings with or without an 'e' between 'g' and 'm' are equally acceptable.
- acme** [ak-mee] *n* highest point of achievement or excellence.
- acne** [ak-nee] *n* pimply skin disease.
- acolyte** *n* 1 follower or attendant. 2 Christianity person who assists a priest.
- aconite** *n* 1 poisonous plant with hood-like flowers. 2 poison obtained from this plant.
- acorn** *n* nut of the oak tree.
- acoustic** *adj* 1 of sound and hearing. 2 (of a musical instrument) not electronically amplified. **acoustics** *n* 1 science of sounds. -*pl* 2 features of a room or building determining how sound is heard within it. **acoustically** *adv*
- acquaint** *v* make familiar, inform. **acquainted** *adj* **acquaintance** *n* 1 person known. 2 personal knowledge.
- The idiom is *acquaint* someone with something.
- acquiesce** [ak-wee-ess] *v* agree to what someone wants. **acquiescence** *n* **acquiescent** *adj*
- The idiom is *acquiesce* in something.
- acquire** *v* gain, get. **acquisition** *n* 1 thing acquired. 2 act of getting. **acquired taste** 1 liking for something at first considered unpleasant. 2 the thing liked.
- acquisitive** *adj* eager to gain material possessions. **acquisitiveness** *n*
- acquit** *v* -quitting, -quitted. 1 pronounce

- (someone) innocent. 2 behave in a particular way. **acquittal** *n*
- acre** *n* measure of land, 4840 square yards. **acreage** [**ak-er-rij**] *n* land area in acres.
- acid** [**ak-rid**] *adj* pungent, bitter. **acridity** *n*
- acrimonious** *adj* bitter in speech or manner. **acrimony** *n*
- acrobat** *n* person skilled in gymnastic feats requiring agility and balance. **acrobatic** *adj* **acrobatics** *pl n* acrobatic feats.
- acronym** *n* word formed from the initial letters of other words, such as NATO.
- acrophobia** *n* fear of heights.
- acropolis** [**a-crop-pol-liss**] *n* citadel of an ancient Greek city.
- across** *adv, prep* 1 from side to side (of). 2 on or to the other side (of). **across the board** applying equally to all.
- acrostic** *n* lines of writing in which the first or last letters of each line spell a word or saying.
- acrylic** *n, adj* (synthetic fibre, paint, etc.) made from acrylic acid. **acrylic acid** strong-smelling corrosive liquid.
- act** *n* 1 thing done. 2 law or decree. 3 section of a play or opera. 4 one of several short performances in a show. 5 pretended attitude. —*v* 6 do something. 7 behave in a particular way. 8 perform in a play, film, etc. **act of God** unpredictable natural event. **acting** *n* 1 art of an actor. —*adj* 2 temporarily performing the duties of. **actor**, **actress** *n* person who acts in a play, film, etc.
- actinide series** *n* series of 15 radioactive elements with increasing atomic numbers from actinium to lawrencium.
- actinium** *n* Chem radioactive chemical element.
- action** *n* 1 process of doing something. 2 thing done. 3 lawsuit. 4 operating mechanism. 5 events forming the plot of a story or play. 6 Slang main activity in a place. 7 minor battle. **actionable** *adj* giving grounds for a lawsuit. **action replay** rerun of an event on a television tape.
- active** *adj* 1 moving, working, e.g. he remained active in public affairs. 2 busy, energetic. 3 Grammar (of a verb) in a form indicating that the subject is performing the action, e.g. *threw* in *Kim* *threw the ball*. **actively** *adv* **activity** *n* 1 state of being active. 2 (*pl -ties*.) leisure pursuit. **activate** *v* make active. **activation** *n* **activator** *n* **activist** *n* person who works energetically to achieve political or social goals. **activism** *n*
- actual** *adj* existing in reality. **actually** *adv* really, indeed. **actuality** *n*
- Avoid using *actual* or *actually* when it adds nothing to the sense of the sentence. Compare: *It's an actual fact: It's a fact.*
- actuary** *n, pl -aries*. statistician who calculates insurance risks. **actuarial** *adj*
- actuate** *v* 1 start up (a device). 2 motivate (someone).
- acuity** [**ak-kew-it-ee**] *n* keenness of vision or thought.
- acumen** [**ak-yew-men**] *n* ability to make good judgments.
- acupuncture** *n* medical treatment involving the insertion of needles at various points on the body. **acupuncturist** *n*
- acute** *adj* 1 severe. 2 keen, shrewd. 3 sharp, sensitive. 4 (of an angle) less than 90°. —*n* 5 accent (˘) over a letter to indicate the quality or length of its sound, as in *café*. **acutely** *adv* **acuteness** *n*
- ad** *n* Informal advertisement.
- AD** anno Domini.
- adage** [**ad-ij**] *n* wise saying, proverb.
- adagio** [**ad-dahj-yo**] *n, pl -gios, adv* Music (piece to be played) slowly and gracefully.
- adamant** *adj* unshakable in determination or purpose. **adamantly** *adv*
- Adam's apple** *n* projecting lump of thyroid cartilage at the front of the throat.
- adapt** *v* alter for new use or new conditions. **adaptable** *adj* **adaptability** *n* **adaptation** *n* 1 thing produced by adapting something. 2 adapting. **adaptor**, **adapter** *n* device for connecting several electrical appliances to a single socket.
- ADC** aide-de-camp.
- add** *v* 1 combine (numbers or quantities). 2 join (to something). 3 say or write further. **add up** *v* 1 calculate the sum of (two or more numbers). 2 Informal make sense. **add up to** *v* amount to.
- addendum** *n, pl -da.* 1 an addition. 2 appendix to a book etc.
- adder** *n* small poisonous snake.
- addict** *n* 1 person who is unable to stop

addition

- taking drugs. **2** *Informal* person devoted to something. **addicted** *adj* **addiction** *n* **addictive** *adj* causing addiction.
- addition** *n* **1** adding. **2** thing added. **in addition** besides, as well. **additional** *adj* **additionally** *adv* **additive** *n* something added, esp. to foodstuffs, to improve it or prevent deterioration.
- addled** *adj* confused or unable to think clearly.
- address** *n* **1** place where a person lives. **2** direction on a letter. **3** location. **4** formal public speech. — *v* **5** mark the destination, as on an envelope. **6** speak to. **7** give attention to (a problem, task, etc.). **addressee** *n* person addressed.
- adduce** *v* mention something as evidence or proof.
- adenoids** [ad-in-oidz] *pl n* mass of tissue at the back of the throat. **adenoidal** *adj* having a nasal voice caused by swollen adenoids.
- adept** *adj, n* very skilful (person).
- adequate** *adj* **1** sufficient, enough. **2** not outstanding. **adequately** *adv* **adequacy** *n*
- à deux** [ah der] *adv* *French* of or for two people.
- adore** *v* **1** stick (to). **2** be devoted (to). **adherence** *n* **adherent** *n* devotee, follower. **adhesion** *n* **1** sticking (to). **2** joining together of parts of the body that are normally separate, as after surgery.
- adhesive** *n* **1** substance used to stick things together. — *adj* **2** able to stick to things.
- ad hoc** *adj, adv* *Latin* for a particular purpose only.
- adieu** [a-dew] *interj* farewell, goodbye.
- ad infinitum** *adv* *Latin* endlessly.
- adipose** *adj* of or containing fat.
- adj.** adjective.
- adjacent** *adj* **1** near or next (to). **2** having a common boundary. **3** *Geom* (of a side in a right-angled triangle) lying between a specified angle and the right angle.
- adjective** *n* word that adds information about a noun or pronoun. **adjectival** *adj*
- adjoin** *v* be next to. **adjoining** *adj*
- adjourn** *v* **1** close (a court) at the end of a session. **2** postpone temporarily. **3** *Informal* go elsewhere. **adjournment** *n*
- adjudge** *v* declare (to be).

6

adopt

- adjudicate** *v* **1** give a formal decision on (a dispute). **2** judge (a competition). **adjudication** *n* **adjudicator** *n*
- adjunct** *n* subordinate or additional person or thing.
- adjure** *v* **1** command (to do). **2** appeal earnestly. **adjuration** *n*
- adjust** *v* **1** adapt to new conditions. **2** alter slightly so as to be suitable. **adjustable** *adj* **adjuster** *n* **adjustment** *n*
- adjutant** [aj-oo-tant] *n* army officer in charge of routine administration.
- ad-lib** *v* -libbing, -libbed. **1** improvise a speech etc. without preparation. — *n* **2** improvised remark.
- Adm.** Admiral(ty).
- admin** *n* *Informal* administration.
- administer** *v* **1** manage (business affairs). **2** organize and put into practice. **3** give (medicine or treatment).
- administrate** *v* manage (an organization). **administration** *n* **administrative** *adj* **administrator** *n*
- admiral** *n* highest naval rank. **Admiralty** *n* government department in charge of the Royal Navy.
- admire** *v* regard with esteem and approval. **admirable** [ad-mer-a-bl] *adj* admirably *adv* **admiration** *n* **admirer** *n* **admiring** *adj* **admiringly** *adv*
- admissible** *adj* allowed to be brought in as evidence in court. **admissibility** *n*
- admission** *n* **1** permission to enter. **2** permission to join (an organization). **3** entrance fee. **4** confession.
- admit** *v* -mitting, -mitted. **1** confess, acknowledge. **2** concede the truth of. **3** allow in. **admittance** *n* permission to enter. **admittedly** *adv* it must be agreed.
- admixture** *n* **1** mixture. **2** ingredient.
- admonish** *v* reprove sternly. **admonition** *n*
- ad nauseam** [ad naw-zee-am] *adv* *Latin* to a boring or sickening extent.
- ado** *n* fuss, trouble.
- adobe** [ad-oh-bee] *n* sun-dried brick.
- adolescence** *n* period between puberty and adulthood. **adolescent** *n, adj* (person) between puberty and adulthood.
- Adonis** *n* handsome young man.
- adopt** *v* **1** take (someone else's child) as one's own. **2** take up (a plan or princ-

- ple). **adoption** *n* **adoptive** *adj* related by adoption.
- adore** *v* 1 love intensely. 2 *Informal* like very much, e.g. *I adore being in the country.* **adorable** *adj* **adoration** *n* **adoring** *adj* **adoringly** *adv*
- adorn** *v* decorate, embellish. **adornment** *n*
- ADP** automatic data processing.
- adrenal** [ad-reen-al] *adj* near the kidneys. **adrenal glands** glands covering the top of the kidneys.
- adrenalin, adrenaline** *n* hormone secreted by the adrenal glands in response to stress.
- adrift** *adj, adv* 1 drifting. 2 without a clear purpose.
- adroit** *adj* quick and skilful. **adroitly** *adv* **adroitness** *n*
- adsorb** *v* (of a gas or vapour) condense and form a thin film on a surface. **adsorbent** *adj* **adsorption** *n*
- adulation** *n* uncritical admiration.
- adult** *adj* 1 fully grown, mature. —*n* 2 adult person or animal. **adulthood** *n*
- adulterate** *v* spoil something by adding inferior material. **adulteration** *n*
- adultery** *n, pl -teries* sexual unfaithfulness of a husband or wife. **adulterer, adulteress** *n* **adulterous** *adj*
- adv.** adverb.
- advance** *v* 1 go or bring forward. 2 further (a cause). 3 propose (an idea). 4 lend (a sum of money). —*n* 5 forward movement. 6 improvement. 7 loan. —*pl* 8 approaches to a person with the hope of starting a romantic or sexual relationship. —*adj* 9 done or happening before an event. In **advance** ahead. **advanced** *adj* 1 at a late stage in development. 2 not elementary. **advancement** *n* promotion.
- advantage** *n* 1 more favourable position or state. 2 benefit or profit. 3 **Tennis** point scored after deuce. **take advantage** of 1 use (a person) unfairly. 2 use (an opportunity). **advantageous** *adj* **advantageously** *adv* **advantaged** *adj* in a superior social or financial position.
- advent** *n* 1 arrival. 2 (A-) season of four weeks before Christmas. **Adventist** *n* member of a Christian sect that believes in the imminent return of Christ.
- advertitious** *adj* added or appearing accidentally.
- adventure** *n* exciting and risky undertaking or exploit. **adventurer, adventures** *n* 1 person who unscrupulously seeks money or power. 2 person who seeks adventures. **adventurous** *adj* **adventurously** *adv*
- adverb** *n* word that adds information about a verb, adjective, or other adverb. **adverbial** *adj*
- adversary** [ad-verse-er-ree] *n, pl -saries* opponent or enemy.
- adverse** *adj* 1 unfavourable. 2 antagonistic or hostile. **adversely** *adv* **adversity** *n* very difficult or hard circumstances.
- advert** *n* *Informal* advertisement.
- advertise** *v* 1 present or praise (goods or services) to the public in order to encourage sales. 2 make (a vacancy, event, etc.) known publicly. **advertisement** *n* public announcement to sell goods or publicize an event. **advertiser** *n* **advertising** *adj, n*
- Note that the standard pronunciation of **advertisement** differs from **advertise**. The main stress is on 'ver', while 'tise' is pronounced 'tiz'.
- advice** *n* recommendation as to what to do. **advise** *v* 1 offer advice to. 2 notify (someone). **adviser, advisor** *n* **advisable** *adj* prudent, sensible. **advisability** *n* **advisory** *adj* giving advice. **advised** *adj* considered, thought-out, e.g. *ill-advised*. **advisedly** [ad-vize-id-lee] *adv* deliberately.
- advocaat** *n* liqueur with a raw egg base.
- advocate** *v* 1 propose or recommend. —*n* 2 person who publicly supports a cause. 3 *Scott* barrister. **advocacy** *n*
- adze** *n* tool with an arched blade at right angles to the handle.
- aegis** [æ-jiss] *n* sponsorship, protection.
- aeolian harp** [ee-oh-lee-an] *n* musical instrument that produces sounds when the wind passes over its strings.
- aeon** [ee-on] *n* immeasurably long period of time.
- aerate** *v* put gas into (a liquid), as when making a fizzy drink. **aeration** *n*
- aerial** *adj* 1 in, from, or operating in the air. 2 relating to aircraft. —*n* 3 metal pole, wire, etc., for receiving or transmitting radio or TV signals.
- aero-** combining form air or aircraft, e.g. **aeronautics**.

aerobatics

aerobatics *pl n* stunt flying.

aerobics *n* exercises designed to increase the amount of oxygen in the blood. **aerobic** *adj* **aerobically** *adv*

aerodrome *n* small airport.

aerodynamics *n* study of how air flows around moving solid objects. **aerodynamic** *adj*

aerofoil *n* part of an aircraft, such as the wing, designed to give lift.

aerogram *n* airmail letter on a single sheet of paper that seals to form an envelope.

aeronautics *n* study or practice of aircraft flight. **aeronautical** *adj*

aeroplane *n* powered flying vehicle with fixed wings.

aerosol *n* pressurized can from which a substance can be dispensed as a fine spray.

► Be careful not to confuse the spelling 'aer-' with 'air-'.

aerospace *n* 1 earth's atmosphere and space beyond. —*adj* 2 of rockets or space vehicles, e.g. **the aerospace industry**.

aesthetic [iss-thet-ik] *adj* relating to the appreciation of art and beauty. **aesthetics** *n* study of art, beauty, and good taste. **aesthetically** *adv* **aesthete** [ess-theet] *n* person who has or affects an extravagant love of art. **aestheticism** *n*

aether *n* same as ETHER.

aetiology [ee-tee-ol-a-jee] *n* same as ETIOLOGY.

afar *adv* from afar from or at a great distance.

affable *adj* friendly and easy to talk to. **affably** *adv* **affability** *n*

affair *n* 1 event or happening. 2 sexual relationship outside marriage. 3 thing to be done or attended to. —*pl* 4 personal or business interests. 5 matters of public interest.

affect¹ *v* 1 act on, influence. 2 move (someone) emotionally.

► Note the difference between the verbs **affect** meaning 'influence' and **effect** meaning 'accomplish'.

affect² *v* 1 put on a show of. 2 wear or use by preference. **affection** *n* attitude or manner put on to impress. **affected** *adj* 1 displaying affectation. 2 pretended.

affection *n* fondness or love. **affectionate** *adj* loving. **affectionately** *adv*

affianced [af-fie-anst] *adj* Old-fashioned engaged to be married.

affidavit [af-fid-ave-it] *n* written statement made on oath.

affiliate *v* (of a group) link up with a larger group. **affiliation** *n*

affinity *n, pl -ties*. 1 close connection or liking. 2 close resemblance. 3 chemical attraction.

affirm *v* 1 declare to be true. 2 uphold or confirm (an idea or belief). **affirmation** *n* **affirmative** *n, adj* (word or phrase) indicating agreement.

affix *v* 1 attach or fasten. —*n* 2 word or syllable added to a word to change its meaning.

afflict *v* give pain or grief to. **affliction** *n*

affluent *adj* having plenty of money. **affluence** *n* wealth.

afford *v* 1 have enough money to buy. 2 be able to spare (the time etc.). 3 give or supply. **affordable** *adj*

afforest *v* plant trees on. **afforestation** *n*

affray *n* noisy fight, brawl.

affront *v, n* insult.

► **Affront** is often followed by 'to': *An affront to my feelings.*

Afghan *n* 1 language of Afghanistan. 2 person from Afghanistan. —*adj* 3 of Afghanistan or its language. **Afghan hound** large slim dog with long silky hair.

aficionado [af-fish-yo-nah-do] *n, pl -dos*. enthusiastic fan of something or someone.

afield *adv* far afield far away.

afire *adj* burning.

afloat *adv, adj* 1 floating. 2 at sea.

afoot *adv, adj* happening, in operation.

aforesaid, aforementioned *adj* referred to previously.

aforethought *adj* premeditated, e.g. *with malice aforethought.*

a fortiori [oh for-tee-or-rye] *adv* for a stronger reason.

Afr. Africa(n).

afraid *adj* 1 frightened. 2 regretful.

afresh *adv* again, anew.

African *adj* 1 of Africa. —*n* 2 person from Africa. **African-American** *n* American of African descent. **African violet** house plant with pink or purple flowers and hairy leaves.

- Afrikaans** *n* language used in S Africa, related to Dutch.
- Afrikaner** *n* White S African whose mother tongue is Afrikaans.
- Afro-** *combining form* African, e.g. *Afro-Caribbean*.
- aft** *adv* at or towards the rear of a ship or aircraft.
- after** *prep* 1 following in time or place. 2 in pursuit of. 3 in imitation of. *conj* 4 at a later time than. *-adv* 5 at a later time. **afters** *pl n* Informal dessert.
- afterbirth** *n* material expelled from the womb after childbirth.
- aftercare** *n* 1 support given to a person discharged from a hospital or prison. 2 regular care required to keep something in good condition.
- aftereffect** *n* result occurring some time after its cause.
- afterglow** *n* 1 glow left after a source of light has gone. 2 pleasant feeling left after an enjoyable experience.
- afterlife** *n* life after death.
- aftermath** *n* results of an event considered together.
- afternoon** *n* time between noon and evening.
- afterpains** *pl n* pains caused by the contraction of the womb after childbirth.
- aftershave** *n* lotion applied to the face after shaving.
- afterthought** *n* 1 idea occurring later. 2 something added later.
- afterwards, afterward** *adv* later.
- Ag** *Chem* silver.
- again** *adv* 1 once more. 2 in addition.
- against** *prep* 1 in opposition or contrast to. 2 in contact with. 3 as a protection from.
- agape** *adj* 1 (of the mouth) wide open. 2 (of a person) very surprised.
- agaric** *n* fungus with gills on the underside of the cap, such as a mushroom.
- agate** [**ag-git**] *n* semiprecious form of quartz with striped colouring.
- agave** [**a-gave-vee**] *n* tropical American plant with tall flower stalks and thick leaves.
- age** *n* 1 length of time a person or thing has existed. 2 time of life. 3 latter part of human life. 4 period of history. 5 long time. *-v* **ageing** or **aging, aged**. 6 make

or grow old. **aged** *adj* 1 [**ay-jid**] old. 2 [-rhymes with **aged**] being at the age of. **ageing, aging** *n, adj* **ageless** *adj* 1 apparently never growing old. 2 seeming to have existed for ever. **age-old** *adj* very old.

- Both spellings of *ageing*, with or without an 'e', are equally acceptable.
- agency** *n, pl -cies*. 1 organization providing a service. 2 business or function of an agent. 3 *Old-fashioned* power or action by which something happens.
- agenda** *n* list of things to be dealt with, esp. at a meeting.
- agent** *n* 1 person acting on behalf of another. 2 person or thing producing an effect.
- agent provocateur** [**azh-on prov-vok-at-tur**] *n, pl agents provocateurs* [**azh-on prov-vok-at-tur**] person employed by the authorities to tempt people to commit illegal acts and so be discredited or punished.
- agglomeration** *n* confused mass or cluster.
- aggrandize** *v* make greater in size, power, or rank. **aggrandizement** *n*
- aggravate** *v* 1 make worse. 2 *Informal* annoy. **aggravating** *adj* **aggravation** *n*
- The longer-established meaning is 'make worse'. Some people regard the use of *aggravate* to mean 'annoy' as poor usage but it is nevertheless widespread.
- aggregate** *n* 1 total. 2 rock consisting of a mixture of minerals. 3 sand or gravel used to make concrete. *-adj* 4 gathered into a mass. 5 total or final. *-v* 6 combine into a whole. **aggregation** *n*
- aggression** *n* 1 hostile behaviour. 2 unprovoked attack. **aggressive** *adj* 1 showing aggression. 2 forceful. **aggressively** *adv* **aggressiveness** *n* **aggressor** *n*
- aggrieved** *adj* upset and angry.
- aggro** *n* *Slang* aggressive behaviour.
- aghost** *adj* overcome with amazement or horror.
- agile** *adj* 1 nimble, quick-moving. 2 mentally quick. **agilely** *adv* **agility** *n*
- agin** *prep* *Dialect* against, opposed to.
- agitate** *v* 1 disturb or excite. 2 stir or shake (a liquid). 3 stir up public opinion for or against something. **agitated** *adj* anxious or worried. **agitatedly** *adv* **agitation** *n* **agitator** *n*