

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-**sir**-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, ,
adjectives, and adverbs shown in red.

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

benefit ... —*v* **-fitting, -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 of monks

abbreviate *v* shorten (a word) by leaving out some letters. **abbreviation** *n* shortened form of a word or words

ABC **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* -horrng, -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 ape-like

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-sale] *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* -ies. 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

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**, -**rued** 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-ɪd] *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-sɪr bɪk] *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-tɪk] *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-ee-n] *n* colourless flammable gas used in welding metals

ache *n* 1 dull continuous pain —*v* 2 be in or cause continuous dull pain **aching** *adj*, *n* **achingly** *adv*

achieve *v* gain by hard work or ability **achievement** *n* something accomplished **achiever** *n*

► Note the 'e'. This word is very commonly misspelled

Achilles heel [ak-kɪll-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* -**fyng**, -**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-rj] *n* land area in acres.

acid [ak-rid] *adj* pungent, bitter **acidity** *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

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

added *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

adhere *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)

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 princi-

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

adventitious *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 *Scot* barrister **advocacy** *n*

adze *n* tool with an arched blade at right angles to the handle

aegis [ee-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 *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 and 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** [ees-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 **affectation** *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-ans] *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 some one

afield *adv* far **afield** far away

afire *adj* burning

afoot *adv*, *adj* 1 floating 2 at sea

afoot *adv*, *adj* happening, in operation

aforsaid, **aforementioned** *adj* referred to previously

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

a fortiori [eh for tee-er-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-ɪd*] 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*

agitprop *n* political agitation and propaganda.

agitter *adj* sparkling, glittering

aglow *adj* glowing

AGM annual general meeting

agnostic *n* 1 person who believes that it is impossible to know whether God exists —*adj* 2 of agnostics **agnosticism** *n*

ago *adv* in the past

agog *adj* eager or curious

agony *n*, *pl* -nies extreme physical or mental pain **agonize** *v* 1 worry greatly 2 (cause to) suffer agony **agonizing** *adj* **agonizingly** *adv* **agony aunt** journalist who gives advice in an agony column **agony column** newspaper or magazine feature offering advice on personal problems

agoraphobia *n* fear of open spaces **agoraphobic** *n*, *adj*

agrarian *adj* of land or agriculture

agree *v* **agreeing**, **agreed** 1 be of the same opinion. 2 consent. 3 reach a joint decision 4 be consistent 5 (fall by *with*) be suitable to (one's health or digestion) **agreeable** *adj* 1 pleasant and enjoyable 2 prepared to consent **agreeably** *adv* **agreement** *n* 1 agreeing. 2 contract.

► *Agree* is usually followed by a preposition. Use *agree on* something; *agree with* someone, *agree to do something*

agriculture *n* raising of crops and livestock. **agricultural** *adj* **agriculturalist** *n*

agrimony *n* yellow-flowered plant with bitter-tasting fruits

agronomy [ag-ron-om-mee] *n* science of soil management and crop production **agronomist** *n*

aground *adv* onto the bottom of shallow water.

ague [alg-yew] *n* periodic fever with shivering.

ah *interj* exclamation of pleasure, pain, etc

aha *interj* exclamation of triumph, surprise, etc

ahead *adv* 1 in front. 2 forwards

ahem *interj* clearing of the throat to attract attention etc

ahoy *interj* shout used at sea to attract attention

AI 1 artificial insemination 2 artificial intelligence

aid *v*, *n* (give) assistance or support

AID formerly, artificial insemination by donor (see DI)

aide *n* assistant

aide-de-camp [aid-de-kom] *n*, *pl* **aides-de-camp** [aid-de-kom] military officer serving as personal assistant to a senior

AIDS acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, a viral disease that destroys the body's ability to fight infection

AIH artificial insemination by husband

ail *v* 1 trouble, afflict 2 be ill **ailing** *adj* 1 sickly 2 unsuccessful over a long time **ailment** *n* illness

aileron [ale-er-on] *n* movable flap on an aircraft wing which controls rolling

aim *v* 1 point (a weapon or missile) or direct (a blow or remark) at a target 2 propose or intend —*n* 3 aiming 4 intention, purpose **aimless** *adj* having no purpose **aimlessly** *adv*

► The idiom is *aim at* something or *aim to do something*

ain't *Not standard* 1 am not 2 is not 3 are not 4 has not 5 have not.

air *n* 1 mixture of gases forming the earth's atmosphere 2 space above the ground, sky 3 quality or manner 4 tune —*pl* 5 affected manners —*v* 6 make known publicly 7 expose to air to dry or ventilate **on the air** in the act of broadcasting on radio or television **airless** *adj* stuffy. **airborne** *adj* 1 carried by air 2 (of aircraft) flying **airbrush** *n* atomizer spraying paint by compressed air **airfield** *n* place where aircraft can land and take off **air force** branch of the armed forces responsible for air warfare **air gun** gun fired by compressed air **air hostess** stewardess on an aircraft **airlift** *n* 1 transport of troops or cargo by aircraft when other routes are blocked —*v* 2 transport by airlift **airlock** *n* 1 air bubble blocking the flow of liquid in a pipe 2 airtight chamber **air mail** 1 system of sending mail by aircraft 2 mail sent in this way **airman** *n* member of the air force **air miles** miles of free air travel that can be earned by buying airline tickets and various other products. **airplane** *n* US aeroplane **airplay** *n* broadcast performances of a record on radio **airport** *n* airfield for civilian aircraft, with facilities for aircraft maintenance and passengers. **air raid** attack by air-