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# Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary

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# A

**A** **[LETTER]** (plural A's), **a** (plural a's) /eɪ/ **noun** [C] the 1st letter of the English alphabet

- **from A to B** from one place to another: *Using this software a driver can now work out the quickest route from A to B.*
- **from A to Z** including everything: *This book tells the story of her life from A to Z.*

**A** **[MUSIC]** /eɪ/ **noun** [C or U] (plural A's or As) a note in Western music: *This concerto is in the key of A major.*

**A** **[MARK]** /eɪ/ **noun** [C or U] (plural A's or As) a mark in an exam or for a piece of work that shows that your work is considered excellent: *Sophie got (an) A for English.* ○ *She got straight As* (= All her marks were As) *in her end-of-year exams.* ○ *US Jim is a straight A student* (= All his marks are A).

**A** **[ELECTRICITY]** **WRITTEN ABBREVIATION FOR amp** ELECTRICITY

**a** **[NOT PARTICULAR]** **E** WEAK /ə/ **STRONG** /eɪ/ **determiner** (ALSO **an**) **1** used before a noun to refer to a single thing or person that has not been mentioned before, especially when you are not referring to a particular thing or person, or you do not expect listeners or readers to know which particular thing or person you are referring to: *I've bought a car.* ○ *She's got a boyfriend.* ○ *There was a sudden loud noise.* ○ *What a shame that you couldn't go to the party.* ○ *I heard a child crying.* ○ *Is he a friend of yours* (= one of your friends)? **2** used to state what type of thing or person something or someone is: *She wants to be a doctor when she grows up.* ○ *This is a very mild cheese.* ○ *Experts think the painting may be a Picasso* (= by Picasso). **3** used to mean any or every thing or person of the type you are referring to: *Can you ride a bike?* ○ *A cheetah can run faster than a lion.* ○ *A teacher needs to have a lot of patience.* **4** used before some uncountable nouns when you want to limit their meaning in some way, such as when describing them more completely or referring to one example of them: *I only have a limited knowledge of Spanish.* ○ *He has a great love of music.* ○ *There was a fierceness in her voice.* **5** used before some nouns of action when referring to one example of the action: *Take a look at this, Jez.* ○ *I'm just going to have a wash.* ○ *There was a knocking at the door.* **6** used when referring to a unit or container of something, especially something you eat or drink: *I'd love a coffee.* ○ *All I had for lunch was a yogurt.* **7** used before the first but not the second of two nouns that are referred to as one unit: *a cup and saucer* ○ *a knife and fork* **8** used in front of a person's name when referring to someone who you do not know: *There's a Ms Evans to see you.* **9** used in front of a person's family name when they are a member of that family: *Is that a Wilson over there?* **10** used before the name of a day or month to refer to one example of it: *My birthday is on a Friday this year.* ○ *It's been a very wet June.* **11** used before some words that express a number or amount: *a few days* ○ *a bit of wool* ○ *a lot of money*

## COMMON LEARNER ERROR

### a or an?

**a** is used before consonants or before vowels which are pronounced as consonants.

- a dog
- a university

**an** is used before vowels.

- an old building
- a-old building-

**a** **[ONE]** WEAK /ə/ **STRONG** /eɪ/ **determiner** (ALSO **an**) **1** one: *a hundred* ○ *a thousand* ○ *a dozen* ○ *There were three men and a woman.* **2** used between a fraction and a unit of measurement: *half a mile* ○ *a quarter of a kilo* ○ *three-quarters of an hour* ○ *six-tenths of a second* **3** used when

saying how often something happens in a certain period: *Take one tablet three times a day.* ○ *I swim once a week.* **4** used when saying how much someone earns or how much something costs in a certain period: *She earns \$100 000 a year.* ○ *My plumber charges £20 an hour.* ○ *I pay £5 a week for my parking permit.*

**A4** /,eɪ'fɔːl/ **[E]** /-ˈfɔːr/ **noun** [U], **adj** paper that is a standard European size of 21 centimetres by 29.7 centimetres: *a sheet of A4* ○ *A4 paper*

**AA** **[DEGREE]** /,eɪ'eɪ/ **noun** [C] **ABBREVIATION FOR** Associate in Arts: a degree given by an American college to someone after they have completed a two-year course, or a person who has this degree

**AA** **[ALCOHOL]** /,eɪ'eɪ/ **group noun** [S] **ABBREVIATION FOR** Alcoholics Anonymous: an organization for people who drink too much alcohol and want to cure themselves of this habit: *an AA meeting*

**the A/A** **[CARS]** **group noun** [S] **ABBREVIATION FOR** the Automobile Association: a British organization which gives help and information to drivers who are members of it

**AAA** /,eɪ.eɪ'eɪ/ **group noun** [S] **ABBREVIATION FOR** American Automobile Association: an American organization which gives help and information to drivers who are members of it

**aah** /ɑː/ **exclamation** **ANOTHER SPELLING OF ah**

**aardvark** /'ɑːd.vɑːk/ **[E]** /'ɑːr.d.vɑːr:k/ **noun** [C] an African mammal with a long nose and large ears which lives underground and eats insects

**AB** /eɪ'biː/ **noun** [C] **US FOR BA**

**aback** /ə'bæk/ **adv** **be taken aback** to be very shocked or surprised: *I was rather taken aback by her honesty.*

**abacus** /'æb.ə.kəs/ **noun** [C] a square or rectangular frame holding an arrangement of small balls on metal rods or wires, which is used for counting, adding and subtracting

**abalone** /'æb.ə.'ləʊ.ni/ **[E]** /-'ləʊ.ni/ **noun** [C] a small edible sea animal that lives inside a shell that is the shape of an ear with a white shiny inside

**abandon** **[LEAVE]** **I** /ə'bændən/ **verb** [T] to leave a place, thing or person forever: *We had to abandon the car.* ○ *By the time the rebel troops arrived, the village had already been abandoned.* ○ *As a baby he'd been abandoned by his mother.* ○ *We were sinking fast, and the captain gave the order to abandon ship.* **abandoned** /ə'bændən.d/ **adj**: *An abandoned baby was found in a box on the hospital steps.* **abandonment** /ə'bændən.mənt/ **noun** [U]: *The abandonment of the island followed nuclear tests in the area.*

**abandon** **[STOP]** **I** /ə'bændən/ **verb** [T] to stop doing an activity before you have finished it: *The match was abandoned at half-time because of the poor weather conditions.* ○ *They had to abandon their attempt to climb the mountain.* ○ *The party has now abandoned its policy of unilateral disarmament.* **abandonment** /ə'bændən.mənt/ **noun** [U]

▲ **abandon yourself to sth** **phrasal verb** [R] to allow yourself to be controlled completely by a feeling or way of living: *He abandoned himself to his emotions.*

**abandon** /ə'bændən/ **noun** **LITERARY** **with (gay/wild)** **abandon** in a completely uncontrolled way: *We danced with wild abandon.*

**abase yourself** /ə'beɪs/ **verb** [R] **FORMAL** to make yourself seem to be less important or not to deserve respect **abasement** /ə'beɪ.smənt/ **noun** [U] **FORMAL** *The pilgrims knelt in self-abasement.*

**abashed** /ə'bæʃt/ **adj** [after verb] embarrassed: *He said nothing but looked abashed.*

**abate** /ə'beɪt/ **verb** [I] **FORMAL** to become less strong: *The storm/wind/rain has started to abate.* ○ *The fighting in the area shows no sign of abating.* ☞ See also **unabated**.

**abatement** /ə'beɪt.mənt/ **noun** [U]

**abattoir** **MAINLY UK** /'æb.ə.twaɪə/ **[E]** /-twaɪə/ **noun** [C] (**MAINLY US** slaughterhouse) a place where animals are killed for their meat

**abbess** /'æb.es/ **noun** [C] a woman who is in charge of a **CONVENT**

**abbey** /'æb.i/ **noun** [C] a building where monks or nuns live or used to live. Some abbeys are now used as churches: *Westminster Abbey*



**abbot** /'æb.ət/ *noun* [C] a man who is in charge of a MONASTERY

**abbreviate** /ə'brɪ.vi.eɪt/ *verb* [T usually passive] to make a word or phrase shorter by using only the first letters of each word: *Daniel is often abbreviated to 'Dan.'* ○ *Chief Executive Officer is abbreviated as 'CEO.'* **abbreviated** /ə'brɪ.vi.eɪ.tɪd/ **⑤** /-ɪd/ *adj*: *'Di' is the abbreviated form of 'Diane.'* **abbreviation** **A** /ə'brɪ.vi'eɪ.ʃn/ *noun* [C]: *'TTV' is the abbreviation for 'Independent Television.'*

**ABC** **[ALPHABET]** /,eɪ.bi:'si:/ *noun* [S] (US USUALLY ABCs) **INFORMAL 1** the alphabet: *He's learning his ABC at school.* **2** basic information about a subject: *What I need is a book that contains the ABC of carpentry.*

**ABC** **[US TV]** /,eɪ.bi:'si:/ *group noun* [S] **ABBREVIATION FOR** American Broadcasting Company: an organization that broadcasts on television in the US

**the 'ABC'** **[AUSTRALIAN TV]** *group noun* [S] **ABBREVIATION FOR** the Australian Broadcasting Corporation: an organization that broadcasts on radio and television in Australia and is paid for by the government

**abdicate** **[GIVE UP]** /'æb.dɪ.keɪt/ *verb* [I or T] If a king or queen abdicates, they make a formal statement that they no longer want to be king or queen: *King Edward VIII abdicated (the British throne) in 1936 so that he could marry Mrs Simpson, a divorced woman.* **abdication** /'æb.dɪ'keɪ.ʃn/ *noun* [C or U]

**abdicate** **[NOT DO]** /'æb.dɪ.keɪt/ *verb* **FORMAL DISAPPROVING** **abdicate responsibility** to stop controlling or managing something that you are in charge of: *She was accused of abdicating all responsibility for the project.* **abdication** /'æb.dɪ'keɪ.ʃn/ *noun* [U] **FORMAL** *The council denied that their decision represented any abdication of responsibility.*

**abdomen** /'æb.dɒ.mən/ *noun* [C] **SPECIALIZED** the lower part of a person's or animal's body, which contains the stomach, bowels and other organs, or the end of an insect's body **abdominal** /æb'dɒm.ɪ.nəl/ **⑤** /-'dɑː.mə-/ *adj*: *abdominal pains*

**abdominals** /æb'dɒm.ɪ.nəlz/ **⑤** /-'dɑː.mə-/ *plural noun* (**INFORMAL abs**) muscles in the abdomen

**abduct** /æb'dʌkt/ *verb* [T] to force someone to go somewhere with you, often using threats or violence: *The company director was abducted from his car by terrorists.* **abduction** /æb'dʌk.ʃn/ *noun* [C or U]: *There has been a series of abductions of young children from schools in the area.* ○ *He was charged with abduction.* **abductor** /æb'dʌk.tə/ **⑤** /-tə/ *noun* [C]: *She was tortured by her abductors.*

**aberrant** /ə'ber.ənt/ *adj* **FORMAL** different from what is typical or usual, especially in an unacceptable way: *aberrant behaviour/sexuality*

**aberration** /,æb.ə'reɪ.ʃn/ *noun* [C or U] **FORMAL** a temporary change from the typical or usual way of behaving: *In a moment of aberration, she agreed to go with him.* ○ *I'm sorry I'm late – I had a mental aberration and forgot we had a meeting today.*

**abet** /ə'bet/ *verb* [T] (-tt-) to help or encourage someone to do something wrong or illegal: *His accountant had aided and abetted him in the fraud.* **abettor** /ə'bet.ət/ **⑤** /-tət/ *noun* [C]

**abeyance** /ə'beɪ.ənts/ *noun* [U] **FORMAL** a state of not happening or being used at present: *Hostilities between the two groups have been in abeyance since last June.* ○ *The project is being held in abeyance until agreement is reached on funding it.*

**abhor** /ə'ɒː/ **⑤** /æb'hɔːr/ *verb* [T not continuous] (-rr-) **FORMAL** to hate a way of behaving or thinking, often because you think it is immoral: *I abhor all forms of racism.*

**abhorrent** /ə'ɒːrənt/ **⑤** /æb'hɔːr-ɪ-/ *adj* **FORMAL** morally very bad: *an abhorrent crime* ○ *Racism of any kind is abhorrent to me.* **abhorrence** /ə'ɒːrənts/ **⑤** /æb'hɔːr-ɪ-/ *noun* [S or U] **FORMAL** *She looked at him in/with abhorrence.* ○ *She has an abhorrence of change.*

**abide** /ə'baɪd/ *verb* [I usually + adv or prep] **OLD USE** to live or stay somewhere: *He abided in the wilderness for forty days.*

● **can't abide sb/sth** If you can't abide someone or something, you dislike them very much: *I can't abide her.* ○ *He couldn't abide laziness.*

▲ **abide by sth** *phrasal verb* to accept or obey an agreement, decision or rule: *Competitors must abide by the judge's decision.*

**abiding** /ə'baɪ.dɪŋ/ *adj* [**before noun**] describes a feeling or memory that you have for a long time: *My abiding memory is of him watering his plants in the garden.*

**WORDS THAT GO WITH ability**

demonstrate/have/possess ability • lack ability • lose the ability to do sth • affect/limit sb's ability to do sth • innate/instinctive/natural ability • amazing/remarkable/uncanny ability • proven ability

**ability** **[POWER]** **E** /ə'blɪ.lɪ.ti/ **⑤** /-ə.ti/ *noun* [C or U] the physical or mental power or skill needed to do something: *There's no doubting her ability.* ○ [+ to infinitive] *She had the ability to explain things clearly and concisely.* ○ *She's a woman of considerable abilities.* ○ *I have children in my class of very mixed abilities* (= different levels of skill or intelligence). ○ *a mixed ability class* ↗ See also **able** **CAN DO**; **able** **SKILFUL**.

**-ability** **[QUALITY]** /-ə.blɪ.lɪ.ti/ **⑤** /-ə.ti/ *suffix* (**ALSO -ibility**) used to form nouns from adjectives ending in '-able' or '-ible', to mean the quality of being the stated adjective: *suitability* ○ *stability*

**abject** **[EXTREME]** /'æb.dʒekt/ *adj* **FORMAL** **abject misery/poverty/terror, etc.** when someone is extremely unhappy, poor, frightened, etc: *They live in abject poverty.* ○ *This policy has turned out to be an abject failure.*

**abject** **[WITHOUT RESPECT]** /'æb.dʒekt/ *adj* **FORMAL** showing no pride or respect for yourself: *an abject apology* ○ *He is almost abject in his respect for his boss.* **abjectly** /'æb.dʒekt.li/ *adv*

**abjure** /ə'bɜːdʒʊə/ **⑤** /-dʒʊə/ *verb* [T] **FORMAL** to state publicly that you no longer agree with a belief or way of behaving: *He abjured his religion/his life of dissipation.*

**ablaze** **[BURNING]** /ə'bleɪz/ *adj* [**after verb**] **1** burning very strongly: *The house was ablaze, and the flames and smoke could be seen for miles around.* **2** brightly lit or brightly coloured: *The ballroom was ablaze with lights.* ○ *The field was ablaze with poppies and wild flowers.*

**ablaze** **[EMOTION]** /ə'bleɪz/ *adj* [**after verb**] full of energy, interest or emotion: *Her eyes were ablaze with excitement.*

**able** **[CAN DO]** **E** /'eɪ.bl/ *adj* **be able to do sth** to have the necessary physical strength, mental power, skill, time, money or opportunity to do something: *Will she be able to cope with the work?* ○ *He's never been able to admit to his mistakes.* ○ *I'm sorry that I wasn't able to phone you yesterday.* ○ *It's so wonderful being able to see the sea from my window.* ↗ See also **ability** **POWER**.

**USAGE**

**able or can/could?**

**able** is used with modal and auxiliary verbs, where **can** or **could** are not grammatically possible.

*I might not be able to attend the meeting.*

*I've never been able to understand him.*

**able** **[SKILFUL]** /'eɪ.bl/ *adj* clever or good at what you do: *an able child/student/secretary* ○ *This problem is now being looked at by some of the ablest minds/scientists in the country.* ↗ See also **ability** **POWER**.

**ably** /'eɪ.blɪ/ *adv*: *He performs his duties very ably* (= skilfully).

**-able** **[CAN BE]** /-ə.bl/ *suffix* (**ALSO -ible**) added to verbs to form adjectives which mean able to receive the action of the stated verb: *breakable* ○ *washable* ○ *moveable*

**-able** **[WORTH BEING]** /-ə.bl/ *suffix* (**ALSO -ible**) added to verbs to form adjectives which mean worth receiving the action of the stated verb: *an admirable person* ○ *an acceptable answer*

**able-bodied** /,eɪ.blɪ'bɒd.ɪd/ **⑤** /-'bɑː.dɪd/ *adj* describes someone who is healthy and has no illness, injury or condition that makes it difficult to do the things that other people do: *All able-bodied young men were forced to join the army.* **the 'able'-bodied plural noun**: *It is hard for the able-bodied to understand the difficulties that disabled people encounter in their daily lives.*



**ablution** /ə'bluːʃn/ *noun* [U] **FORMAL** the act of washing yourself: *Ablution is part of some religious ceremonies.*

**ablutions** /ə'bluːʃnz/ *plural noun* **HUMOROUS** I must just perform my ablutions (= wash myself!)

**abnormal** **A** /æb'nɔːmə/ **⑤** /-nɔːr-/ *adj* different from what is usual or average, especially in a way that is bad: *abnormal behaviour/weather/conditions* ◦ Tests revealed some abnormal skin cells.

**abnormality** /æb.nɔːmə.lə.ti/ **⑤** /-nɔːr.mə.lə.ti/ *noun* [C or U] something abnormal, usually in the body: *genetic/congenital abnormalities* ◦ An increasing number of tests are available for detecting foetal abnormalities. ◦ The X-rays showed some slight abnormality. **abnormally** /æb'nɔː.məl.i/ **⑤** /-nɔːr-/ *adv*: The success rate was abnormally high.

**Aboriginal** **A** /-əʊ/ **⑤** /-oʊ/ *noun* [C] (*plural* Abos) **AUS** an Aborigine. This word is generally considered offensive.

**aboard** **A** /ə'boɪd/ **⑤** /-bɔɪr'd/ *adv, prep* used when talking about getting onto a ship, aircraft, bus or train: *The flight attendant welcomed us aboard.* ◦ Welcome aboard flight BA345 to Tokyo. ◦ The train's about to leave. All aboard! ◦ We spent two months aboard ship (= on the ship).

**abode** /ə'boʊd/ **⑤** /-bɔʊd/ *noun* [C usually singular] the place where someone lives: **FORMAL** *The defendant is of no fixed abode* (= has no permanent home). ◦ **HUMOROUS** Welcome to my humble abode!

**abolish** **A** /ə'boʊl.ɪʃ/ **⑤** /-bɑː.lɪʃ/ *verb* [T] to end an activity or custom officially: *I think bullfighting should be abolished.* ◦ National Service was abolished in Britain in 1962. **abolition** /,æb.ə'ɪlɪ.ʃən/ *noun* [U]: the abolition of slavery

**abolitionist** /,æb.ə'ɪlɪ.ʃən.ɪst/ *noun* [C] a person who supports the abolition of something

**abominable** /ə'boʊm.ɪ.nə.bəl/ **⑤** /-bɑː.mɪ-/ *adj* very bad or unpleasant: *The prisoners are forced to live in abominable conditions.* ◦ The weather's been abominable all week. **abominably** /ə'boʊm.ɪ.nə.bəlɪ/ **⑤** /-bɑː.mɪ-/ *adv*: He behaved abominably towards her.

**a.bominable 'snowman** *noun* [C] a yeti

**abomination** /ə'boʊm.ɪ'neɪ.ʃən/ **⑤** /-bɑː.mɪ-/ *noun* [C] **FORMAL** something that disgusts you: *Foxhunting is an abomination.*

**abominate** /ə'boʊm.ɪ.net/ **⑤** /-bɑː.mɪ-/ *verb* [T not continuous] **FORMAL** to hate something very much: *He abominates cruelty of all kinds.*

**aboriginal** /,æb.ə'ɔɪdʒ.ɪ.nəl/ *adj* describes a person or living thing that has existed in a country or continent since the earliest time known to people: *aboriginal forests* ◦ *aboriginal inhabitants*

**Aborigine** /,æb.ə'ɔɪdʒ.ɪ.n.ɪ/ *noun* [C] a member of the race of dark-skinned people who were the first people to live in Australia **Aboriginal** /,æb.ə'ɔɪdʒ.ɪ.nəl/ *adj*: *Aboriginal art/traditions*

**Aboriginal** /,æb.ə'ɔɪdʒ.ɪ.nəl/ *noun* [C] an Aborigine

**abort** **STOP** /ə'boɪt/ **⑤** /-bɔɪr't/ *verb* [T] to cause something to stop or fail before it begins or before it is complete: *The plan/flight had to be aborted at the last minute.*

**abortion** /ə'boɪt.ʃən/ **⑤** /-bɔɪr-/ *noun* [C] **SLANG** a failure: *This project is a complete abortion.*

**abortive** /ə'boɪ.tɪv/ **⑤** /-bɔɪr.tɪv/ *adj* **FORMAL** describes an attempt or plan that you have to give up because it has failed: *He made two abortive attempts on the French throne.*

**abort** **END PREGNANCY** /ə'boɪt/ **⑤** /-bɔɪr't/ *verb* **1** [T] to stop the development of a baby that has not been born, usually by having a medical operation: *Do you think it's wrong to use aborted fetuses for medical research?* **2** [I] another word for miscarriage, see at miscarriage

**abortion** **A** /ə'boɪt.ʃən/ **⑤** /-bɔɪr-/ *noun* [C or U] the intentional ending of a pregnancy, usually by a medical operation: *She decided to have/get an abortion.* ◦ Abortion is restricted in some American states. ◻ Compare miscarriage; stillbirth.

**abortionist** /ə'boɪt.ʃən.ɪst/ **⑤** /-bɔɪr-/ *noun* [C] a person who performs abortions to end unwanted pregnancies, often illegally and for money

**abound** /ə'baʊnd/ *verb* [I] to exist in large numbers: *Theories abound about how the earth began.*

▲ **abound in/with sth** *phrasal verb* If something abounds in/with other things, it has a lot of them: *The coast here abounds with rare plants.*

**about** **CONNECTED WITH** **E** /ə'baʊt/ *prep* on the subject of; connected with: *What's that book about?* ◦ *a film about the Spanish Civil War* ◦ *We were talking/laughing about Sophie.* ◦ *He's always (going) on about what a great job he's got.* ◦ *I'm worried about David.* ◦ *I really don't know what all the fuss is about.* ◦ *I wish you'd do something about* (= take action to solve the problem of) *your bedroom – it's a real mess.* ◦ **UK INFORMAL** *Could you make me a coffee too while you're about it* (= while you are making one for yourself)? ◦ *What didn't you like about the play?* ◦ **There's something about** (= in the character of) *her attitude that worries me.* ◦ **There's something special about him** (= in his character). ◦ *"Is that your car?" "Yes, what about it* (= why are you asking me)?" \* This is sometimes said in an angry or threatening way.

● **How/What about?** used when suggesting or offering something to someone: *How about a trip to the zoo this afternoon?* ◦ *"Coffee, Sarah?" "No, thanks."* *"What about you, Kate?"*

**about** **APPROXIMATELY** **E** /ə'baʊt/ *adv* a little more or less than the stated number or amount; approximately: *about six feet tall* ◦ *about two months ago* ◦ *"What time are you leaving work today?" "About five."* ◦ *We're about* (= almost) *ready to leave.* ◦ *Well, I think that's about it for now* (= we have almost finished what we are doing for the present).

**about** **IN THIS PLACE** **UK** **E** /ə'baʊt/ *adv, prep, adj* [after verb] (*US* around) positioned or moving in or near a place, often without a clear direction, purpose or order: *She always leaves her clothes lying about on the floor.* ◦ *They heard someone moving about outside.* ◦ *I've been running about all morning trying to find you.* ◦ **UK FORMAL** *Do you have such a thing as a pen about you/your person* (= Have you got a pen)? ◦ *Is John about* (= somewhere near)? ◦ *There's a lot of flu about* (= many people have it) *at the moment.*

**about** **INTENDING** **E** /ə'baʊt/ *adj* **be about to do sth** to be going to do something very soon: *I was about to leave when Mark arrived.* ◦ *She looked as if she was about to cry.*

**about-turn** **UK** /ə'baʊt'tɜːn/ **⑤** /-tɜːn/ *noun* [C] (*US* about-face) **1** a change of direction: *I'd only gone a little way down the street when I remembered I hadn't locked the door, so I made/did a quick about-turn and ran back to the house.* **2** a complete change of opinion or behaviour: *This is the Government's second about-turn on the issue.*

**above** **HIGHER POSITION** **E** /ə'baʊv/ *adv, prep* in or to a higher position than something else: *There's a mirror above the washbasin.* ◦ *He waved the letter excitedly above his head.* ◦ *She's rented a room above a shop.* ◦ *Her name comes above mine on the list.* ◦ *The helicopter was hovering above the building.*

**above** **MORE** **E** /ə'baʊv/ *adv, prep* **1** more than an amount or level: *It says on the box it's for children aged three and above.* ◦ *Rates of pay are above average.* ◦ *Temperatures rarely rise above zero in winter.* ◦ *She values her job above her family.* ◦ *They value their freedom above (and beyond) all else.* **2** above all most importantly: *Above all, I'd like to thank my family.*

**above** **ON PAGE** **I** /ə'baʊv/ *adv, adj* When used in a piece of writing, above means higher on the page, or on a previous page: *Please send the articles to the address given above.*

**the a'bove plural noun** all the people or things listed earlier: *All of the above should be invited.*

**above** **RANK** **A** /ə'baʊv/ *adv, prep* in a more important or advanced position than someone else: *Sally's a grade above me.*

**above** **TOO IMPORTANT** /ə'baʊv/ *adv, prep* too good or important for something: *No one is above suspicion in this matter.* ◦ *He's not above lying* (= he sometimes lies) *to protect himself.*

**a.bove 'board** *adj* [after verb] describes a plan or business agreement that is honest and not trying to deceive anyone: *The deal was completely open and above board.*

**A**

**above-mentioned** /əˌbʌvˈmen.tʃnd/ *adj* **FORMAL** refers to things or people in a document or book that have been mentioned earlier: *All of the above-mentioned films won Oscars.* **☛** Compare **undermentioned**.

**abracadabra** /ˌæbr.ək.əˈdæb.rə/ *exclamation* said by someone who is performing a magic trick, in order to help them perform it successfully

**abrade** /əˈbreɪd/ *verb* [T] **SPECIALIZED** to remove part of the surface of something by rubbing

**abrasion** /əˈbreɪ.ʒn/ *noun* **SPECIALIZED** **1** [U] the process of rubbing away the surface of something: *There seems to have been some abrasion of the surface.* **2** [C] a place where the surface of something, such as skin, has been rubbed away: *She had a small abrasion on her knee.*

**abrasive** **[CLEANING SUBSTANCE]** /əˈbreɪ.sɪv/ *noun* [C] a substance used for rubbing away the surface of something, usually to clean it or make it shiny: *You'll need a strong abrasive for cleaning this sink.* **abrasive** /əˈbreɪ.sɪv/ *adj*: *an abrasive cleaner/powder/liquid*

**abrasive** **[UNPLEASANT]** /əˈbreɪ.sɪv/ *adj* rude and unfriendly: *She has a rather abrasive manner.* **abrasively** /əˈbreɪ.sɪv.li/ *adv* **abrasiveness** /əˈbreɪ.sɪv.nəs/ *noun* [U]

**abreast** /əˈbreɪst/ *adv* **1** describes two or more people who are next to each other and moving in the same direction: *We were running/cycling two abreast.* **2** *The motorcyclist came abreast of her car and shouted abuse at her.* **2** **keep abreast of sth** to stay informed about the most recent facts about a subject or situation: *I try to keep abreast of any developments.*

**abridge** /əˈbrɪdʒ/ *verb* [T] to make a book, play or piece of writing shorter by removing details and unimportant information: *The book was abridged for children.*

**abridged** /əˈbrɪdʒd/ *adj*: *I've only read the abridged edition/version of her novel.* **abridgment**, **abridgement** /əˈbrɪdʒ.mənt/ *noun* [C or U]

**abroad** **[FOREIGN PLACE]** **E** /əˈbrɔːd/ *adj* [after verb], *adv* in or to a foreign country or countries: *He's currently abroad on business.* **○** *We always go abroad in the summer.*

**abroad** **[OUT]** /əˈbrɔːd/ *adj* [after verb] **1** **LITERARY OR OLD USE** outside; not at home: *Not a soul was abroad that morning.* **2** **FORMAL** describes ideas, feelings and opinions that are shared by many people: *There's a rumour abroad that she intends to leave the company.*

**abrogate** /ˈæb.rəʊ.ɡeɪt/ **Ⓢ** /-rə-/ *verb* [T] **FORMAL** to end a law, agreement or custom formally: *The treaty was abrogated in 1929.* **abrogation** /ˌæb.rəʊˈɡeɪ.ʃn/ **Ⓢ** /-rə-/ *noun* [S or U] **FORMAL**

**abrupt** **[SUDDEN]** **A** /əˈbrʌpt/ *adj* describes something that is sudden and unexpected, and often unpleasant: *an abrupt change/movement* **○** *Our conversation came to an abrupt end when George burst into the room.* **○** *The road ended in an abrupt (= sudden and very steep) slope down to the sea.* **abruptly** /əˈbrʌpt.li/ *adv*: *The talks ended abruptly when one of the delegations walked out in protest.* **abruptness** /əˈbrʌpt.nəs/ *noun* [U]

**abrupt** **[UNFRIENDLY]** /əˈbrʌpt/ *adj* using too few words when talking, in a way that seems rude and unfriendly: *an abrupt manner/reply* **○** *He is sometimes very abrupt with clients.* **abruptly** /əˈbrʌpt.li/ *adv* **abruptness** /əˈbrʌpt.nəs/ *noun* [U]

**ABS** /ˌeɪ.biː.əs/ *noun* [U] **ABBREVIATION FOR** anti-lock braking system: a brake fitted to some road vehicles that prevents skidding (= uncontrolled sliding) by reducing the effects of sudden braking

**abs** /æbz/ *plural noun* **INFORMAL** ABDOMINAL muscles: *exercises to tone/build up your abs*

**abscess** /ˈæb.ses/ *noun* [C] a painful swollen area on or in the body, which contains pus (= thick, yellow liquid): *She had an abscess on her gum.*

**abscond** **[ESCAPE]** /æbˈskɒnd/ **Ⓢ** /-sˌkænd/ *verb* [I] to go away suddenly and secretly in order to escape from somewhere: *Two prisoners absconded last night.* **○** *She absconded from boarding school with her boyfriend.*

**absconder** /æbˈskɒn.də/ **Ⓢ** /-sˌkænd.də/ *noun* [C]: *A 14 year-old absconder from a children's home in Bristol was found alive and well in London this morning.*

**abscond** **[STEAL]** /æbˈskɒnd/ **Ⓢ** /-sˌkænd/ *verb* [I] to go away suddenly and secretly because you have stolen

something, usually money: *They absconded with £10 000 of the company's money.*

**abscoil** /ˌæb.seɪl/ *verb* [I] (US **rappel**) to go down a very steep slope by holding on to a rope which is fastened to the top of the slope: *She abscoiled down the rock face.* **abscoil** UK /ˌæb.seɪl/ *noun* [C] (US **rappel**)

**absence** **[NOT PRESENT]** **I** /ˈæb.səns/ *noun* [C or U] when someone is not where they are usually expected to be: *A new manager was appointed during/in her absence.* **○** *She has had repeated absences from work this year.*

**○ Absence makes the heart grow fonder.** **SAYING** This means that we feel more affection for people we love when they are not with us.

**absent** **I** /ˈæb.snt/ *adj* not in the place where you are expected to be, especially at school or work: *John has been absent from school/work for three days now.* **○** *We drank a toast to absent friends.*

**ab'sent yourself** /æbˈsent/ *verb* [R] **FORMAL** to not go to a place where you are expected to be, especially a school or place of work: *You cannot choose to absent yourself (from work/school) on a whim.*

**absentee** /ˌæb.sntiː/ *noun* [C] someone who is not at school or work when they should be: *There are several absentees in the school this week, because a lot of people have got flu.* **absenteeism** /ˌæb.sntiː.ɪzəm/ *noun* [U]: *The high rate of absenteeism is costing the company a lot of money.*

**absence** **[NOT EXISTING]** **A** /ˈæb.səns/ *noun* [U] when something does not exist: *He drew attention to the absence of concrete evidence against the defendant.* **○** *In the absence of (= because there were not) more suitable candidates, we decided to offer the job to Mr Conway.*

**absent** /ˈæb.snt/ *adj* not present: *Any sign of remorse was completely absent from her face.*

**absent** /ˈæb.snt/ *adj* describes a person or the expression on their face when they are not paying attention to what is happening near them, and are thinking about other things

**absent** /ˈæb.snt/ *prep* **US** in the absence of; **without**: *Absent a detailed plan, the project was doomed from the start.* **absently** /ˈæb.snt.li/ *adv*

**absentee 'ballot** **US noun** [C] (**AUS absentee vote**) a piece of paper which voters who are unable to be present at an election can vote on and send in by post

**absentee 'landlord** *noun* [C] a person who rents out a house, apartment or farm to someone, but rarely or never visits it

**absent-minded** /ˌæb.sntˈmaɪn.dɪd/ *adj* describes someone who tends to forget things or does not pay attention to what is happening near them because they are thinking about other things **absent-mindedly** /ˌæb.sntˈmaɪn.dɪd.li/ *adv*: *She absent-mindedly left her umbrella on the bus.* **absent-mindedness** /ˌæb.sntˈmaɪn.dɪd.nəs/ *noun* [U]

**absinthe**, **absinth** /ˈæb.sɪθ/ /-sɪntθ/ **Ⓢ** /-l-/ *noun* [U] a strong alcoholic drink which is green and has a bitter taste

**absolute** **[VERY GREAT]** **A** /ˌæb.səˈlu:t/ /l-/-/ *adj* **1** very great or to the largest degree possible: *a man of absolute integrity/discretion* **○** *I have absolute faith in her judgment.* **○** *There was no absolute proof of fraud.* **2** [before noun] used when expressing a strong opinion: *He's an absolute idiot!* **○** *That's absolute rubbish!*

**absolutely** **E** /ˌæb.səˈlu:t.li/ /l-/-/ *adv* **1** completely: *I believed/trusted him absolutely.* **○** *You must be absolutely silent or the birds won't appear.* **○** *We've achieved absolutely nothing today.* **2** used for adding force to a strong adjective which is not usually used with 'very', or to a verb expressing strong emotion: *It's absolutely impossible to work with all this noise.* **○** *The food was absolutely disgusting/delicious.* **○** *I absolutely loathe/adore jazz.* **3** used as a way of strongly saying 'yes': *"It was an excellent film, though." "Absolutely!"* **4** **absolutely not** used as a way of strongly saying 'no': *"Are you too tired to continue?" "Absolutely not!"*

**absolute** **[NOT CHANGING]** /ˌæb.səˈlu:t/ /l-/-/ *adj* [before noun] not dependent on anything else; true, right, or the same in all situations: *an absolute law/principle/doctrine* **○** *Do you think there's such a thing as absolute truth/beauty?*



◦ *Her contribution was better than most, but in absolute terms* (= without comparing it with anything else) *it was still rather poor.*

**absolute** **[POWERFUL]** /ˌæb.səˈlu:t/ **[I]** *adj* describes a ruler who has unlimited power: *an absolute monarch*  
**absolutism** /ˌæb.səˈlu:t.tɪ.zəm/ **[E]** /-tɪ-/ **noun** [U] a political system in which a single ruler, group or political party has complete power over a country

**absolute majority** **noun** [C] in an election, when someone has the support of more than half of the voters

**absolute zero** **noun** [U] the lowest temperature possible, which is -273.15°C

**absolve** /əbˈzɒlv/ **[E]** /-zɑ:lv/ **verb** [T] **FORMAL** (especially in religion or law) to free someone from guilt, blame or responsibility for something: *The report absolved her from/of all blame for the accident.* ◦ *The priest absolved him (of all his sins).*

**absolution** /ˌæb.səˈlu:ʃ.n/ **noun** [U] **FORMAL** official forgiveness, especially in the Christian religion, for something bad that someone has done or thought: *She was granted/given absolution.*

**absorb** **[A]** /əbˈzɔ:b/ **[E]** /-zɔ:rb/ **verb** [T] **1** to take something in, especially gradually: *Plants absorb carbon dioxide.* ◦ *In cold climates, houses need to have walls that will absorb heat.* ◦ *Towels absorb moisture.* ◦ *The drug is quickly absorbed into the bloodstream.* ◦ *Our countryside is increasingly being absorbed by/into the large cities.* **2** See also **self-absorbed**. **2** to understand facts or ideas completely and remember them: *It's hard to absorb so much information.* **3** to reduce the effect of a physical force, shock or change: *The barrier absorbed the main impact of the crash.* **4** If someone's work, or a book, film, etc. absorbs them, or they are absorbed in it, their attention is given completely to it: *Simon was so absorbed in his book, he didn't even notice me come in.*

**absorbent** /əbˈzɔ:b.ənt/ **[E]** /-zɔ:rb-/ **adj** able to take liquid in through the surface and to hold it: *absorbent paper*  
**absorbency** /əbˈzɔ:b.ənt.sɪ/ **[E]** /-zɔ:rb-/ **noun** [U] the ability to absorb liquid

**absorption** /əbˈzɔ:p.ʃ.n/ **[E]** /-zɔ:rp-/ **noun** [U]: *Some poisonous gases can enter the body by absorption through the skin.* ◦ *Her absorption in her work* (= giving all of her attention to it) *is so great that she thinks about nothing else.* **2** See also **self-absorption** at **self-absorbed**.

**absorbing** /əbˈzɔ:b.ɪŋ/ **[E]** /-zɔ:rb-/ **adj** describes something that is very interesting and keeps your attention: *I read her last novel and found it very absorbing.*

**abstain** **[NOT DO]** /æbˈsteɪn/ **verb** [I] to not do something, especially something enjoyable that you think might be bad: *He took a vow to abstain from alcohol/smoking/sex.*

**abstainer** /æbˈsteɪ.nə/ **[E]** /-nə/ **noun** [C] **abstention** /æbˈstent.ʃ.n/ **noun** [U] **FORMAL** Abstinence from alcohol is essential while you are taking this medication. **abstinence** /ˌæb.stɪ.nənsɪs/ **noun** [U] **FORMAL** The best way to avoid pregnancy is total abstinence from sex.

**abstain** **[NOT VOTE]** /æbˈsteɪn/ **verb** [I] to decide not to use your vote: *63 members voted in favour, 39 opposed and 5 abstained.* **abstainer** /æbˈsteɪ.nə/ **[E]** /-nə/ **noun** [C] **abstention** /æbˈstent.ʃ.n/ **noun** [C or U]: *There were high levels of abstention (from voting) in the last elections.* ◦ *There were ten votes in favour, six against, and three abstentions.*

**abstemious** /æbˈsti:mi.əs/ **adj** **FORMAL** not doing things which give you pleasure, especially not eating good food or drinking alcohol

**abstract** **[GENERAL]** **[A]** /ˈæb.strækt/ **adj** **1** existing as an idea, feeling or quality, not as a material object: *Truth and beauty are abstract concepts.* **2** describes an argument or discussion that is general and not based on particular examples: *This debate is becoming too abstract – let's have some hard facts!*

**the 'abstract noun** [S] general ideas: *I have difficulty dealing with the abstract – let's discuss particular cases.* ◦ *So far we've only discussed the question in the abstract* (= without referring to any real examples).

**abstraction** /æbˈstræk.ʃ.n/ **noun** [C] **FORMAL** *She's always talking in abstractions* (= in a general way, without real examples).

**abstract** **[ART]** /ˈæb.strækt/ **adj** describes a type of painting, drawing or sculpture which tries to represent the real or imagined qualities of objects or people by using shapes, lines and colour, and does not try to show their outer appearance as it would be seen in a photograph: *abstract art* ◦ *an abstract painter*

**abstract** /ˈæb.strækt/ **noun** [C] a painting which represents the qualities of something, not its outer appearance

**abstract** **[SHORT DOCUMENT]** /ˈæb.strækt/ **noun** [C] a shortened form of a speech, article, book, etc., giving only the most important facts or arguments: *There is a section at the end of the magazine which includes abstracts of recent articles/books.*

**abstracted** /æbˈstræktɪd/ **adj** **FORMAL** not giving attention to what is happening around you because you are thinking about something else: *He gave her an abstracted glance, then returned to his book.*

**abstractedly** /æbˈstræktɪd.li/ **adv** **FORMAL**

**abstract noun** **noun** [C] a noun which refers to a thing which does not exist as a material object: *'Happiness', 'honesty' and 'liberty' are abstract nouns.* **2** Compare **concrete noun**.

**abstruse** /æbˈstru:s/ **adj** **FORMAL** difficult to understand: *an abstruse philosophical essay*

**absurd** **[A]** /əbˈsɜ:d/ **[E]** /-sɜ:d/ **adj** ridiculous or unreasonable; foolish in an amusing way: *What an absurd thing to say!* ◦ *Don't be so absurd!* ◦ *Of course I want you to come.* ◦ *It's an absurd situation – neither of them will talk to the other.* ◦ *Do I look absurd in this hat?*

**the absurd things** that happen that are ridiculous or unreasonable: *The whole situation borders on the absurd.* ◦ *She has a keen sense of the absurd.*

**absurdly** /əbˈsɜ:d.li/ **[E]** /-sɜ:d-/ **adv**: *You're behaving absurdly.* ◦ *It was absurdly* (= unreasonably) *expensive.*

**absurdity** /əbˈzɜ:ɪ.ti/ /-sɜ:ɪ-/ **[E]** /-zɜ:ɪ.də.ti/ **noun** [C or U]: *Standing there naked, I was suddenly struck by the absurdity of the situation.* ◦ *There are all sorts of absurdities* (= things that are ridiculous) *in the proposal.*

**ABTA** /ˈæb.tə/ **group noun** [S] **ABBREVIATION FOR** Association of British Travel Agents: a British organization which protects travellers and people on holiday if a company that arranges travel fails to do something or stops trading

**abundant** /əˈbʌn.dənt/ **adj** **FORMAL** more than enough: *an abundant supply of food* ◦ *There is abundant evidence that cars have a harmful effect on the environment.* ◦ *Cheap consumer goods are abundant* (= exist in large amounts) *in this part of the world.* **abundance** /əˈbʌn.dənts/ **noun** [S or U] **FORMAL** *There was an abundance of wine at the wedding.* ◦ *We had wine in abundance.*

**abundantly** /əˈbʌn.dənt.li/ **adv** **FORMAL** *The plant grows abundantly in woodland.* ◦ *You've made your feelings abundantly clear* (= very clear).

**abuse** **[BEHAVIOUR]** **[A]** /əˈbju:z/ **verb** [T] to use or treat someone or something wrongly or badly, especially in a way that is to your own advantage: *She is continually abusing her position/authority by getting other people to do things for her.* ◦ *I never expected that he would abuse the trust I placed in him.* ◦ *Several of the children had been sexually/physically/emotionally abused.*

**abuse** /əˈbju:z/ **noun** [C or U] when someone uses or treats someone or something wrongly or badly, especially in a way that is to their own advantage: *an abuse* (= wrong use) *of privilege/power/someone's kindness* ◦ *sexual/physical/mental abuse* (= bad treatment) ◦ *She claimed to have been a victim of child abuse* (= the treatment of children in a bad, esp. sexual, way). ◦ **Drug and alcohol abuse** (= Using these substances in a bad way) *contributed to his early death.*

**abuser** /əˈbju:z.ə/ **[E]** /-zə/ **noun** [C] someone who abuses someone or something: *a child abuser* ◦ *a drug/solvent abuser*

**abuse** **[SPEECH]** /əˈbju:z/ **verb** [T] to speak to someone rudely or cruelly: *The crowd started abusing him after he failed to save a goal.*

**abuse** /əˈbju:z/ **noun** [U] rude and offensive words said to another person: *He had apparently experienced a lot of verbal abuse from his co-workers.* ◦ *He hurled (a stream/torrent of) abuse at her* (= He said a lot of rude



and offensive things to her). ◦ *'Idiot!' is a mild term of abuse (= an insulting expression).*

**abusive** **A** /ə'bi:ju:sɪv/ *adj* using rude and offensive words: *an abusive letter/telephone call* ◦ *He was apparently abusive to the flight attendants.*

**abut** /ə'baɪt/ *verb* [T never passive; I + prep] **FORMAL** If a building or area of land abuts on something, it is next to it or touches it on one side: *Mexico abuts (on) some of the richest parts of the United States.* ◦ *Their house abutted (onto) the police station.*

**abuzz** /ə'baɪz/ *adj* [after verb] filled with noise and activity: *When we arrived, the party was in full swing and the room was abuzz.* ◦ *The air was abuzz with military helicopters, airlifting injured people and equipment.*

**abysmal** /ə'bzɪ.məl/ *adj* very bad: *abysmal working conditions* ◦ *The food was abysmal.* ◦ *The standard of the students' work is abysmal.* **abysmally** /ə'bzɪ.məl.i/ *adv*: *an abysmally poor book*

**abys** /ə'bzɪs/ *noun* [C usually singular] **1** **LITERARY** a very deep hole which seems to have no bottom **2** a difficult situation that brings trouble or destruction: *The country is sinking/plunging into an abyss of violence and lawlessness.* ◦ *She found herself on the edge of an abyss.*

**AC** [ELECTRICITY] /,eɪ'si:/ *noun* [U] **ABBREVIATION** for alternating current: electrical current which regularly changes the direction in which it flows ◯ Compare **DC** ELECTRICITY.

**AC** [AIR] /,eɪ'si:/ *noun* [C or U] **US ABBREVIATION** for air conditioner or air conditioning

**acacia** /ə'keɪ.ʃə/ *noun* [C or U] a tree from warm parts of the world which has small leaves and yellow or white flowers

**academic** [STUDYING] **I** /,æ.k.ə'dem.ɪk/ *adj* **1** relating to schools, colleges and universities, or connected with studying and thinking, not with practical skills: *academic subjects/qualifications/books* ◦ *an academic institution* ◦ *the academic year* (= the time, usually from September to June, during which students go to school or college) ◦ *academic standards* **2** describes someone who is clever and enjoys studying: *I was never a particularly academic child.* **academically** /,æ.k.ə'dem.ɪ.kli/ *adv*: *She's always done well academically.* ◦ *It may be that a child is bright, but not academically inclined.*

**academe** /,æ.k.ə'di:m/ *noun* [U] **FORMAL** the part of society, especially universities, that is connected with study and thinking

**academia** /,æ.k.ə'di.mi.ə/ *noun* [U] the part of society, especially universities, that is connected with studying and thinking, or the activity or job of studying: *A graduate of law and economics from Moscow State University, he had spent his life in academia.*

**academic** /,æ.k.ə'dem.ɪk/ *noun* [C] (**US ALSO** **academician**) someone who teaches at a college, or who studies as part of their job

**academic** [THEORETICAL] /,æ.k.ə'dem.ɪk/ *adj* theoretical and not related to practical effects in real life: *a purely academic argument/question*

**academy** /ə'kæd.ə.mi/ *noun* [C] an organization intended to protect and develop an art, science, language, etc., or a school which teaches a particular subject or trains people for a particular job: *a military/police academy* ◦ *the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art*

**academician** /,æ.kæd.ə'mɪ.f.ɪ.n/ *noun* [C] a member of an academy: *In 1823 he became professor and academician at Munich.*

**Academy Award** *noun* [C] (**ALSO** **Oscar**) one of a set of American prizes given each year to the best film, the best actor or actress in any film and to other people involved in the production of films

**a cappella** /,æ.kə'pɛl.ə/ **Ⓢ** /,ɑː-/ *adj* [before noun], *adv* **SPECIALIZED** sung by a group of people without the help of any musical instruments

**accede** /ək'si:d/ *verb*

PHRASAL VERBS WITH **accede** ▼

▲ **accede to sth** [AGREE] *phrasal verb* **FORMAL** to agree to do what people have asked you to do: *He graciously acceded to our request.* ◦ *It is doubtful whether the government will ever accede to the nationalists' demands for independence.*

▲ **accede to sth** [BECOME] *phrasal verb* **FORMAL** **accede to the throne/accede to power** to become king or queen, or to take a position of power: *The dukes were written in 1837 when Queen Victoria acceded to the throne.* **accession** /ək'seɪ.ʃən/ *noun* [U] **FORMAL** 1926 was the year of Emperor Hirohito's accession to the throne.

**accelerate** [MOVE FASTER] **A** /ək'sel.ə'reɪt/ **Ⓢ** /-ə.ɪt/ *verb* [I] **1** When a vehicle or its driver accelerates, the speed of the vehicle increases: *I accelerated to overtake the bus.* ◯ Compare **DECELERATE**. **2** If a person or object accelerates, it goes faster.

**acceleration** /ək'sel.ə'reɪ.ʃən/ *noun* [U] when something goes faster, or its ability to do this: *An older car will have poor acceleration.* ◦ *High winds significantly hampered the plane's acceleration.*

**accelerator** /ək'sel.ə'reɪ.tə/ **Ⓢ** /-ə.ɪ.tə/ *noun* [C] **1** the PEDAL (= part that you push with your foot) in a vehicle that makes it go faster **2** **SPECIALIZED** in physics, a machine which makes PARTICLES (= small pieces of matter) move very fast ◯ See picture Car on page Centre 12

**accelerate** [HAPPEN FASTER] **A** /ək'sel.ə'reɪt/ **Ⓢ** /-ə.ɪt/ *verb* [I or T] to happen or make something happen sooner or faster: *Inflation is likely to accelerate this year, adding further upward pressure on interest rates.* ◦ *They use special chemicals to accelerate the growth of crops.*

**acceleration** /ək'sel.ə'reɪ.ʃən/ *noun* [5 or U]: *The acceleration in the decline of manufacturing industry is being blamed on the high value of sterling.*

**accent** [PRONUNCIATION] **I** /'æ.k.sənt/ *noun* [C] the way in which people in a particular area, country or social group pronounce words: *He's got a strong French/Scottish accent.* ◦ *She's French but she speaks with an impeccable English accent.* ◦ *He speaks with a broad/heavy/strong/thick Yorkshire accent.* ◦ *I thought I could detect a slight West Country accent.* **accented** /ək'sen.tɪd/ **Ⓢ** /'æ.k.sen.tɪd/ *adj*: *He spoke in heavily accented English.*

**accent** [MARK] **A** /'æ.k.sənt/ *noun* [C] a mark written or printed over a letter to show you how to pronounce it: *a grave accent* ◦ *There's an acute accent on the 'e' of 'café'.*

**accent** [EMPHASIS] /'æ.k.sənt/ *noun* [C] **SPECIALIZED** a special emphasis given to a particular syllable in a word, word in a sentence, or note in a set of musical notes: *The accent falls on the final syllable.*

● **the accent is on sth** great importance is given to a particular thing or quality: *This season the accent is definitely on long, flowing romantic clothes.*

**accent** /ək'sent/ **Ⓢ** /'æ.k.sent/ *verb* [T] to emphasize: *In any advertising campaign, you must accent the areas where your product is better than the competition.* ◦ **SPECIALIZED** *Accent the first note of every bar.*

**accentuate** /ək'sen.tʃu.eɪt/ *verb* [T] to emphasize a particular feature of something or to make something more noticeable: *Her dress was tightly belted, accentuating the slimmness of her waist.* ◦ *The new policy only serves to accentuate the inadequacy of provision for the homeless.* **accentuation** /ək'sen.tʃu.eɪ.ʃən/ *noun* [U]

**accept** [TAKE] **E** /ək'sept/ *verb* **1** [T] to agree to take something: *Do you accept credit cards?* ◦ *She was in London to accept an award for her latest novel.* ◦ *I offered her an apology, but she wouldn't accept it.* ◦ *I accept full responsibility for the failure of the plan.* ◦ *The new telephones will accept coins of any denomination.* **2** [I or T] to say 'yes' to an offer or invitation: *We've offered her the job, but I don't know whether she'll accept it.* ◦ *I've just accepted an invitation to the opening-night party.* ◦ *I've been invited to their wedding but I haven't decided whether to accept.*

**acceptable** /ək'sep.tə.bəl/ *adj*: *"Will a £50 donation be enough?" "Yes, that would be quite acceptable (= enough)."*

**acceptability** /ək'sep.tə'bɪl.tɪ/ **Ⓢ** /-ə.tɪ/ *noun* [U]

**acceptance** **A** /ək'sep.tənts/ *noun* [C or U]

COMMON LEARNER ERROR

accept or agree?

When you accept an invitation, job, or offer, you say yes to something which is offered. Accept is never followed by another verb.

*They offered me the job and I've accepted it.*



*They offered me the job and I've accepted to take it.*

When you agree to do something, you say that you will do something which someone asks you to do.

*They offered me the job and I agreed to take it.*

**accept** **APPROVE** **E** /ək'sept/ *verb* [T] to consider something or someone as satisfactory: *The manuscript was accepted for publication last week.* ○ *She was accepted as a full member of the society.* ○ *His fellow workers refused to accept him* (= to include him as one of their group).

**acceptable** **I** /ək'sept.ə.bəl/ *adj* satisfactory and able to be agreed to or approved of: *Clearly we need to come to an arrangement that is acceptable to both parties.* ○ *So what is an acceptable level of radiation?* ○ *This kind of attitude is simply not acceptable.*

**acceptance** **A** /ək'sep.tənts/ *noun* [C or U]: *I've had acceptance from three universities* (= Three universities have agreed to take me as a student). ○ *The idea rapidly gained acceptance* (= became approved of) *in political circles.*

**accepted** /ək'sep.tɪd/ *adj*: *'Speed bump' now seems to be the generally accepted term* (= the word that most people use) *for those ridges in the road that slow traffic down.*

**accept** **BELIEVE** **I** /ək'sept/ *verb* [T] to believe that something is true: *The police refused to accept her version of the story.* ○ *He still hasn't accepted the situation* (= realized that he cannot change it). ○ [+ *that*] *I can't accept that there's nothing we can do.*

**acceptable** *adj* ☞ See at **accept TAKE, accept APPROVE.**

**acceptance** *noun* [C or U] ☞ See at **accept TAKE, accept APPROVE.**

**accepted** *adj* ☞ See at **accept APPROVE.**

**access** **I** /'æk.ses/ *noun* [U] the method or possibility of approaching a place or person, or the right to use or look at something: *The only access to the village is by boat.* ○ *The main access to* (= entrance to) *the building is at the side.* ○ *The tax inspector had/gained complete access to the company files.* ○ *The system has been designed to give the user quick and easy access to the required information.* ○ *The children's father was refused access to them at any time* (= refused official permission to see them).

**access** **A** /'æk.ses/ *verb* [T] to open a computer FILE (= a collection of information stored on a computer) in order to look at or change information in it

**accessible** **A** /ək'ses.ə.bəl/ *adj* **1** able to be reached or easily obtained: *The resort is easily accessible by road, rail and air.* ○ *The problem with some of these drugs is that they are so very accessible.* **2** easy to understand: *Lea Anderson is a choreographer who believes in making dance accessible.* ○ *Covent Garden has made some attempt to make opera accessible to a wider public.*

**accessibility** /ək.ses.ə'bɪl.ɪ.ti/ (US) /-ə.ti/ *noun* [U]: *Two new roads are being built to increase accessibility to the town centre.* ○ *The accessibility of her plays* (= the fact that they can be understood) *means that she is able to reach a wide audience.*

**access course** *noun* [C] *UK* a set of classes which people take so they can obtain a qualification which can be used to get into university or college: *She didn't have any formal qualifications but took an access course to get into university.*

**accessible** *adj* ☞ See at **access.**

**accession** /ək'seɪ.ʃən/ *noun* [U] ☞ See at **accede to** **BECOME.**

**accessory** **EXTRA** **A** /ək'ses.ə.ri.i/ (US) /-ə.ri/ *noun* [C usually plural] something added to a machine or to clothing, which has a useful or decorative purpose: *She wore a green wool suit with matching accessories* (= shoes, hat, bag, etc.). ○ *Sunglasses are much more than a fashion accessory.* ○ *Accessories for the top-of-the-range car include leather upholstery, a CD player, electric windows and a sunroof.*

**accessorize** **MAINLY US, UK USUALLY accessorise** /ək'ses.ə.ri.əɪz/ (US) /-ə.əɪz/ *verb* [T] to add an accessory or accessories to something: *She was wearing a little black dress, accessorized simply with a silver necklace.*

**accessory** **CRIMINAL** /ək'ses.ə.ri.i/ (US) /-ə.ri/ *noun* [C] someone who helps another person to commit a crime but does

not take part in it: *an accessory to murder*

● **accessory after the fact** **LEGAL** someone who helps someone after they have committed a crime, for example by hiding them from the police

● **accessory before the fact** **LEGAL** someone who helps in the preparation of a crime

**access provider** *noun* [C] (**ALSO ISP**) a company that provides access to the Internet, allows you to use email, and gives you space on the Internet to display documents: *the UK's largest internet access provider*

**access road** *noun* [C] (**ALSO access route**) **1** a road leading from or to a particular place **2** *UK* a road leading to a motorway

**access time** *noun* [C usually singular] **SPECIALIZED** the time it takes a computer to find information

**WORDS THAT GO WITH accident**

have/be involved in an accident • an accident happens/occurs • cause an accident • an accident involving sth • a fatal/major/serious/tragic accident • a freak accident • killed/paralysed, etc] in an accident

**accident** **E** /'æ.k.sɪ.dənt/ *noun* [C] **1** something which happens unexpectedly and unintentionally, and which often damages something or injures someone: *Josh had an accident and spilled water all over his work.* ○ *She was injured in a car/road accident* (= when one car hit another). **2** **by accident** without intending to, or without being intended: *I deleted the file by accident.* ○ *I found her letter by accident as I was looking through my files.*

● **an accident waiting to happen** a very dangerous situation in which an accident is very likely

● **have an accident to urinate or excrete** unexpectedly and unintentionally: *Even a six-year-old can have an accident at night sometimes.*

● **more by accident than design** because of luck and not because of skill or organization: *The play was a success more by accident than design.*

● **Accidents will happen.** **SAYING** said after an accident in order to make it seem less bad

**accidental** **I** /'æ.k.sɪ.dən.tʃəl/ (US) /-tʃəl/ *adj* happening by chance: *Reports suggest that 11 soldiers were killed by accidental fire from their own side.* ○ *The site was located after the accidental discovery of bones in a field.* **accidentally** /'æ.k.sɪ.dən.tʃəl.i/ (US) /-tʃəl-i/ *adv*: *I accidentally knocked a glass over.*

● **accidentally on purpose** if you do something accidentally on purpose, you do it intentionally but pretend it happened by chance: *I've never liked these glasses of Peter's. I might drop them one day – accidentally on purpose.*

**accidental death** *noun* [C] **LEGAL** a **VERDICT** (= opinion stated at the end of a trial) that is given when a death was the result of an accident and not of murder or suicide

**accident-prone** /'æ.k.sɪ.dən.tʃrən/ (US) /-prən/ *adj* describes someone who often has accidents, usually because they are very awkward or clumsy

**acclaim** /ə'kleɪm/ *noun* [U] public approval and praise: *Despite the critical acclaim, the novel did not sell well.* ○ *Hamlet was played by Romania's leading actor, Ion Caramitrou, to rapturous acclaim.*

**acclaim** /ə'kleɪm/ *verb* [T often passive] to give public approval and praise: *She was universally/widely/publicly acclaimed for her contribution to the discovery.* ○ *She is being acclaimed* (= publicly recognized) *as the greatest dancer of her generation.* **acclaimed** /'ə'kleɪmd/ *adj*: *an acclaimed artist/writer/poet* ○ *a highly acclaimed novel/film* ○ *'Dinner Party', based on the critically acclaimed novel by Bill Davies, was made into a film last year.*

**acclamation** /'æ.k.lə'meɪ.ʃən/ *noun* [U] **FORMAL** His speech was greeted with (shouts of) acclamation (= loud expressions of approval).

**acclimatize**, *UK USUALLY -ise* /ə'klaɪ.mə.taɪz/ (US) /-taɪz/ *verb* [I or T] (**US ALSO acclimate**) to (cause to) change to suit different conditions of life, weather, etc: *More time will be needed for the troops and equipment to become acclimatized to desert conditions.* ○ *We found it impossible to acclimatize ourselves to the new working condi-*

**A**

tions. ◦ *The defending champion is Grant Turner of England, who has acclimatized to the 90°F sunshine by spending the past month in Florida.* ◦ *"Why is it that it rains all the time in England?" "Don't worry – you'll soon acclimatize."* **acclimatization**, UK **USUALLY acclimatisation** /əˈklaɪ.mə.taɪˈzeɪ.ʃən/ (S) /-tɪ-/ noun [U]

**accolade** /ˈæk.ə.leɪd/ noun [C] **FORMAL** praise and approval: *This is his centennial year and he's been granted the ultimate accolade – his face on a set of three postage stamps.* ◦ *Her approval was the highest accolade he could have received.*

**accommodate** **[FIND A PLACE FOR]** /əˈkɒm.ə.deɪt/ (S) /-kaɪ-/ noun [U] to provide with a place to live or to be stored in: *New students may be accommodated in halls of residence.* ◦ **FORMAL** *There wasn't enough space to accommodate the files.*

**accommodation** **I** /əˈkɒm.ə.deɪ.tʃən/ (S) /-kaɪ.mə-/ noun [U] **MAINLY UK** a place to live, work, stay, etc. in: *There's a shortage of cheap accommodation (= places to live).* ◦ *We have first and second class accommodation (= seats) on this flight.*

**accommodations** /əˈkɒm.ə.deɪ.tʃənz/ (S) /-kaɪ.mə-/ plural noun **US** a place to stay when you are travelling, especially a hotel room: *Sweepstakes winners will enjoy a week-long stay in luxury accommodations in Las Vegas.*

**accommodate** **[SUIT]** /əˈkɒm.ə.deɪt/ (S) /-kaɪ.mə-/ verb [T] to give what is needed to someone: *The new policies fail to accommodate the disabled.* ◦ *We always try to accommodate (= help) our clients with financial assistance if necessary.*

**ac'commodate yourself** verb [R] to change yourself or your behaviour to suit another person or new conditions: *Some find it hard to accommodate themselves to the new working conditions.*

**accommodating** /əˈkɒm.ə.deɪ.tɪŋ/ (S) /-kaɪ.mə.deɪ.tɪŋ/ adj describes a person who is eager or willing to help other people, for example by changing their plans: *I'm sure she'll help you – she's always very accommodating.*

**accommodation** noun [U] **See** at accommodate **FIND A PLACE FOR.**

**accompaniment** /əˈkæm.pən.i.mənt/ noun [C] something that you eat or drink with something else: *A dry champagne makes the ideal accompaniment for/to this dish.*

**accompany** **[GO WITH]** **I** /əˈkæm.pə.ni/ verb [T] **1** to go with someone or to be provided or exist at the same time as something: *The course books are accompanied by four cassettes.* ◦ *Depression is almost always accompanied by insomnia.* ◦ *The salmon was accompanied by (= served with) a fresh green salad.* **2** **SLIGHTLY FORMAL** to show someone how to get to somewhere: *Would you like me to accompany you to your room?* **3** **FORMAL** to go with someone to a social event or to an entertainment: *"May I accompany you to the ball?" he asked her.* ◦ *I have two tickets for the theatre on Saturday evening – would you care to accompany me?*

**accompanying** /əˈkæm.pə.ni.ŋ/ adj appearing or going with someone or something else: *Front-page stories broke the news of the princess leaving, and accompanying photographs showed her getting on the plane.* ◦ *Children under 17 require an accompanying parent or guardian to see this film.*

**accompany** **[MUSIC]** /əˈkæm.pə.ni/ verb [T] to sing or play an instrument with another musician or singer: *Miss Jessop accompanied Mr Bentley on the piano.*

**accompaniment** /əˈkæm.pən.i.mənt/ noun [C or U]: a song with piano accompaniment ◦ **HUMOROUS** *We worked to the accompaniment of (= while hearing the sound of) Mr French's drill.* **accompanist** /əˈkæm.pə.nɪst/ noun [C]: *The singer's accompanist on the piano was Charles Harman.*

**accomplice** /əˈkæm.plɪs/ (S) /-kaɪ.m-/ noun [C] a person who helps someone else to commit a crime or to do something morally wrong

**accomplish** **A** /əˈkæm.plɪʃ/ (S) /-kaɪ.m-/ verb [T] to finish something successfully or to achieve something: *The students accomplished the task in less than ten minutes.* ◦ *She accomplished such a lot during her visit.* ◦ *I feel as if I've accomplished nothing since I left my job.*

**accomplishment** /əˈkæm.plɪʃ.mənt/ (S) /-kaɪ.m-/ noun **1** [C] something that is successful, or that is achieved after a

lot of work or effort: *Getting the two leaders to sign a peace treaty was his greatest accomplishment.* **See** also **accomplishment** at **accomplished**. **2** [U] the completion of something: *We celebrated the successful accomplishment of our task.*

**accomplished** /əˈkæm.plɪʃt/ (S) /-kaɪ.m-/ adj skilled: *She's a very accomplished pianist/painter/horsewoman.* ◦ *He was accomplished in all the arts.*

**accomplishment** /əˈkæm.plɪʃ.mənt/ (S) /-kaɪ.m-/ noun [C] a skill: *Cordon-bleu cookery is just one of her many accomplishments.* **See** also **accomplishment** at **accomplish**.

**accord** **[AGREEMENT]** **A** /əˈkɔːd/ (S) /-kɔːrd/ noun [C or U] (a formal) agreement: *On 31 May the two leaders signed a peace accord.* ◦ *Before 1987, the accord between the Labour government and the unions was a simple affair.* ◦ *The project is completely in accord with government policy.*

● **of your own accord** If you do something of your own accord, you do it without being asked to do it: *She came of her own accord. No one asked her to come.*

● **with one accord** **FORMAL** If people do something with one accord, they do it together and in complete agreement: *With one accord, the delegates walked out of the conference.*

**accordance** /əˈkɔː.dənts/ (S) /-kɔːr-/ noun **FORMAL** in **accordance with a rule/law/wish/etc.** following or obeying a rule/law/wish/etc: *In accordance with her wishes, she was buried in France.*

**accordingly** /əˈkɔː.dɪŋ.lɪ/ (S) /-kɔːr/ adv **FORMAL** in a way that is suitable or right for the situation: *When we receive your instructions we shall act accordingly.* ◦ *She's an expert in her field, and is paid accordingly.*

**accord** **[GIVE]** /əˈkɔːd/ (S) /-kɔːrd/ verb [T] **FORMAL** to treat someone specially, usually by showing respect: [+ two objects] *The massed crowds of supporters accorded him a hero's welcome.* ◦ *Certainly in our society teachers don't enjoy the respect that is accorded to doctors and lawyers.*

▲ **accord with sth** phrasal verb **FORMAL** to be the same as something, or to agree with something: *His version of events does not accord with witnesses' statements.*

**ac'cording to** **[AS STATED BY]** **E** prep as stated by: *According to Sarah they're not getting on very well at the moment.* ◦ *According to our records you owe us \$130.*

**ac'cording to** **[FOLLOWING]** **I** prep in a way that agrees with: *Students are all put in different groups according to their ability.*

● **according to plan** Something that happens according to plan, happens in the way it was intended to: *Did it all go according to plan?*

**accordion** /əˈkɔː.di.ən/ (S) /-kɔːr-/ noun [C] a box-shaped musical instrument, held in the hands, consisting of a folded central part with a keyboard at each end, which is played by pushing the two ends towards each other

**accost** /əˈkɒst/ (S) /-kaɪst/ verb [T often passive] **FORMAL** to approach or stop and speak to someone in a threatening way: *I'm usually accosted by beggars and drunks as I walk to the station.*

**account** **[BANK]** **I** /əˈkaʊnt/ (ALSO **bank account**) an arrangement with a bank to keep your money there and to allow you to take it out when you need to: *I've opened an account with a building society.* ◦ *I paid the money into my account this morning.* ◦ **UK** *She paid the cheque into/ US* *She deposited the check in her account.* ◦ *I need to draw some money out of my account.*

● **turn/use sth to good account** **UK FORMAL** to use your skills and abilities to produce good results: *I think we'd all agree that you turned your negotiating skills to very good account in this afternoon's meeting.*

**account** **[REPORT]** **I** /əˈkaʊnt/ noun [C] a written or spoken description of an event: *She gave a thrilling account of her life in the jungle.* ◦ *He kept a detailed account of the suspect's movements.* ◦ *Several eye-witnesses' accounts differed considerably from the official version of events.*

● **by/from all accounts** as said by most people: *By all accounts, San Francisco is a city that's easy to fall in love with.*

● **be brought/called to account** **MAINLY UK** to be forced to explain something you did wrong, and usually to be



punished: *We must ensure that the people responsible for the violence are brought to account.*

● **by your own account** Something that is true by your own account is what you claim is true: *By his own account, he's quite wealthy.*

**account** **[REASON]** **I** /ə'kaʊnt/ *noun* **FORMAL** **on account of sth** because of something: *He doesn't drink alcohol on account of his health.*

● **on your account** If something is said to be on someone's or something's account, it is because of that person or thing: *I'm not very hungry so please don't cook on my account (= don't cook just for me).* ○ *They were tired, but not any less enthusiastic on that account.*

● **on no account** If something must on no account/not on any account be done, it must not be done at any time or for any reason: *Employees must on no account make personal telephone calls from the office.* ○ *These records must not on any account be changed.*

● **take into account** (**ALSO take account of**) to consider or remember when judging a situation: *I hope my teacher will take into account the fact that I was ill just before the exams when she marks my paper.* ○ *A good architect takes into account the building's surroundings.* ○ *Britain's tax system takes no account of children.* ○ *I think you have to take into account that he's a good deal younger than the rest of us.*

**account** **[SHOP]** /ə'kaʊnt/ *noun* **[C]** **1** an agreement with a shop or company that allows you to buy things and pay for them later: *Could you put it on/charge it to my account (= can I pay for it later), please?* ○ *Do you have an account at this store/with us, madam?* ○ *Could you please pay/settle your account in full (= give us all the money you owe us).* **2** a customer who does business with a company: *If the advertising agency loses the United Beer account, it will make a big dent in their profits.*

**account** **[JUDGE]** /ə'kaʊnt/ *verb* **[T + obj + noun or adj]** **FORMAL** to think of someone or something in the stated way; judge: *She was accounted a genius by all who knew her work.*

**account** **[IMPORTANCE]** /ə'kaʊnt/ *noun* **FORMAL** **be of no/little account** to not be important: *It's of no account to me whether he comes or not.* ○ *His opinion is of little account to me.*

**PHRASAL VERBS WITH account** ▼

▲ **account (to sb) for sth** **[EXPLAIN]** **A** *phrasal verb* to explain the reason for something or the cause of something: *Can you account for your absence last Friday?* ○ *She was unable to account for over \$5 000 (= she could not explain where the money was).* ○ *He has to account to his manager for (= tell his manager about and explain) all his movements.*

● **There's no accounting for taste.** **SAYING** said when it is difficult to explain why different people like different things, especially things which you do not like: *"I love working at weekends." "Well, there's no accounting for taste, is there!"*

▲ **account for sth** **[E]** *phrasal verb* to form the total of something: *Students account for the vast majority of our customers.*

**accountable** /ə'kaʊn.tə.bəl/ **[E]** /-tə-/ *adj* Someone who is accountable is completely responsible for what they do and must be able to give a satisfactory reason for it: *She is accountable only to the managing director.* ○ *The recent tax reforms have made government more accountable for its spending.* ○ *Politicians should be accountable to the public who elected them.*

**accountability** /ə'kaʊn.tə'bɪl.ɪ.ti/ **[E]** /-tə'bɪl.ə.ti/ *noun* **[U]**: *There were furious demands for greater police accountability (= for the police to be made to explain their actions to the public).*

**accountant** **A** /ə'kaʊn.tənt/ **[E]** /-tənt-/ *noun* **[C]** someone who keeps or examines the records of money received, paid and owed by a company or person: *a firm of accountants*

**accountancy** **UK** /ə'kaʊn.tənt.sɪ/ **[E]** /-tənt-/ *noun* **[U]** (**US** **accounting**) the job of being an accountant: *He works in accountancy.* ○ *an accountancy firm*

**accounting** /ə'kaʊn.tɪŋ/ **[E]** /-tɪŋ/ *noun* **[U]** **1** the skill or activity of keeping records of the money a person or organization earns and spends **2** **US** (**UK** **accountancy**) the job of being an accountant

**accounts** /ə'kaʊnts/ *plural noun* an official record of all the money a person or company has spent and received: *I keep my own accounts.*

**accountments** **US** **ALSO** **accounterments** /ə'kuː.trə.mənts/ **[E]** /ə'kuː.tʃə-/ *plural noun* **FORMAL** the equipment needed for a particular activity or way of life

**accredit** /ə'kred.ɪt/ *verb* **[T]** to officially recognize, accept or approve of someone or something: *The agency was not accredited by the Philippine Consulate to offer contracts to Filipinos abroad.*

**accredited** /ə'kred.ɪ.tɪd/ **[E]** /-tɪd/ *adj* officially recognized or approved: *an accredited drama school* ○ *accredited war correspondents* **accreditation** /ə'kred.ɪ'teɪ.ʃən/ **[E]** /-ə-/ *noun* **[U]**: *The college received/was given full accreditation in 1965.*

**accretion** /ə'kriː.ʃən/ *noun* **[C or U]** **FORMAL** gradual increase or growth by the addition of new layers or parts: *The fund was increased by the accretion of new shareholders.* ○ *The room hadn't been cleaned for years and showed several accretions of dirt and dust.*

**accrual** /ə'kruː.əl/ *noun* **[C or U]** a gradual increase in an amount of money

**accrue** /ə'kruː/ *verb* **[I]** **FORMAL** to increase in number or amount over a period of time: *Interest will accrue on the account at a rate of 7%.* ○ *Little benefit will accrue to London (= London will receive little benefit) from the new road scheme.*

**accumulate** **A** /ə'kjuː.mjʊ.leɪt/ *verb* **1** **[T]** to collect a large number of things over a long period of time: *As people accumulate more wealth, they tend to spend a greater proportion of their incomes.* ○ *The company said the debt was accumulated during its acquisition of nine individual businesses.* ○ *We've accumulated so much rubbish over the years.* **2** **[I]** to gradually increase in number or amount: *A thick layer of dust had accumulated in the room.* ○ *If you don't sort out the papers on your desk on a regular basis they just keep on accumulating.* **accumulation** /ə'kjuː.mjʊ.leɪ.ʃən/ *noun* **[C or U]**: *Despite this accumulation of evidence, the Government persisted in doing nothing.* ○ *Accumulations of sand can be formed by the action of waves on coastal beaches.*

**accumulator** **UK** /ə'kjuː.mjʊ.leɪ.təʃ/ **[E]** /-tʃə/ *noun* **[C]** (**US** **storage battery**) a battery that collects and stores electricity

**accuracy** *noun* **[U]** ☞ See at **accurate**.

**accurate** **I** /'æk.ju.rət/ *adj* correct, exact and without any mistakes: *an accurate machine* ○ *an accurate description* ○ *The figures they have used are just not accurate.* ○ *Her novel is an accurate reflection of life in post-war Spain.* ○ *We hope to become more accurate in predicting earthquakes.* ☞ The opposite is **inaccurate**.

**accurately** **I** /'æk.ju.rət.li/ *adv*: *The plans should be drawn as accurately as possible, showing all the measurements.* **accuracy** **A** /'æk.ju.rə.sɪ/ *noun* **[U]**: *We can predict changes with a surprising degree of accuracy.*

**accursed** /ə'kɜː.sɪd/ /-kɜːst/ **[E]** /-kɜːst/ *adj* [before noun] **OLD USE** very annoying: *I can't get around like I used to - it's this accursed rheumatism!*

**accusation** *noun* **[C or U]** ☞ See at **accuse**.

**accusative** /ə'kjuː.zə.tɪv/ **[E]** /-tɪv/ *noun* **[U]** the form of a noun, pronoun or adjective which is used in some languages to show that the word is the **DIRECT OBJECT** of a verb **accusative** /ə'kjuː.zə.tɪv/ **[E]** /-tɪv/ *adj*: *the accusative plural*

**accuse** **E** /ə'kjuːz/ *verb* **[T]** to say that someone has done something morally wrong, illegal or unkind: *"It wasn't my fault." "Don't worry, I'm not accusing you."* ○ *He's been accused of robbery/murder.* ○ *Are you accusing me of lying?* ○ *The surgeon was accused of negligence.*

● **stand accused of sth** **FORMAL** If you stand accused of doing something wrong, people say that you have done it: *The government stands accused of eroding freedom of speech.*

**accusation** **A** /ˌæk.juˈzeɪ.ʃən/ *noun* [C or U] a statement saying that someone has done something morally wrong, illegal or unkind, or the fact of accusing someone: *You can't just make wild accusations like that!* ○ *He glared at me with an air of accusation.* ○ [+ *that*] *What do you say to the accusation that you are unfriendly and unhelpful?*

**accusatory** /əˈkjʊː.zə.tɪ/ /ˌæk.juˈzeɪ.tɪ.ri/ **US** /-tɔː.ri/ *adj* FORMAL suggesting that you think someone has done something bad: *When he spoke his tone was accusatory.* ○ *She gave me an accusatory look.*

**the accused** *noun* [C + singular or plural verb] LEGAL the person who is on trial in a court, or the people on trial in a court: *The accused protested her innocence.* ○ *The accused were all found guilty.* **accuser** /əˈkjʊː.zə/ **US** /-zɔː/ *noun* [C] **accusing** /əˈkjʊː.zɪŋ/ *adj*: *an accusing glance/look* **accusingly** /əˈkjʊː.zɪŋ.li/ *adv*: *"Has this dog been fed today?" she asked accusingly.*

### accustom

**accustom yourself to sth** *phrasal verb* [R] to make yourself familiar with new conditions: *It'll take time for me to accustom myself to the changes.*

**accustomed** /əˈkʌs.təmd/ *adj* **1** familiar with something: *She quickly became accustomed to his messy ways.* ○ *I'm not accustomed to being treated like this.* **2** FORMAL usual: *She performed the task with her accustomed ease.*

**ace** **PLAYING CARD** /eɪs/ *noun* [C] one of the four playing cards with a single mark or spot, which have the highest or lowest value in many card games: *the ace of hearts/clubs/spades/diamonds*

● **come within an ace of sth** UK to almost achieve something: *She came within an ace of winning the match.*

● **an ace up your sleeve** (US ALSO **an ace in the hole**) secret knowledge or a secret skill which will give you an advantage

● **have/hold all the aces to be in a strong position** when you are competing with someone else because you have all the advantages: *In a situation like this, it's the big companies who hold all the aces.*

**ace** **SKILLED PERSON** /eɪs/ *noun* [C] INFORMAL a person who is very skilled at something: *a tennis/flying ace*

**ace** /eɪs/ *adj* OLD-FASHIONED SLANG excellent: *He's an ace footballer.* ○ *That's an ace bike you've got there.*

**ace** /eɪs/ *verb* [T] US INFORMAL to do very well in an exam: *I was up all night studying, but it was worth it – I aced my chemistry final.*

**ace** **TENNIS** /eɪs/ *noun* [C] in tennis, a SERVE (= a hit of the ball which starts play) which is so strong and fast that the other player cannot return the ball: *That's the third ace that Violente has served this match.*

**acerbic** /əˈsɜː.bɪk/ **US** /-sɜː-/ *adj* FORMAL describes something that is spoken or written in a way that is direct, clever and cruel: *The letters show the acerbic wit for which Parker was both admired and feared.* **acerbity** /əˈsɜː.bə.ti/ **US** /-sɜː-/ *noun* [U] FORMAL

**acetaminophen** /əˈsɪː.təˈmɪn.əˌfen/ **US** /-tə-/ *noun* [C or U] (plural acetaminophens or acetaminophen) US FOR paracetamol

**acetate** /ˈæs.ɪ.teɪt/ *noun* [U] a chemical substance made from ACETIC ACID, or a smooth artificial cloth made from this

**acetic acid** /əˈsɪː.tɪk.əs.ɪd/ **US** /-tɪk-/ *noun* [U] a colourless acid with a strong smell which is contained in vinegar

**acetone** /ˈæs.ɪ.təʊn/ **US** /-təʊn/ *noun* [U] a strong-smelling colourless liquid which is used in the production of various chemicals and is sometimes added to paint to make it more liquid

**acetylene** /əˈset.ə.lɪn/ **US** /-set-/ *noun* [U] a colourless gas which burns with a very hot bright flame, used in cutting and joining metal

**ache** **A** /eɪk/ *noun* [C] **1** a continuous pain which is unpleasant but not strong: *As you get older, you have all sorts of aches and pains.* ○ *I've got a dull (= slight) ache in my lower back.* **2** used in combinations with parts of the body to mean a continuous pain in the stated part: *earache/headache/toothache/backache* ○ *I've had a stomach ache all morning.* **ache** **A** /eɪk/ *verb* [I]: *My head/tooth/back aches.* ○ *I ache/I'm aching all over.*

○ *I've got one or two aching muscles after yesterday's run.* **achy** /ˈeɪ.kɪ/ *adj* INFORMAL *I've been feeling tired and achy* (= full of pains) *all morning.*

▲ **ache for sth** *phrasal verb* LITERARY to want something very much: *He was lonely and aching for love.*

**achieve** **E** /əˈtʃiːv/ *verb* [T] to succeed in finishing something or reaching an aim, especially after a lot of work or effort: *The government's training policy, he claimed, was achieving its objectives.* ○ *She finally achieved her ambition to visit South America.* ○ *I've been working all day, but I feel as if I've achieved nothing.* ○ See also **underachieve**.

**achievable** /əˈtʃiː.və.bəl/ *adj* describes a task, etc. that is possible to achieve: *Before you set your targets, make sure that they are achievable.*

**achiever** /əˈtʃiː.və/ **US** /-vɜː/ *noun* **1** **high/low achiever** a person who achieves more/less than the average: *Not enough attention is given to the low achievers in the class.* **2** **under achiever** someone who is less successful than they should be at school or at work

### WORDS THAT GO WITH achievement

- a great/notable/remarkable/outstanding achievement
- sb's crowning achievement
- a record of achievement
- a sense of achievement
- belittle/detract from sb's achievement
- celebrate sb's achievement

**achievement** **I** /əˈtʃiːv.mənt/ *noun* [C or U] something very good and difficult that you have succeeded in doing: *An Olympic silver medal is a remarkable achievement for one so young.* ○ *The Tale of Genji has been described as the greatest achievement of Japanese literature.* ○ *It gives you a sense of achievement if you actually make it to the end of a very long book.*

**Achilles heel** /əˌkɪl.iːzˈhiːl/ *noun* [C usually singular] a small fault or weakness in a person or system that can result in its failure: *A misbehaving minister is regarded as a government's Achilles heel and is expected to resign.*

**Achilles tendon** /əˌkɪl.iːzˈten.dən/ *noun* [C] a small muscular cord just above the heel, connecting the heel bone to the muscles in the lower part of the leg ○ See picture **The Body** on page Centre 5

**achingly** /ˈeɪ.kɪŋ.li/ *adv* LITERARY extremely: *Sung by the world's greatest tenor, this aria is achingly beautiful.*

**ahoo** /əˈtʃuː/ *exclamation* **atishoo**

**acid** **LIQUID SUBSTANCE** **A** /ˈæs.ɪd/ *noun* [C or U] any of various usually liquid substances which can react chemically with and sometimes dissolve other materials: *acetic/hydrochloric/lactic acid* ○ *Vinegar is an acid.*

**acid** /ˈæs.ɪd/ *adj* **1** containing acid, or having similar qualities to an acid: *an acid taste/smell* ○ *acid soil* **2** describes a remark or way of speaking that is cruel or criticizes something in an unkind way: *her acid wit* ○ *When she spoke her tone was acid.* **acidity** /əˈsɪd.iː.fai/ *verb* [I or T] **acidity** /əˈsɪd.iː.ti/ **US** /-tɪ/ *noun* [U]: *High acidity levels in the water mean that the fish are not so large.*

**acidly** /ˈæs.ɪd.li/ *adv*: *"I suppose you expect me to thank you for coming," he said acidly* (= unpleasantly).

**acid** **DRUG** /ˈæs.ɪd/ *noun* [U] SLANG FOR LSD (= an illegal drug which makes people see things that do not exist)

**acid jazz** *noun* [U] a style of popular dance music which is a mix of FUNK, SOUL and jazz

**acidophilus** /ˌæ.s.iˈdɒf.i.ləs/ **US** /ˌæ.s.iˈdɑː.f.ɪ.ləs/ *noun* [U] SPECIALIZED a type of BACTERIUM (= a very small organism) used to make YOGURT or as a medicine to help people digest food if they have a stomach illness

**acid rain** *noun* [U] rain which contains large amounts of harmful chemicals as a result of burning substances such as coal and oil

**the acid test** *noun* [S] the true test of the value of something: *It looks good, but will people buy it? That's the acid test.*

**acknowledge** **I** /əˈkɒn.lɪdʒ/ **US** /-nɑː.lɪdʒ/ *verb* [T] to accept, admit or recognize something, or the truth or existence of something: [+ *v-ing*] *She acknowledged having been at fault.* ○ [+ *that*] *She acknowledged that she had been at fault.* ○ *You must acknowledge the truth of her argument.* ○ *Historians generally acknowledge her as*



a genius in her field. ◦ [+ obj + to infinitive] She is usually acknowledged to be one of our best artists. ◦ They refused to acknowledge (= to recognize officially) the new government. ◦ Please acknowledge receipt of (= say that you have received) this letter. ◦ He didn't even acknowledge my presence (= show that he had seen me). ◦ The government won't even acknowledge the existence of the problem.

**acknowledgment, acknowledgement** /ək'nɒl.ɪdʒ.mənt/ (E) /-nɑː.ɪdʒ-/ noun [C or U]: We sent her a copy of the book in acknowledgment of her part in its creation. ◦ I applied for four jobs, but I've only had one acknowledgment (= letter saying that my letter has been received) so far.

**acknowledgments, acknowledgements** /ək'nɒl.ɪdʒ.mənts/ (E) /-nɑː.ɪdʒ-/ plural noun a short text at the beginning or end of a book where the writer names people or other works that have helped in writing the book

**the acme** /əi'æk.mi/ noun [S] LITERARY the highest point of perfection or achievement: To act on this world-famous stage is surely the acme of any actor's career.

**acne** /æk.ni/ noun [U] a skin disease common in young people, in which small red spots appear on the face and neck: Acne is the curse of adolescence.

**acolyte** /æk'ɒl.aɪt/ noun [C] FORMAL OR SPECIALIZED any follower or helper, or someone who helps a priest in some religious ceremonies

**acorn** /eɪ.kɔːn/ (E) /-kɔːrən/ noun [C] an oval nut that grows on an oak tree and has a cup-like outer part

**acoustic** /ə'kuː.stɪk/ adj **1** relating to sound or hearing: The microphone converts acoustic waves to electrical signals for transmission. **2** describes a musical instrument that is not made louder by electrical equipment: an acoustic guitar

**acoustic** /ə'kuː.stɪk/ noun [C usually plural] the way in which the structural characteristics of a building or room affect the qualities of musical or spoken sound: The concert was recorded in a French church that is famous for its acoustics. **acoustically** /ə'kuː.stɪ.kli/ adv

**acoustics** /ə'kuː.stɪks/ noun [U] SPECIALIZED the scientific study of sound

**acquaint** /ə'kwɛɪnt/ verb

▲ **acquaint sb with sth** phrasal verb FORMAL to make someone or yourself aware of something: [R] Take time to acquaint yourself with the rules. ◦ The Broadcasting Museum also offers Saturday workshops to acquaint children with the world of radio.

**acquaintance** /ə'kwɛɪn.tʃəns/ noun **1** [C] a person that you have met but do not know well: a business acquaintance **2** [U] FORMAL used in some expressions about knowing or meeting people: It was at the Taylors' party that I first made his acquaintance (= first met him). ◦ I wasn't sure about Darryl when I first met her, but on further acquaintance (= knowing her a little more) I rather like her. **3** [U] FORMAL knowledge of a subject: Sadly, my acquaintance with Spanish literature is rather limited.

● **have a passing/slight/nodding acquaintance with sth** FORMAL to have very little knowledge or experience of a subject: I'm afraid I have only a nodding acquaintance with his works.

**acquaintanceship** /ə'kwɛɪn.tʃɪp/ noun [C or U] FORMAL Ours was a strictly professional acquaintanceship (= relationship).

**acquainted** /ə'kwɛɪn.tɪd/ (E) /-tɪd/ adj [after verb] FORMAL knowing or being familiar with a person: "Do you know Daphne?" "No, I'm afraid we're not acquainted." ◦ I am not personally acquainted with the gentleman in question.

**acquainted** /ə'kwɛɪn.tɪd/ (E) /-tɪd/ adj FORMAL **be acquainted with sth** to know or be familiar with something, because you have studied it or have experienced it before: Police said the thieves were obviously well acquainted with the alarm system at the department store.

**acquiesce** /æk.wi'ɛs/ verb [I] FORMAL to accept or agree to something, often unwillingly: Reluctantly, he acquiesced to/in the plans.

**acquiescent** /æk.wi'ɛs.ənt/ adj FORMAL She has a very acquiescent nature (= agrees to everything without complaining). **acquiescence** /æk.wi'ɛs.ənts/ noun [U]: I was surprised by her acquiescence to/in the scheme.

**acquire** /ə'kwɪəɪz/ (E) /-kwaɪəz/ verb [T] to obtain something: He acquired the firm in 1978. ◦ I was wearing a newly/recently acquired jacket. ◦ I seem to have acquired (= obtained although I don't know how) two copies of this book. ◦ During this period he acquired a reputation for being a womanizer.

● **an acquired taste** something that you dislike at first, but that you start to like after you have tried it a few times: Olives are an acquired taste.

**acquirer** /ə'kwɪə.rɪ/ (E) /-rɪ/ noun [C] MAINLY US a company that buys other companies, usually to sell them for a profit: A business with so much growth is sure to generate interest among potential acquirers.

**acquisition** /æk.wɪ'zɪʃ.ən/ noun [C or U]: The museum has been heavily criticized over its acquisition of the four-million-dollar sculpture. ◦ I like your earrings – are they a recent acquisition (= did you get them recently)?

**acquisitive** /ə'kwɪz.ɪ.tɪv/ (E) /-ɪ.tɪv/ adj FORMAL MAINLY DIS-APPROVING eager to possess and collect things: We live in an acquisitive society which views success primarily in terms of material possessions.

**acquit** /ə'kwɪt/ verb [T often passive] (-tt) to decide officially in a court of law that someone is not guilty of a particular crime: She was acquitted of all the charges against her. ◦ Five months ago he was acquitted on a shoplifting charge. ◯ Compare convict. **acquittal** /ə'kwɪt.əl/ (E) /-kwɪtəl/ noun [C or U]: The first trial ended in a hung jury, the second in acquittal. ◦ Of the three cases that went to trial, two ended in acquittals.

**acquit yourself** [PERFORM] verb [R] FORMAL to do better than expected in a difficult situation: I thought that he acquitted himself admirably in today's meeting.

**acre** /eɪ.kə/ (E) /-kə/ noun [C] a unit for measuring area, equal to 4047 square metres or 4840 square yards: He's got 400 acres of land in Wales.

**acreage** /eɪ.kɪr.ɪdʒ/ (E) /-kə-/ noun [U]: What acreage is her estate (= How big is it, measured in acres)?

**acrid** /'æk.rɪd/ adj describes a smell or taste that is strong and bitter and causes a burning feeling in the throat: Clouds of acrid smoke issued from the building.

**acrimonious** /æk.rɪ'məʊ.ni.əs/ (E) /-'mou-/ adj FORMAL full of anger, arguments and bad feeling: an acrimonious dispute ◦ Their marriage ended eight years ago in an acrimonious divorce. **acrimoniously** /æk.rɪ'məʊ.ni.əs.li/ (E) /-'mou-/ adv FORMAL In 1967, he separated acrimoniously from his wife. **acrimony** /æk.rɪ.mə.ni/ (E) /'æk.rɪ-'mou.ni/ noun [U] FORMAL The acrimony of the dispute has shocked a lot of people.

**acrobat** /'æk.rə.bæt/ noun [C] a person who entertains people by doing difficult and skilful physical things, such as walking along a high wire

**acrobatic** /æk.rə'bæt.ɪk/ (E) /-'bæt-/ adj: an acrobatic (= skilled and graceful) leap into the air ◦ an acrobatic young dancer **acrobatics** /æk.rə'bæt.ɪks/ (E) /-'bæt-/ noun [U]: He had spent the last ten years in a Peking Opera school, studying martial arts and acrobatics.

**acronym** /æk.rəʊ.nɪm/ (E) /-rə-/ noun [C] an abbreviation consisting of the first letters of each word in the name of something, pronounced as a word: AIDS is an acronym for 'Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome'.

**across** /ə'krɒs/ (E) /-'kraʊs/ adv, prep from one side to the other of something with clear limits, such as an area of land, a road or river: She walked across the field/road. ◦ They're building a new bridge across the river.

**across** /ə'krɒs/ (E) /-'kraʊs/ prep **1** on the opposite side of: The library is just across the road. **2** in every part of a particular place or country: Voting took place peacefully across most of the country.

● **across country** travelling in a direction where roads or public transport do not go, or where main roads or railways do not go: Getting a train across country from Cambridge to Chester can be difficult.

● **across the board** happening or having an effect on people at every level and in every area: The improvement has been across the board, with all divisions either

increasing profits or reducing losses. ○ *The initiative has across-the-board support.*

A

**acrostic** /əˈkrɒs.tɪk/ ⓘ /-ˈkrɑː.stɪk/ noun [C] SPECIALIZED a text, usually a poem, in which particular letters, such as the first letters of each line, spell a word or phrase

**acrylic** /əˈkrɪl.ɪk/ adj made of a substance or cloth produced by chemical processes from a type of acid: *an acrylic scarf/sweater* ○ *acrylic paint*

**acrylic** /əˈkrɪl.ɪk/ noun 1 [U] a type of cloth or plastic produced by chemical processes 2 [C usually plural] a type of paint

**act** [DO SOMETHING] E /ækt/ verb [I] to do something for a particular purpose, or to behave in the stated way: [+ to infinitive] *Engineers acted quickly to repair the damaged pipes.* ○ *She acted without thinking.* ○ *The anaesthetic acted (= had an effect) quickly.* ○ *Who is acting for/on behalf of (= who is representing) the defendant?* ○ *He acted as if he'd never met me before.* ○ *Don't be so silly – you're acting like a child!* ○ *He never acts on other people's advice (= does what other people suggest).* ○ *Acting on impulse (= without thinking first) can get you into a lot of trouble.*

WORDS THAT GO WITH **act**

an act of sth • commit an act • a barbaric/cowardly/despicable act • a criminal/terrorist/unlawful act

**act** I /ækt/ noun [C]: *an act of aggression/bravery/madness/terrorism* ○ *a kind/thoughless/selfish act* ○ *The sexual act itself meant little to her.* ○ *The simple act of telling someone about a problem can help.* ○ *Primitive people regarded storms as an act of God.*

**acting** /ˈæk.tɪŋ/ adj **acting chairman/manager**, etc. someone who does a job for a short time while the person who usually does that job is not there: *He'll be the acting director until they can appoint a permanent one.* ➔ See also **acting at** act PERFORM.

**act** [PERFORM] A /ækt/ verb [I or T] to play a part; to perform in a film, play, etc: *Ellis Pike was chosen to act the part of the lawyer in the film.* ○ *Have you ever acted in a play before?*

● **act the fool/martyr**, etc. to behave in a particular, usually bad, way: *Why are you always acting the fool?*

**act** I /ækt/ noun 1 [S] behaviour which hides your real feelings or intentions: *Was she really upset or was that just an act?* 2 [C] a person or group that performs a short piece in a show, or the piece that they perform: *a comedy/juggling/trapeze act* ○ *Our next act is a very talented young musician.* 3 [C] a part of a play or opera: *Shakespeare's plays were written in five acts.* ○ *The hero does not enter until the second act/Act Two.*

● **do a disappearing/vanishing act** to go away, usually because you do not want to do something or meet someone: *Tim always does a vanishing act when my mother comes to stay.*

● **get/muscle in on the act** INFORMAL to take advantage of something that someone else started: *We did all the hard work of setting up the company, and now everyone wants to get in on the act.*

● **get your act together** INFORMAL to start to organize yourself so that you do things in an effective way: *She's so disorganized – I wish she'd get her act together.*

● **be a hard/tough act to follow** INFORMAL to be so good it is not likely that anyone or anything that comes after will be as good: *His presidency was very successful – it'll be a hard act to follow.*

● **put on an act** INFORMAL to behave or speak in a false or artificial way: *He's just putting on an act for the boss's benefit.*

**acting** /ˈæk.tɪŋ/ noun [U] the job of performing in films or plays: *He wants to get into acting.* ➔ See also **acting at** act DO SOMETHING.

**actor** E /ˈæk.tɔːr/ ⓘ /-tɔːr/ noun [C] (FEMALE ALSO **actress**) someone who pretends to be someone else while performing in a film, theatrical performance, or television or radio programme: *"Who's your favourite actor?" "Robert de Niro."* ○ *She's the highest-paid actress in Hollywood.*

**act** [LAW] /ækt/ noun [C] LEGAL a law or formal decision made by a parliament or other group of elected law-

makers: *an act of parliament* ○ *the Betting and Gaming Act* ○ *Almost two hundred suspects were detained in Britain last year under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.* ○ *The state legislature passed an act banning the sale of automatic weapons.*

PHRASAL VERBS WITH **act**

▲ **act as sth** [JOB] A phrasal verb to do a particular job, especially one that you do not normally do: *He was asked to act as an advisor on the project.*

▲ **act as sth** [EFFECT] A phrasal verb to have a particular effect: *Some people say that capital punishment acts as a deterrent.*

▲ **act sth out** [PERFORM] phrasal verb [M] to perform the actions and say the words of a situation or story: *The children acted out their favourite poem.*

▲ **act sth out** [EXPRESS] phrasal verb [M] to express your thoughts, emotions or ideas in your actions: *Children's negative feelings often get acted out in bad behaviour.*

▲ **act up** [BEHAVE BADLY] phrasal verb If a person, especially a child, acts up, they behave badly: *Sophie got bored and started acting up.*

▲ **act up** [NOT PERFORM] phrasal verb INFORMAL If a machine or part of the body acts up, it does not perform as well as it should: *My car always acts up in cold weather.* ○ *Her shoulder was acting up (= hurting because of injury).*

WORDS THAT GO WITH **action**

take action • leap/spring/swing into action • galvanize/prod/spur sb into action • immediate/prompt/swift action • put [a plan/an idea] into action • a course/plan of action • in action

**action** [DOING SOMETHING] E /ˈæk.ʃən/ noun [U] the process of doing something, especially when dealing with a problem or difficulty: *This problem calls for swift/prompt action from the government.* ○ [+ to infinitive] *Action to prevent the spread of the disease is high on the government's agenda.* ○ *We must take action (= do something) to deal with the problem before it spreads to other areas.* ○ *So what's the plan of action (= What are we going to do)?* ○ *The complaints system swings into action (= starts to work) as soon as a claim is made.* ○ *The committee was spurred into action (= encouraged to do something) by the threat of government cuts.*

● **be out of action** A If a machine or vehicle is out of action, it is not working or cannot be used: *I'm afraid the TV's out of action.*

● **out of action** If an athlete is out of action, they are injured or ill and cannot compete: *Jackson's torn ligaments will keep him out of action for the rest of the season.*

**action** [SOMETHING DONE] E /ˈæk.ʃən/ noun [C] 1 something that you do: *She has to accept the actions of her actions.* ○ *I asked him to explain his actions.* 2 a physical movement: *I'll say the words and you can mime the actions.* ○ *It only needs a small wrist action (= movement of the wrist) to start the process.*

● **Actions speak louder than words.** SAYING said to emphasize that what you do is more important and shows your intentions and feelings more clearly than what you say

**action** [ACTIVITY] A /ˈæk.ʃən/ noun [U] things which are happening, especially exciting or important things: *I like films with a lot of action.* ○ *In her last novel, the action (= the main events) moves between Greece and southern Spain.*

● **a man of action** a man who prefers to do things rather than think about and discuss them

● **a piece/slice of the action** INFORMAL involvement in something successful that someone else has started: *Now research has proved that the drug is effective everyone wants a slice of the action.*

● **where the action is** at the place where something important or interesting is happening: *A journalist has to be where the action is.*

**action** [EFFECT] A /ˈæk.ʃən/ noun [S] the effect something has on another thing: *They recorded the action of the drug on the nervous system.*

**action** **[WAR]** /'æk.ʃn/ *noun* [U] fighting in a war: *Her younger son was killed in action.* ○ *He was reported missing in action.* ○ *He saw action* (= fought as a soldier) *in the trenches.*

**action** **[MOVEMENT]** /'æk.ʃn/ *noun* [C or U] the way something moves or works: *We studied the action of the digestive system.* ○ *The car has a very smooth braking action.*

**action** **[LEGAL PROCESS]** /'æk.ʃn/ *noun* [C or U] a legal process that is decided in a court of law: *a libel action* ○ *She brought an action (for negligence) against the hospital.* ○ *A criminal action was brought against him.* ○ *The book was halted in South Africa by a threat of legal action.*

**actionable** /'æk.ʃn.ə.bəl/ *adj* **SPECIALIZED** If something is actionable, it gives someone a good reason for making an accusation in a law court: *She denies that her company has been involved in any actionable activity.*

**action** **[DEAL WITH]** /'æk.ʃn/ *verb* [T usually passive] to do something to deal with a particular problem or matter: *I'll just run through the minutes of the last meeting, raising those points which still have to be actioned.*

**action-packed** /,æk.ʃn'pækt/ *adj* full of exciting events: *an action-packed thriller/weekend/finale*

**action 'replay** *UK noun* [C] (US instant replay) a repeat of an important moment from a sports event shown on television, often more slowly to show the action in detail: *They showed an action replay of the goal.*

**action stations** *plural noun* **UK INFORMAL 1** when you are as ready as possible to perform a task you have been preparing for: *The whole school was at action stations for the inspectors' visit.* **2 action stations!** used to tell people to get ready immediately to do the particular jobs which they have been given to do: *Right, everyone – action stations! We're starting the show in 3 minutes.*

**activate** /'æk.ti.veɪt/ *verb* [T] **1** to cause something to start: *The alarm is activated by the lightest pressure.* **2 SPECIALIZED** to make a chemical reaction happen more quickly, especially by heating **activation** /,æk.ti'veɪ.ʃn/ *noun* [U]

**active** **[BUSY/INVOLVED]** **E** /'æk.tɪv/ *adj* **1** busy with or ready to perform a particular activity: *physically/mentally active* ○ *You've got to try to keep active as you grow older.* ○ *Enemy forces remain active in the mountainous areas around the city.* ○ *She's very active in* (= involved in) *local politics.* ○ *Both of his parents were very politically active.* ○ *It is important to educate children before they become sexually active.* ○ *He takes a more active role in the team nowadays.* ○ *She's an active member of her trade union* (= not only belongs to it, but does work to help it). **2** describes a volcano that might ERUPT (= throw out hot liquid rock or other matter) at any time

**actively** **A** /'æk.tɪv.li/ *adv*: *He's very actively involved in* (= does a lot of work for) *the local Labour Party.* ○ *It's nice having a man who actively encourages me to spend money.* ○ *I've been actively looking for a job* (= trying hard to find one) *for six months.*

**active** **[GRAMMAR]** **A** /'æk.tɪv/ *adj* An active verb or sentence is one in which the subject is the person or thing which performs the stated action: *'Catrin told me' is an active sentence, and 'I was told by Catrin' is passive.* ○ Compare the passive **GRAMMAR**.

**activism** /'æk.tɪ.vɪ.z'm/ *noun* [U] the use of direct and noticeable action to achieve a result, usually a political or social one: *black/student activism* ○ *The levels of trade union and political activism in this country have greatly declined in the past fifteen years.*

**activist** **A** /'æk.tɪ.vɪst/ *noun* [C] a person who believes strongly in political or social change and works hard to try and make this happen: *He's been a trade union/party activist for many years.* ○ *a gay activist*

**WORDS THAT GO WITH activity** **[MOVEMENT]**

feverish/frantic/strenuous activity • business/economic/political activity • a flurry of activity • the level of activity

**activity** **[MOVEMENT]** **E** /æk'tɪv.ɪ.ti/ **[U]** /-ə.ti/ *noun* [U] when a lot of things are happening or people are moving

around: *There was a lot of activity in preparation for the Queen's visit.* ○ *Ministers are concerned by the low level of economic activity.* ○ *There was a sudden flurry of activity when the director walked in.*

**activity** **[WORK]** **E** /æk'tɪv.ɪ.ti/ **[U]** /-ə.ti/ *noun* [C or U] the work of a group or organization to achieve an aim: *He was found guilty of terrorist activity.* ○ *criminal activities*

**WORDS THAT GO WITH activity** **[ENJOYMENT]**

do/perform an activity • engage in/join in/participate in an activity • an outdoor/leisure activity • a (wide) range of activities

**activity** **[ENJOYMENT]** **I** /æk'tɪv.ɪ.ti/ **[U]** /-ə.ti/ *noun* [C usually plural] something that is done for enjoyment, especially an organized event: *His spare-time activities include cooking, tennis and windsurfing.* ○ *We offer our guests a wide range of outdoor/sporting activities.*

**actor** **E** /'æk.tɪə/ **[U]** /-tə/ *noun* [C] (ALSO actress) ○ See at **act** **PERFORM**.

**actual** **E** /'æk.tʃu.əl/ /-tju-/ /-tʃu/ *adj* [before noun] real; existing in fact: *We had estimated about 300 visitors, but the actual number was much higher.* ○ *The exams are in July, but the actual results* (= the results themselves) *don't appear until September.*

● in actual fact really: *I thought she was Portuguese, but in actual fact she's Brazilian.*

**actuality** /,æk.tʃu'æɪ.ə.ti/ /-tju-/ **[U]** /-ə.ti/ *noun* [C usually plural] **FORMAL** a fact: *He's out of touch with the actualities of life in Africa.*

● in actuality **FORMAL** really: *In actuality, there were few job losses last year.*

**COMMON LEARNER ERROR**

**actual or current ?**

Use **actual** when you mean 'real'.

*His friends call him Jo-Jo, but his actual name is John.*

Use **current** to talk about things which are happening or which exist now.

*She started her current job two years ago.*

*the current economic situation*  
*the actual economic situation*

**actually** **[IN FACT]** **E** /'æk.tʃu.ə.li/ /-tju-/ /-tʃu.li/ *adv* in fact or really: *I didn't actually see her – I just heard her voice.* ○ *So what actually happened?*

**actually** **[SURPRISE]** **I** /'æk.tʃu.ə.li/ /-tju-/ /-tʃu.li/ *adv* used in sentences in which there is information that is in some way surprising or the opposite of what most people would expect: *I didn't like him at first, but in the end I actually got quite fond of him.* ○ *I'm one of the few people who doesn't actually like champagne.* ○ **HUMOROUS** *Don't tell me he actually paid for you! You are honoured!*

**actually** **[OPPOSITE]** **I** /'æk.tʃu.ə.li/ /-tju-/ /-tʃu.li/ *adv* used as a way of making a sentence slightly more polite, for example when you are expressing an opposing opinion, correcting what someone else has said or refusing an offer: *"Alexander looks like he'd be good at sports." "Actually, he's not." ○ "Actually, Gavin, it was Tuesday of last week, not Wednesday." ○ "Do you mind if I smoke?" "Well, actually, I'd rather you didn't."*

**actuary** /'æk.tʃu.ə.ri/ **[U]** /-er.i/ *noun* [C] a person who calculates the probability of accidents, such as fire, flood or loss of property, and informs insurance companies how much they should charge their customers

**actuate** /'æk.tʃu.eɪt/ /-tju-/ *verb* [T] **SPECIALIZED OR FORMAL** to make a machine work or be the reason a person acts in a certain way: *A detonator is any device containing an explosive that is actuated by heat, percussion, friction, or electricity.* ○ *He was actuated almost entirely by altruism.*

**acuity** /ə'kju:ə.ti/ **[U]** /-ə.ti/ *noun* [U] **FORMAL** the ability to hear, see or think accurately and clearly: *Tiredness also affects visual acuity.* ○ *He was a man of great political acuity.*

**.ac.uk** /,æk'æk/ **INTERNET ABBREVIATION** FOR the last part of an Internet address that belongs to a British university or college





**A**

**acumen** /'æk.ju.mən/ *noun* [U] **FORMAL** skill in making correct decisions and judgments in a particular subject, such as business or politics: *She has considerable business/financial acumen.*

**acupuncture** /'æk.ju.pən.kɪ.tʃə/ **US** /-tʃə/ *noun* [U] a treatment for pain and illness in which thin needles are positioned just under the surface of the skin at special nerve centres around the body: *Acupuncture originated in China.*

**acute** **EXTREME** /ə'kju:t/ *adj* **1** If a bad situation is acute, it causes severe problems or damage: *She felt acute embarrassment/anxiety/concern at his behaviour.* ○ *The problem of poverty is particularly acute in rural areas.* **2** An acute pain or illness is one that quickly becomes very severe: *acute abdominal pains* ○ *an acute attack of appendicitis*

**acutely** /ə'kju:t.li/ *adv* completely or extremely: *Management is acutely aware of the resentment that their decision may cause.* ○ *Another scandal would be acutely embarrassing for the government.* **acuteness** /ə'kju:t.nəs/ *noun* [U]

**acute** **ACCURATE/CLEVER** /ə'kju:t/ *adj* (of the senses, intelligence, etc.) very good, accurate and able to notice very small differences: *acute eyesight/hearing* ○ *an acute sense of smell* ○ *a woman of acute intelligence/judgement*

**acutely** /ə'kju:t.li/ *adv* **acuteness** /ə'kju:t.nəs/ *noun* [U]

**acute** **ANGLE** /ə'kju:t/ *adj* describes an angle that is less than 90 degrees **Compare obtuse ANGLE.**

**a.cute ('accent)** *noun* [C] a sign which is written above a letter in some languages, showing you how to pronounce the letter: *There's an acute accent on the e in blé which is the French word for corn.*

**ad** /æd/ *noun* [C] **INFORMAL FOR advertisement**, see at **advertise**: *I often prefer the ads on TV to the actual programmes.*

**AD, US USUALLY A.D.** /eɪ'di:/ *adv* **ABBREVIATION FOR Anno Domini**: used in the Christian **CALENDAR** when referring to a year after Jesus Christ was born: *in 1215 AD/AD 1215* ○ *during the seventh century AD* **Compare BC.**

**adage** /'æd.ɪdʒ/ *noun* [C] a wise saying; **proverb**: *He remembered the old adage 'Look before you leap'.*

**ad agency** *noun* [C] a company that produces advertisements

**Adam** /'æd.əm/ *noun* a character in the Bible who was the first man made by God

**adamant** /'æd.ə.mənt/ *adj* impossible to persuade, or unwilling to change an opinion or decision: [+ *that*] *I've told her she should stay at home and rest but she's adamant that she's coming.* **adamantly** /'æd.ə.mənt.li/ *adv*: *The mayor is adamantly opposed to any tax increase.*

**Adam's apple** /,æd.əmz'æp.l/ *noun* [C] the part of your throat that sticks out and tends to move up and down when you speak or swallow

**adapt** **CHANGE** **A** /ə'dæpt/ *verb* [T] to change something to suit different conditions or uses: *Many software companies have adapted popular programs to the new operating system.* ○ *The recipe here is a pork roast adapted from Caroline O'Neill's book 'Louisiana Kitchen'.* ○ [+ *to* infinitive] *We had to adapt our plans to fit Jack's timetable.* ○ *The play had been adapted for* (= changed to make it suitable for) *children.* ○ *Davies is busy adapting Brinkworth's latest novel for television.* **adapted** /ə'dæp.tɪd/ *adj*: *Both trees are well adapted to London's dry climate and dirty air.*

**adaptable** /ə'dæp.tə.bəl/ *adj* able or willing to change in order to suit different conditions: *The survivors in this life seem to be those who are adaptable to change.* **adaptability** /ə'dæp.tə'bɪl.ɪ.ti/ **US** /-tɪ/ *noun* [U]: *Adaptability is a necessary quality in an ever-changing work environment.*

**adaptation** /,æd.əp'teɪ.ʃən/ *noun* [C or U]: *Evolution occurs as a result of adaptation* (= the process of changing) *to new environments.* ○ *Last year he starred in the film adaptation of Bill Cronshaw's best-selling novel.*

**adaptive** /ə'dæp.tɪv/ *adj* **SPECIALIZED** possessing an ability to change to suit different conditions

**adapt** **BECOME FAMILIAR** /ə'dæpt/ *verb* [I] to become familiar with a new situation: *The good thing about*

*children is that they adapt very easily to new environments.* ○ *It took me a while to adapt to the new job.*

**adapter** **DEVICE**, **adaptor** /ə'dæp.təʃ/ **US** /-tə/ *noun* [C] **1** **MAINLY UK** a type of **plug** **ELECTRICAL DEVICE** which makes it possible to connect two or more pieces of equipment to the same electrical supply **2** a device which is used to connect two pieces of equipment

**adapter** **WRITER**, **adaptor** /ə'dæp.təʃ/ **US** /-tə/ *noun* [C] a person who makes slight changes to a book, play or other piece of text so that it can be performed

**ADC** /eɪ.dɪ'si:/ *noun* [C] **ABBREVIATION FOR aide-de-camp**

**add** **E** /æd/ *verb* [I or T] to put something with something else to increase the number or amount or to improve the whole: *If you add* (= calculate the total of) *three and four you get seven.* ○ *Beat the butter and sugar together and slowly add the eggs.* ○ *She's added a Picasso to her collection.* ○ *Her colleagues' laughter only added to* (= increased) *her embarrassment.* ○ [+ *that*] *She was sad, she said, but added* (= said also) *that she felt she had made the right decision.* ○ [+ *speech*] *"Oh, and thank you for all your help!" he added as he was leaving.* ○ *It's \$45 - \$50 if you add in* (= include) *the cost of postage.* ○ *Don't forget to add on your travelling expenses/add your expenses on.*

● **to add insult to injury** said when you feel that someone has made a bad situation worse by doing something else to upset you: *They told me I was too old for the job, and then to add insult to injury, they refused to pay my expenses!*

**added** /'æd.ɪd/ *adj* **extra**: *He had the added disadvantage of being the only man present.* ○ *She lost her job last week, and now added to that she's pregnant again.*

**addition** **E** /ə'dɪʃ.ən/ *noun* [C or U]: *Twice a week the children are tested in basic mathematical skills such as addition* (= calculating the total of different numbers put together) *and subtraction.* ○ *Most working environments are improved by the addition of* (= adding) *a few plants and pictures.* ○ *A secretary would be a welcome/useful addition to our staff.* ○ *In addition to his flat in London, he has a villa in Italy and a castle in Scotland.* ○ **HUMOROUS** *I hear you're expecting a small addition to the family* (= you are going to have a baby!)

**additional** **I** /ə'dɪʃ.ən.l/ *adj* **extra**: *additional costs/problems* ○ *There will be an extra charge for any additional passengers.*

**additionally** /ə'dɪʃ.ən.li/ *adv*: *Additionally* (= also), *we request a deposit of \$200 in advance.*

#### PHRASAL VERBS WITH add

▲ **add (sth) up** **A** *phrasal verb* [M] to calculate the total of two or more numbers: *If you add those four figures up, it comes to over £500.* ○ *She added the bill up.* ○ *I'm not very good at adding up!*

● **not add up** **INFORMAL** If a situation does not add up, there is no reasonable or likely explanation for it: *Why would she disappear the day before her holiday? It just doesn't add up.*

▲ **add up to sth** **AMOUNT** *phrasal verb* to become a particular amount: *The various building programmes add up to several thousand new homes.* ○ *We thought we'd bought lots of food, but it didn't add up to much when we'd spread it out on the table.*

▲ **add up to sth** **RESULT** *phrasal verb* to have a particular result or effect: *It all added up to a lot of hard work for all of us.* ○ *Their proposals do not add up to any real help for the poor.*

**ADD** /eɪ.dɪ'di:/ **ABBREVIATION FOR Attention Deficit Disorder**: a condition in which someone, especially a child, is often in a state of activity or excitement and unable to direct their attention towards what they are doing

**added-value** /,æd.ɪd'væl.ju:/ *noun* [U] an improvement or addition to something which makes it worth more: *The printer's added-value makes it worth the extra cost.*

**added-value** /,æd.ɪd'væl.ju:/ *adj* [before noun]

**addendum** /ə'den.dəm/ *noun* [C] (*plural addenda*) **SPECIALIZED** something that has been added to a book, speech or document

**adder** /'æd.əʃ/ **US** /-ə/ *noun* [C] a type of poisonous snake

**addict** **A** /'æd.ɪkt/ *noun* [C] a person who cannot stop doing or using something, especially something harm-



ful: a drug/heroin addict ◦ a gambling addict ◦ HUMOROUS I'm a chocolate/shopping addict.

**addicted** **A** /ə'dɪk.tɪd/ adj: By the age of 14 he was addicted to heroin. ◦ I'm addicted to (= I very often eat/drink) chocolate/lattes. ◦ I know that if I start watching a soap opera I immediately become hopelessly addicted.

**addiction** /ə'dɪk.tʃn/ noun [C or U]: drug addiction ◦ his addiction to alcohol

**addictive** **A** /ə'dɪk.tɪv/ adj **1** An addictive drug is one which you cannot stop taking once you have started: Tobacco is highly addictive. **2** describes an activity or food that you cannot stop doing or eating once you have started: The problem with video games is that they're addictive. ◦ These nuts are addictive – I can't stop eating them. **3** **addictive personality** a set of characteristics which mean that you very quickly become addicted to drugs, food, alcohol, etc: He's got an addictive personality.

**addition** noun [C or U] **See** at add.

**additional** adj **See** at add.

**additive** /ə'dɪ.tɪv/ **See** /-ə.tɪv/ noun [C] a substance which is added to food in order to improve its taste or appearance or to preserve it: food additives ◦ This margarine is full of additives – just look at the label!

**addle** /'æ.dl/ verb [T] MAINLY HUMOROUS to make someone feel confused and unable to think clearly: I think my brain's been addled by the heat!

**addled** /'æ.dld/ adj MAINLY HUMOROUS I'm afraid my sun-addled (= confused) brain couldn't make any sense of the instructions.

**add-on** /'æ.d.ɒn/ **See** /-ɑ:n/ noun [C] **1** a piece of equipment which can be connected to a computer to give it an extra use: A modem is a useful add-on. **2** an extra part which is added, especially to an officially organized plan, system, agreement, etc: Legal expenses cover is often sold as an add-on to household insurance policies.

**address** **HOME DETAILS** **E** /ə'dres/ **See** /'æd.res/ noun [C] **1** the number of the house and name of the road and town where a person lives or works and where letters can be sent: her business/home address ◦ a change of address ◦ I'll just look her phone number up in my address book. **2** SPECIALIZED the place where a piece of information is stored in a computer's memory

**address** /ə'dres/ verb [T] to write a name or address on an envelope or parcel: The parcel was wrongly addressed. ◦ So why did you open a letter that was addressed to me?

**addressee** /,æd.res'i:/ noun [C] a person whose name or address is written on a letter or parcel

**address** **SPEAK TO** **A** /ə'dres/ verb [T] FORMAL to speak or write to someone: He addressed a few introductory remarks to the audience. ◦ He likes to be addressed as 'Sir' or 'Mr Partridge'.

**address** /ə'dres/ **See** /'æd.res/ noun [C] a formal speech: She gave an address to the Royal Academy.

**address** **DEAL WITH** **A** /ə'dres/ verb [T] to give attention to or deal with a matter or problem: The issue of funding has yet to be addressed.

**adduce** /ə'dju:s/ **See** /-'du:s/ verb [T often passive] FORMAL to give reasons why you think something is true: None of the evidence adduced in court was conclusive.

**adenoids** /'æd.ə.nɔɪd/ plural noun the soft mass of flesh between the back of the nose and the throat, which sometimes makes breathing difficult **adenoidal** /,æd.ə'n-ɔɪ.dɪəl/ adj

**adept** /ə'dept/ adj having a natural ability to do something that needs skill: She's very adept at dealing with the media. ◦ Tamsin Palmer gave an impressive and technically adept performance on the piano. **adeptly** /ə'dept.li/ adv

**adequacy** noun [U] **See** at adequate.

**adequate** **A** /'æd.əkwət/ adj enough or satisfactory for a particular purpose: Have we got adequate food for twenty guests? ◦ I didn't have adequate time to prepare. ◦ It's not by any means a brilliant salary but it's adequate for our needs. ◦ The council's provision for the elderly is barely adequate (= is not enough). ◦ [+ to infinitive] Will future oil supplies be adequate to meet world needs? **See** The opposite is inadequate. **adequately** /'æd.əkwət.li/ adv: While some patients can be adequately

cared for at home, others are best served by care in a hospital. **adequacy** /'æd.əkwə.sɪ/ noun [U]: The adequacy of public health care has been brought into question.

**ADHD** /,eɪ.di.ɪt.'fɪ:di:/ noun [U] MAINLY UK ABBREVIATION FOR attention deficit hyperactivity disorder

**adhere** /ə'dhɪə/ **See** /-'hɪə/ verb [I] FORMAL to stick firmly: A smooth, dry surface helps the tiles adhere to the wall.

**adherent** /ə'dhɪə.rənt/ **See** /-'hɪə.ɪnt/ adj FORMAL sticky: an adherent surface

**adhesion** /ə'dhɪ.ʒən/ noun [U] the ability to stick: At this stage a resin is used with a high level of adhesion.

**adhere to sth** phrasal verb FORMAL to continue to obey a rule or maintain a belief: She adhered to her principles/ideals throughout her life. ◦ They failed to adhere to the terms of the agreement/treaty. ◦ The translator has obviously adhered very strictly to the original text. **adherence** /ə'dhɪ.rənts/ **See** /-'hɪr.ɪnts/ noun [U] FORMAL He was noted for his strict adherence to the rules.

**adherent** /ə'dhɪə.rənt/ **See** /-'hɪr.ɪnt/ noun [C] FORMAL a person who strongly supports a particular person, principle or set of ideas: She has long been an adherent of the Communist Party.

**adhesive** /ə'dhɪ:si:v/ noun [C or U] glue: You'll need a/ some strong adhesive to mend that chair.

**adhesive** /ə'dhɪ:si:v/ adj sticky: adhesive tape/paper

**ad hoc** /,æd'hɒk/ **See** /-'hɒk/ adj [before noun] made or happening only for a particular purpose or need, not planned in advance: an ad hoc committee/meeting ◦ We deal with problems on an ad hoc basis (= as they happen).

**adieu** /ə'dju:/ **See** /-'dju:/ exclamation LITERARY OR OLD USE goodbye: She bade (= said to) him adieu and left.

**ad infinitum** /,æd.in.fɪ'nai.təm/ **See** /-'təm/ adv forever, without ending: "Why was she such a lousy boss?" "Oh, because she was unreasonable, disrespectful, rude, inconsiderate – I could go on ad infinitum."

**adios** /,æd.i'ɒs/ **See** /-'ɒs/ exclamation MAINLY US INFORMAL goodbye

**adipose** /'æd.i.pəʊs/ **See** /-pəʊs/ **See** /-'ə.pəʊs/ adj [before noun] SPECIALIZED of animal fat: adipose tissue (= fat)

**adj** noun WRITTEN ABBREVIATION FOR adjective

**adjacent** **A** /ə'dʒeɪ.snt/ adj FORMAL very near, next to, or touching: They work in adjacent buildings. ◦ They lived in a house adjacent to the railway.

**adjective** **E** /'ædʒ.ek.tɪv/ noun [C] a word that describes a noun or pronoun: 'Big', 'boring', 'purple', 'quick' and 'obvious' are all adjectives. **adjectival** /,ædʒ.ek'taɪ.vəl/ adj: an adjectival phrase **adjectivally** /,ædʒ.ek'taɪ.vəl.i/ adv: In 'kitchen table', the noun 'kitchen' is used adjectivally.

**adjoin** /ə'dʒɔɪn/ verb [I or T] FORMAL to be very near, next to, or touching: The stables adjoin the west wing of the house. ◦ It's at this point that these three neighbourhoods adjoin.

**adjoining** /ə'dʒɔɪ.nɪŋ/ adj [before noun]: We asked for adjoining rooms (= rooms next to each other).

**adjourn** /ə'dʒɔɪn/ **See** /-'dʒɔɪn/ verb [I or T] FORMAL to have a pause or rest during a formal meeting or trial: The meeting was adjourned until Tuesday. ◦ Shall we adjourn for lunch? **adjournment** /ə'dʒɔɪn.mənt/ **See** /-'dʒɔɪn-/ noun [C or U]: The defence attorney requested an adjournment. ◦ The court's adjournment means that a decision will not be reached until December at the earliest.

**adjourn to somewhere** phrasal verb HUMOROUS to finish doing something and go somewhere, usually for a drink and some food: Shall we adjourn to the sitting room for coffee?

**adjudge** /ə'dʒʌdʒ/ verb [T often passive] FORMAL to announce a decision or consider something, especially officially: [+ to infinitive] Half an hour into the game Paterson was adjudged to have fouled Jackson and was sent off. ◦ [+ noun or adj] In October 1990, Mirchandani was adjudged bankrupt. ◦ Fairbanks was adjudged the winner.

**adjudicate** /ə'dʒu:.dɪ.keɪt/ verb [I or T] to act as judge in a competition or argument, or to make a formal decision about something: He was asked to adjudicate on the dis-



*pute.* ○ *He was called in to adjudicate a local land dispute.* ○ [+ two objects] *The game was adjudicated a win for Black.*

**adjudication** /əˈdʒuː.dɪˈkeɪ.ʃən/ *noun* [C or U]: *The legality of the transaction is still under adjudication* (= being decided) *in the courts.* ○ *His adjudication was later found to be faulty.* **adjudicator** /əˈdʒuː.dɪ.keɪ.təʃ/ *noun* [C]: *She acted as adjudicator in the dispute.*

**adjunct** /ˈædʒ.əŋkt/ *noun* [C] **FORMAL** something added or connected to a larger or more important thing: *I hoped I would find the computer course a useful adjunct to my other studies.* ○ *In grammar, an adjunct is an adverb or adverbial phrase that gives extra information in a sentence.*

**adjure** /əˈdʒʊəʃ/ *verb* [T + to infinitive] **FORMAL** to ask or order someone to do something: *The judge adjured him to answer truthfully.*

**adjust** **[CHANGE]** **A** /əˈdʒʌst/ *verb* [T] **1** to change something slightly, especially to make it more correct, effective, or suitable: *If the chair is too high you can adjust it to suit you.* ○ *As a teacher you have to adjust your methods to suit the needs of slower children.* **2** to arrange your clothing to make yourself look tidy: *She adjusted her skirt, took a deep breath and walked into the room.*

**adjustable** /əˈdʒʌs.tə.bəl/ *adj* able to be changed to suit particular needs: *The height of the steering wheel is adjustable.* ○ *Is the strap on this helmet adjustable?*

**adjustment** **A** /əˈdʒʌst.mənt/ *noun* [C or U] a small change: *She made a few minor adjustments to the focus of her camera.*

**adjust** **[BECOME FAMILIAR]** /əˈdʒʌst/ *verb* [I] to become more familiar with a new situation: *I can't adjust to living on my own.* ○ *Her eyes slowly adjusted to the dark.* ○ *The lifestyle is so very different – it takes a while to adjust.*

**adjustment** /əˈdʒʌst.mənt/ *noun* [C or U] the ability to become more familiar with a new situation: *He has so far failed to make the adjustment from school to work.*

**adjustment** *noun* [C or U] **See at** **adjust** **CHANGE**, **adjust** **BECOME FAMILIAR.**

**adjutant** /ˈædʒ.ʊ.tənt/ *noun* [C] a military officer who does office work and who is responsible for rules and punishment among the lower ranks

**ad lib** *adj* [before noun], *adv* said without any preparation or thought in advance: *I'd forgotten the notes for my speech so I had to do it ad lib.* ○ *ad-lib comments*

**ad-lib** /ˌædˈlɪb/ *verb* [I or T] **(-bb-)** to speak in public without having planned what to say: *She ad-libbed her way through the entire speech.*

**adman** /ˈæd.mæn/ *noun* [C] a man who works in advertising

**administer** **[MANAGE]** /ədˈmɪn.ɪ.stəʃ/ *verb* [T often passive] to control the operation or arrangement of something; to manage or govern: *The country was administered by the British until very recently.* ○ *The economy has been badly administered by the present government.*

**administration** **I** /ədˈmɪn.ɪˈstreɪ.ʃən/ *noun* **1** **(INFORMAL admin)** [U] the arrangements and tasks needed to control the operation of a plan or organization: *Teachers complain that more of their time is taken up with administration than with teaching.* ○ *She has little experience in administration* (= in organizing a business, etc.). **2** [C] a period of government in the United States: *the Bush administration/the last Republican administration*

**administrative** **A** /ədˈmɪn.ɪ.stə.rɪ.tɪv/ *adj* relating to the arrangements and work which is needed to control the operation of a plan or organization: *administrative work* ○ *an administrative problem* ○ *Your responsibilities will be mainly administrative.* **administratively** /ədˈmɪn.ɪs.tə.rɪ.tɪv.li/ *adv* **administrator** **A** /ədˈmɪn.ɪ.streɪ.təʃ/ *noun* [C]: *From 1969 to 1971, he was administrator of the Illinois state drug abuse program.* ○ *She works as a school administrator.*

**administer** **[GIVE]** /ədˈmɪn.ɪ.stəʃ/ *verb* [T] **FORMAL** **1** to cause someone to receive something: *to administer medicine/punishment/relief* ○ *Tests will be administered to schoolchildren at seven, twelve and sixteen years.* ○ **FIGURATIVE** *The latest opinion polls have administered a severe blow to the party.* **2** **administer an oath to sb** to

be present while someone says an OATH (= formal promise) officially

**administration** *noun* **See at** **administer** **MANAGE.**

**administrative** *adj* **See at** **administer** **MANAGE.**

**administrator** *noun* [C] **See at** **administer** **MANAGE.**

**admiral** /ˈæd.mɪ.rəl/ *noun* [C] an officer of very high rank in the navy: *Admiral Nelson*

**the Admiralty** /dɪˈæd.mɪ.rəl.ti/ *noun* [S] in the past, in Britain, the government department in charge of the navy

**admiration** *noun* [U] **See at** **admire.**

**admire** **I** /ədˈmaɪəʃ/ *verb* [T] to respect and approve of someone or their behaviour, or to find someone or something attractive and pleasant to look at: *I admired him for his determination.* ○ *I really admire people who can work in such difficult conditions.* ○ *We stood for a few moments, admiring the view.* ○ *I was just admiring your jacket, Delia.*

**admirable** /ˈæd.mɪ.rə.bəl/ *adj* deserving respect or approval: *I think you showed admirable tact/restraint/self-control in your answer.* ○ *The police did an admirable job in keeping the fans calm.*

**admirably** /ˈæd.mɪ.rə.bli/ *adv*: *I think she coped admirably* (= very well) *with a very difficult situation.*

**WORDS THAT GO WITH admiration**

- express/feel/have admiration • earn/gain/win (sb's) admiration • genuine/great/profound admiration
- grudging/sneaking admiration • mutual admiration
- admiration for sb/sth • [gaze/gasp/watch, etc] in/with admiration

**admiration** **A** /ˌæd.mɪˈreɪ.ʃən/ *noun* [U] when you admire someone or something: *My admiration for that woman grows daily.* ○ *She gazed in admiration at his broad, muscular shoulders.*

**admirer** /ədˈmaɪə.rɪ/ *noun* [C] someone who finds someone else sexually attractive, or someone who admires someone or something: *She's got plenty of admirers.* ○ *She's got a secret admirer who keeps sending her gifts.* ○ *The policy has few admirers* (= few people like it).

**admiring** /ədˈmaɪə.rɪŋ/ *adj* showing admiration: *Annette was getting lots of admiring looks/glances in her new red dress.* ○ *She was surrounded by a group of admiring photographers.*

**admiringly** /ədˈmaɪə.rɪŋ.li/ *adv*: *The women sitting opposite us were gazing admiringly* (= with admiration) *at baby Joe.*

**admissible** /ədˈmɪs.ɪ.bəl/ *adj* **FORMAL** considered satisfactory and acceptable in a law court: *The judge ruled that new evidence was admissible.* **See at** **admission** **IN.**

**admission** *noun* [C or U] **See at** **admit** **ACCEPT**, **admit** **ALLOW** **IN.**

**admit** **[ACCEPT]** **E** /ədˈmɪt/ *verb* [I or T] **(-tt-)** to agree that something is true, especially unwillingly: *He admitted his guilt/mistake.* ○ [+ (that)] *She admitted (that) she had made a mistake.* ○ [+ v-ing] *She admitted making a mistake.* ○ *At first he denied stealing the money but he later admitted (to) it.* ○ *I wasn't entirely honest with him, I admit, but I didn't actually tell him any lies.* ○ [+ to infinitive] *The new law was generally admitted to be difficult to enforce.*

● **admit defeat** to accept that you have failed and give up: *After several attempts to untie the knot, I admitted defeat and cut through it with a knife.*

**admission** /ədˈmɪʃ.ən/ *noun* [C or U] when you agree that something is true, especially unwillingly: *Her silence was taken as an admission of guilt/defeat.* ○ [+ that] *I felt he would see my giving up now as an admission that I was wrong.* ○ **By/On his own admission** (= as he has said) *he has achieved little since he took over the company.*

**admittedly** **A** /ədˈmɪt.ɪd.li/ *adv* used when you are agreeing that something is true, especially unwillingly: *Admittedly, I could have tried harder but I still don't think all this criticism is fair.*

**admit** [ALLOW IN] /ə'dmɪt/ verb [T] (-tt-) **1** to allow someone to enter a place: *Each ticket admits one member and one guest.* ○ *Men will not be admitted to the restaurant without a tie.* ○ LITERARY *A gap between the curtains admitted the faint glimmer of a street lamp.* **2** to allow a person or country to join an organization: *Spain was admitted to the European Community in 1986.* **3** to allow someone to enter a hospital because they need medical care: *She was admitted to hospital (US to the hospital) suffering from shock.*

**admission** /ə'dmɪʃ.ən/ noun [C or U] when someone is given permission to enter a place, or the money that you pay to enter a place: *Admission to the exhibition will be by invitation only.* ○ *How much do they charge for admission.* ○ *The admission charge/fee is £2.* ○ *There's a notice outside the building which says 'No admission before 12 noon.'*

**admissions** /ə'dmɪʃ.ənz/ plural noun the people allowed into a college, hospital, or other place, or the process of allowing people in: *Half of all hospital admissions are emergencies, and these are treated straightaway.*

**admittance** /ə'dmɪ.tənts/ (US /-mɪt-/ noun [U] FORMAL permission to enter a place: *The sign read 'Private – no admittance.'* ○ *The enquiry centred on how the assassin had gained admittance to (= succeeded in entering) the building.*

▲ **admit of sth** phrasal verb FORMAL to allow something or make it possible: *The present schedule does not admit of modification (= it cannot be changed).* ○ *The latest events admit of several interpretations.*

**admixture** /ə'dmɪks.tʃə/ (US /-tʃə/ noun [C usually singular] SPECIALIZED something that is added to something else: *Platinum combines with phosphorus and arsenic and is seldom found without an admixture of related metals.*

**admonish** /ə'dmɒn.ɪʃ/ (US /-ma:.nɪʃ/ verb FORMAL **1** [T] to tell someone that they have done something wrong: *His mother admonished him for eating too quickly.* **2** [T + to infinitive] to advise someone to do something: *Her teacher admonished her to work harder for her exams.*

**admonition** /,æd.mə'nɪʃ.ən/ noun [C] (ALSO admonishment) FORMAL a piece of advice that is also a warning to someone about their behaviour: *The most common parental admonition must surely be "Don't stay out late".*

**admonitory** /ə'dmɒn.ɪ.tɔːr.i/ (US /-ma:.nɔːr.i/ adj FORMAL an admonitory remark

**ad nauseam** /,æd'nɔː.zi.əm/ (US /-na:-/ adv If someone discusses something ad nauseam, they talk about it so much that it becomes very boring: *He talks ad nauseam about how clever his children are.*

**ado** /'ɔːduː/ noun without further/more **ado** without wasting more time: *And so, without further ado, let me introduce tonight's speaker.*

**adobe** /'ɔːdəʊ.bi/ (US /-dɒu-/ noun [U] a mixture of earth and straw made into bricks and dried in the sun, used to build houses in some parts of the world: *an adobe house*

**adolescent** **A** /,æd.ə'les.ənt/ noun [C] a young person who is developing into an adult

**adolescent** /,æd.ə'les.ənt/ adj **1** being or relating to an adolescent: *an adolescent boy* ○ *adolescent concerns/traumas/problems* **2** describes an adult or an adult's behaviour that is silly and childish: *adolescent humour/behaviour*

**adulthood** /,æd.ə'les.ənts/ noun [U] the period of time in a person's life when they are developing into an adult: *a troubled adolescence* ○ *yet another novel about the joys and sorrows of adolescence*

**Adonis** /'ɔːdəʊ.nɪs/ (US /-dɑː.nɪs/ noun [C] a very beautiful or sexually attractive young man: *She walked in on the arm of some blond Adonis.*

**adopt** [TAKE CHILD] **A** /'ɔːdɒpt/ (US /-dɑːpt/ verb [I or T] to take another person's child into your own family and legally raise him or her as your own child: *They've adopted a baby girl.* ○ *She had the child adopted (= She gave her baby to someone else to raise).* ○ *They have no children of their own, but they're hoping to adopt.* ○ Compare **foster** TAKE CARE OF. **adopted** /'ɔːdɒp.tɪd/ (US /-dɑːp-/ adj: *They've got two adopted children and one of their own.*

**adoption** /'ɔːdɒp.ʃən/ (US /-dɑːp-/ noun [C or U]: *She was homeless and had to put her child up for adoption (= asked for the child to be taken by another adult or family as their own).* ○ *The last ten years have seen a dramatic fall in the number of adoptions.*

**adoptive** /'ɔːdɒp.tɪv/ (US /-dɑːp-/ adj [before noun] An adoptive parent is one who has adopted a child.

**adopt** [START] **A** /'ɔːdɒpt/ (US /-dɑːpt/ verb [T] to accept or start to use something new: *I think it's time to adopt a different strategy in my dealings with him.* ○ *The new tax would force companies to adopt energy-saving measures.* ○ *He's adopted a remarkably light-hearted attitude towards the situation.* **adoption** /'ɔːdɒp.ʃən/ (US /-dɑːp-/ noun [U]: *Several suggestions have been offered for adoption by the panel.*

**adopt** [CHOOSE] /'ɔːdɒpt/ (US /-dɑːpt/ verb [T] to choose or claim as your own: *Dr Kennedy has been adopted as the party's candidate for South Cambridge.* ○ *Roz has adopted one or two funny mannerisms since she's been away.*

**adopted** /'ɔːdɒp.tɪd/ (US /-dɑːp-/ adj [before noun]: *Spain is my adopted country (= not the country where I was born, but the one where I have chosen to live).* **adoption** /'ɔːdɒp.ʃən/ (US /-dɑːp-/ noun [U]: *England was Conrad's country of adoption.*

**adore** [LOVE] /ə'dɔːr/ (US /-dɔːr/ verb [T not continuous] to love someone very much, especially in an admiring or respectful way, or to like something very much: *She has one son and she adores him.* ○ *I absolutely adore chocolate.* ○ [+ v-ing] *Don't you just adore lying in a hot bath?*

**adorable** /ə'dɔː.rə.bəl/ (US /-dɔːr.ə-/ adj describes a person or animal that makes you feel great affection because they are so attractive and often small: *She has the most adorable two-year-old girl.* ○ *an adorable puppy*

**adoration** /,æd.ə'reɪ.ʃən/ noun [U] very strong love for someone: *her complete adoration of her brother*

**adoring** /ə'dɔː.rɪŋ/ adj showing very strong love for someone: *I refuse to play the part of the adoring wife.*

**adore** [WORSHIP] /ə'dɔːr/ (US /-dɔːr/ verb [T not continuous] FORMAL to worship: *Let us adore God for all his works.* **adoration** /,æd.ə'reɪ.ʃən/ noun [U]: *The painting depicts the three wise men kneeling in adoration of the baby Jesus.*

**adorn** /ə'dɔːn/ (US /-dɔːrn/ verb [T] LITERARY to add something decorative to a person or thing: *The bride's hair was adorned with pearls and white flowers.*

**adornment** /ə'dɔːn.mənt/ (US /-dɔːrn-/ noun [C or U] LITERARY something decorative, or the act of decorating something or someone

**adrenalin, adrenaline** /ə'dren.ə'lɪn/ noun [U] a hormone produced by the body when you are frightened, angry or excited, which makes the heart beat faster and prepares the body to react to danger: *These arguments always get my adrenalin going (= make me excited or angry).*

**adrift** /ə'drɪft/ adj [after verb] **1** If a boat is adrift, it is moving on the water but is not controlled by anyone because of a problem: *He spent three days adrift on his yacht.* **2** If a person is adrift, they do not have a clear purpose in life and do not know what they want to do: *Da Silva plays a bright, lonely student from New York, adrift in small-town Arizona.* **3** INFORMAL **go/come adrift** to become loose: *The hem of my skirt's come adrift again.* **4** INFORMAL **go adrift** If plans go adrift they fail or do not produce the correct results: *Something seems to have gone adrift in our calculations.*

**adroit** /ə'drɔɪt/ adj very skilful and quick in the way you think or move: *an adroit reaction/answer/movement of the hand* ○ *She became adroit at dealing with difficult questions.* **adroitly** /ə'drɔɪt.li/ adv: *She adroitly avoided the question.* ○ *He adroitly slipped the money into his pocket.* **adroitness** /ə'drɔɪt.nəs/ noun [U]

**ADSL** /,eɪ.dɪ.es'el/ noun [U] SPECIALIZED ABBREVIATION FOR asymmetric digital subscriber line: a system for providing a very fast Internet connection that allows you to use a telephone at the same time

**adulation** /,æd.ju'leɪ.ʃən/ noun [U] very great admiration or praise for someone, especially when it is more than is deserved: *Minelli is a born performer – she loves*