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LONGMAN

Dictionary of Contemporary English

6TH EDITION

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The Dictionary A-Z

1-2125

Language supplement (see middle section page A1)

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Numbers

000 *number* the telephone number you use in Australia to call the police, the FIRE SERVICE, or an AMBULANCE in an emergency

1 used in TEXT MESSAGES instead of 'one', for example SUM1 (= someone)

2 /tu:/ *written informal* a way of writing 'to' or 'too', used especially in emails and TEXT MESSAGES: *Happy birthday 2 U (=to you)! | He's 2 (=too) cool!*

2.0 /tu: ɔɪnt 'əʊ \$ -əʊ/ *adj* [only after noun] used to refer to a slightly improved or different form of something: *We are calling the exhibition Surrealism 2.0.*

2:1 /tu: 'wʌn/ *n* [C] the higher of the two levels of SECOND-CLASS university degree in Britain

2:2 /tu: 'tu:/ *n* [C] the lower of the two levels of SECOND-CLASS university degree in Britain

3-D (also **three-D**) /θri: 'di:ɹ/ *adj* a 3-D film or picture is made so that it appears to have length, width, and depth, and therefore the people and things in it look much more real. 3D is short for 'three dimensional'. —**3-D** *n* [U]: *a film in 3-D*

3G /θri: 'dʒi:ɹ/ *adj* 3G technology makes it possible to have fast ACCESS to the Internet and watch videos when using a MOBILE PHONE. 3G is short for 'third generation': *a new 3G phone*

4 /fɔ: fɔ:r/ *written informal* a way of writing 'for', used especially in emails and TEXT MESSAGES: *a message 4 U (=for you)*

4x4 *n* [C] a FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE vehicle

4-D film /fɔ: di: 'fɪlm \$,fɔ:r-/ *n* [C,U] a 3-D film combined with physical effects in the cinema, such as smells

4-F /fɔ:r 'ef/ *n*, *adj* used in the US to describe someone who is not allowed to become a member of the US military forces because of physical, mental, or moral reasons

4G /fɔ: 'dʒi: \$,fɔ:r-/ *adj* 4G technology and services provide a very fast connection to the Internet from MOBILE PHONES etc. 4G is short for 'fourth generation': *When will they be launching their 4G network?*

4-H /fɔ:r 'ertʃ/ *a* US organization that helps young people to be good citizens, live healthily, and develop new skills

4WD *n* [C] a FOUR-WHEEL DRIVE vehicle

➔ See page 2155 for more information on numbers.

Symbols

@ [in email addresses] at. Also used to identify a person's name on some SOCIAL NETWORKING sites.

. [in grammar] full stop *BrE*, period *AmE*; [in email addresses] dot

" ditto

& ampersand

* asterisk

™ trademark

© copyright

hash sign *BrE*, pound sign *AmE*. Also used on some SOCIAL NETWORKING sites before a word or phrase, to identify messages on a specific topic. This is referred to as a HASHTAG.

\ back slash

/ forward slash

“ ” quotation marks, inverted commas

' apostrophe

X cross – used to show that an answer is wrong.

✓ tick, check mark *AmE* – used to show that an answer is correct.

We know

9/11 /ˌnaɪn ɪ'levən/ *n* [U] September 11, 2001, when TERRORISTS used planes to attack New York and Washington: *the terrifying events of 9/11 | a 9/11 disaster relief fund*

12 /twelv/ *n* [singular, U] used in Britain to describe a film which only people aged 12 or over are allowed to see

15 /fɪfti:n/ *n* [singular, U] used in Britain to describe a film which only people aged 15 or over are allowed to see

20/20 vision /ˌtwenti ˌtwenti 'vɪʒən/ *n* [U] the ability to see perfectly without needing to wear glasses

24-7 /ˌtwenti ˌfɔ: 'sevən \$ -fɔ:r-/ *adv* if something happens 24-7, it happens all the time, every day

101 /wʌn əʊ 'wʌn \$ -əʊ-/ *number 1 Psychology 101/ Economics 101 etc AmE* a course that teaches you the most basic things about a subject **2 that's/it's Psychology 101/Marketing 101 etc informal** used to say that a piece of knowledge relating to something is very simple and basic: *If you're with a girl, don't stare at other girls: that's Dating 101.*

180 /wʌn 'eti/ *n* **do a 180 informal a)** to turn around so that you are then facing in the opposite direction, for example on a bicycle or a SKATEBOARD **b)** to completely change your attitude to something or your plans for something → **U-turn**: *They have done a 180 on the issue of immigration.*

411 /fɔ: wʌn 'wʌn \$,fɔ:r-/ **1** the telephone number you use in the US and Canada to call DIRECTORY ASSISTANCE (= a service which helps you to find someone's number)

2 the 411 on sth AmE information about something: *the 411 on text messaging*

419 scam /fɔ: wʌn 'naɪn skæm \$,fɔ:r-/ *n* [C,U] an illegal way of getting money from someone by sending them an email promising that they will make a lot of money if they INVEST in a business activity which does not really exist **[SYN] advance fee fraud**

911 /ˌnaɪn wʌn 'wʌn/ *number* the telephone number you use in the US to call the police, the FIRE SERVICE, or an AMBULANCE in an emergency

999 /ˌnaɪn naɪn 'naɪn/ *number* the telephone number you use in Britain to call the police, the FIRE SERVICE, or an AMBULANCE in an emergency

1066 /ˌten sɪksti 'sɪks/ the year 1066, the year of the Battle of Hastings and the Norman Conquest of Britain. This is a date known by most schoolchildren in the UK.

— dash

– underscore: **john.smith@email.com**
john underscore smith at email dot com

() (round) brackets

! exclamation mark

[] square brackets

:

;

{ } curly brackets, braces

= equals sign: **2+2=4** *Two plus two equals four.*

≠ does not equal

x multiplication sign: **2x3=6** *Two times three equals six.*

+ plus sign: **4+1=5** *Four plus one equals five.*

- minus sign: **8-2=6** *Eight minus two equals six.*

÷ division sign: **4÷2=2** *Four divided by two equals two.*

√ square root sign: **√9=3** *The square root of nine equals three.*

% percent

USAGE: A, an

- Before a word beginning with a vowel sound, use **an**: *an elephant* | *an umbrella* | *an obvious mistake*
- Use **an** before an 'h' that is not pronounced: *an hour later* | *an honest explanation*
- Use **a** before a 'u' that is pronounced like 'you': *a university* | *a unique opportunity*
- Use **an** before an abbreviation that is pronounced with a vowel sound at the start: *an SOS call* | *an MP3 file*

A¹ /eɪ/ n (plural **A's**, **a's**) **1** [C.U.] the first letter of the English alphabet **2** [C.U.] the sixth note in the musical SCALE of C MAJOR or the musical key based on this note **3** [C.] the highest mark that a student can get in an examination or for a piece of work: *I got an A in French.* | *Julia got straight A's (=all A's) in high school.* → **A LEVEL**
4 an A student AmE someone who regularly gets the best marks possible for their work in school or college
5 [U.] used to refer in a short way to one of two different things or people. You can call the second one B: *A demands £500, B offers £100.* → **plan A** at **PLAN**(s) **6 from A to B** from one place to another: **get/go from A to B** *Hiring a car was the best way to get from A to B.* **7 from A to Z** describing, including, or knowing everything about a subject: *the history of art from A to Z **A34, A40 etc** the name of a road in Britain that is smaller than a MOTORWAY, but larger than a B-ROAD → **A-ROAD** **9** [U.] a common type of blood*

A² the written abbreviation of **amp** or **amps**

a /ə; strong eɪ/ ●●● **S1** **W1** (also **an**) indefinite article, determiner

1 used to show that you are talking about someone or something that has not been mentioned before, or that your listener does not know about: *We have a problem.* | *There was a hole in the fence.* | *Suddenly they heard a loud bang.* → **THE¹**

2 used to show that you are referring to a general type of person or thing and not a specific person or thing: *Would you like a sandwich?* | *I want to train to be an engineer.* | *He's a really nice man.* | *Take a look at this.* | *It needs a good clean.*
3 used before someone's family name to show that they belong to that family: *One of his daughters had married a Rothschild.*

4 one: *a thousand pounds* | *a dozen eggs* | *You'll have to wait an hour or two.*

5 used in some phrases that say how much of something there is: *There were a lot of people at the party.* | **A few weeks from now I'll be in Venice.** | *You have caused a great deal of trouble.*

6 used to mean 'each' when stating prices, rates, or speeds: *I get paid once a month.* | *The eggs cost \$2 a dozen.*

7 used before singular nouns to mean all things of a particular type: *A square has four sides* (=all squares have four sides). | *A child needs love and affection.*

8 used once before two nouns that are mentioned together very often: *I'll fetch you a cup and saucer.* | *Does everyone have a knife and fork?*

9 used before the -ing forms of verbs when they are used as nouns referring to an action, event, or sound: *There was a beating of wings overhead.* | *Bernice became aware of a humming that seemed to come from all around her.*

10 used before nouns that are usually UNCOUNTABLE when other information about the quality, feeling etc is added by an adjective, phrase, or CLAUSE: *Candidates must have a good knowledge of chemistry.*

11 used before the name of a substance, food etc to refer to a particular type of it: *Use a good cheese to make the sauce.* | *plants that grow well in a moist soil*

12 used before the name of a drink to refer to a cup or glass of that drink: *Can I get you a coffee?* | *Renwick went to the bar and ordered a beer.*

13 used before the name of a famous artist to refer to a painting by that artist: *an early Rembrandt*

14 used before a name to mean someone or something that has the same qualities as that person or thing: *She was hailed as a new Marilyn Monroe.*

15 used before someone's name when you do not know who they are: *There is a Mr Tom Wilkins on the phone.*

a¹ /ə/ prefix **1** in a particular condition or way: *aloud* | *alive* (=living) | *with nerves all a-tingle* (=tingling) **2** *old* use in, to, at, or on something: *abed* (=in bed) | *afar* (=far away)

a² /eɪ, æ, ə/ prefix not or without: *amoral* (=not moral) | *atypically* (=not typically)

A* /eɪ 'stɑː \$ 'stɑːr/ n [C.U.] the highest mark that a student can get in a GCSE examination

A-1 /eɪ 'wʌn/ adj *old-fashioned* very good or completely healthy: *Everything about the resort was A-1.*

A3 /eɪ 'θriː/ n [U] a standard size of paper, used in Europe and Japan. A3 paper measures 297 x 420 MILLIMETRES → **A4, A5**

A4 /eɪ 'foː \$ 'fɔːr/ n [U] a standard size of paper, used in Europe and Japan. A4 paper measures 210 x 297 MILLIMETRES → **A3, A5**

A5 /eɪ 'faɪv/ n [U] a standard size of paper, used in Europe and Japan. A5 paper measures 148 x 210 MILLIMETRES → **A3, A4**

AA /eɪ 'eɪ/ n **1** (**Alcoholics Anonymous**) an organization for ALCOHOLICS who want to stop drinking alcohol **2** the **AA** (**Automobile Association**) a British organization which provides services for people who own cars **3** [C.] (**Associate of Arts**) a two-year college degree in the US

A & E /eɪ ənd 'iː/ n [U] BrE (**accident and emergency**) the room or department in a hospital where people go if they are injured or suddenly become ill

aard-vark /'ɑːdvɑːk \$ 'ɑːrdvɑːk/ n [C.] a large animal from southern Africa that has a very long nose and eats small insects

aargh /ɑːx, ɑː \$ ɑːrg, ər/ interjection used to show you are disappointed, hurt, or annoyed: *Aargh, the lid won't close!*

AB /eɪ 'biː/ n [U] a common type of blood

a-back /ə'bæk/ adv **be taken aback (by sth)** to be very surprised or shocked by something: *For a moment, I was completely taken aback by her request.*

ab-a-cus /ə'bækəs/ n [C.] a frame with small balls that can be slid along on thick wires, used for counting and calculating

ab-a-lo-ne /ə'bələʊni \$ '-lou-/ n [C.U.] a kind of SHELLFISH which is used as food and whose shell contains MOTHER-OF-PEARL

a-ban-don¹ /ə'bændən/ ●●● **W3** **AWL** v [T]

1 to leave someone, especially someone you are responsible for → **abandoned**: *How could she abandon her own child?*

2 to go away from a place, vehicle etc permanently, especially because the situation makes it impossible for you to stay **SYN** **leave** → **abandoned**: *We had to abandon the car and walk the rest of the way.* | *Fearing further attacks, most of the population had abandoned the city.*

3 to stop doing something because there are too many problems and it is impossible to continue: *The game had to be abandoned due to bad weather.* | *They abandoned their attempt to recapture the castle.* | *Because of the fog they abandoned their idea of driving.*

4 to stop having a particular idea, belief, or attitude: *They*

we're accused of abandoning their socialist principles. | Researchers had **abandoned all hope** of finding any more survivors.
5 abandon yourself to sth literary to feel an emotion so strongly that you let it control you completely: *She abandoned herself to grief.*

6 abandon ship to leave a ship because it is sinking
 — **abandonment** *n* [U]

abandon² *n* [U] if someone does something with abandon, they behave in a careless or uncontrolled way, without thinking or caring about what they are doing: **with reckless/wild abandon** *They drank and smoked with reckless abandon.*

a-ban-doned /ə'bændənd/ [AWL] *adj* **1** an abandoned building, car, boat etc has been left by the people who owned or used it: *The car was found abandoned in Bristol.* | *the demolition of abandoned buildings* **2** [only before noun] an abandoned person or animal has been left completely alone by the person that was looking after them **3** literary behaving in a wild and uncontrolled way

a-ban-don-ware /ə'bændən,weə \$ -wer/ *n* [U] old software that is no longer used by most people

a-base /ə'beɪs/ *v* **abase yourself** to behave in a way that shows you accept that someone has complete power over you — **abasement** *n* [U]

a-bashed /ə'bæʃt/ *adj* [not before noun] written embarrassed or ashamed because you have done something wrong or stupid [SYN] **shamefaced**: *She looked rather abashed.*

a-bate /ə'beɪt/ *v* [I] *formal* to become less strong or decrease [SYN] **subside**: *We waited for the storm to abate.*

ab-at-toir /ə'bætwaɪ: \$ -ɑ:r/ *n* [C] BrE a place where animals are killed for their meat [SYN] **slaughterhouse**

a-ba-ya /ə'beɪə/ *n* [C] a long black piece of clothing worn by Muslim women in some countries, which covers the body and is usually worn with a separate head covering → **burqa**, **chador**, **niqab**

ab-bess /'æbəs, 'æbes/ *n* [C] a woman who is in charge of a CONVENT (= a place where a group of NUNS live)

ab-bey /'æbi/ *n* [C] a large church with buildings next to it where MONKS and NUNS live or used to live

ab-bot /'æbət/ *n* [C] a man who is in charge of a MONASTERY (= a place where a group of MONKS live)

abbr. (also **abbrev.**) the written abbreviation of **abbreviation**

ab-bre-vi-ate /ə'bri:vɪət/ ●○○ *v* [T] to make a word or expression shorter by not including letters or using only the first letter of each word [SYN] **shorten**: **be abbreviated to sth** 'Information technology' is usually abbreviated to 'IT'.

ab-bre-vi-at-ed /ə'bri:vɪətɪd/ *adj* made shorter: *Orders were passed to the commander at the front in an abbreviated form.*

ab-bre-vi-a-tion /ə'bri:vɪ'eɪʃən/ ●○○ *n*

1 [C] a short form of a word or expression: [+of/for] 'Dr' is the written abbreviation of 'Doctor'.

REGISTER

In everyday English, people usually say **be short** for instead of **be the abbreviation of/for**: *W.H.O. is short for 'World Health Organization'.*

2 [U] the act of abbreviating something

ABC /er bi: 'si:/ *n* **1** [singular] BrE, **ABCs** [plural] AmE the letters of the English alphabet as taught to children **2** the **ABC of sth** BrE, the **ABCs of sth** AmE the basic facts about a particular subject: *the ABCs of your computer* **3** (the **American Broadcasting Company**) one of the national television companies in the US **4** (the **Australian Broadcasting Corporation**) the national public television company of Australia

ab-di-cate /'æbdɪkət/ *v* [I,T] **1** to give up the position of being king or queen: *King Alfonso XIII abdicated in favour of his eldest son.* | *The king was forced to abdicate the throne.* **2** **abdicate (your) responsibility** *formal* to refuse to be responsible for something, when you should be or were

before: *The government has largely abdicated its responsibility in dealing with housing needs.* — **abdication** /'æbdɪk'eɪʃən/ *n* [C,U]

Ab-di-ca-tion /'æbdɪk'eɪʃən/ the **Abdication (also the Abdication Crisis)** the period in Britain in 1936, in which King Edward VIII abdicated so that he could marry Wallis Simpson, a woman who had been divorced (DIVORCE)

ab-do-men /'æbdəmən, 'æbdəu- \$ -dɒu-/ ●○○ *n* [C] **1** the part of your body between your chest and legs which contains your stomach, BOWELS etc

2 the end part of an insect's body, joined to the THORAX → see picture at **INSECT** — **abdominal** /'æbdɒmɪnəl \$ -dɑ:/ *adj*: **acute abdominal pains**

ab-duct /'æbdʌkt, æb-/ *v* [T] to take someone away by force [SYN] **kidnap**: *The diplomat was abducted on his way to the airport.* — **abductor** *n* [C] — **abduction** /'æbdʌkʃən, æb-/ *n* [C,U]: **child abduction** — **abductee** /'æbdʌkt'i:/ *n* [C]

REGISTER

Abduct is mostly used in journalism. In everyday English, people usually say **kidnap**: *He was kidnapped on his way to the airport.*

a-bed /ə'bed/ *adj* [not before noun] *old use* in bed

a-be-r-rant /'æbərənt, 'æberənt/ *adj* *formal* not usual or normal [SYN] **abnormal**: **aberrant behaviour**

ab-er-ra-tion /'æbərə'eɪʃən/ *n* [C] *formal* an action or event that is very different from what usually happens or what someone usually does: *a temporary aberration in US foreign policy* | *a mental aberration*

a-bet /ə'bet/ *v* (abettled, abetting) [T] to help someone do something wrong or illegal → **aid** and **abet** at **AID**⁽²⁾(3)

a-bey-ance /ə'beɪəns/ *n* in **abeyance** something such as a custom, rule, or system that is in abeyance is not being used at the present time: **fall into abeyance** (=no longer be used)

ab-hor /ə'bɒ:hə: \$ 'æbɒ:hɜ:r, æb-/ *v* (abhorred, abhorring) [T not in progressive] *formal* to hate a kind of behaviour or way of thinking, especially because you think it is morally wrong: *I abhor discrimination of any kind.* [THESAURUS] **HATE**

ab-hor-rence /ə'bɒ:hərəns \$ -hɒ:r-/ *n* [U] *formal* a deep feeling of hatred towards something

ab-hor-rent /ə'bɒ:hərənt \$ -hɒ:r-/ *adj* something that is abhorrent is completely unacceptable because it seems morally wrong [SYN] **repugnant**: [+to] *The practice of killing animals for food is utterly abhorrent to me.*

a-bide /ə'baɪd/ *v* **1** sb **can't abide sb/sth** used to say that someone dislikes someone or something very much: *I can't abide that man - he's so self-satisfied.* **2** (past tense **abode** /ə'bəʊd \$ 'æbɒd/) [I always + adv/prep] *old use* to live somewhere

abide by sth *phr v* to accept and obey a decision, rule, agreement etc, even though you may not agree with it: *You have to abide by the referee's decision.*

a-bid-ing /ə'baɪdɪŋ/ *adj* [only before noun] *written* an abiding feeling or belief continues for a long time and is not likely to change [SYN] **lasting**: *Phil has a deep and abiding love for his family.*

a-bil-i-ty /ə'baɪləti/ ●●● [S2] [W1] *n* (plural **abilities**)

1 [C] the state of being able to do something: **ability to do sth** *the ability to walk* | *The health center serves all patients, regardless of their ability to pay.*

2 [C,U] someone's level of skill at doing something: *The test measures your mathematical ability.* | *mixed ability classes* | **of high/low etc ability** *students of average ability* | *There are musicians of all abilities.* | **sb's abilities as sth** *He showed his abilities as a leader.*

3 to the **best of your ability** as well as you can: *He completed the job to the best of his ability.*

GRAMMAR

Ability is followed by an infinitive with 'to', not by an -ing form. You say: *I admire his ability to listen.*

✗ Don't say: *I admire his ability of listening.*

GRAMMAR GUIDE

NOUNS

COLLOCATIONS – MEANINGS 1 & 2

ADJECTIVES

high/low/average ability *a group of low ability pupils*
great/considerable ability *He was a young man of great ability.*
remarkable/outstanding/exceptional ability *a writer of remarkable ability*
mixed ability (=at different levels) *a mixed ability class*
uncanny ability (=an unusual ability that is difficult to explain) | **natural ability** (also **innate ability formal**) (=an ability that you are born with) | **physical/athletic ability** | **artistic/creative ability** | **musical ability** | **acting ability** | **mental ability** | **intellectual/academic ability** | **verbal/linguistic ability** (=language skills) | **mathematical ability** | **proven ability** (=that you have proved through your achievements)

VERBS

have the ability to do sth (also **possess the ability to do sth formal**) *She has the ability to make people feel relaxed.*
show/demonstrate the ability to do sth *a chance for candidates to demonstrate their abilities*
lack the ability to do sth

PHRASES

a level of ability/ability level *The children were of the same age and ability level.*
a range of ability/ability range *There is a wide range of ability within the class.*
a test of ability/an ability test | **an ability group** (=a group that students are taught in, based on their level of ability)

-ability /əbɪləti/ (also **-ibility**) suffix makes nouns from adjectives ending in **-ABLE** and **-IBLE**: *manageability*
ab-ject /ˈæbdʒekt/ **adj** **1** **abject poverty/misery/failure** etc the state of being extremely poor, unhappy, unsuccessful etc **2** an abject action or expression shows that you feel very ashamed: *an abject apology* — **abjectly** **adv**
ab-jure /əb'dʒʊə, æb- \$ -dʒʊr/ **v** [T] **formal** to state publicly that you will give up a particular belief or way of behaving **[SYN]** **renounce**
ab-la-tive /ˈæblətɪv/ **n** [C usually singular] a particular form of a noun in some languages, such as Latin or Finnish, which shows movement away or separation
a-blaze /ə'bleɪz/ **adj** [not before noun] *written* **1** burning strongly with a lot of flames → **blaze**: *Within minutes the whole house was ablaze.* | *The factory had been set ablaze* (=made to burn).

REGISTER

Ablaze is mostly used in journalism or in literature. In everyday English, people usually say **on fire**: *The whole house was on fire.*

2 very bright or colourful: *a passing pleasure-boat, with all its lights ablaze* | **[+with]** *Her yard was ablaze with summer flowers.* **3** feeling or showing strong emotion, especially anger **[SYN]** **blazing**: **[+with]** *His eyes were ablaze with fury.*
a-ble /ˈetbəl/ ●●● **[S1]** **[W1]** **adj**
1 **be able to do sth a)** to have the skill, strength, knowledge etc needed to do something: *I've always wanted to be able to speak Japanese.* **b)** to be in a situation in which it is possible for you to do something: *I'd like to do more gardening, but I never seem able to find the time.* | *I haven't been able to read that report yet.*
2 clever or good at doing something: *one of my more able students*
-able /əbəl/ (also **-ible**) suffix [in adjectives] **1** that you can do something to: *washable* (=it can be washed) | *unbreakable* (=it cannot be broken) | *loveable* (=easy to love) **2** having a particular quality or condition: *knowledgeable* (=knowing a lot) | *comfortable* — **ably** /əbli/, **-ibly** suffix [in adverbs]: *unbelievably*

able-bodied **adj** **1** physically strong and healthy, especially when compared with someone who is **DISABLED**: *Every able-bodied man had to fight for his country.* **2** the **able-bodied** [plural] people who are able-bodied
able seaman **n** [C] a low rank in the navy, or someone who has this rank

a-blu-tions /ə'blu:ʃənz/ **n** [plural] **formal** if you perform your ablutions, you wash yourself - sometimes used humorously
a-bly /'eɪbli/ **adv** cleverly, skilfully, or well: *She was ably assisted by her team of researchers.*
ab-ne-ga-tion /æbnə'geɪʃən/ **n** [U] **formal** when you do not allow yourself to have or do something that you want → **self-denial**

ab-norm-al /æb'nɔ:məl \$ -'nɔ:r-/ ●○○ **[AWL]** **adj** very different from usual in a way that seems strange, worrying, wrong, or dangerous **[OPP]** **normal**: *abnormal behaviour* | *an abnormal level of cholesterol* | *My parents thought it was abnormal for a boy to be interested in ballet.* — **abnormally** **adv**: *an abnormally high pulse rate*

ab-nor-mal-i-ty /æbnɔ:'mæləti \$ -nɔ:r-/ ●○○ **n** (plural **abnormalities**) [C,U] an abnormal feature, especially something that is wrong with part of someone's body: *tests that can detect genetic abnormalities in the foetus*

ab-o /'æbəʊ \$ -boʊ/ **n** (plural **abos**) [C] *taboo* a very offensive word for an Australian **ABORIGINE**. Do not use this word.

a-board /'əbə:d \$ ə'bɔ:d/ ●○○ **prep** on or onto a ship, plane, or train: *They finally went aboard the plane.*

aboard² ●○○ **adv**
1 on or onto a ship, plane, or train: *The plane crashed, killing all 200 people aboard.* | *The boat swayed as he stepped aboard.*
2 **All aboard!** *spoken* used to tell passengers of a ship, bus, or train that they must get on because it will leave soon

a-bode¹ /'æbəʊd \$ 'əbɔ:d/ **n** [C] **1** **formal** someone's home - sometimes used humorously: *Welcome to my humble abode.* | *a homeless person with no fixed abode* (=no permanent home) **2** **right of abode** *law* the right to live in a country

abode² **v** the past tense of **ABIDE**
a-bol-ish /'æbɒlɪʃ \$ 'əbɔ:ə-/ ●○○ **v** [T] to officially end a law, system etc, especially one that has existed for a long time: *Slavery was abolished in the US in the 19th century.*

ab-o-li-tion /æbəlɪ'ʃjən/ **n** [U] when a law or a system is officially ended: **[+of]** *the abolition of the death penalty*

ab-o-li-tion-ist /æbəlɪ'ʃjənɪst/ **n** [C] someone who wants to end a system or law

A-bomb /'eɪ bɒm \$ -bɑ:m/ **n** [C] *old-fashioned* an **ATOMIC BOMB**

a-bom-i-na-ble /'æbɒmɪnəbəl, -mənə- \$ 'əbɔ:ə-/ **adj** extremely unpleasant or of very bad quality **[SYN]** **terrible**: *abominable cruelty* — **abominably** **adv**: *Mavis behaved abominably.*

a,bominable 'snowman **n** [C] a **YETI**

a-bom-i-nate /'æbɒmɪneɪt \$ 'əbɔ:ə-/ **v** [T] **formal** to hate something very much **[SYN]** **abhor**

a-bom-i-na-tion /'æbɒmɪneɪʃən \$ 'əbɔ:ə-/ **n** [C] someone or something that is extremely offensive or unacceptable: *Slavery was an abomination.*

ab-o-rig-i-nal¹ /'æbərɪ'dʒɪnəl/ **adj** **1** (also **Aboriginal**) relating to the Australian aborigines **2** **formal** relating to the people or animals that have existed in a place or country from the earliest times **[SYN]** **indigenous**

aboriginal², **Aboriginal** **n** [C] an aborigine

ab-o-rig-i-ne, **Aborigine** /'æbərɪ'dʒɪni/ **n** [C] someone who belongs to the race of people who have lived in Australia from the earliest times

a-bort /ə'bɔ:t \$ -ɔ:rt/ **v** **1** [T] to stop an activity because it would be difficult or dangerous to continue it: *The rescue mission had to be aborted.* **2** [T] to deliberately end a **PREGNANCY** when the baby is still too young to live **3** [I] if

A PREGNANT woman or animal aborts, the baby is born too early and is dead when it is born. **SYN** miscarry: The disease causes pregnant animals to abort.

a-bor-tion /ə'bɔ:ʃən \$ ə'bɔ:ʃ- / ●●● n [C,U] a medical operation to end a PREGNANCY so that the baby is not born alive. **SYN** termination: She decided to **have an abortion**. | anti-abortion campaigners

a-bor-tion-ist /ə'bɔ:ʃənɪst \$ ə'bɔ:ʃ- / n [C] someone who performs abortions, especially illegally

a-bor-tive /ə'bɔ:ʃɪv \$ ə'bɔ:ʃ- / adj an abortive action is not successful: **an abortive military coup** | **abortive attempt/effort** an abortive attempt to reform local government

a-bound /ə'baʊnd/ v [I] to exist in very large numbers: Rumours **abound** as to the reasons for his resignation. | Examples of this **abound** in her book.

abound with/in sth phr v if a place, situation etc abounds with things of a particular type, it contains a very large number of them: The forests **abound** with deer, birds, and squirrels.

a-bout¹ /ə'baʊt/ ●●● S1 W1 prep

1 concerning or relating to a particular subject: a book **about** politics | She said something **about** leaving town. | He lied **about** his age. | **About** that car of yours. How much are you selling it for? | What's he **on about** (=talking about)? | **It's about** Tommy, doctor. He's been sick again. | Naturally, my mother wanted to know **all about** it (=all the details relating to it).

2 used to show why someone is angry, happy, upset etc: I'm really worried **about** Jack. | She's upset **about** missing the party.

3 in many different directions within a particular place, or in different parts of a place. **SYN** around, round: We spent the whole afternoon **walking about** town. | Books were scattered **about** the room.

4 in the nature or character of a person or thing: **There's something really strange about** Liza. | **What I like about** the job is that it's never boring.

5 what/how about sb/sth spoken **a**) used to ask a question that directs attention to another person or thing: **What about** Jack? We can't just leave him here. | I'm feeling hungry. **How about** you? **b**) used to make a suggestion: **How about** a salad for lunch?

6 do something about sth to do something to solve a problem or stop a bad situation: **If we don't do something about it, the problem is going to get worse.** | **What can be done about** the rising levels of pollution?

7 if an organization, a job, an activity etc is **about** something, that is its basic purpose: **Leadership is all about** getting your team to co-operate.

8 it's all about sb/sth used to say who or what is important in a situation: **It's all about** money, and who's got the most.

9 while you're about it spoken used to tell someone to do something while they are doing something else because it would be easier to do both things at the same time: **Go and see what's the matter, and while you're about it you can fetch me my sweater.**

10 what was all that about? spoken used to ask the reason for something that has just happened, especially someone's angry behaviour

11 literary surrounding a person or thing: **Jo sensed fear and jealousy all about her.** → **be quick about it** at QUICK¹(s), → **go about your business** at BUSINESS¹(2)

Dear Sir, I'm writing with regard to your advertisement in The Times.

re used in business letters and in emails to introduce the subject that you are going to write about:
Re: Friday's meeting

about² ●●● S1 W1 adv

1 (also **round about** spoken) a little more or less than a particular number, amount, or size. **SYN** roughly, approximately: I live **about** 10 miles away. | a tiny computer **about** as big as a postcard | We left the restaurant **at round about** 10.30. **THE SAURUS** → APPROXIMATE

REGISTER

In written English, people usually prefer to use **approximately**, as it sounds more technical: The cost to taxpayers is **approximately** \$200 billion.

2 BrE in many different directions within a place or in different parts of a place. **SYN** around: People were rushing **about**, trying to find the driver. | Cushions were scattered **about** on the chairs.

3 near to you or in the same place as you: **Is Derek about?** **There's a phone call for him.** | **Quick!** Let's go while there's no-one about.

4 BrE spoken existing or available now: **I hope she hasn't caught flu. There's a lot of it about.** | She might get temporary work, **but there's not much about.**

5 informal almost or probably: **I was about ready to leave when somebody rang the doorbell.** | **'Have you finished?' 'Just about.'** | **It's just about** the worst mistake anyone could make.

6 that's about it/all spoken a) used to tell someone that you have told them everything you know: **He was a quiet chap, married with kids. That's about it, really.** **b)** used to say that there is nothing else available: **There's some cheese in the fridge and that's about it.**

7 so as to face in the opposite direction. **SYN** around: **He quickly turned about** and walked away.

about³ ●●● S3 W2 adj

1 be about to do sth if someone is about to do something, or if something is about to happen, they will do it or it will happen very soon: **We were just about to leave when Jerry arrived.** | **Work was about to start** on a new factory building.

2 not be about to do sth informal used to emphasize that you have no intention of doing something: **I've never smoked in my life and I'm not about to start now.** → **out and about** at OUT³(3), → **be up and about** at UP¹(11)

about-face (also **about-turn** BrE) n [C usually singular] a complete change in the way someone thinks or behaves. **SYN** U-turn: **The administration seems to have done a complete about-face on gun-control.**

a-bove¹ /ə'baʊv/ ●●● S2 W1 adv, prep

1 in a higher position than something else. **SYN** over **OPP** below: **Our office is above** the hairdresser's. | **He had a bruise just above** his left eye. | **I heard a strange noise coming from the room above.** | **The great bird hovered high above** our heads.

2 more than a particular number, amount, or level. **OPP** below: **50 metres above** sea level | **above freezing/zero** (=higher than the temperature at which water freezes) **Tonight, temperatures should be just above freezing.** | **and/or above** free medical care for pensioners aged 65 and above | **Prize winners must have gained marks of 80% or above.** | **The salaries we offer are well above** (=much higher than) average.

3 to a greater degree than something else: **Many employers value personality above** experience or qualifications. | **above all (else)** (=used to say that something is more important than anything else) **Max is hard-working, cheerful, and above all honest.** | medals awarded for bravery **above and beyond** the call of duty (=greater than it is your duty to show)

4 louder or clearer than other sounds: **You can always hear her voice above** everybody else's.

5 higher in rank, power, or importance. **OPP** below: **He never rose above** the rank of corporal. | **and/or above** officers

THE SAURUS

about used when saying what the subject of something is: **She's always talking about you.** | **In her novels she writes about life** in South Africa. | **There's something I wanted to ask you about.**

on about a particular subject: **a book on English grammar** | **a report on poverty in rural areas**

concerning/regarding formal **about**: **Prince Saïid answered questions concerning** Kuwait's future. | **The report raises a number of questions regarding** food safety.

with regard to formal **about** – used especially when you want to start talking or writing about something:

of the rank of Major and above | **from above** (=from people in higher authority) *We just obey orders from above.*

6 formal before, in the same piece of writing [OPP] below: *As mentioned above, there is a service charge.* | *Write to the address above for further information.*

7 not be above (doing) sth to not be too good or honest to do something: *Eileen's not above flirting with the boss when it suits her.*

8 be above suspicion/reproach/criticism etc to be so good that no one can doubt or criticize you: *Even the king's closest advisers were not above suspicion.*

9 get above yourself to think you are better or more important than you really are → **over and above** at OVER⁽¹⁴⁾, → **be above the law** at LAW⁽¹³⁾

above² ●●● W3 adj

1 [only before noun] used in a piece of writing to refer to something mentioned in an earlier part of the same piece of writing: *For the above reasons, the management has no choice but to close the factory.*

2 the above formal something mentioned before in the same piece of writing: *If none of the above applies to you, you may be able to reclaim tax.*

above board /ə'bu:bd/ \$././ adj [not before noun] honest and legal: *His plans for opening a coffee shop are completely above board.*

above-mentioned adj [only before noun] formal mentioned on a previous page or higher up on the same page

ab-ra-ca-dab-ra /æbrəkə'dæbrə/ interjection a word you say when you do a magic trick, which is supposed to make it successful

abrade /ə'breɪd/ v [I,T] technical to rub something so hard that the surface becomes damaged

abrasion /ə'breɪʒən/ n [C] an area on the surface of your skin that has been injured by being rubbed against something hard: *She was treated for cuts and abrasions.*
2 [U] the process of rubbing a surface very hard so that it becomes damaged or disappears: *extra protection against abrasion*

abrasive¹ /ə'breɪsɪv/ adj **1** rude or unkind: *She was a tough girl with rather an abrasive manner.* **2** having a rough surface, especially one that can be used to clean something or make it smooth: *Smooth down with a fine abrasive paper.* —**abrasively** adv

abrasive² n [C] a rough powder or substance that you use for cleaning something or making it smooth

abreast /ə'breɪst/ adv **1 keep/stay abreast of sth** to make sure that you know all the most recent facts or information about a particular subject or situation: *It's important to keep abreast of the latest developments in computers.*

2 walk/ride etc abreast to walk, ride etc next to each other, all facing the same way: **two/three/four etc abreast** (=with two, three, four etc people or vehicles next to each other) *The planes were flying four abreast.* **3 level** with someone or something or in line with them: *As the car drew abreast of him, Jack suddenly recognised the driver.*

abridged /ə'brɪdʒd/ adj [usually before noun] an abridged book, play etc has been made shorter but keeps its basic structure and meaning: *The abridged edition was published in 1988.* —**abridge** v [T] —**abridgement, abridgment** n [C,U]

abroad /ə'brɔ:d \$ ə'brɔ:d/ ●●● S2 W3 adv

1 in or to a foreign country: *I've never lived abroad before.* | *She often goes abroad on business.* | *We never travelled abroad when we were kids.* | *A lot of goods are imported from abroad.* | *The books about Harry Potter have been very popular, both at home and abroad.*

2 formal if a feeling, piece of news etc is abroad, a lot of people feel it or know about it: *There were rumours abroad that she was planning to resign.*

GRAMMAR: Comparison

abroad

- You go **abroad** or **study abroad**.
- Don't use a preposition before **abroad**. ✗ Don't say: *go to abroad* | *study in abroad*

a foreign country

• You go **to a foreign country** or **study in a foreign country**.

GRAMMAR GUIDE ADVERBS

ab-ro-gate /æbrə'geɪt/ v [T] formal to officially end a legal agreement, practice etc: *Both governments voted to abrogate the treaty.* —**abrogation** /æbrə'geɪʃən/ n [C,U]

abrupt /ə'brʌpt/ ●●● adj

1 sudden and unexpected: *an abrupt change of plan* | **come to an abrupt end/halt etc** *The bus came to an abrupt halt.*

2 seeming rude and unfriendly, especially because you do not waste time in friendly conversation: *Sorry, I didn't mean to be so abrupt.* —**abruptness** n [U]

abruptly /ə'brʌptli/ ●●● adv

1 suddenly and unexpectedly: *She stopped abruptly and looked at him.*

2 in a way that seems rude and unfriendly: *He spoke abruptly, as if he wanted to avoid the subject.*

abs /æbz/ n [plural] informal the muscles on your ABDOMEN (=stomach): *exercises that improve your legs and abs*

ABS /et bi: 'es/ n [U] (**anti-lock braking system**) a piece of equipment that makes a vehicle easier to control when you have to stop very suddenly

ab-scess /'æbses/ n [C] a painful swollen part of your skin or inside your body that has become infected and is full of a yellowish liquid

ab-scond /əb'skɒnd, əb- \$ əb'skɑ:nd/ v [I] formal

1 to escape from a place where you are being kept: [+from] *The boy absconded from a children's home.*

THESAURUS ESCAPE 2 to secretly leave somewhere, taking with you something that does not belong to you: [+with] *He has to convince a judge that he wasn't going to abscond with the money.*

ab-seil /'æbsel/ v [I + down] BrE to go down a cliff or a rock by sliding down a rope and pushing against the rock with your feet **[SYN] rappel** AmE

ab-sence /'æbsəns/ ●●● S3 W2 n

1 [C,U] when you are not in the place where people expect you to be, or the time that you are away: **in/during sb's absence** *Ms Leighton will be in charge during my absence (=while I am away).* | [+from] *Her work involved repeated absences from home.*

2 [singular] the lack of something or the fact that it does not exist [OPP] presence: [+of] *a complete absence of any kind of planning* | *In the absence of any evidence, the police had to let Myers go.*

3 absence makes the heart grow fonder used to say that being away from someone makes you like them more → **leave of absence** at LEAVE⁽³⁾, → **conspicuous by your absence** at CONSPICUOUS⁽³⁾

ab-sent¹ /'æbsənt/ ●●● W2 adj

1 not at work, school, a meeting etc, because you are sick or decide not to go [OPP] present: [+from] *students who are regularly absent from school*

REGISTER

In everyday English, if someone is on holiday or on a business trip, people usually say that he/she **is away**: *He's away at the moment. He's gone to Hawaii.*

If you want to say that someone is not in a particular place, say **not there**: *I called in to see her but she wasn't there.*

If you want to say that someone is not with you, say **not here**: *I'm afraid he's not here at the moment. Can I take a message?*

2 if someone or something is absent, they are missing or not in the place where they are expected to be: **absent parent/father plans** to force absent fathers to pay child maintenance | [+from] *Local women were conspicuously absent (=obviously not there) from the meeting.*

3 [only before noun] a look etc that is absent shows you are not paying attention to or thinking about what is happening → **absently**: *The dull, absent look on her face implied boredom.*

absent² /əb'sent, əb- \$ əb- / v [T] *formal* **absent** yourself (from sth) to not go to a place or take part in an event where people expect you to be

absentee /əb'senti: / n [C] someone who should be in a place or at an event but is not there

absentee ballot n [C] *AmE* a process by which people can vote before an election because they will be away during the election

absenteeism /əb'senti:zəm/ n [U] regular absence from work or school without a good reason

absentee landlord n [C] someone who lives a long way away from a house or apartment which they rent to other people, and who rarely or never visits it

absentee vote n [C] *AmE* a vote which you send by post in an election because you cannot be in the place where you usually vote **[SYN]** postal vote *BrE*

absentia /əb'sentia/ n *formal* in **absentia** when you are not at a court or an official meeting where a decision is made about you

absent-ly /əb'senti/ *adv* in a way that shows that you are not paying attention to or thinking about what is happening: *Laura gazed absently out of the window.*

absent-minded *adj* likely to forget things, especially because you are thinking about something else **[SYN]** forgetful: *Grandad's been getting rather absent-minded lately.* — **absent-mindedly** *adv* — **absent-mindedness** n [U]

absinthe /əb'sɪnθ/ n [U] a bitter green very strong alcoholic drink

absolute¹ /əb'səlu:t/ ●●● [S3] *adj*

1 complete or total: *I have absolute confidence in her.* | *We don't know with absolute certainty that the project will succeed.*

2 [only before noun] especially *BrE* *informal* used to emphasize your opinion about something or someone: *Some of the stuff on TV is absolute rubbish.* | *How did you do that? You're an absolute genius.* | *That meal last night cost an absolute fortune.*

3 definite and not likely to change: *We need absolute proof that he took the money.*

4 not restricted or limited: *an absolute monarch* | *Parents used to have absolute power over their children.*

5 true, correct, and not changing in any situation: *You have an absolute right to refuse medical treatment.*

6 in **absolute terms** measured by itself, not in comparison with other things: *In absolute terms wages have risen, but not in comparison with the cost of living.*

absolute² n [C] something that is considered to be true or right in all situations: *She believed in the importance of moral absolutes.*

absolutely! *spoken* used to say that you completely agree with someone

absolute majority n [singular] when a party or person wins more than half of the total votes in an election

absolute zero n [U] the lowest temperature that is believed to be possible

ab-so-lu-tion /əb'səlu:ʃən/ n [U] when someone is formally forgiven by the Christian Church or a priest for the things they have done wrong: *Pope Leo gave him absolution.*

ab-so-lu-tis-m /əb'səlu:tɪzəm/ n [U] a political system in which a ruler has complete power and authority

absolve /əb'zɒlv \$ -ɑ:lv/ v [T] **1** to say publicly that someone is not guilty or responsible for something: **absolve sb from/of sth** *He cannot be absolved of all responsibility for the accident.* **2** if someone is absolved by the Christian Church or a priest for something they have done wrong, they are formally forgiven → **absolution**

absorb /əb'sɔ:b, əb'zɔ:b \$ -ɔ:rɪb/ ●●● [W3] v [T]

1 **[LIQUID/GAS]** to take in liquid, gas, or another substance from the surface or space around something: *Plants absorb nutrients from the soil.* | *absorb sth into sth* *Water and salts are absorbed into our bloodstream.*

2 **[INFORMATION]** to read or hear a large amount of new information and understand it: *Her capacity to absorb information is amazing.*

3 **[INTEREST]** to interest someone so much that they do not pay attention to other things: *The movement and noise of the machines absorbed him completely.* | **be absorbed in sth** *Judith lay on the settee, absorbed in her book.*

4 **[BECOME PART OF STH]** to become part of something larger: *California absorbs many of the legal immigrants to the US.* | **be absorbed into sth** *We were soon absorbed into local village life.*

5 **[LIGHT/HEAT/ENERGY/NOISE]** if something absorbs light, heat, energy, or noise, it takes it in: *Darker surfaces absorb heat.*

6 **[DEAL WITH CHANGE/COSTS]** if something absorbs changes or costs, it accepts them and deals with them successfully: *The beer industry had absorbed a doubling of federal tax in 1991.*

7 **[MONEY/TIME]** if something absorbs money, time etc, it uses a lot of it: *Defence spending absorbs almost 20% of the country's wealth.*

8 **[FORCE]** to reduce the effect of a sudden violent movement: *A well-designed sports shoe should absorb the impact on your feet.*

ab-sor-bent /əb'sɔ:bənt, -'zɔ:- \$ -ɔ:r-/ *adj* material that is absorbent is able to take in liquids easily

[OPP] non-absorbent: *absorbent kitchen paper*

ab-sor-bing /əb'sɔ:bɪŋ, -'zɔ:- \$ -ɔ:r-/ *adj* enjoyable and interesting, and keeping your attention for a long time: *an absorbing hobby* **[THESAURUS]** INTERESTING

ab-sorp-tion /əb'sɔ:pʃən, -'zɔ:p- \$ -ɔ:r-/ n [U] **1** a process in which something takes in liquid, gas, or heat: **[+of]** *the body's absorption of iron* **2** a process in which people or things become part of something larger: **[+of]** *the absorption of Soviet immigrants into Israel* **3** when you are very interested in something: **[+with/in]** *I don't understand James' absorption with military history.*

ab-stain /əb'steɪn/ ●●● v [I]

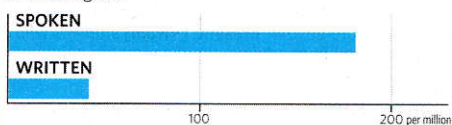
1 to choose not to vote for or against something: *Six countries voted for the change, five voted against, and two abstained.*

2 to not do or have something you enjoy, especially alcohol or sex, usually for reasons of religion or health: **[+from]** *Pilots must abstain from alcohol for 24 hours before flying.*

ab-ste-mi-ous /əb'sti:mɪəs/ *adj* *formal* careful not to have too much food, drink etc — **abstemiousness** n [U]

ab-sten-tion /əb'stenʃən/ n **1** [C,U] an act of not voting for or against something: *The draft law was passed by 134 votes to 19, with 5 abstentions.* **2** [U] *formal* when you do not do something you enjoy doing: **[+from]** *fasting and abstention from intoxicating drinks*

Frequencies of the adverb **absolutely** in spoken and written English.



This graph shows that the adverb **absolutely** is much more common in spoken English than in written English. This is because it is used to emphasize adjectives like brilliant, stupid, fantastic etc in spoken English.

ab-so-lute-ly /əb'səlu:tli, əb'sə'lu:tli/ ●●● [S1] [W3] *adv*

1 completely and in every way: *He made his reasons for resigning absolutely clear.* | *Are you absolutely sure?* | *This cake is absolutely delicious.*

2 used to emphasize something: *The burglars took absolutely everything.* | *Jim knew absolutely nothing about the business when he joined the firm.* | *He has absolutely no experience of marketing.*

3 **absolutely not!** *spoken* used when you strongly disagree with someone or when you do not want someone to do something: *'Do you let your kids travel alone at night?'* *'Absolutely not!'*