
Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary



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Introduction

It seems a very long time since I first heard about the death of printed dictionaries. I was assured, very confidently, in the early 1980s, that everything would be electronic by the new century. Nobody would bother to flick through 1600 pages when they could just hit the 'enter' key.

Well we are now well into the new century and people seem just as keen to buy the printed book. You may well have bought a version of this *Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary* with a CD-ROM attached, but the medium which you are currently using to read these words is the same medium that was used in the first Cambridge University Press book in 1584 – paper and ink. So why has the printed dictionary survived so well?

Maybe people see their dictionary as a friend. Perhaps a bond is created in all the hours that a learner spends together with a dictionary. Perhaps some of the character of the book rubs off on the reader. And what kind of character would they find in the *Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary*?

Friendly, that would be one part of the character. We have made the page as friendly and easy to read as possible, with coloured printing to make the words easier to find, and with a special clear way of showing idioms and phrasal verbs. We have also included an 'Idiom Finder' at the back of the dictionary so that you can find idioms even if you don't know which part of the dictionary to look in.

'Helpful' would also be part of the character. You will find 'Common Learner Error' notes

spread throughout the dictionary, to make sure that you don't make the mistakes that many learners make. The notes are based on the Cambridge Learner Corpus, which is a 15-million word collection of learners' English based on what students have written in the Cambridge exams from Cambridge ESOL. This corpus means that we can really see what learners' English is like – and find ways to make it even better.

'Well-informed' is certainly part of the character. You will find thousands of up-to-date words as you look through the dictionary, including many that have only just come into the language. We can make sure that these important new words are included because we have the huge Cambridge International Corpus to help us. This has over 500 million words from British English and American English, from spoken English and written English, and from many specialized types of English, such as Law and Computers and Science.

If you find that the character of the *Cambridge Advanced Learner's Dictionary* is one that appeals to you, then I should point out that you are actually making friends with a large group of talented people who created this book and its predecessor, the *Cambridge International Dictionary of English*. All of them have an excellent 'feel for language' and a clear understanding of what learners need to know. The corpus resources can give us information, but only good lexicographers can put it into a book that you can make friends with. I hope you enjoy getting to know them.

Patrick Gillard
January 2003

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] ABBREVIATION FOR **amp** ELECTRICITY

a [NOT PARTICULAR] 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
an 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'fɔː/ (US) /-'fɔːr/ 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

aaah /'ɑː/ exclamation ANOTHER SPELLING OF **ah**

aardvark /'ɑːd.vɑːk/ (US) /'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

abandon [LEAVE] /ə'bæn.dən/ 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'bæn.dən.d/ adj: *An abandoned baby was found in a box on the hospital steps.* **abandonment** /ə'bæn.dən.mənt/ noun [U] *The abandonment of the island followed nuclear tests in the area.*

abandon [STOP] /ə'bæn.dən/ verb [I] 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'bæn.dən.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'bæn.dən/ 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 **abatement** /ə'beɪ.smənt/ noun [U] *The pilgrims knelt in self-abatement.*

abashed /ə'bæʃt/ adj [after v] 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/ (US) /-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** /əˈbrɪ.vi.eɪ.tɪd/ (US /-tɪd/) *adj.* *'Di'* is the abbreviated form of *'Diane.'* **abbreviation** /əˈbrɪ.vi.eɪ.ʃən/ *noun* [C] *'ITV'* is the abbreviation for *'Independent Television.'*

ABC [ALPHABET] /ˌeɪ.biːˈsiː/ *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] /ˌeɪ.biːˈsiː/ *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] /ˈæb.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** /ˌæb.dɪˈkeɪ.ʃən/ *noun* [C or U]

abdicate [NOT DO] /ˈæb.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 /ˌæb.dɪˈkeɪ.ʃən/ *noun* [U] *FORMAL* *The council denied that their decision represented any abdication of responsibility.*

abdomen /ˈæb.də.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** /ˌæb.dəm.ɪ.nəl/ (US /-ˈdɑː.mə-/) *adj.* *abdominal pains*

abdominals /ˌæb.dəm.ɪ.nəlz/ (US /-ˈdɑː.mə-/) *plural noun* (*INFORMAL abs*) muscles in the abdomen

abduct /æbˈdʌkt/ *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** /æbˈdʌk.ʃən/ *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** /æbˈdʌk.tə/ (US /-tə/) *noun* [C] *She was tortured by her abductors.*

aberrant /əˈber.ɪnt/ *adj* *FORMAL* different from what is typical or usual, especially in an unacceptable way: *aberrant behaviour/sexuality*

aberration /ˌæb.əˈreɪ.ʃən/ *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 /əˈbet/ *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** /əˈbet.ə/ (US /-ˈbet.ə/) *noun* [C]

abeyance /əˈbeɪ.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 /əˈbɔː/ (US /æbˈhɔːr/) *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 /əˈbɔːr.ɪnt/ (US /æbˈhɔːr-/) *adj* *FORMAL* morally very bad: *an abhorrent crime* ○ *Racism of any kind is abhorrent to me.* **abhorrence** /əˈbɔːr.ənts/ (US /æbˈhɔːr-/) *noun* [S or U] *She looked at him in/with abhorrence.* ○ *She has an abhorrence of change.*

abide /əˈbaɪd/ *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 /əˈbaɪ.dɪŋ/ *adj* [before *n*] describes a feeling or memory that you have for a long time: *My abiding memory is of him watering his plants in the garden on sunny afternoons.*

ability [POWER] /əˈbɪl.ɪ.ti/ (US /-ɔː.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.bɪl.ɪ.ti/ (US /-ɔː.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] /ˈæb.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] /ˈæb.dʒekt/ *adj* *FORMAL* showing no pride or respect for yourself: *an abject apology* ○ *He is almost abject in his respect for his boss.* **abjectly** /ˈæb.dʒekt.li/ *adv*

abjure /əbˈdʒʊə/ (US /-dʒʊr/) *verb* [T] *VERY 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] /əˈbleɪz/ *adj* [after *v*] **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] /əˈbleɪz/ *adj* [after *v*] full of energy, interest or emotion: *Her eyes were ablaze with excitement.*

able [CAN DO] /ˈeɪ.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**.

USAGE

be able to

be able to is used instead of **can** when future tenses, perfect tenses, etc. are used.

I can't find your book.

I haven't been able to find your book.

able [SKILFUL] /ˈeɪ.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**.

ably /ˈeɪ.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 /ˌeɪ.blˈbɒd.ɪd/ (US /-ˈbɑː.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 /əˈbluː.ʃən/ *noun* [U] *FORMAL* the act of washing yourself: *Ablution is part of some religious ceremonies.*

ablutions /əˈbluː.ʃənz/ *plural noun* *HUMOROUS* *I must just perform my ablutions* (= wash myself!)

abnormal /æbˈnɔː.məl/ (US /-ˈnɔːr-/) *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 /ˌæb.nɔː'mæl.ə.ti/ (US) /-nɔːr'mæl.ə.ti/ *noun* [C or U] something abnormal, unusual, 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** /ˌæb'nɔː.məl.i/ (US) /-nɔːr-i/ *adv*: The success rate was **abnormally high**.

Abo /ˌæb.əʊ/ (US) /-oʊ/ *noun* [C] plural **Abos** AUS an Aborigine. This word is generally considered offensive.

aboard /ə'boːd/ (US) /-bɔːrd/ *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/ (US) /-boud/ *noun* [C usually sing] the place where someone lives: *FORMAL The defendant is of no fixed abode* (= has no permanent home). ○ HUMOROUS Welcome to my **humble abode!**

abolish /ə'boʊl.ɪʃ/ (US) /-bɑːl.ɪʃ/ *verb* [T] to end an activity or custom officially: *I think bullfighting should be abolished.* ○ National Service was abolished in Britain in 1962. **abolition** /ˌæb.ə'ɪʃ.ən/ *noun* [U] *William Wilberforce campaigned for the abolition of slavery.*

abolitionist /ˌæb.ə'ɪʃ.ən.ɪst/ *noun* [C] a person who supports the abolition of something

abominable /ə'boʊm.ɪ.nə.bl/ (US) /-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.blɪ/ (US) /-bɑː.mɪ-/ *adv*: He behaved **abominably** towards her.

abominable snowman *noun* [C] a yeti

abomination /ˌæb.ɔːm.ɪ'neɪ.ʃən/ (US) /-bɑː.mɪ-/ *noun* [C] *FORMAL* something that disgusts you: *Foxhunting is an abomination.*

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

aboriginal /ˌæb.ə'ɪdʒ.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 /ˌæb.ə'ɪdʒ.ən.i/ *noun* [C] a member of the race of dark-skinned people who were the first people to live in Australia **Aboriginal** /ˌæb.ə'ɪdʒ.ɪ.nəl/ *adj*: *Aboriginal art/traditions*

Aboriginal /ˌæb.ə'ɪdʒ.ɪ.nəl/ *noun* [C] an Aborigine

abort [STOP] /ə'boːt/ (US) /-bɔːt/ *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'boː.tʃən/ (US) /-bɔːr-/ *noun* [C] *SLANG* a failure: *This project is a complete abortion.*

abortive /ə'boː.tɪv/ (US) /-bɔːr.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'boːt/ (US) /-bɔːr/ *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 foetuses for medical research?* 2 [I] another word for **miscarry**, see at **miscarriage**

abortion /ə'boː.tʃən/ (US) /-bɔːr-/ *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'boː.tʃən.ɪst/ (US) /-bɔːr-/ *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] /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] /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* /ə'baʊt/ *adv, prep, adj* [after v] (*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] /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/ (US) /-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] /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] /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 [RANK] /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.*

above [ON PAGE] /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 to the conference.*

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

above-mentioned /ə'baʊv'men.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 for best director.* ☞ Compare **undermentioned**.

abracadabra /ˌæb.rə.kə'dæb.rə/ *exclamation* said by someone who is performing a magic trick, in order to

help them perform it successfully

abrade /ə'breɪd/ *verb* [T] *SPECIALIZED* to remove part of the surface of something by rubbing

abrasion /ə'breɪ.ʒən/ *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] /ə'breɪ.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** /ə'breɪ.sɪv/ *adj*: *an abrasive cleaner/powder/liquid*

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

abreast /ə'breɪst/ *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.* ○ *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 /ə'brɪdʒd/ *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 /ə'brɪdʒd/ *adj*: *I've only read the abridged edition/version of her novel.* **abridgment, abridge-**
ment /ə'brɪdʒ.mənt/ *noun* [C or U]

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

abroad [OUT] /ə'brɔːd/ *adj* [after v] **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 /ə'brɔːɡeɪt/ (S) /-rə-/ *verb* [T] FORMAL to end a law, agreement or custom formally: *The treaty was abrogated in 1929.* **abrogation** /ə'brɔːɡeɪ.ʃən/ (S) /-rə-/ *noun* [S or U]

abrupt [SUDDEN] /ə'brʌpt/ *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** /ə'brʌpt.li/ *adv*: *The talks ended abruptly when one of the delegations walked out in protest.* **abruptness** /ə'brʌpt.nəs/ *noun* [U]

abrupt [UNFRIENDLY] /ə'brʌpt/ *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** /ə'brʌpt.li/ *adv* **abruptness** /ə'brʌpt.nəs/ *noun* [U]

ABS /eɪ.bi.'es/ *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 /'æb.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] /æb'skɒnd/ (S) /-'skɑːnd/ *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 /æb'skɒn.də/ (S) /-'skɑːn.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] /æb'skɒnd/ (S) /-'skɑːnd/ *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.*

abseil UK /'æb.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 abseiled down the rock face.*

abseil UK /'æb.seɪl/ *noun* [C] (US **rappel**)

absence [NOT PRESENT] /'æb.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 /'æb.sənt/ *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.*

absent yourself /'æb'sent/ *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 /,æb.sən'tiː/ *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** /,æb.sən'tiː.ɪ.zəm/ *noun* [U] *The high rate of absenteeism is costing the company a lot of money.*

absence [NOT EXISTING] /'æb.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 /'æb.sənt/ *adj* not present: *Any sign of remorse was completely absent from her face.*

absent /'æb.sənt/ *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 **absently** /'æb.sən.tli/ *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 /,æb.sənt'maɪn.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** /,æb.sənt'maɪn.dɪd.li/ *adv*: *She absent-mindedly left her umbrella on the bus.* **absent-mindedness** /,æb.sənt'maɪn.dɪd.nəs/ *noun* [U]

absinthe, absinth /'æb.sæθ/ /-sɪnθ/ (S) /-'-/ *noun* [U] a strong alcoholic drink which is green and has a bitter taste

absolute [VERY GREAT] /,æb.sə'ljuːt/ /'---/ *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 n] used when expressing a strong opinion: *He's an absolute idiot!* ○ *That's absolute rubbish!*

absolutely /,æb.sə'ljuːt.li/ /'---/ *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] /,æb.sə'ljuːt/ /'---/ *adj* [before n] 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] /,æb.sə'ljuːt/ /'---/ *adj* describes a ruler who has unlimited power: *an absolute monarch* **absolutism** /'æb.sə'ljuː.tɪ.zəm/ (S) /-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 /əb'zɒlv/ (S) /-'zɔ:l/v/ *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 /,æb.'sɔ:lju:.'ʃn/ *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 /əb'zɔ:rb/ (S) /-'zɔ:r/b/ *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.* ☞ 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 /əb'zɔ:r.bənt/ (S) /-'zɔ:r-/ *adj* able to take liquid in through the surface and to hold it: *absorbent paper*

absorbency /əb'zɔ:r.bənt.si/ (S) /-'zɔ:r-/ *noun* [U] the ability to absorb liquid

absorption /əb'zɔ:p.'ʃn/ (S) /-'zɔ:r/p-/ *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.* ☞ See also **self-absorption** at **self-absorbed**.

absorbing /əb'zɔ:r.biŋ/ (S) /-'zɔ:r-/ *adj* describes something that is very interesting and keeps your attention: *I read her last novel and found it very absorbing.*

abstain [NOT DO] /æb'steɪn/ *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 /æb'steɪ.nə/ (S) /-nə/ *noun* [C] **abstention** /æb'stent.'ʃn/ *noun* [U] FORMAL *Abstinence from alcohol is essential while you are taking this medication.* **abstinence** /'æb.stɪ.nənts/ *noun* [U] *The best way to avoid pregnancy is total abstinence from sex.*

abstain [NOT VOTE] /æb'steɪn/ *verb* [I] to decide not to use your vote: *63 members voted in favour, 39 opposed and 5 abstained.* **abstainer** /æb'steɪ.nə/ (S) /-nə/ *noun* [C] **abstention** /æb'stent.'ʃn/ *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 /æb'sti:mi.əs/ *adj* FORMAL not doing things which give you pleasure, especially not eating good food or drinking alcohol

abstract [GENERAL] /'æb.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 /æb'stræk.'ʃn/ *noun* [C] FORMAL *She's always talking in abstractions (= in a general way, without real examples).*

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

abstract [SHORT DOCUMENT] /'æb.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 /æb'stræk.tɪd/ *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 /æb'stræk.tɪd.li/ *adv*

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.* ☞ Compare **concrete noun**.

abstruse /æb'stru:s/ *adj* FORMAL difficult to understand: *an abstruse philosophical essay*

absurd /əb'sɜ:d/ (S) /-'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 /əb'sɜ:d.li/ (S) /-'sɜ:d-/ *adv*: *You're behaving absurdly.* ○ *It was absurdly (= unreasonably) expensive.*

absurdity /əb'zɜ:.'dɪ.ti/ /-'sɜ:r-/ (S) /-'zɜ:.'dɪ.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 /'æb.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 /ə'bʌn.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** /ə'bʌn.dənts/ *noun* [S or U] *There was an abundance of wine at the wedding.* ○ *We had wine in abundance.*

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

abuse [BEHAVIOUR] /ə'bju: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 /ə'bju:s/ *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 /ə'bju:zə/ (S) /-'zɜ:/ *noun* [C] someone who abuses someone or something: *a child abuser* ○ *a drug/solvent abuser*

abuse [SPEECH] /ə'bju:z/ *verb* [T] to speak to someone rudely or cruelly: *The crowd started abusing him after he failed to save a goal.*

abuse /ə'bju:s/ *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 /ə'bju:si/ *adj* using rude and offensive words: *an abusive letter/telephone call* ○ *He was apparently abusive to the flight attendants because they refused to serve him alcohol.*

abut /ə'bat/ *verb* [T no passive; I + prep] -tt- 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'buzz/ *adj* [after v] 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'biz.məl/ *adj* very bad: *abysmal working conditions* ○ *The food was abysmal.* ○ *The standard of the students' work is abysmal.* **abysmally** /ə'biz.məl.i/ *adv*: *an abysmally poor book*

abyss /ə'bis/ *noun* [C usually sing] **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] /ˌæ.kə'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** /ˌæ.kə'dem.ɪ.kli/ *adv*: *She's always done well academically.* ○ *It may be that a child is bright, but not academically inclined.*

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

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

academic [THEORETICAL] /ˌæ.kə'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 /ə'kæd.ə'mi.jən/ *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 /ˌæ.kə'pel.ə/ (US /ɑː-/ *adj* [before n], *adv* SPECIALIZED sung by a group of people without the help of any musical instruments

accede /ək'si:di/ *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 diaries were written in 1837 when Queen Victoria acceded to the throne.*

accession /ək'seɪ.ʃən/ *noun* [U] 1926 was the year of Emperor Hirohito's accession to the throne.

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

accelerate [HAPPEN FASTER] /ək'sel.ə'reɪt/ (US /-ə.eɪt/ *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* [S or U] *The acceleration in the decline of manufacturing industry is being blamed on the high value of sterling.*

accent [PRONUNCIATION] /'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** /-tɪd/ (US /-tɪd/ *adj*: *He spoke in heavily accented English.*

accent [MARK] /'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.*

accentuate /ək'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] /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 accepted 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.ɪ.ti/ (US /-ə.ti/ *noun* [U] **acceptance** /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] /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 /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 /ək'sept.ənts/ *noun* [C or U] I've had acceptances 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'sept.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] /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.

access /'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 /'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 /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/ [U] /-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.*

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

accessory [EXTRA] /ək'ses.ɪ.ɪ/ [U] /-ɪ-/ *noun* [C usually pl] 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, UK USUALLY **-ise** /ək'ses.ɪ.aɪz/ [U] /-ɪ-.aɪz/ *verb* [T] MAINLY US 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.ɪ.ɪ/ [U] /-ɪ-/ *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 sing] SPECIALIZED the time it takes a computer to find information

accident /'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). ○ I didn't mean to knock him over - it was an accident. 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 /'æ.k.sɪ.dən.tʃəl/ [U] /-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.ɪ/ [U] /-tʃəl-/ *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/ [U] /-,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 Parties', 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'kleɪ.mə.taɪz/ [U] /-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 conditions. ○ 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 **-isation** /ə'kleɪ.mə.taɪ'zeɪ.ʃən/ [U] /-tʃən/ *noun* [U]

accolade /'æ.k.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] /ə'kɒm.ə.deɪt/ [U] /-ka: mə- / *verb* [T] 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 /ə'kɒm.ə'deɪ.ʃən/ [U] /-ka: 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 /ə.kəm.ə'dei.fənz/ (US) /-kɑː.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 [SUITE] /ə.kəm.ə'deɪt/ (US) /-kɑː.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 /ə.kəm.ə'deɪ.tɪŋ/ (US) /-kɑː.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.

accompaniment /ə.kəm.pə'nɪ.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] /ə.kəm.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 /ə.kəm.pə.ni.ɪŋ/ 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] /ə.kəm.pə.ni/ verb [T] to sing or play an instrument with another musician or singer: Miss Jessop accompanied Mr Bentley on the piano.

accompaniment /ə.kəm.pə'nɪ.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** /ə.kəm.pə.nɪst/ noun [C] The singer's accompanist on the piano was Charles Harman.

accomplice /ə.kəm.plɪs/ (US) /-kɑːm-/ noun [C] a person who helps someone else to commit a crime or to do something morally wrong

accomplish /ə.kəm.plɪʃ/ (US) /-kɑːm-/ 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 /ə.kəm.plɪʃ.mənt/ (US) /-kɑːm-/ 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. 2 [U] the completion of something: We celebrated the successful accomplishment of our task.

accomplished /ə.kəm.plɪʃt/ (US) /-kɑːm-/ adj skilled: She's a very accomplished pianist/painter/horsewoman. ○ He was accomplished in all the arts.

accomplishment /ə.kəm.plɪʃ.mənt/ (US) /-kɑːm-/ noun [C] a skill: Cordon-bleu cookery is just one of her many accomplishments. 2 See also accomplishment at accomplish.

accord [AGREEMENT] /ə.kɔːrd/ (US) /-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 /ə.kɔːdəns/ (US) /-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 /ə.kɔː.dɪŋ.lɪ/ (US) /-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] /ə.kɔːrd/ (US) /-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] 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] 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 /ə.kɔː.dɪ.ən/ (US) /-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 /ə.kɔːst/ (US) /-kɔːst/ 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] /ə.kəʊnt/ (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 [SHOP] /ə.kəʊnt/ 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 [REPORT] /ə.kəʊnt/ 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 eyewitnesses' 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] /ə.kəʊnt/ 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/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 [JUDGE] /ə'kaʊnt/ verb [T + obj + n or adj] FORMAL to think of someone or something in the stated way; judge: *She was accounting 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] 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** [BE] phrasal verb to form the total of something: *Students account for the vast majority of our customers.*

accountable /ə'kaʊn.tə.bəl/ [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 must be accountable to the public who elected them.*

accountability /ə'kaʊn.tə'bɪl.ɪ.ti/ [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 /ə'kaʊn.tənt/ [tə'nt/ 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/ [tə'nt-/ noun [U] (US **accounting**) the job of being an accountant: *He works in accountancy.* ◦ *an accountancy firm*

accounting /ə'kaʊn.tɪŋ/ [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.*

accoutrements, US ALSO **accouterments** /ə'ku:trə.mənts/ [ə'ku:trə.mənts/ 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/ [tɪd/ adj officially recognized or approved: *an accredited drama school* ◦ *accredited war correspondents* **accreditation** /ə'kred.ɪ'teɪ.ʃən/ [tɪ'teɪ-/ noun [U] *The college received/was given full accreditation in 1965.*

accrue /ə'kru:ɪ/ 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.*

accrue /ə'kru:ɪ/ 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 /ə'kju:ɹmju.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'kju:ɹmju.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'kju:ɹmju.leɪ.təʃ/ [təʃ/ noun [C] (US **storage battery**) a battery that collects and stores electricity

accurate /ə'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.* * NOTE: The opposite is **inaccurate**. **accurately** /ə'æk.ju.rət.li/ adv: *The plans should be drawn as accurately as possible, showing all the measurements.*

accuracy /ə'æk.ju.rə.sɪ/ noun [U] *We can predict changes with a surprising degree of accuracy.*

accused /ə'kɜ:sd/ [-'kɜ:st/ [kɜ:st/ adj [before n] OLD USE very annoying: *I can't get around like I used to – it's this accused rheumatism!*

accusative /ə'kju:zə.tɪv/ [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'kju:zə.tɪv/ [tɪv/ adj: *the accusative plural*

accuse /ə'kju:z/ 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 /ə'æk.ju'zeɪ.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 /ə'kju:zə.tɪv/ [æk.ju'zeɪ.tɪv/ [tɪv/ 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 + sing or pl v] LEGAL the person who is on trial in a court, or the person on trial in a court: *The accused protested her innocence.* ◦ *The accused were all found guilty.* **accuser** /ə'kju:zəʃ/ [zəʃ/ noun [C]

accusing /ə'kju:zɪŋ/ adj: *an accusing glance/look* **accusingly** /ə'kju:zɪŋ.li/ adv: *"Has this dog been fed today?" she asked accusingly.*

accustom /ə'kʌs.təm/ verb

▲ **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 /ə'kʌs.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 /ə'sɜː.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** /ə'sɜː.bə.ti/ (US) /-sɜː.ti/ *noun* [U]

acetaminophen /ə'sɪ.tə'mɪn.ə.fen/ (US) /-tə-/ *noun* [C or U] plural acetaminophens or acetaminophen US FOR paracetamol

acetate /'æ.s.1.teɪt/ *noun* [U] a chemical substance made from ACETIC ACID, or a smooth artificial cloth made from this

acidic acid /ə'sɪ.tɪk'æs.ɪd/ (US) /-tɪk-/ *noun* [U] a colourless acid with a strong smell which is contained in vinegar

acetone /'æ.s.1.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 /ə'set.ə.lɪn/ (US) /-set-/ *noun* [U] a colourless gas which burns with a very hot bright flame, used in cutting and joining metal

ache /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** /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 /'eɪ.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 /ə'tʃiːv/ *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 /ə'tʃiː.və.bəl/ *adj* describes a task, etc. that is possible to achieve: *Before you set your targets, make sure that they are achievable.*

achiever /ə'tʃiː.və/ (US) /-və-/ *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

achievement /ə'tʃiː.v.mənt/ *noun* [C or U] something very good and difficult that you have succeeded in doing: *Whichever way you look at it, 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 /ə.kɪl.iːz'hɪəl/ *noun* [C usually sing] 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 /ə.kɪl.iːz'ten.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 /'eɪ.kɪŋ.li/ *adv* LITERARY extremely: *Sung by the world's greatest tenor, this aria is achingly beautiful.*

achoo /ə'tʃuː/ *exclamation* **atishoo**

acid [LIQUID SUBSTANCE] /'æs.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 /'æs.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.* **acidify** /ə'sɪd.ɪ.fai/ *verb* [I or T] **acidity** /ə'sɪd.ɪ.ti/ (US) /-ə.ti/ *noun* [U] *High acidity levels in the water mean that the fish are not so large.*

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

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

acid jazz /'æs.ɪd'jæz/ *noun* [U] a style of popular dance music which is a mix of FUNK, SOUL and jazz

acidophilus /,æ.s.ɪ'dɒf.ɪ.ləs/ (US) /,æ.s.ɪ'dɑː.fɪ.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 /'æs.ɪd'reɪn/ *noun* [U] rain which contains large amounts of harmful chemicals as a result of burning substances such as coal and oil

the 'acid test /'æs.ɪd'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 /ək'nɒl.ɪdʒ/ (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/ (US) /-nɑː.lɪdʒ.mənt/ *noun* [C or U] *We sent her a copy of the book in acknowledgment (= as a 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/ (US) /-nɑː.lɪdʒ.mənts/ *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 /'di.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.ə.laɪt/ *noun* [C] FORMAL OR SPECIALIZED any follower or helper, or someone who helps a priest in some religious ceremonies

acorn /'eɪ.kɔːn/ (US) /-kɔːrn/ *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 instru-

ment that is not made louder by electrical equipment: *an acoustic guitar*

acoustic /ə'ku:..stɪk/ *noun* [C usually pl] 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'ku:..stɪ.kli/ *adv*

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

acquaint /ə'kwemɪt/ *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'kwem.ɪntns/ *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'kwem.ɪntnɪp/ *noun* [C or U] *FORMAL* *Ours was a strictly professional acquaintanceship* (= relationship).

acquainted /ə'kwem.tɪd/ (US /-tɪd/) *adj* [after v] *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'kwem.tɪd/ (US /-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 /æ.kwi'es/ *verb* [I] *FORMAL* to accept or agree to something, often unwillingly: *Reluctantly, he acquiesced to/in the plans.*

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

acquire /ə'kwɑ:ʃ/ (US /-kwaɪəʃ/) *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'kwɑ:ɪrɪ/ (US /-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 /æ.kwɪ'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/ (US /-ɪz.ɪv/) *adj* *FORMAL MAINLY DISAPPROVING* eager to possess and collect things: *We live in an acquisitive society which views success primarily in terms of material possessions.*

acquit [DECIDE NOT GUILTY] /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.ɪ/ (US /-kwɪt.ɪ/) *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/ (US /-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.kə.rɪdʒ/ (US /-kə-/) *noun* [U] *What acreage is her estate* (= How big is it, measured in acres)?

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

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

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

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

acronym /'æ.k.rəʊ.nɪm/ (US /-'rɔ-/) *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/ (US /-'krɑ:ʃ/) *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/ (US /-'krɑ:ʃ/) *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.*

acrostic /ə'krɒs.tɪk/ (US /-'krɑ: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 /ə'krɪl.ɪk/ *adj* made of a substance or cloth produced by chemical processes from a type of acid: *an acrylic scarf/sweater* ○ *acrylic paint*

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

act [DO SOMETHING] /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.* **act** /ækt/ *noun* [C] an *act of aggression/bravery/madness/terrorism* ○ *a kind/thoughtless/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 /'æ.k.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] /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 /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* ◦ *Your 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 /'æk.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 /'æk.tə/ ⑤ /-tə/ 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 lawmakers: *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] *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] *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).

action [DOING SOMETHING] /'æk.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** 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] /'æk.ʃən/ noun [C] **1** something that you do: *She has to accept the consequences 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] /'æk.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 [WAR] /'æk.ʃən/ 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.ʃən/ 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 [EFFECT] /'æk.ʃən/ noun [S] the effect something has on another thing: *They recorded the action of the drug on the nervous system.*

action [LEGAL PROCESS] /'æk.ʃən/ 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.ʃən.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.ʃən/ verb [I 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.ʃən'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/ ⑤ /-tɪ-/ 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.ʃən/ ⑤ /-tɪ-/ noun [U]

active [BUSY/INVOLVED] /'æk.tɪv/ *adj* **1** busy with or ready to perform a particular activity: *physically and 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 /'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] /'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.zəm/ *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 /'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**

activity [MOVEMENT] /'æk.tɪv.ɪ.tɪ/ (S) /-ə.tɪ/ *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 **sturry** of **activity** when the director walked in.

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

activity [ENJOYMENT] /'æk.tɪv.ɪ.tɪ/ (S) /-ə.tɪ/ *noun* [C usually pl] 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 *noun* [C] (ALSO **actress**) ◻ See at **act** [PERFORM].

actual /'æk.tʃu.əl/ /-tju-/ /-tʃoʊl/ *adj* [before n] 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.əl.ə.tɪ/ /-tju-/ (S) /-ə.tɪ/ *noun* [C usually pl] 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] /'æk.tʃu.əl.ɪ/ /-tju-/ /-tʃoʊ.li/ *adv* in fact or really: I didn't **actually** see her – I just heard her voice. ◦ So what **actually** happened?

actually [SURPRISE] /'æk.tʃu.əl.ɪ/ /-tju-/ /-tʃoʊ.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] /'æk.tʃu.əl.ɪ/ /-tju-/ /-tʃoʊ.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.rɪ/ (S) /-r.ɪ/ *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 /'æk.ju.ə.tɪ/ (S) /-ə.tɪ/ *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.'ʌk/ INTERNET ABBREVIATION FOR the last part of an Internet address that belongs to a British university or college

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.pʌŋ.ktʃʊ/ (S) /-tʃʊ/ *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] /'æk.ju: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 /'æk.ju: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** /'æk.ju:t.nəs/ *noun* [U]

acute [ACCURATE/CLEVER] /'æk.ju: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** /'æk.ju:t.li/ *adv* **acuteness** /'æk.ju:t.nəs/ *noun* [U]

acute [ANGLE] /'æk.ju: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] /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.* ◦ *Davis 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/ ⑤ /-ə.ti/ *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], **adapter** /ə'dæp.tə/ ⑤ /-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], **adapter** /ə'dæp.tə/ ⑤ /-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.di'si:/ *noun* [C] ABBREVIATION FOR **aide-de-camp**

add /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 /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 /ə'dɪʃ.ən.əl/ *adj* extra: *additional costs/problems* ◦ *There will be an extra charge for any additional passengers.*

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

PHRASAL VERBS WITH **add**

▲ **add (sth) up** *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 doesn't 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.di'di:/ *US ABBREVIATION FOR* Attention Deficit Disorder: a condition in which someone, especially a child, is often in a state of activity or excitement and unable direct their attention towards what they are doing

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

adder /'æd.ə/ ⑤ /-ə/ *noun* [C] a type of poisonous snake

addict /'æd.ɪkt/ *noun* [C] a person who cannot stop doing or using something, especially something harmful: *a drug/heroin addict* ◦ *a gambling addict* ◦ HUMOROUS *I'm a chocolate/shopping addict.*

addicted /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.tʃən/ *noun* [C or U] *drug addiction* ◦ *his addiction to alcohol*

addictive /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.*

additive /'æd.ɪ.tɪv/ ⑤ /-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 /'æd.l/ *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 /'æd.lɪd/ *adj:* MAINLY HUMOROUS *I'm afraid my sun-addled (= confused) brain couldn't make any sense of the instructions.*

add-on /'æd.ən/ ⑤ /-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] /ə'dres/ ⑤ /'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] /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/ ⑤ /'æd.res/ *noun* [C] a formal speech: *She gave an address to the Royal Academy.*

address [DEAL WITH] /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/ ⑤ /-dʊ: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.n.ɔɪd/ *plural noun* the soft mass of flesh between the back of the nose and the throat, which



sometimes makes breathing difficult **adenoidal** /ˌæd.ɪˈnɔɪ.dɪəl/ *adj*

adept /əˈdeɪpt/ *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** /əˈdeɪpt.li/ *adv*

adequate /ˈæd.ə.kwət/ *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?* * NOTE: The opposite is **inadequate**. **adequately** /ˈæd.ə.kwət.li/ *adv*: *While some patients can be adequately cared for at home, others are best served by care in a hospital.* **adequacy** /ˈæd.ə.kwə.sɪ/ *noun* [U] *The adequacy of public health care has been brought into question.*

ADHD /ˌeɪ.dɪr.eɪtʃˈdiː/ *noun* [U] MAINLY UK ABBREVIATION FOR **attention deficit hyperactivity disorder**

adhere /ədˈhɪə/ ⑤ /-ˈhɪr/ *verb* [I] FORMAL to stick firmly: *A smooth, dry surface helps the tiles adhere to the wall.*

adherent /ədˈhɪə.rənt/ ⑤ /-ˈhɪr.ənt/ *adj* FORMAL sticky: *an adherent surface*

adhesion /ədˈhɪː.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 /ədˈhɪə.rənts/ ⑤ /-ˈhɪr.ənts/ *noun* [U] *He was noted for his strict adherence to the rules.*

adherent /ədˈhɪə.rənt/ ⑤ /-ˈhɪr.ənt/ *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 /ədˈhɪː.sɪv/ *noun* [C or U] glue: *You'll need a/ some strong adhesive to mend that chair.*

adhesive /ədˈhɪː.sɪv/ *adj* sticky: *adhesive tape/paper*

ad hoc /ˌædˈhɒk/ ⑤ /-ˈhɔːk/ *adj* [before n] 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 /əˈdjuː/ /-ˈdjuː/ /-ˈduː/ *exclamation* LITERARY OR OLD USE goodbye: *She bade (= said to) him adieu and left.*

ad infinitum /ˌæd.ɪn.fɪˈnæɪ.təm/ ⑤ /-ɪəm/ *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 /ˌæd.iˈɒs/ ⑤ /-ˈoʊs/ *exclamation* MAINLY US INFORMAL goodbye

adipose /ˈæd.i.pəʊs/ /-pəʊz/ ⑤ /-ə.pəʊs/ *adj* [before n] SPECIALIZED of animal fat: *adipose tissue (= fat)*

adj *noun* ABBREVIATION FOR **adjective**

adjacent /ədˈdʒeɪ.sənt/ *adj* FORMAL very near, next to, or touching: *They work in adjacent buildings.* ◦ *They lived in a house adjacent to the railway.*

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

adjoin /ədˈdʒɔɪn/ *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 /ədˈdʒɔɪ.nɪŋ/ *adj*: [before n] *We asked for adjoining rooms (= rooms next to each other).*

adjourn /ədˈdʒɔɪn/ ⑤ /-ˈdʒɔɪn/ *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** /ədˈdʒɔɪn.mənt/ ⑤ /-ˈdʒɔɪn-/ *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 /əˈdʒʌdʒ/ *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.* ◦ [+ n or adj] *In October 1990, Mirchandani was adjudged bankrupt.* ◦ *Fairbanks was adjudged the winner, a decision which has outraged a good few members of the boxing fraternity.*

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

adjudication /əˈdʒʊː.dɪ.keɪ.tʃən/ *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** /əˈdʒʊː.dɪ.keɪ.tɔː/ ⑤ /-tɔː/ *noun* [C] *She acted as adjudicator in the dispute.*

adjunct /ˈædʒ.ʌŋkt/ *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 /əˈdʒʊə/ ⑤ /-ˈdʒʊr/ *verb* [T + to infinitive] FORMAL to ask or order someone to do something: *The judge adjured him to answer truthfully.*

adjust [CHANGE] /əˈdʒʌst.mənt/ *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 /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.mənt/ *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.*

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 n], *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] 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.stə/ ⑤ /-stə/ *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 /ədˈmɪn.ɪ.streɪ.ʃən/ *noun* 1 [U] (INFORMAL **admin**) 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 /ədˈmɪn.ɪ.streɪ.tɪv/ ⑤ /-tɪv/ *adj* relating to the arrangements and work which is needed to con-

control the operation of a plan or organization: **administrative work** ◦ **an administrative problem** ◦ **Your responsibilities will be mainly administrative.** **admin-istratively** /əd'mɪn.ɪs.treɪ.tɪv.li/ ⑤ /-tɪv-/ **adv** **admin-istrator** /əd'mɪn.ɪ.streɪ.təɪ/ ⑤ /-təɪ/ **noun** [C] **From 1969 to 1971, he was administrator of the Illinois state drug abuse program.** ◦ **She works as a school administrator.**

administer [GIVE] /əd'mɪn.ɪ.stəɪ/ ⑤ /-stəɪ/ **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

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

the Admiralty /dɪ'æd.mɪ.rəl.ti/ ⑤ /-tɪ/ **noun** [S] in the past, in Britain, the government department in charge of the navy

admire /əd'maɪə/ ⑤ /-maɪə/ **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 /əd'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 /əd'mɪ.rə.bli/ **adv**: **I think she coped admirably (= very well) with a very difficult situation.**

admiration /əd'mɪ'reɪ.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 /əd'maɪə.rə/ ⑤ /-mɑɪə/ **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 /əd'maɪə.rɪŋ/ ⑤ /-maɪə.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 /əd'maɪə.rɪŋ.li/ ⑤ /-maɪə.rɪŋ-/ **adv**: **The women sitting opposite us were gazing admiringly (= with admiration) at baby Joe.**

admissible /əd'mɪs.ɪ.bəl/ **adj** **FORMAL** considered satisfactory and acceptable in a law court: **The judge ruled that new evidence was admissible.** * **NOTE:** The opposite is **inadmissible.** **admissibility** /əd'mɪs.ə'bɪl.ɪ.ti/ ⑤ /-ɪ.ti/ **noun** [U]

admit [ACCEPT] /əd'mɪt/ **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 /əd'mɪʃ.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 /əd'mɪt.ɪd.li/ ⑤ /-mɪt-/ **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] /əd'mɪt/ **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 /əd'mɪʃ.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 /əd'mɪʃ.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 /əd'mɪt.ənts/ ⑤ /-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 /əd'mɪks.tʃə/ ⑤ /-tʃə/ **noun** [C usually sing] **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 /əd'mɒn.ɪʃ/ ⑤ /-mɑː.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 /əd.mɒn.ɪʃ.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 /əd'mɒn.ɪ.tər.i/ ⑤ /-mɑː.nə.tər.i/ **adj**: **an admonitory remark**

ad nauseam /əd'nɔː.zi.əm/ ⑤ /-nɑː-/ **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 /ə'duː/ **noun** **without further/more** **ado** **without** wasting more time: **And so, without further ado, let me introduce tonight's speaker.**

adobe /ə'dəʊ.bi/ ⑤ /-'dəʊ-/ **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 /əd.ə'les.ənt/ **noun** [C] a young person who is developing into an adult

adolescent /əd.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**

adolescence /əd.ə'les.əns/ **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 /ə'dəʊ.nɪs/ ⑤ /-'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] /ə'dɒpt/ ⑤ /-'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** /ə'dɒp.tɪd/ ⑤ /-'dɑːp-/ **adj**: **They've got two adopted children and one of their own.**

adoption /ə'dɒp.ʃən/ ⑤ /-'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 /ə'dɒp.tɪv/ (US) /-dɑːp-/ *adj* [before n] An adoptive parent is one who has adopted a child.

adopt **[START]** /ə'dɒpt/ (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** /ə'dɒp.fən/ (US) /-dɑːp-/ *noun* [U] *Several suggestions have been offered for adoption by the panel.*

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

adore **[LOVE]** /ə'dɔː/ (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** /æ.də'reɪ.fən/ *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'dɔː/ (US) /-dɔːr/ *verb* [T not continuous] **FORMAL** to worship: *Let us adore God for all his works.* **adoration** /æ.də'reɪ.fən/ /-ɔː-/ (US) /-ɔː-/ *noun* [U] *The painting depicts the three wise men kneeling in adoration of the baby Jesus.*

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

adorning /ə'dɔːn.mən/ (US) /-dɔːrən/ *noun* [C or U] **LITERARY** something decorative, or the act of decorating something or someone

adrenalin, adrenaline /ə'dren.əlɪn/ *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 v] **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.di.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 /æ.d.ju'leɪ.fən/ *noun* [U] very great admiration or praise for someone, especially when it is more than is deserved: *Minelli is a born performer – she loves the excitement and she loves the adulation.*

adulatory /æ.d.ju'leɪ.tər.i/ (US) /'ædʒ.ɪ.ə.tɔɪ.ri/ *adj*: **FORMAL** *I found myself irritated by the adulatory* (= showing too much admiration) *tone of her biography.*

adult /'æd.ʌlt/ /ə'dʌlt/ *noun* [C] a person or animal that has grown to full size and strength: *An adult under British law is someone over 18 years old.* ○ *Adults pay an admission charge but children get in free.*

adult /'æd.ʌlt/ /ə'dʌlt/ *adj* **1** grown to full size and strength: *an adult male/elephant* ○ *She spent most of her adult life in prison.* **2** typical of or suitable for adults: *Let's try to be adult about this.* **3** Adult films, magazines and books show naked people and sexual acts and are not for children.

adulthood /'æd.ʌlt.hʊd/ /ə'dɔlt-/ *noun* [U] the part of someone's life when they are an adult: *People in Britain legally reach adulthood at 18.* ○ *Responsibility, I suppose, is what defines adulthood.*

adult education *noun* [U] classes, which usually take place in the evening, for people who have finished their school education

adulterate /ə'dʌl.tə.reɪt/ (US) /-tə.reɪt/ *verb* [T usually passive] to make food or drink weaker or to lower its quality, by adding something else: *There were complaints that the beer had been adulterated with water.* **adulterated** /ə'dʌl.tə.reɪ.tɪd/ (US) /-tɪd/ *adj*: *adulterated drugs/food* **adulteration** /ə'dʌl.tə'reɪ.fən/ *noun* [U]

adulterer /ə'dʌl.tə.rə/ (US) /-tʃ.ə/ *noun* [C] **OLD USE** a married man who has sex with a woman who is not his wife, or a man who has sex with another man's wife: *Her husband was a compulsive adulterer.*

adulteress /ə'dʌl.tə.rəs/ (US) /-tʃ.ə.s/ *noun* [C] a female adulterer

adultery /ə'dʌl.tər.i/ (US) /-tʃ.i/ *noun* [U] sex between a married man or woman and someone who is not their wife or husband: *Many people in public life have committed adultery.* **adulterous** /ə'dʌl.tərə.s/ (US) /-tʃ-/ *adj*: *He had an adulterous relationship with his wife's best friend.*

adumbrate /'æd.əm.breɪt/ *verb* [T] **FORMAL** to give only the main facts and not the details about something, especially something that will happen in the future: *The project's objectives were adumbrated in the report.*

adumbration /'æd.əm'breɪ.fən/ *noun* [U]

adv *noun* **ABBREVIATION FOR** **adverb**

advance **[FORWARD]** /əd'vɑːnts/ (US) /-vɑːnts/ *verb* [I or T] to go or move something forward, or to develop or improve something: *The fire advanced steadily through the forest.* ○ *The troops advanced on the city* (= approached it, ready to attack). ○ *We have advanced greatly in our knowledge of the universe.* ○ *Her study has considerably advanced* (= helped) *the cause of equal rights.* ○ [+ two objects] *Could you advance me £50* (= pay it to me before the regular time) *until Tuesday?* ○ *He's just trying to advance* (= improve) *his own career.*

advancing /əd'vɑːnt.sɪŋ/ (US) /-vɑːnt-/ *adj*: *He only recently stopped working, due to his advancing years* (= because he is becoming old).

advance /əd'vɑːnts/ (US) /-vɑːnts/ *noun* **1** [C or U] the forward movement of something, or an improvement or development in something: *Nothing could stop the advance of the flood waters.* ○ *Recent advances in medical science mean that this illness can now be cured.* ○ *She asked for a £300 advance on her salary* (= money paid before the regular time). **2** [C usually pl] an attempt to start a romantic relationship with someone: *She rejected his unwelcome advances.*

● in **advance** before a particular time, or before doing a particular thing: *If you're going to come, please let me know in advance.*

● in **advance of sth/sb** **FORMAL** before something or someone: *She arrived in advance of everyone else.*

advance /əd'vɑːnts/ (US) /-vɑːnts/ *adj* [before n] happening, done or ready before an event: *advance payment/booking* ○ *We got no advance warning/notice of the changes.*

advanced /əd'vɑːntst/ (US) /-vɑːntst/ *adj* **1** highly developed: *This is the most advanced type of engine available.* **2** at a higher, more difficult level: *an advanced English course* **3** **US** **advanced class/course** a school class which is doing work of a higher standard than is usual for students at that stage in their education

advancement /əd'vɑːnt.smənt/ (US) /-vɑːnt-/ *noun* [U] *All she was interested in was the advancement* (= improve-

ment, development) of her own career.

advance ^[SUGGEST] /ədˈvɑːnts/ [Ⓞ] /-vɑːnts/ *verb* [T] **FORMAL** to suggest an idea or theory: *the theory advanced in this article*

ad,vance di'rective *noun* [C] a living will

advantage /ədˈvɑːn.tɪdʒ/ [Ⓞ] /-væn.tɪdʒ/ *noun* **1** [C or U] a condition giving a greater chance of success: *The advantage of booking tickets in advance is that you get better seats.* [Ⓞ] *Despite the twin advantages of wealth and beauty, she did not have a happy life.* [Ⓞ] [+ to infinitive] *It would be to your advantage (= It would improve the situation for you) to agree to his demands.* [Ⓞ] *For a goalkeeper, it's a great advantage to have big hands.* [Ⓞ] *His height and reach give him a big advantage over (= make him better than) other boxers.* [Ⓞ] **UK FORMAL** *'Do you know how old I am?'* *'I'm afraid you have the advantage of me there (= you know the answer but I do not).'* **2** [U] the word used in tennis when a player has won the point after DEUCE: *Advantage Miss Williams!* **3** **take advantage of sth/sth** to use the good things in a situation: *I thought I'd take advantage of the sports facilities while I'm here.* **4** **DISAPPROVING** **take advantage of sb/sth** to treat someone badly in order to get something good from them: *I think she takes advantage of his good nature.* [Ⓞ] *I know she's offered to babysit any time but I don't want her to think we're taking advantage of her.*

advantageous /,əd.væn'teɪ.dʒəs/ *adj* giving benefits or helping to make you more successful: *advantageous interest rates* [Ⓞ] *The lower tax rate is particularly advantageous to poorer families.* **advantageously** /,əd.væn'teɪ.dʒəs.li/ *adv*

advert ^[START] /'æd.vɛnt/ *verb* /-vənt/ *noun* [S] the arrival of an event, invention or person: *Life in Britain was transformed by the advert of the steam engine.*

Advert ^[CHRISTMAS] /'æd.vɛnt/ *verb* /-vənt/ *noun* [U] the period of four weeks before Christmas

'Advent calendar *noun* [C] a decorative piece of card, often hung on the wall, which has a small door-like opening for each of the days of the month before Christmas. Children open one of these doors each day, finding a picture under it.

adventist /'æd.ven.tɪst/ *noun* [C] [Ⓞ]See Seventh-Day Adventist.

adventitious /,əd.vɪ'nɪ.tɪ.əs/ *adj* **FORMAL** not expected or planned: *an adventitious event/situation* **adventitiously** /,əd.vɪ'nɪ.tɪ.əs.li/ *adv*

adventure /əd'ven.tʃə/ [Ⓞ] /-tʃə/ *noun* [C or U] an unusual, exciting and possibly dangerous activity such as a journey or experience, or the excitement produced by such an activity: *She had some exciting adventures in Egypt.* [Ⓞ] *We got lost on the Metro – it was quite an adventure.* [Ⓞ] *Sam won't come – he's got no sense of adventure (= he does not enjoy dangerous or exciting situations).*

adventurer /əd'ven.tʃə.rə/ [Ⓞ] /-tʃə.rə/ *noun* [C] **1** someone who enjoys and looks for dangerous and exciting experiences: *He was something of an adventurer, living most of his life abroad.* **2** **DISAPPROVING** a person who takes risks, acts dishonestly or uses his or her sexual attractiveness to become rich or powerful: *He was portrayed in the press as a gold-digger and adventurer.*

adventurous /əd'ven.tʃə.rəs/ [Ⓞ] /-tʃə.rəs/ *adj* willing to try new or difficult things, or exciting and often dangerous: *I'm trying to be more adventurous with my cooking.* [Ⓞ] *She led an adventurous life.* [Ⓞ] *He's not very adventurous sexually.* **adventurously** /əd'ven.tʃə.rəs.li/ [Ⓞ] /-tʃə.rəs.li/ *adv*

ad'venture playground *noun* [C] a public open space where children can play and climb on structures, usually made of wood, ropes and old tyres

adverb /'æd.vɜːb/ [Ⓞ] /-vɜːb/ *noun* [C] a word which describes or gives more information about a verb, adjective, adverb or phrase: *In the phrase 'she smiled cheerfully', the word 'cheerfully' is an adverb.* [Ⓞ] *In the phrase 'the house was spotlessly clean', the word 'spotlessly' is an adverb.* **adverbial** /əd'vɜː.bi.əl/ [Ⓞ] /-vɜː-/- *adj*: *an adverbial phrase*

adversary /'æd.və.sər.i/ [Ⓞ] /'æd.və.sɜːr.i/ *noun* [C] **FORMAL** an enemy: *He saw her as his main adversary within the company.*

adversarial /,æd.və'seə.ri.əl/ [Ⓞ] /-və'ser.i-/ *adj* **FORMAL** involving opposition or disagreement: *In the old days of two-party adversarial politics, voting was easy.*

adverse /'æd.vɜːs/ *adj* /-/- [Ⓞ] /'æd.vɜːs/ *adj* [before n] having a negative or harmful effect on something: *The match has been cancelled due to adverse weather conditions.* [Ⓞ] *They received a lot of adverse publicity/criticism about the changes.* [Ⓞ] *So far the drug is thought not to have any adverse effects.*

adversely /'æd.vɜːs.li/ *adv* /-/- [Ⓞ] /'æd.vɜː-/- *adv*: *A lot of companies have been adversely (= in a harmful way) affected by the recession.*

adversity /əd'vɜː.sə.ti/ [Ⓞ] /-vɜː.sə.ti/ *noun* [C or U] a difficult or unlucky situation or event: *She was always cheerful in adversity.* [Ⓞ] *The road to happiness is paved with adversities.*

advert /'æd.vɜːt/ [Ⓞ] /-vɜːt/ *noun* [C] **UK** advertisement, see at **advertise**: *an advert for the local radio station*

advertise /'æd.və.taɪz/ [Ⓞ] /-vɜː-/- *verb* [I or T] to make something known generally or in public, especially in order to sell it: *We advertised our car (= published a description of it together with the price we wanted for it) in the local newspaper.* [Ⓞ] *He advertises his services on the company notice board.* [Ⓞ] *I'm going to advertise for (= put a notice in the newspaper, local shop, etc., asking for) someone to clean my house.* [Ⓞ] *There's no harm in applying for other jobs, but if I were you, I wouldn't advertise the fact (= make it generally known) at work.*

advertisement /əd'vɜː.tɪ.mənt/ [Ⓞ] /'æd.vɜː.taɪz.mənt/ *noun* [C] **1** (**INFORMAL** **ad**, **UK** **ALSO** **INFORMAL** **advert**) a picture, short film, song, etc. which tries to persuade people to buy a product or service: *a television/newspaper advertisement for a new car* [Ⓞ] *She scanned the job/property advertisements in the paper.* **2** **be an advertisement for sth** If you are an advertisement for something, you show its good effects: *I'm afraid I'm not a very good advertisement for the diet since I've actually put on weight!* **advertiser** /'æd.və.taɪ.zə/ [Ⓞ] /-vɜː.taɪ.zə/ *noun* [C] *Whilst claiming to promote positive images of women, advertisers are in fact doing the very opposite.*

advertising /'æd.və.taɪ.zɪŋ/ [Ⓞ] /-vɜː-/- *noun* [U] the business of trying to persuade people to buy products or services: *Fiona works in advertising.* [Ⓞ] *the advertising industry*

advertorial /,æd.və'tɔː.ri.əl/ [Ⓞ] /-tɔːr.i-/ *noun* [C] an advertisement in a newspaper or magazine that is designed to look like an article by the writers of the magazine

advice /əd'vaɪs/ *noun* [U] an opinion which someone offers you about what you should do or how you should act in a particular situation: *Steven gave me some good advice.* [Ⓞ] *I think I'll take your advice (= do what you suggest) and get the green dress.* [Ⓞ] *Can I give you a piece of advice?* [Ⓞ] *I need some advice on which computer to buy.* [Ⓞ] [+ to infinitive] *My advice is to go by train.* [Ⓞ] *We went to Paris on Sarah's advice.* * **NOTE:** Do not confuse with the verb, **advise**.

advise /əd'vaɪz/ *verb* [I or T] to give someone advice: [+ to infinitive] *I think I'd advise him to leave the company.* [Ⓞ] *His doctor advised him against smoking.* [Ⓞ] *I'd strongly advise against making a sudden decision.* [Ⓞ] [+ that] *They're advising that children be kept out of the sun altogether.* [Ⓞ] [+ v-ing] *I'd advise waiting until tomorrow.* [Ⓞ] [+ question word] *She advised us when to come.* [Ⓞ] *She advises the President (= gives information and suggests types of action) on African policy.* [Ⓞ] *You would be well-advised to (= It would be wise for you to) have the appropriate vaccinations before you go abroad.* * **NOTE:** Do not confuse with the noun, **advice**. **2** [T] **FORMAL** to give someone official information about something: *They were advised of their rights.* [Ⓞ] [+ that] *Our solicitors have advised that the costs could be enormous.*

advisable /əd'vaɪ.zə.bəl/ *adj* [after v] If something is advisable, it will avoid problems if you do it: [+ to infinitive] *It's advisable to book seats at least a week in advance.* [Ⓞ] *A certain amount of caution is advisable at this point.* **advisability** /əd'vaɪ.zə'bɪl.i.ti/ [Ⓞ] /-zə.ti/ *noun* [U] *They dis-*

assessing the advisability of building so near to the airport.
adviser /əd'vaɪ.zə/ (US) /-zə/ **noun** [C] (ALSO **advisor**) someone whose job is to give advice about a subject: *She is the party's main economic adviser.* ○ a financial advisor
advisory /əd'vaɪ.zrɪ/ (US) /-zrɪ/ **adj.** *She is employed by the president in an advisory capacity* (= giving advice).
advisory /əd'vaɪ.zrɪ/ **noun** [C usually pl] US an official announcement that contains advice, information or a warning: *weather/travel advisories* ○ *Television companies sometimes broadcast advisories before violent movies.*

COMMON LEARNER ERROR

advice

Remember that this word is not countable.

She gave me lots of advice.
She gave me lots of advices.

If you want to use advice in a countable way, say a piece of advice.

He gave me a good piece of advice.
He gave me a good advice.

COMMON LEARNER ERROR

advice or advise?

Be careful not to confuse the noun **advice** with the verb **advise**.

I advise you to see a lawyer.
I advice you to see a lawyer.

advisedly /əd'vaɪ.zɪd.li/ **adv** FORMAL If you say you are using a word advisedly, you mean you are choosing it after thinking about it very carefully: *This action is barbaric – and I use the word advisedly.*

advisement /əd'vaɪz.mənt/ **noun** [U] US the process or activity of advising someone about something: *a counseling and advisement center* ○ *Contact Dr. Gray about academic advisement.* ○ *student/graduate/career advisement*

● **take sth under advisement** US to consider something such as advice or information carefully: *Thank you for your input, Mr. Walters – I'll take what you've said under advisement.*

advocate [SUPPORT] /'æd.və.keɪt/ **verb** [T] to publicly support or suggest an idea, development or way of doing something: [+ v-ing] *She advocates taking a more long-term view.* ○ *He advocates the return of capital punishment.* **advocate** /'æd.və.kət/ **noun** [C] He's a strong advocate of state ownership of the railways. **advocacy** /'æd.və.kə.sɪ/ **noun** [U] *She is renowned for her advocacy of human rights.*

advocate [LAWYER] /'æd.və.kət/ **noun** [C] a lawyer who defends someone in a court of law

adze, US USUALLY **adz** /ædʒ/ **noun** [C] a tool like an axe with the blade at an angle of approximately 90° to the handle, which is used for cutting and shaping wood

aegis /'iː.dʒɪs/ **noun** FORMAL **under the aegis of sb/sth** with the protection or support of someone or something, especially an organization: *The project was set up under the aegis of the university.*

aeon /'iː.ən/ (US) /-ɑːn/ **noun** [C] MAINLY UK FOR **eon**

aerate /eə'reɪt/ (US) /er'eɪt/ **verb** [T] **1** to add a gas to liquid, especially a drink: *aerated water **2** to allow air to act on something: *Earthworms help to aerate the soil.* ○ *aerated soil* **aeration** /eə'reɪ.'ʃn/ (US) /er'eɪ-/ **noun** [U]*

aerial [RADIO] /'eə.ri.əl/ (US) /'er.i-/ **noun** [C] (US ALSO **antenna**) a structure made of metal rods or wires which receives or sends out radio or television signals ☞ See picture **Car** on page Centre 12

aerial [AIR] /'eə.ri.əl/ (US) /'er.i-/ **adj** in or from the air, especially from an aircraft: *Meanwhile, the massive aerial bombardment/bombing of military targets continued unabated.* ○ *aerial photography*

aerie /'eə.ri/ (US) /'er.i/ **noun** [C] MAINLY US FOR **eyrie**

aero- /eə.rəʊ-/ (US) /er.əʊ-/ **prefix** of the air or of air travel: *aerodynamics* ○ *aeronautics*

aerobatics /eə.rəʊ'bæt.ɪks/ (US) /er.əʊ'bæt-/ **plural noun** skillful changes of position of an aircraft, such as flying upside down or in a circle: *The crowd was entertained*

with a display of aerobatics. **aerobatic** /eə.rəʊ'bæt.ɪk/ (US) /er.əʊ'bæt-/ **adj.** *an aerobatic display*

aerobics /eə'rəʊ.bɪks/ (US) /er'əʊ-/ **noun** [U] energetic physical exercises, often performed with a group of people to music, which make the heart, lungs and muscles stronger and increase the amount of oxygen in the blood: *She does aerobics.* ○ *I go to aerobics* (= to a class where we are taught such exercises) *once a week.* ○ *an aerobics instructor/teacher* **aerobic** /eə'rəʊ.bɪk/ (US) /er'əʊ-/ **adj.** *aerobic exercise*

aerodrome /'eə.rə.droʊm/ (US) /'er.ə.droʊm/ **noun** [C] UK OLD-FASHIONED FOR **airfield**

aerodynamics /eə.rəʊ.dar'næm.ɪks/ (US) /er.əʊ-/ **noun** [U] the science which studies the movement of gases and the way solid bodies, such as aircraft, move through them **aerodynamic** /eə.rəʊ.dar'næm.ɪk/ (US) /er.əʊ-/ **adj.** *aerodynamic principles* ○ *an aerodynamic design/car* **aerodynamically** /eə.rəʊ.dar'næm.ɪ.kli/ (US) /er.əʊ-/ **adv.** *aerodynamically designed/efficient*

aerogramme, US ALSO **aerogram** /'eə.rəʊ.græm/ (US) /'er.ə-/ **noun** [C] an **airletter**

aeronautics /eə.rə'nɔː.tɪks/ (US) /er.ə'nɑː.tɪks/ **noun** [U] the technology and science of designing, building and operating aircraft **aeronautic** /eə.rə'nɔː.tɪk/ (US) /er.ə'nɑː.tɪk/ **adj.** *aeronautic design/engineering* **aeronautical** /eə.rə'nɔː.tɪ.kəl/ (US) /er.ə'nɑː.tɪ-/ **adj**

aeroplane /'eə.rə.pleɪn/ (US) /'er-/ **noun** [C] (US **airplane**) UK a vehicle designed for air travel, which has wings and one or more engines: *She has her own private aeroplane.* ☞ See picture **Planes, Ships and Boats** on page Centre 14

aerosol /'eə.rəʊ.səl/ (US) /er.ə.sɑːl/ **noun** [C] a metal container in which liquids are kept under pressure and forced out in a spray

aerospace /'eə.rəʊspeɪs/ (US) /'er.əʊ-/ **adj** [before n] producing or operating aircraft or spacecraft: *the aerospace industry* ○ *an aerospace company*

aesthetic, US ALSO **esthetic** /es'θet.ɪk/ (US) /-θet-/ **adj** **1** relating to the enjoyment or study of beauty: *The new building has little aesthetic value/appeal.* **2** describes an object or a work of art that shows great beauty: *furniture which is both aesthetic and functional*

aesthetics, US ALSO **esthetics** /es'θet.ɪks/ (US) /-θet-/ **noun** [U] the formal study of art, especially in relation to the idea of beauty **aesthetically**, US ALSO **esthetically** /es'θet.ɪ.kli/ (US) /-θet-/ **adv.** *I like objects to be both functional and aesthetically pleasing.*

aesthete, US ALSO **esthete** /'iːs.θiːt/ **noun** [C] a person who understands and enjoys beauty: *The ugliness of the city would make an aesthete like you shudder.*

AFAIK, **afaiK** INTERNET ABBREVIATION FOR **as far as I know**: used when you believe that something is true, but you are not completely certain

afar /ə'fɑː/ (US) /-fɑːr/ **adv** from or at a great distance: *People came from afar to see the show.* ○ HUMOROUS *I've never actually spoken to him – I've just admired him from afar.*

affable /'æf.ə.bəl/ **adj** friendly and easy to talk to: *He struck me as an affable sort of a man.* ○ *She was quite affable at the meeting.* **affably** /'æf.ə.bli/ **adv.** *He greeted us affably.* **affability** /'æf.ə'bɪl.ɪ.ti/ (US) /-ə.ti/ **noun** [U] FORMAL

affair [MATTER] /ə'feə/ (US) /-fer-/ **noun** [C] **1** a situation or subject that is being dealt with or considered; a matter: *She organizes her financial affairs very efficiently.* ○ *He's always meddling in* (= trying to influence) *other people's affairs.* ○ *What I do in my spare time is my affair* (= only involves me). **2** a matter or situation which causes strong public feeling, usually of moral disapproval: *The arms-dealing affair has severely damaged the reputation of the government.* ○ *The President's handling of the affair has been criticised.*

affair [RELATIONSHIP] /ə'feə/ (US) /-fer-/ **noun** [C] a sexual relationship, especially a secret one: *She's having an affair with a married man.* ○ *The book doesn't make any mention of his love affairs.* ○ *an extramarital affair*

affair [EVENT] /ə'feə/ (US) /-fer-/ **noun** [C] an event: *The party turned out to be a quiet affair.*

affair [THING] /ə'feə/ ⓘ /-ˈfer/ noun [C] OLD-FASHIONED an object of the type stated: *She wore a long black velvet affair.*

affairs of state plural noun important government matters

affect [INFLUENCE] /ə'fekt/ verb [T] to have an influence on someone or something, or to cause them to change: *Both buildings were badly affected by the fire.* ○ *The divorce affected every aspect of her life.* ○ *It's a disease which affects mainly older people.* ○ *I was deeply affected by the film* (= It caused strong feelings in me).

affecting /ə'fek.tɪŋ/ adj FORMAL causing a strong emotion, especially sadness: *It was an affecting sight.*

COMMON LEARNER ERROR

affect or effect?

Do not confuse the verb **affect** with the noun **effect**, which means the result of a particular influence.

Global warming is one of the most serious effects of pollution.

Do not confuse the verb **affect** with the verb **effect**, which is formal and means to make something happen.

The management wish to effect a change in company procedure.

affect [PRETEND] /ə'fekt/ verb [T] **1** FORMAL to pretend to feel or think something: *To all his problems she affected indifference.* **2** FORMAL MAINLY DISAPPROVING to start to wear or do something in order to make people admire or respect you: *At university he affected an upper-class accent.* ○ *He's recently affected a hat and cane.*

affected /ə'fek.tɪd/ adj DISAPPROVING artificial and not sincere: *an affected manner/style of writing* ○ *I found her very affected.* **affectedly** /ə'fek.tɪd.li/ adv: *She laughed affectedly.*

affection /ˌæf.ek'teɪ.ʃn/ noun [C or U] DISAPPROVING behaviour or speech that is not sincere: *She has so many little affections.* ○ *His manner reeks of affection.* ○ *"It doesn't concern me," he said with an affection of* (= pretending) *nonchalance.*

affection /ə'fek.ʃn/ noun [C or U] a feeling of liking for a person or place: *He had a deep affection for his aunt.* ○ *She felt no affection for the child.*

affections /ə'fek.ʃnz/ plural noun feelings of liking or love: *The former president still holds a place in the nation's affections.* ○ *Sula seems to have transferred her affections from Jon to his brother.*

● **win sb's affections** to succeed in persuading someone to love you

affectionate /ə'fek.ʃn.ət/ adj showing feelings of liking or love: *an affectionate kiss* ○ *He's an affectionate little boy.* **affectionately** /ə'fek.ʃn.ət.li/ adv: *She smiled affectionately at him.*

affidavit /ˌæf.ə'deɪ.vɪt/ noun [C] a written statement which someone makes after they have sworn officially to tell the truth, and which might be used as proof in a court of law

affiliate /ə'fɪl.i.ət/ verb [T] to cause a group to become part of or form a close relationship with another, usually larger, group or organization: *a college affiliated to the University of London* ○ *The school is affiliated with a national association of driving schools.*

affiliate /ə'fɪl.i.ət/ noun [C] Our college is an affiliate of (= is connected with or controlled by) the university.

affiliation /ə'fɪl.i'eɪ.ʃn/ noun [C or U] a connection with a political party or religion, or with a larger organization: *The group has affiliations with several organizations abroad.* ○ *Their lack of affiliation to any particular bank allows them to give objective financial advice.* ○ *political affiliations*

affiliation order noun [C] UK LEGAL a legal order in which a man who is not married to the mother of his child must pay money to the mother to support his child

affinity /ə'fɪn.i.ti/ ⓘ /-ə.ti/ noun **1** [S] an attraction or sympathy for someone or something, especially because of shared characteristics: *She seems to have a natural affinity for/with water.* **2** [C or U] a close similarity between two things: *There are several close affinities between the two paintings.*

affinity card noun [C] a credit card that earns a small amount of money for a charity each time something is bought with it

affirm /ə'fɜːm/ ⓘ /-ˈfɜːm/ verb [T] FORMAL **1** to state something as true: [+ (that)] *The suspect affirmed (that) he had been at home all evening.* ○ *She affirmed her intention to apply for the post.* **2** to publicly state your support for an opinion or idea: *The government has affirmed its commitment to equal rights.* **affirmation** /ˌæf.ə'meɪ.ʃn/ ⓘ /-ə- / noun [C or U] *We welcome the government's affirmation of its intention to act.*

affirmative /ə'fɜː.mə.tɪv/ ⓘ /-ˈfɜː.mə.tɪv/ adj relating to a statement that shows agreement or says 'yes': *an affirmative answer/response* * NOTE: The opposite is **negative**.

affirmative /ə'fɜː.mə.tɪv/ ⓘ /-ˈfɜː.mə.tɪv/ noun [C or U] a word or statement that shows agreement or says 'yes': *She asked the question expecting an affirmative.* ○ *He replied in the affirmative* (= He said yes). ○ MAINLY US *"Were you in New York on March 3rd?" "Affirmative* (= Yes)." **affirmatively** /ə'fɜː.mə.tɪv.li/ ⓘ /-ˈfɜː.mə.tɪv-/ adv: *She answered affirmatively.*

affirmative action noun [U] If a government or an organization takes affirmative action, it gives preference to women, black people, or other groups which are often treated unfairly, when it is choosing people for a job.

affix [FIX] /ə'fɪks/ verb [T] FORMAL to fix one thing to another: *She affixed a stamp to the envelope.*

affix [WORD PART] /ˌæf.ɪks/ noun [C] a letter or group of letters which are added to the beginning or end of a word to make a new word: *The affixes un- and -less are often used to make negative words, such as 'unhappy' and 'careless'.*

afflict /ə'flɪkt/ verb [T] If a problem or illness afflicts a person or thing, they suffer from it: *It is an illness which afflicts women more than men.* ○ *a country afflicted by civil war*

affliction /ə'flɪk.ʃn/ noun [C or U] FORMAL something that makes you suffer: *Malnutrition is one of the common afflictions of the poor.*

affluent /ˌæf.lu.ənt/ adj having a lot of money or owning a lot of things; rich: *affluent nations/neighbourhoods*

affluence /ˌæf.lu.ənts/ noun [U] *What we are seeing increasingly is a society of private affluence and public squalor.*

afford [BE ABLE] /ə'fɔːd/ ⓘ /-ˈfɔːrd/ verb **can afford** to be able to buy or do something because you have enough money or time: *I don't know how he can afford a new car on his salary.* ○ *Few people are able to afford cars like that.* ○ *She couldn't afford the time off work to see him.* ○ [+ to infinitive] *I can't afford to buy a house.*

● **cannot afford** (FORMAL **can ill afford**) If you cannot afford to do something, you must not do it because it would cause serious problems for you: *We can't afford to make any mistakes at this stage in the project.* ○ *He can ill afford to fail any of his exams.*

affordable /ə'fɔː.də.bəl/ ⓘ /-ˈfɔːr-/ adj not expensive: *nice clothes at affordable prices*

COMMON LEARNER ERROR

afford to do something

When **afford** is followed by a verb, it is always in the **to + infinitive** form.

We can't afford to go on holiday this year.

We can't afford going on holiday this year.

afford [GIVE] /ə'fɔːd/ ⓘ /-ˈfɔːrd/ verb [T] FORMAL to allow someone to have something pleasant or necessary: *The hut afforded little protection from the elements.* ○ [+ two objects] *Her seat afforded her an uninterrupted view of the stage.*

afforest /ə'fɒr.ɪst/ ⓘ /-ˈfɔːr.əst/ verb [T] to plant trees on an area of land in order to make a forest **afforestation** /ˌæf.ɒr.'ɪsteɪ.ʃn/ ⓘ /-fɔːr.ə- / noun [U]

affray /ə'freɪ/ noun [C] LEGAL a fight in a public place: *Wallace was charged with causing an affray at a Southampton nightclub.*

affront /ə'frʌnt/ *noun* [C] a remark or action intended to insult or offend someone: *He regarded the comments as an affront to his dignity.* **affront** /ə'frʌnt/ *verb* [T usually passive] FORMAL I was most affronted by his comments. ◦ an affronted look/glance

afghan hound /ə'fɜːn'haʊnd/ *noun* [C] a tall thin dog with long smooth hair and a pointed nose

aficionado /ə'fɪʃ.i.ə'nɑː.dəʊ/ ⑤ /-dɒʊ/ *noun* [C] plural **aficionados** FORMAL someone who is very interested in and enthusiastic about a particular subject: *a club for model railway aficionados* ◦ an aficionado of French films

afield /ə'fi:ld/ *adv* far/further **afield** a long distance away: *We export our products to countries as far afield as Japan and Canada.* ◦ Our students come from Europe, Asia and even further afield.

AFK, afk INTERNET ABBREVIATION FOR away from keyboard: used when you stop taking part in a discussion in a CHAT ROOM for a short time

aflake /ə'fleɪm/ *adj* LITERARY **1** [after v] burning: *The whole village was aflake.* **2** [after v] red or golden, as if burning: *It was autumn and the trees were aflake with colour.* ◦ Her cheeks were aflake with embarrassment/anger. **3** very excited: *Aflake with desire, he took her in his arms.*

afloat /ə'fləʊt/ ⑤ /-fləʊt/ *adj* [after v] **1** floating on water: *She spent seven days afloat on a raft.* ◦ He managed to **keep/stay** afloat by holding on to the side of the boat. **2** having enough money to pay what you owe: *Many small businesses are struggling to stay/keep afloat.*

aflutter /ə'flʌt.ə/ ⑤ /-flʌt.ə/ *adj* [after v] HUMOROUS excited and nervous: *I'm all aflutter about meeting him after so long.* ◦ Paul had walked into the room and set my heart aflutter.

afoot /ə'fʊt/ *adj* [after v] happening or being planned or prepared: *There are plans afoot to launch a new radio station.*

afore /ə'fɔː/ ⑤ /-fɔːr/ *adv, prep, conjunction* OLD USE before EARLIER

aforementioned /ə'fɔː.men.tʃnd/ ⑤ /-fɔːr-/ *adj* [before n] (ALSO **aforsaid**) FORMAL mentioned earlier: *The aforementioned Mr Parkes then entered the cinema.*

the aforementioned /ði.ə'fɔː.men.tʃnd/ ⑤ /-fɔːr-/ *noun* (ALSO **the aforesaid**) the person or people mentioned earlier: *The aforementioned was/were seen waiting outside the building.*

afoul /ə'faʊl/ *adv* run/fall **afoul of sth/sb** to experience problems, punishment or harm because you disobey a rule or disagree with a powerful organization, group or person: *He was fifteen when he first ran afoul of the law.* ◦ At one point Seeger fell afoul of the US government for his antiwar actions.

afraid /ə'freɪd/ *adj* [after v] feeling fear, or feeling anxiety about the possible results of a particular situation: *He was felt suddenly afraid.* ◦ I've always been afraid of flying/heights/spiders. ◦ She was afraid for her children (= feared that they might be hurt). ◦ [+ to infinitive] *Don't be afraid to say what you think.* ◦ [+ (that)] *She was afraid (that) he might be upset if she told him.*

afraid /ə'freɪd/ *adj* I'm afraid... used to politely introduce bad news or disagreement: *This is your room – it's rather small, I'm afraid.* ◦ I don't agree at all, I'm afraid. ◦ I'm afraid you've completely misunderstood the question. ◦ [+ (that)] *I'm afraid (that) we can't come this evening after all.* ◦ "Was she impressed with our work?" "I'm afraid not (= No)." ◦ "Does this mean I've got to leave?" "I'm afraid so (= Yes)."

A-frame /'eɪ.frem/ *noun* [C] US a simple house shaped like an A, with two of its four walls sloping inward and meeting at the top to act as a roof **A-frame** /'eɪ.frem/ *adj*: [before n] an A-frame chalet

afresh /ə'freʃ/ *adv* If you do something afresh, you deal with it again in a new way: *She tore up the letter and started afresh.* ◦ We agreed to look afresh at her original proposal.

Africa /'æf.rɪ.kə/ *noun* [U] the continent that is to the south of the Mediterranean Sea, to the east of the Atlantic Ocean and to the west of the Indian Ocean

African /'æf.rɪ.kən/ *adj* relating or belonging to Africa: *African history/music*

African /'æf.rɪ.kən/ *noun* [C] someone from Africa

African violet *noun* [C] a small plant with purple, pink or white flowers which is grown in a container in a house

Afrikaans /,æf.rɪ'kɑːns/ ⑤ /,ɑː.fri'-/ *noun* [U] a language which is related to Dutch and is spoken in South Africa

Afrikaner /,æf.rɪ'kɑː.nə/ ⑤ /,ɑː.fri'kɑː.nə/ *noun* [C] a South African person whose family were originally Dutch and whose first language is Afrikaans

Afro [HAIR] /'æf.rəʊ/ /-rəʊ/ *noun* [C] plural **Afros** a way of arranging the hair so that it is very thick, curly and has a rounded shape, especially like that of some black people

Afro- [CONTINENT] /'æf.rəʊ-/ ⑤ /æf.rəʊ-/ *prefix* of or connected with Africa: *Afro-Caribbean culture* ◦ *Afro-American literature*

aft /ɑːft/ ⑤ /æft/ *adj, adv* SPECIALIZED in or towards the back part of a boat

after /'ɑːf.tə/ ⑤ /'æf.tə/ *prep* **1** following in time, place or order: *Shall we go for a walk after breakfast?* ◦ Some people believe in life after death. ◦ Her name came after mine on the list. ◦ There's a good film on the day after tomorrow. ◦ She waited until well after midnight. ◦ US It's a quarter after four. ◦ She just keeps on working. **day after day, week after week** (= continuously). ◦ We've had meeting after meeting (= many meetings) to discuss this point. ◦ Jessie seemed very small after (= in comparison with) Michael's children. ◦ After (= Despite) everything I've done for you, is this the way you treat me? ◦ After (= Because of) what she did to me, I'll never trust her again. ◦ The children have to learn to tidy up after themselves (= after they have made things untidy). ◦ She slammed the door after (= behind) her. ◦ We ran after (= followed) him, but he escaped. ◦ Could you look up after you (= when you leave), please? **2** typical of or similar to the style of: a painting after Titian ◦ a concerto after Mozart

● **be after sb/sth** INFORMAL to be looking for someone or something or trying to find or get them: *The police are after him.* ◦ I'm after a tie to go with this shirt. ◦ I'm sure she's after my husband. ◦ He's after (= wants for himself) Jane's job.

● **after all** **1** despite earlier problems or doubts: *The rain has stopped, so the game will go ahead after all.* **2** used to add information that shows that what you have just said is true: *I do like her – after all, she is my sister.*

● **after you** **1** used to politely say that someone can go in front of you or serve themselves with food before you: "Can I pour you some coffee?" "Oh no, after you." **2** UK INFORMAL used to ask another person to give you something which they are using when they have finished using it: *After you with the newspaper, Jack.*

after /'ɑːf.tə/ ⑤ /'æf.tə/ *conjunction* at a time which is later than another event: *Three months after they moved out, the house was still empty.* ◦ **Soon/shortly** after we joined the motorway, the car started to make a strange noise. ◦ I went to the post office **straight/immediately** after I left you.

after /'ɑːf.tə/ ⑤ /'æf.tə/ *adv* later than someone or something else: *Hilary got here at midday and Nicholas arrived soon after.* ◦ I can't go next week – how about the week after (= the following week)? ◦ NOT STANDARD *She got back at 4.30 and went to see Emilee after (= after she got back).* **after-** /'ɑːf.tə-/ ⑤ /æf.tə-/ *prefix* an after-dinner speech ◦ an after-hours club ◦ after-sales service

afterbirth /'ɑːf.tə.bɜːθ/ ⑤ /'æf.tə.bɜːθ/ *noun* [U] the material, including the PLACENTA, which is pushed out of a woman's or female animal's body soon after she has given birth

aftercare /'ɑːf.tə.keə/ ⑤ /'æf.tə.ker/ *noun* [U] the care of people after they have left a hospital or prison

'after effects *plural noun* unpleasant effects that follow an event or accident, sometimes continuing for a long time or happening some time after it

afterglow /'ɑːf.tə.gləʊ/ ⑤ /'æf.tə.gləʊ/ *noun* [C usually sing or U] a pleasant feeling produced after an experience, event, feeling, etc: *The team were basking in the afterglow of winning the cup.*

afterlife /'ɑːf.tə.laɪf/ ⑤ /'æf.tə-/ *noun* [S] the life, for example in heaven, which some people believe begins