Aa

Aa [æ] (plural Aa or Aa) ► noun LETTER | (also a (plural’s)) [C] the 1st letter of the English alphabet MUSICOLOGY | 2 [C or U] a note in Western music. This concert is in the key of $A$ major.

MARK | 3 [C or U] a mark in an examination or for a piece of work that shows that your work is considered excellent. Sophie got (an) $A$ for English. ◆ She got a straight$A$ (= All her marks were $A$s) in her end-of-year exams. ◆ or Jim is a straight $A$ student (= All his marks are $A$s).

ELECTRITY | 4 WRITTEN ABBREVIATION FOR AMP.

▷ idioms 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 including everything: This book tells the story of her life from A to Z.

1 WICK FORM [æ], STRONG FORM [æ] DETERMINER (ALSO AN) NOT PARTICULAR | 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 faintness 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. ◆ 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: a cup and saucer ◆ a knife and fork 8 used before some words that express a number or amount: a few days ◆ a bit of wool 9 10 used when saying how often something happens in a certain period: I take one tablet three times a day. 11 used to refer to one example of it: My birthday is on a Friday this year. ◆ It’s been a very wet June. 12 one: a hundred ◆ a thousand ◆ a dozen ◆ There were three men and a woman. 13 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 14 used when saying how often something happens in a certain period: She earns $100 000 a year. 15 My plumber charges $20 an hour.

A2 | [etʃu:] noun [C] (plural A2s) a public examination taken in England and Wales by children aged 17 or 18. Students take AS LEVEL examinations then A2s, usually a year later, which together make a full A LEVEL qualification. ◆ See also A level, AS level.

Aa | [etʃi:] /aː/ [E] noun [U], adjective (describes) paper that is a standard European size of 21 centimetres by 29.7 centimetres: a sheet of $A4$ ◆ A4 paper.

AA | [eɪˈniː] noun DEGREE | 1 [C] ABBREVIATION FOR Associate in Arts: a degree given by an American college to someone one after they have finished a two-year course, or a person who has this degree. ALCOHOL | 2 [S] + SING/VIRG. ABBREVIATION FOR Alcohologists Anonymous: an organization for people who drink too much alcohol and want to cure themselves of this habit: an AA meeting. CARES | 3 the AA [S] + SING/VIRG. ABBREVIATION FOR the Automobile Association: a British organization which gives help and information to drivers who are members of it.

AAA | [eɪˈniː] noun | [S] + SING/VIRG. ABBREVIATION FOR American Automobile Association: an American organization which gives help and information to drivers who are members of it.

Aaah | [æˈhaː] EXCLAMATION ANOTHER SPELLING OF ah

Aaie | [eɪˈniː] noun | UK (or emergency room) ABBREVIATION FOR Accident and Emergency: the part of a hospital where people go when they are ill or injured and need treatment quickly.

Aardvark | [ˈoːrd.vɪrk] /ˈɔːrd.vɪrk/ noun [C] an African mammal with a long nose and large ears which lives underground and eats insects.

Aba | [ˈbeɪ.ə] noun | UK for BA.

Aback | [ˈbeɪ.k] adverb be taken aback to be very shocked or surprised: I was rather taken aback by her honesty.

Abacus | [ˈbeɪ.kəs] noun [C] a small square or rectangular frame holding an arrangement of small balls on metal rods or wires, which is used for counting, adding and subtracting.

Abalone | [ˈbeɪ.ləʊ.ni] noun [C] a small sea animal that can be eaten and which lives inside a shell that is the shape of an ear with a white shiny inside.

Abandon | [ˈbeɪ.dʌn] verb | [T] LEAVE | 1 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. STOPP | 2 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 Mount Everest. • The party has now abandoned its policy of unilateral disarmament. • abandoned /‘abədnt/ adjective An abandoned baby was found in a box on the hospital steps. • abandonment /‘abədnt.mənt/ noun [U]

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

► noun LITERARY with (gay/wild) abandon a completely uncontrolled way of dancing with wild abandon.

abase /‘eɪbəs/ verb [R] formal to make yourself seem to be less important or not to deserve respect • abasement /‘eɪbəs.mənt/ noun [U] The pilgrims knelt in self-abasement.

abashed /‘eɪbəʃd/ adjective [after verb] embarrassed: He said nothing but looked abashed.

abate /‘eɪbət/ verb [I] formal to become less strong: The storm/wind/rain has abated to a breeze.

► the area shows no sign of abating. • abate also unabated

► abatement /‘eɪbət.mənt/ noun [U]

abattoir /‘eɪbətɔːr/ (C) [U] abattoir /‘eɪbətɔːr/ noun [C] mainly UK (MAINS AS SLAUGHTER) a place where animals are killed for their meat

abbeys /‘eɪbəz/ plural noun [C] a woman who is in charge of a CONVENT

abbeys /‘eɪbəz/ noun [C] a building where MONKS or NUNS live or used to live. Some abbeys are now used as churches: Westminster Abbey

abbot /‘eɪbət/ noun [C] a man who is in charge of a MONASTERY

abbreviate /‘eɪbərveɪt/ 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 /‘eɪbərveɪt.tɪd/ and /‘eɪbərveɪt.d/ adjective DI are the abbreviated form of ‘Diane’.

abbreviation /‘eɪbərveɪt.ʃən/ noun [C] a short form of a word or phrase: TV is the abbreviation for Independent Television.

ABC /‘eɪbɪs/ alphabet A B C 1 (C) [U] US alphabetically, in alphabetical order: Flowers are listed in alphabetical order.

affirmative /‘eɪbərveɪtɪf/ adjective A B C 2 (C) [U] informal basic information about a subject: What I need is a book that contains the ABC of carpentry.


Australian Broadcasting Corporation: an organization that broadcasts on radio and television in Australia and is paid for by the government.

abduct /‘eɪbədkt/ verb [T] formal to take someone away by force: They were accused of abducting children.

abduction /‘eɪbədktʃən/ noun [U]

The council denied that their decision represented any abduction of responsibility.

abdomen /‘eɪbdəm/ noun [C] abdominal: abdominal areas. • abdominal /‘eɪbdəm.al/ adjective abdominal pains

abdominals /‘eɪbdəm.in.əlz/ plural noun (informal abs) muscles in the abdomen.

abduct /‘eɪbdkt/ 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.

abductor /‘eɪbdktər/ noun (C or U) (T) • abduction /‘eɪbdktʃən/ noun [U]

She was tortured by her abductors.

aberrant /‘eɪbərənt/ adjective formal different from what is typical or usual, especially in an unacceptable way: aberrant behaviour.

aberration /‘eɪbərəʃən/ 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.

abest /‘eɪbəst/ verb [T] (4T) to help or encourage someone to do something wrong or illegal: His accountant had aided and abetted him in the fraud.

► abet /‘eɪbət/ and /‘eɪbət/ noun [C]

abeyance /‘eɪbəeɪs/ 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 /‘eɪbəhər/ verb [T not continuous] (T) formal to hate a way of behaving or thinking, often because you think it is not moral: I abhor all forms of racism.

abhorrence /‘eɪbəhrəns/ noun [C or U] formal a feeling of hatred or something: She looked at him in abhorrence. She has an abhorrence of change.

abhorrent /‘eɪbəhərənt/ adjective formal morally very bad: an abhorrent crime.

abide /‘eɪbəd/ verb [I] usually informal to live or used to live: Some abbeys are now used as churches.

I admire people who have the ability of being positive.

I admire people who have the ability to be positive.

I can’t abide sb/sth if you can’t abide something or someone, you dislike them very much: I can’t abide her. He couldn’t abide laziness.

Lived 2 to live or stay somewhere: He abided in the wilderness for forty days.

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

abiding /‘eɪbɪdɪŋ/ adjective formal to have or be capable of lasting: ability.

abiding memory is of him watering his plants in the garden.

ability /‘eɪbɪləti/ (T) noun (C or U) the physical or mental power or skill needed to do something: There’s no doubting her ability.

ability /‘eɪbɪləti/ (T) noun (C or U) (T) formal to demonstrate or possess: ability. • lack ability. • lose the ability to do sth. • affect/limit sb’s ability to do sth.

ability /‘eɪbɪləti/ (T) noun (C or U) (T) formal to innately, instinctively, naturally: ability. • amazing, remarkable, unca nny ability. • proven ability.

ability /‘eɪbɪləti/ (T) noun (C or U) (T) formal to have or be capable of lasting: ability.
Important words to learn:

abolition /əˈbɒlɪʃən/ noun [C] (plural Abolitions) an Aborigine. This word is generally considered offen-

able /ˈeɪbəl/ suffix (also ible) can be added to verbs to form adjectives which mean able to receive the action of the stated verb: breakable /ˈbreɪkbəl/ washable /ˈwɒʃəbl/ movable /ˈməʊvəbl/ (not continuous) formal to hate something very much: He abomi-
nates cruelty of all kinds.

aboriginal /əˈbɔrɪdʒɪnl/ adjective describes a person or living thing that has existed in a country or continent since the earliest time known to people: aboriginal forests /əˈbɔrɪdʒɪnl ˈfɔrəstz/ a member of the race of people with dark skins who were the first people to live in Australia.

abortion /əˈbɔrʃən/ noun [C] an abortion. (not continuous) formal to hate something very much: He abomi-
nates cruelty of all kinds.

abroad /əˈbrɔːd/ adverb used when talking about getting onto a ship, aircraft, bus or train: The flight attendant welcomed us aboard. Welcome aboard Flight BA944 to Tokyo. The train's about to leave. All aboard! We spent two months aboard ship (on the ship).

abode /əˈbɔːd/ noun [C] (usually singular) the place where someone lives: formal The defendant is of no fixed abode (= has no permanent home). HUMOROUS Welcome to my humble abode.

abominable /əˈbɒmɪnəbl/ adjective very bad or unpleasant: The prisoners are forced to live in abominable conditions. The weather's been abominable all week. abominably /əˈbɒmɪnəbli/ adverb He behaved abominably towards her.

abnormal /əˈbɒrnəl/ adjective describes an attempt or plan that you have to give up because it has failed: The plan/flight had to be aborted at the last min-
tute. END PREGNANCY /ənd prɪˈɡrænʃi/ noun [C] (plural miscarriages) a pregnancy that you have to give up because a baby that has not been born, usually by having a med-
ical operation. Do you think it's wrong to use aborted foetuses for medical research? Another word for miscarriage.

Abort /əˈbɔːrt/ verb [T] (not continuous) formal to hate something very much: He abomi-
nates cruelty of all kinds.

abrade /əˈbrəʊd/ verb [T | T] formal to make something very rough: The X-rays showed some slight abnormality.

abroad /əˈbɔːd/ adverb after the intentional ending of a pregnancy, usually by a medical operation: She decided to have an abortion. (not continuous) formal to hate something very much: He abomi-
nates cruelty of all kinds.

abominate /əˈbɒmɪneɪt/ verb [T | T] to hate something very much: He abomi-
nates cruelty of all kinds.

abound /əˈbɔːnd/ verb [T | T] to be better able to do something: He performs his duties very skilfully. The theory is now being looked at by some of the ablest minds/scientists in the country.

able /ˈeɪbl/ adverb skilfully: He performs his duties very ably.

abolish /əˈbɒlɪʃ/ verb [T] (not continuous) formal to hate something very much: He abomi-
nates cruelty of all kinds.

able-bodied /əˈbəʊldɪd/ adjective able-bodied young men.

abuse /əˈbjuːs/ noun [U] formal, slang something that other people do: an injury or condition that makes it difficult to do something: It's so wonderful to see the sea from my window. to be able to phone you yesterday.

abrogate /əˈbɜːrɡreɪt/ verb [T | T] to give up because it has failed: The plan/flight had to be aborted at the last min-
tute. END PREGNANCY /ənd prɪˈɡrænʃi/ noun [C] (plural miscarriages) a pregnancy that you have to give up because a baby that has not been born, usually by having a med-
ical operation. Do you think it's wrong to use aborted foetuses for medical research? Another word for miscarriage.

abortion /əˈbɔrʃən/ noun [C] (plural Abortionists) a person who performs abortions to end unwanted pregnancies, often illegally and for money.

above /əˈbʌv/ adverb in or with sth if something abounds in/with other things, it has a lot of them: The coast here abounds with rare plants.
about | Important words to learn: Essential | Improver | Advanced

about (ə/bət/)
▶ preposition CONNECTED WITH 1 [on the subject of; connected with] We were talking/about the Spanish Civil War. We were talking/about something else. 2 [on the way to; on its way to; on the way] He's on his way/about. 3 [about to do; to be about to do something] She's about/about going to leave. 4 [about to do; to be about to do something] They're about/about going to leave.

Common mistake: about or regarding?

Warning: about is usually only used to introduce a topic in informal styles. In formal writing, don't use 'About ...', use 'Regarding ...' or 'With regard to ...'.

About my progress, I kindly request that you review the situation.

about/approximately 1 [ə/bət/]
▶ preposition CONNECTED WITH 1 [at a little more or less than the stated number or amount; approximately] About six feet tall 2 [about two months ago] "About five." We're about (= almost) ready to leave. 3 [almost] Well, I think that's about for now (= we have almost finished what we were doing for the present). ALL DIRECTIONS 2 [ə/bət/]

Other ways of saying about

Common alternatives to 'about' are approximately or around.

The job will take approximately three months.

The accident happened around 4 o'clock.

When you are talking about an approximate number, you can use roughly or the phrase somewhere in the region of.

There were roughly two hundred people at the meeting.

She earn somewhere in the region of $40,000.

If you want to say 'about' and possibly more than a particular number, you can use the phrase or so or the suffix -odd.

They raised £200 or so (or charity).

Her son must be forty or odd by now.

about/around

▶ adverb INTENDING 1 [to be about to do sth] to be about to do something; very soon. I was about to leave when Mark arrived. 2 [to be about to do sth] She looked as if she was about to cry.

about-turn (ə/bət/ˈtɜːn/; ˈa-/[tərn] noun [C] UK 1 [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/about a quick about-turn and ran back to the house. 2 [a complete change of opinion or behaviour] This is what the Government's second about-turn on the issue.

above (ə/bəv/)
▶ adverb, preposition HIGHER POSITION 1 [in or to a higher position than something else] There's a mirror above the washbasin. He waved the letter excitedly above his head. 2 [a complete change of opinion or behaviour] A complete about-turn on the issue. 3 [going above someone's head; above someone's head] above someone's head. How about a trip to the zoo this afternoon? 4 [a position or rank that is higher or more important than someone else] She was a grade above me.

above-mentioned (ə/bəv/mən/ˈmənt/; adj. formal)
▶ adjective CONNECTED WITH 1 [refers to things or people in a document or book that have been mentioned earlier] All of the above-mentioned films won Oscars. Compare undermentioned above-mentioned

abrade (ə/breɪd/ verb) 1 [used when describing someone who is performing a magic trick, in order to help them perform it successfully] I'd like to thank my family. 2 [abrasive/surfacing by rubbing] Abrasion (ə/breɪʃən; noun) specialized 3 [the process of rubbing away the surface of something; There seems to have been some abrasion of the surface, 2 [a place where the surface of something, such as skin, has been rubbed away. She had a small abrasion on her knee.]

abridge (ə/braɪdʒ/ verb) 1 [to make a book, play or piece of writing shorter by removing details and information that is not important] The book was abridged for children. 2 [abbreviated] Abbreviated (ə/briːdʒtɪd/ adjective) I've only read the abridged edition/ version of her novel. 3 [abridgment] Abridgment (ə/braɪdʒmənt/ noun) C or U
abroad /ˈbrɔːd/ adjective /ˈbrɔːd/ verb [after verb] OTHER COUNTRY
1 in or to a foreign country or countries: He's been abroad for the summer.
2 [after verb] LITERARY OR OLD USE outside; not at home: Not a soul was abroad that morning.

absence /ˈæbsəns/ 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.

absent /ˈæbsənt/ adjective NOT EXISTING 2 not existing: Any sign of remorse was completely absent from her face. NOT PAYING ATTENTION 3 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 something else: She is completely absent-minded.

abrupt /ˈəbrʌpt/ adjective SUDDEN 1 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.

abseil /ˈəbziːl/ verb [T] formal to end a law, agreement or custom formally: The treaty was abrogated in 1929.

abrogation /ˈæbrɔɡeɪʃən/ noun [C] law: The treaty was abrogated in 1929.

abscissa /ˌæbsɪˈsɪsə/ noun [C] mathematics: The first coordinate in a coordinate system: the abscissa of a point is the horizontal distance from the origin to the point.

abscissa /ˈæbsɪˈsɪsə/ noun [C] mathematics: one of the two variables in a coordinate system: the abscissa of a point is the horizontal distance from the origin to the point.

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abscissa /ˈæbsɪˈsɪsə/ noun [C] mathematics: one of the two variables in a coordinate system: the abscissa of a point is the horizontal distance from the origin to the point.
absolute zero noun [U] the lowest temperature possible, which is -273.15 C

absolution /æbsəˈleɪʃən/ noun [U] formal official forgiveness, especially in the Christian religion, for something bad that someone has done or thought: She was granted given absolution.

abstain /æbstiːn/ verb [T] formal (especially in religion or law) to see someone from guilt, blame or responsibility for something: The report absolved her from all blame for the accident. • The priest absolved him of all his sins.

absorb /æbˈzɔːb/ verb [T] TAKE IN 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.

absorption /æbˈzɔːr.bən/ noun [U] the ability to absorb a liquid

abstract /æbˈstrækt/ adjective able to take liquid in through the surface and to hold it: Towels absorb moisture. • The priest absolved him of all his sins.

abstract noun [C] a painting which represents the qualities of something, not its outer appearance

abstracted /æbˈstrækt.id/ adjective 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.

abstractly /æbˈstræktli/ adverb

abstraction /æbˈstrækশən/ noun [C] or [U] formal when a subject is very general and not real on situations: She’s always talking in abstractions.

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

abstract noun [U] a shortened form of a speech, article, book, etc., giving only the most important facts or ideas: There is a section at the end of the magazine which includes abstracts of recent articles/ books.

abstract noun [U] a painting which represents the qualities of something, not its outer appearance

abstain /æbˈstɛɪn/ verb [T] to decide not to do something for your own advantage: She is continually abusing her position/authority by getting other people to do things for her.

abstaining /æbˈstɛɪnɪŋ/ verb [I] NOT DO 1 to not do something, especially something enjoyable that you think might be bad: He took a vow to abstain from alcohol/smoking/sex.

abstinent /æbˈstɛnənt/ noun [M/L/S] not doing something: I had an abstinent feeling about the wedding.

abstinent noun [M/L/S] not doing something, such as drinking alcohol: He abstained from alcohol while you are taking this medication.

abstinence /æbˈstɛnsi/ noun [U] formal not doing something, such as drinking alcohol or having sex: The best way to avoid pregnancy is total abstinence from sex.

abstinent /æbˈstɛnənt/ noun [M/L/S] not doing something, especially something enjoyable that you think might be bad: He took a vow to abstain from alcohol/smoking/sex.

abstinent /æbˈstɛnənt/ adjective sexually abstinent

abstract /æbˈstrækt/ verb [T] to decide not to do 1 existing as an idea, feeling or quality, not as a material object: Truth and beauty are abstract concepts. • abstract noun [U] a drug/solvent abuser

absurd /æbˈsɜːrd/ adjective stupid or unreasonable; silly: Things that happen that are stupid or unreasonable are absurd.

absurd noun [U] a shortened form of a speech, article, book, etc., giving only the most important facts or ideas: It was absurdly expensive.

abuse /æbˈˈjuːs/ verb [I] and [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.

abuser /æbˈˈjuːsər/ noun [C] a drug/solvent abuser

abuse /æbˈˈjuːs/ noun [S] or [P] formal when there is more than enough of something: There was an abundance of wine at the wedding.

abundant /æbˈˈdʌnt/ adjective more than enough: There is abundant evidence that cars have a harmful effect on the environment.

absurd /æbˈsɜːrd/ noun [U] a shortened form of a speech, article, book, etc., giving only the most important facts or ideas: It was absurdly expensive.

abnormally /æbˈˈdʒɔːrili/ adverb

absurdity /æbˈˈdʒɔːrəti/ noun [U] a shortened form of a speech, article, book, etc., giving only the most important facts or ideas: Things that happen that are stupid or unreasonable are absurd.

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abundant /æbˈˈdʌnt/ adjective more than enough: There is abundant evidence that cars have a harmful effect on the environment.

absurd /æbˈsɜːrd/ noun [U] a shortened form of a speech, article, book, etc., giving only the most important facts or ideas: It was absurdly expensive.

abnormally /æbˈˈdʒɔːrili/ adverb

abuse /æbˈˈjuːs/ verb [I] and [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.

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or badly, especially in a way that is to their own advan-
tage: an abuse (= wrong use) of privilege/power/some-
one'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). = She accused abuse (= Using these sub-
stances in a bad way) contributed to his early death.
RUDE SPEECH 2 [U] rude and offensive words said to
someone. He had apparently experienced a lot of
rude 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! = an abusiveness
of abuse (= an insulter expression).

abusive /əˈbjuːsɪv/ adjective A using rude and offensive
words: an abusive letter/telephone call = He was
apparently abusive, had spat the flight attendants.
abut (a/bʌt) verb [T never passive; + prep] (b) 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 oil deposits in the world. • Their
house abutted (onto) the police station.

abuzz /əˈbʌz/ adjective [after verb] filled with noise and
activity: We arrived, the party was in full swing and
the room was abuzz. = The air was abuzz with mili-
tary helicopters, airlifting injured people and equipment.

abyssal /æˈbɪsəl/ adjective very bad: abyssal working
conditions • The food was abysmal. • The standard of
the students' work is abysmal. • abyssally /əˈbɪsəlɪ/ adverb
an abysmally poor book

abyss /ˈæbiːs/ noun [usually singular] hole 1 a very
depth hole which seems to have no bottom = BAD
situations • a slight West Country accent. • a room
that sinks/plunging into an abyss of violence and lawlessness.
• She found herself on the edge of an abyss.

abyssal /əˈbɪsəl/ adjective specialized found in the
deepest parts of the ocean or on the bottom of deep
oceans: abyssal marine life

AC /æˈsiː/ noun electricity 1 [U] abbreviation for alternating
current: electrical current which regularly
changes the direction in which it flows: Compare DC
and AC 2 [C or U] abbreviation for air conditioner or
air conditioning

.ac (dot ac) /æ.k/ (dot c) internet abbreviation for academic
institution: used in internet addresses which belong
to academic institutions such as universities: www.cam.ac.uk

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

academe /əˈkædem/ noun [U] formal the part of
society, especially universities, that is connected with
study and thinking

academia /əˈkædi.mə/ 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 already achieved his life in academia.

academically /əˌkædə.məˈli/ adverb the way in which people
in a particular area, country or social
group pronounce words: He's got a strong French/Scott-
nish accent. • She's French but she speaks with an
impeccable English accent. • He speaks with a broad/
heavy/thick Yorkshire accent. • I thought I
could detect a slight West Country accent. • He
made me feel inferior, so I rejected his advances.

accent /ˈænsıkt/ noun [C] /əˈsɛnt/ pronunciation 1 the
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accurate /əˈkərɪt/ adjective [before noun] (a) correct
and reliable: an accurate account (of) • They use special
chemicals to accelerate the growth of crops.

accelerate /əˈkɛləreɪt/ verb 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 /əˈkɛlərəˈkeɪʃən/ noun 1 [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.

access /ˈækses/ verb 1 [I] when something happens faster: The acceleration
in the decline of manufacturing industry is being blamed
on the high value of sterling. • She was granted
access to the bank's records.

accelerator /əˈkɛlərəˈkeɪtər/ noun 1 [C] (I) in
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pieces of matter) move very fast. • See picture The Car on
page P20

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Cambridge Dictionaries
Excerpt
More information

at the slimness of her waist. 0 The new policy only 
accept the inadequacy of provision for the 
acceptable. 0 I offered her an apology, but she wouldn’t accept it. 0 I accept full responsibility for the failure of the plan. 0 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. 0 I’ve just accepted an invitation to the opening-night party. 0 I’ve been invited to their wedding but I haven’t decided whether to accept. APPROVED 3 [I or T] to consider something or someone as satisfactory: The manuscript was accepted for publication last week. 0 She was accepted as a full member of the society. 0 His fellow workers refused to accept him (= to include him as one of the group). BELIEVED 4 [I or T] to believe that something is true: The police refused to accept her version of the story. 0 He still hasn’t accepted the situation (= realised that he cannot change it). 0 [that] I can’t accept that there’s nothing we can do.

Common mistake: accept or agree?
Warning: accept is not usually followed by another verb.
Don’t say someone ‘accepts to do sth’, say someone agrees to do sth:
My father accepted to pick me up from the airport.

acceptable [əkˈseptəbl] adjective 1 satisfactory and able to be agreed to or approved of. Clearly we need to come to an arrangement that is acceptable to both parties.
0 So what is an acceptable level of radiation? 0 This kind of attitude is simply not acceptable. 2 just good enough, but not very good: Her performance was acceptable, but not storming.

acceptance [əkˈseptəns] noun [U] a general agreement that something is satisfactory or right, or that someone should be included in a group: The idea rapidly gained acceptance (= became approved of) in political circles. 0 The party marked his acceptance into the community. 2 the act of agreeing to an offer, plan or invitation: Her acceptance of the award was very controversial.
0 an acceptance speech 3 accepting a difficult or unpleasant situation: His attitude to his behaviour is one of resigned acceptance.

accepted [əkˈseptId] adjective generally agreed to be satisfactory or right: ‘Speed bump’ now seems to be the generally accepted term for those ridges in the road that slow traffic down.

access [ˈækses] noun [U] 1 the method or possibility of getting near to a place or person, or the right to use or look at something: The only access to the village is by boat.
0 The main access to (= entrance to) the building is at the side of the house. 0 The tax inspector had gained complete access to the company files. 0 The system has been designed to give the user quick and easy access to the required information.
0 The children’s father was refused access to them at any time without official permission to see them.

[verb] 1 to open a computer file (= a collection of information stored on a computer) in order to look at or change information in it:

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

accessible [əkˈsesəbl] adjective 1 able to be reached or easily got: The resort is easily accessible by road, rail and air. 0 The problem with some of these drugs is that they are so very accessible. 2 easy to understand: Covent Garden has made some attempt to make opera accessible to a wider public.

accessibility [əkˈsesəbɪlɪtI] noun [U] 1 formal the time when someone starts a position of authority, especially king or queen: 1926 was the year of Emperor Hirohito’s accession to the throne. 2 the time when a country officially joins a group of countries or signs an agreement: Poland’s accession to the EU.

accessory [əkˈsɛrɪ] noun [C] [USUALLY PLURAL] something added to a machine or to clothing, which has a useful or decorative purpose: She wore a green wool suit with matching accessories (= shoes, hat, bag, etc.).

access provider noun [C] (also ISP) a company that allows you to use the Internet and use email, and gives you space on the Internet to put your 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 a road leading to a motorway

Important words to learn: Essential 1 Improver 2 Advanced

### Word partners for accident

have/had an accident • accident happening • caused by accident • accident occurring • accident to happen • accident (noun) • accident (verb) • accident resulting in • accident causing

Traffic accidents can happen in many different situations. In this entry, we look at the meanings of the words for accident.

a car accident

An accident is an unexpected or unintended event that causes damage or injury. It can involve people, property, or animals. Accidents can result from a variety of causes, such as slips, trips, and falls; vehicle collisions; and natural disasters. The severity of accidents can range from minor to fatal, and they can occur in different contexts, such as at home, at work, or on the road.

**Essential words**

- **accident** [ˈæksɪdənt] noun [C] 1 something bad which happens that is not expected or intended, and which often damages something or injures someone: She was injured in an accident on the road.
- **cause** [kɔːz] verb 1 to make something happen: The bad weather caused the flight to be delayed.
- **unintentional** [ˌʌnɪˈtenʃənl] adjective 1 not expected or intended: The accident was unintentional.
- **injury** [ˈɪnʤəri] noun [C] 1 damage to the body caused by an accident or illness: He received serious injuries in the accident.
- **damaged** [ˈdæmɪdʒd] adjective 1 that has been damaged or destroyed by some kind of event: The building was damaged by a fire.
- **repair** [rɪˈpær] verb 1 to make something that is damaged or broken work again: They repaired the car after the accident.
- **replacement** [rɪˈpleɪsmənt] noun [C] 1 an object or part that is used to replace something that is damaged or broken: They bought a replacement for the broken glass.
- **insurance** [ɪnˈʃərəns] noun [C/U] 1 money paid by an insurance company to cover the cost of damage or injury caused by an accident: He will need insurance to cover the cost of the damage to the car.
- **deceased** [dɪˈsiːst] adjective 1 that has died: The deceased’s family is being given extra support.
- **witness** [ˈwɪtnɪs] noun [C] 1 someone who sees something happen: They asked the witness to come and talk to them.
- **court** [kɔːt] noun [C] 1 a place where a judge makes a decision: The court heard the witness’s testimony.
- **convict** [kənˈvɪkt] verb 1 to make someone guilty of a crime: He was convicted of theft.
- **sentence** [ˈsentəns] noun [C] 1 the punishment that is given to someone for a crime: She was given a six-month sentence for stealing.

**Practice activity**

Create a set of flashcards with common accident-related words and definitions. Use these flashcards to review and reinforce your understanding of the vocabulary related to accidents.
Important words to learn:

Accommodation

| idiom 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.

accident-prone /əkˈsiː.dəntˈprəʊn/ adjective describes someone who often has accidents, usually because they are very awkward

acclimatize /əˈklæm.ətɪz/ verb 1 (often passive) found it impossible to acclimatize ourselves working conditions. [uk usually acclimatise]

acclimatization /əˈklæm.ətəˌzi.ʃən/ noun (countable) sunshine by spending the past month in Florida.

accommodation /əˈkɒm.əˌdeɪ.ʃən/ noun 1 [countable] a place for

accommodations

accommodate /əˈkɒm.əˌdeɪt/ verb 1 to help other people, for example by changing your plans: I'm sure she'll help you - she's always very accommodating.

accommodation [əˈkɒm.əˌdeɪ.ʃən] noun 1 [countable] a place to stay when you are travelling, especially a hotel room: Sweepstakes winners will enjoy a week-long stay in las vegas accommodations. Las Vegas.

accompaniment /əˈkʌmp.ən.мент/ noun music| noun 1 [countable] music that is played with someone who is singing or playing the main tune: a song with piano accompaniment.

accompanist /əˈkʌmp.ən.ist/ noun 1 [countable] someone who plays an instrument such as the piano or guitar while someone else sings or plays the main tune: The singer's accompanist on the piano was Charles Harman.

acclimatization /əˈkʌlm.əˌtəˌzi.ʃən/ noun 1 [countable] the process by which a person's body adapts to a new environment: to help you adapt to a new environment.

acclaim /əˈkleɪm/ noun [U] public approval and praise: She was universally/widely/publicly acclaimed as the greatest singer of her generation. • acclaimed /əˈkleɪmd/ adjective an acclaimed artist/writer/poet • Dinner Party, based on the critically acclaimed novel by Bill Davies, was made into a film last year.

acclamation /əˈkleɪm.ə.ʃən/ noun 1 [countable] praise: She was universally/widely/publicly acclaimed.

accompany /əˈkʌmp.əni/ verb 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 always accompanied by insomnia. • The salmon was accompanied by (= served with) a fresh green salad. • Slightly formal to show someone how to get to somewhere: Would you like me to accompany you to your room?

accomplice /əˈkʌmp.əl̩s/ noun 1 [countable] someone who helps someone else to commit a crime or to do something morally wrong

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accordance

Important words to learn: Essential Improver Advanced

you do it without being asked to do it: She came of her own accord. No one asked her to come.

3 with one accord

If everyone agrees with something, they do it together and in complete agreement: With one accord, the delegates walked out of the conference.

verb [T] informal 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.

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

accordance [ækˈkɔːr(ə)ns] 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 [əˈkɔːrɪŋli] adverb formally in a way that is suitable or right for the situation: When we receive your instructions you shall act accordingly.

► She’s an expert in her field, and is paid accordingly.

accord to [əˈkɔːr(t) təʊ] verb [T] formal to think of something as being on someone's side or by someone, especially when they do not agree with someone: To account for something, 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 not happen, not at all: on no account do not use anything that is not yours: an account

Common mistake: according

Warning: according to is used to introduce what someone says, writes, or does. According to me, the training course was a waste of time.

According to me

4 according, in accordance with the way it was intended to: Did it all go according to plan?

account [əˈkaʊnt] noun an expert in her field, and is paid accordingly.

accord, the delegates walked out of the conference.

account of his health.

6 accord with sth to say that sth is correct: His version of events accorded with witnesses' statements.

account for the vast majority of our customers.

accountable [əˈkaʊntəbl] adjective 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.

account for sth 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).

account for (sb) 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).

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