

A

A

A, a /eɪ/ noun (plural **As**, **A's** or **a's**) **LETTER** ▷ **1** [C or U] the first letter of the English alphabet **MUSIC** ▷ **2** [C or U] a note in Western music: *This concerto is in the key of A major.* **MARK** ▷ **3** [C or U] 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.* **ELECTRICITY** ▷ **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.* • **from A to Z** including everything: *This book tells the story of her life from A to Z.*

a weak /ə/ strong /eɪ/ **determiner** (also **an**) **NOT PARTICULAR** ▷ **1** (A) 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: *I've bought a car.* ◦ *She's got a boyfriend.* ◦ *There was a sudden loud noise.* ◦ *Is he a friend of yours (= one of your friends)?* **2** (A) used to say 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** (A) 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** (A) 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** (A) 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** (A) 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** (A) used before some words that express a number or amount: *a few days* ◦ *a bit of wool* ◦ *a lot of money* **9** 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.* **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.* **ONE** ▷ **11** (A) one: *a hundred* ◦ *a thousand* ◦ *a dozen* ◦ *There were three men and a woman.* **12** (A) 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* **13** (A) used when saying how often something happens in a certain period: *Take one tablet three times a day.* ◦ *I swim once a week.* **14** (A) 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.*

A2 /eɪ'tuː/ noun [C] (plural **A2s**) a public exam taken in England and Wales by children aged 17 or 18. Students take **AS** LEVEL exams then **A2s**, usually a year later, which together make a full **A** LEVEL qualification. → See also **A level**, **AS level**

A3 /eɪ'θriː/ noun [U] paper that is a standard size of

! Common mistake: **a** or **an**?

Use **an** in front of words that begin with a vowel sound: Don't say 'a animal' or 'a old building', say **an animal** or **an old building**.

Warning: do not use **a** or **an** to refer to uncountable nouns:

I have an exciting news for you.

I have exciting news for you.

I have some exciting news for you.

I have an exciting piece of news for you.

29.7 centimetres by 42 centimetres: *a sheet of A3* ◦ *A3 paper*

A4 /eɪ'fɔːt/ (US) /-'fɔːr/ noun [U] paper that is a standard size of 21 centimetres by 29.7 centimetres: *a sheet of A4* ◦ *A4 paper*

AA /eɪ'eɪ/ noun **DEGREE** ▷ **1** [C] abbreviation for Associate in Arts: a degree given by an American college to someone after they have finished a two-year course, or a person who has this degree **ALCOHOL** ▷ **2** abbreviation for Alcoholics Anonymous: an organization for people who drink too much alcohol and want to cure themselves of this habit: *an AA meeting* **CARS** ▷ **3** the **AA** abbreviation for the Automobile Association: an organization in the UK that gives help and information to drivers who are members of it

AAA /eɪ.eɪ'eɪ/ noun abbreviation for American Automobile Association: an organization in the US that gives help and information to drivers who are members of it

aah /ɑː/ exclamation another spelling of **ah**

A & E /eɪ.ænd'iː/ noun [U or C] UK (US **e'mergency room**) abbreviation for Accident and Emergency: the part of a hospital where people go when they are ill or injured and need treatment quickly

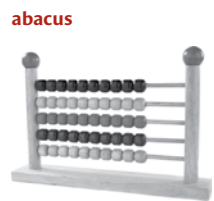
armadillo /'ɑːd.vɪ.lə/ (US) /'ɑːr.d.vɑːr.k/ noun [C] an African mammal with a long nose and large ears that lives underground and eats insects

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, used for counting or for doing calculations



abalone /æb.ə.'ləʊ.ni/ (US)

/'ləʊ.ni/ noun [C] a small

sea creature that can be eaten. It lives inside a shell that is the shape of an ear and is white and shiny inside.

abandon /ə'bænd.ən/ verb; noun

► verb [T] **LEAVE** ▷ **1** (A) to leave a place, thing, or person for ever: *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.* **STOP** ▷ **2** (A) to stop doing an activity before you have finished it: *The match was*

abase

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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. **3** **abandon yourself to sth** to allow yourself to be controlled completely by a feeling or way of living: He abandoned himself to his emotions. • **abandoned** /ə'beɪn.dənd/ **adj** **32** An abandoned baby was found in a box on the hospital steps. • **abandonment** /-mənt/ **noun** [U]

► **noun** literary **with (gay/wild) abandon** in a completely uncontrolled way: We danced with wild abandon.

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

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

abate /ə'beɪt/ **verb** [I] formal to become less strong: The storm/wind/rain has started to abate. • The fighting in the area shows no sign of abating. → See also **unabated** • **abatement** /-mənt/ **noun** [U]

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

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

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

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

abbreviate /ə'brɪ.vi.eɪt/ **verb** [T usually passive] to make a word or phrase shorter by using only the first letters of each word: 'Daniel' is often abbreviated to 'Dan'. • 'Chief Executive Officer' is abbreviated as 'CEO'. • **abbreviated** /ə'brɪ.vi.eɪ.tɪd/ (US) /-tɪd/ **adj** 'Di' is the abbreviated form of 'Diane'.

abbreviation /ə'brɪ.vi.eɪ.ʃən/ **noun** [C] a short form of a word or phrase: 'ITV' is the abbreviation for 'Independent Television'.

ABC /eɪ.bi:si:/ **noun** **ALPHABET** ► **1** [S] (US usually **ABCs** [plural]) the alphabet: He's learning his ABC at school. **2** [S] (US usually **ABCs** [plural]) basic information about a subject: What I need is a book that contains the ABC of carpentry. **TV** ► **3** abbreviation for American Broadcasting Company: an organization that broadcasts on television in the US **4** the **ABC** abbreviation for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation: an organization that broadcasts on radio and television in Australia and is paid for by the government

abdicate /'æb.dɪ.keɪt/ **verb** **KING/QUEEN** ► **1** [I or T] If a king or queen abdicates, he or she makes a formal statement that he or she no longer wants to be king or queen: King Edward VIII abdicated (the British throne) in 1936. **NOT DO** ► **2** **abdicate responsibility** formal disapproving to stop controlling or managing something that you are in charge of: She abdicated all responsibility for the project. • **abdication** /æb.dɪ.keɪ.ʃən/ **noun** [U] The council denied that their decision represented any abdication of responsibility.

abdomen /'æb.də.mən/ **noun** [C] specialized the lower part of a person's or animal's body, containing the stomach, bowels, and other organs, or the end of an insect's body • **abdominal** /æb'dɒm.ɪ.nəl/ (US) /-dɑː.mə-/ **adj** abdominal pains

abdominals /æb'dɒm.ɪ.nəlz/ (US) /-dɑː.mə-/ **noun** [plural] (informal **abs**) muscles in the abdomen

abduct /æb'dʌkt/ **verb** [T] to force someone to go somewhere with you, often using threats or violence: The company director was abducted from his car by terrorists. • **abductor** /æb'dʌk.tə/ (US) /-tə/ **noun** [C] She was tortured by her abductors. • **abduction** /æb'dʌk.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.

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

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

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

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

abhorrence /ə'brɔːns/ (US) /æb'hɔːr-/ **noun** [S or U] formal a feeling of hating something or someone: She looked at him in/with abhorrence. • She has an abhorrence of change.

abhorrent /ə'brɔːnt/ (US) /æb'hɔːr-/ **adj** formal morally very bad: an abhorrent crime • Racism of any kind is abhorrent to me.

abide /ə'baɪd/ **verb** **1** **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. **LIVE** ► **2** [I usually + adv/prep] old use to live or stay somewhere

PHRASAL VERB **abide by sth** formal to accept or obey an agreement, decision, or rule: Competitors must abide by the judge's decision.

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

! Common mistake: **ability**

Remember that **ability** is never followed by 'of'. Don't say 'ability of doing something', say **ability to do something**:
 I admire people who have the ability of being positive.
 I admire people who have the ability to be positive.

2 Word partners for **ability**

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

ability /ə'bɪl.ɪ.ti/ (US) /-ə.ti/ **noun** [C or U] **31** 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

-ability /-ə.bɪl.ɪ.ti/ (US) /-ə.ti/ suffix (also **-ibility**) used to form nouns from adjectives ending in 'able' or 'ible', to mean the quality of being the stated adjective: *suitability* ◦ *stability*

abject /'æb.dʒekt/ adj formal **EXTREME** ▷ **1** **abject misery, poverty, failure, etc.** the state of being extremely unhappy, poor, unsuccessful, etc.: *They live in abject poverty.* ◦ *This policy has turned out to be an abject failure.* **NOT PROUD** ▷ **2** showing NO PRIDE OR respect for yourself: *an abject apology.* ◦ *He is almost abject in his respect for his boss.* ◦ **abjectly** /-li/ adv

abjure /əb'dʒʊə/ (US) /-dʒʊr/ verb [T] formal to say formally or publicly that you no longer agree with a belief or way of behaving: *He abjured his religion/his life of dissipation.*

ablation /ə'bleɪ.ʃən/ (US) /,æb'leɪ-/ noun [U] specialized the loss of ice or snow from a GLACIER or ICEBERG, or the loss of rock or similar material, caused by a process such as melting or EROSION

ablaze /ə'bleɪz/ adj [after verb] **1** burning very strongly: *The house was ablaze, and the flames and smoke could be seen for miles around.* **2** brightly lit or brightly coloured: *The ballroom was ablaze with lights.* ◦ *The field was ablaze with wild flowers.* **3** full of energy, interest, or emotion: *Her eyes were ablaze with excitement.*

able /'eɪ.bl/ adj **CAN DO** ▷ **1** **be able to do sth** (A2) 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.* **2** **be better able to do something** to find it easier to do something: *Get a good night's sleep and you'll feel better able to cope.*

! Common mistake: **able**

Able is followed by a verb in the infinitive with 'to'.

Do not say 'able do something' or 'able doing something', say **able to do something**:

I will be able to start the job next week.

I will be able to start the job next week.

SKILFUL ▷ **3** (C) 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.*

-able /-ə.bl/ suffix (also **-ible**) **CAN BE** ▷ **1** added to verbs to form adjectives which mean able to receive the action of the stated verb: *breakable* ◦ *washable* ◦ *movable* **WORTH BEING** ▷ **2** added to verbs to form adjectives which mean worth receiving the action of the stated verb: *an admirable person* ◦ *an acceptable answer*

able-bodied 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 noun** [plural]

ablution /ə'blu:ʃən/ noun formal **1** [U] the act of washing yourself: *Ablution is part of some religious ceremonies.* **2** **ablutions** [plural] humorous Your ablutions are the things you do when you wash yourself: *I must just perform my ablutions!*

ably /'eɪ.bli/ adv skilfully: *He performs his duties very ably.*

abnegate /'æb.nɪ.geɪt/ verb [T] formal **1** to not allow

yourself to have something, especially something you like or want **2** to not accept something, or to say that you do not have something: *to abnegate responsibility/guilt* ◦ **abnegation** /,æb.nɪ'geɪ.ʃən/ noun [U]

abnormal /'æb.nɔː.məl/ (US) /-'nɔːr-/ adj (C) different from what is usual or average, especially in a way that is bad: *abnormal behaviour/weather/conditions* ◦ *Tests revealed some abnormal skin cells.* ◦ **abnormally** /-i/ adv *The success rate was abnormally high.*

abnormality /,æb.nɔː'mæl.ə.ti/ (US) /-'nɔːr'mæl.ə.ti/ noun [C or U] something abnormal, usually in the body: *genetic/congenital abnormalities* ◦ *An increasing number of tests are available for detecting foetal abnormalities.* ◦ *The X-rays showed some slight abnormality.*

Abo /'æb.əʊ/ (US) /-ou/ noun [C] (plural **Abos**) Australian English offensive word for an **Aborigine**

ABO /,eɪ.bi:'əʊ/ (US) /-'ou-/ noun [S] specialized the system that divides human blood into four main BLOOD GROUPS (= types of blood), known as A, B, AB, and O: *the ABO blood group system*

aboard /ə'bɔːd/ (US) /-'bɔːrd/ adv, preposition (C) on or 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'bəʊd/ (US) /-'bɔːd/ noun [C usually singular] the place where someone lives: formal *The defendant is of no fixed abode* (= has no permanent home). ◦ humorous *Welcome to my humble abode!*

abolish /ə'bɒl.ɪʃ/ (US) /-'bɑːlɪʃ/ verb [T] (B2) to end an activity or custom officially: *National Service was abolished in the UK in 1962.* ◦ **abolition** /,æb.ə'lɪʃ.ən/ noun [U] *the abolition of slavery*

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

abominable /ə'bɒm.ɪ.nə.bl/ (US) /-'bɑːmɪ-/ adj very bad or unpleasant: *The prisoners are forced to live in abominable conditions.* ◦ *The weather's been abominable all week.* ◦ **abominably** /-bli/ adv *He behaved abominably towards her.*

A bominable **Snowman** noun [C] a yeti

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

abomination /ə'bɒm.ɪ'neɪ.ʃən/ (US) /-'bɑːmɪ-/ noun [C] formal something that you dislike and disapprove of: *Cruelty to animals is an abomination.*

aboriginal /,æb.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*

Aboriginal /,æb.ə'ɪdʒ.ɪ.nəl/ noun [C] an Aborigine ◦ **Aboriginal** adj *Aboriginal art/traditions*

Aborigine /,æb.ə'ɪdʒ.ɪ.n.i/ noun [C] a member of the race of people with dark skins who were the first people to live in Australia

abort /ə'bɔːt/ (US) /-'bɔːrt/ verb **STOP** ▷ **1** [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.* **END PREGNANCY** ▷ **2** [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?* **3** [I] another word for **miscarry** (**miscarriage**)

abortion /ə'bɔːʃən/ (US) /-'bɔːr-/ noun **END OF PREGNANCY** ▷ **1** (C) [C or U] the intentional ending of a

abortionist

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pregnancy: *She decided to **have/get** an abortion.*
 ◦ *Abortion is restricted in some American states.* → **Compare miscarriage, stillbirth FAILURE** ▷ 2 [C] slang a failure: *This project is a complete abortion.*

abortionist /ə'brɔ:ʃ.ɪn.ɪst/ (US) /-'brɔ:r-/ **noun** [C] a person who performs abortions to end unwanted pregnancies, often illegally and for money

abortive /ə'brɔ:t.ɪv/ (US) /-'brɔ:r.ɪv/ **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.*

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

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

about /ə'baʊt/ **preposition; adv; adj**

▶ **preposition** **CONNECTED WITH** ▷ 1 (A) on the subject of, or 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?)*

! 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 wages, I kindly request that you review the situation.

NO ORDER ▷ 2 mainly UK (US usually **around**) positioned around a place, often without a clear purpose or order: *Their belongings were flung about the room.*
POSITION ▷ 3 UK formal in a particular place: *Do you have such a thing as a pen about you/your person?* (= Have you got a pen?)

IDIOM **how/what about...?** (A2) 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?'*

▶ **adv** **APPROXIMATELY** ▷ 1 (A1) a little more or less than the stated number or amount: *about six feet tall* ◦ *about two months ago* ◦ *'What time are you leaving work today?' 'About five.'* **ALMOST** ▷ 2 almost: *We're about ready to leave.* ◦ *Well, I think that's about it for now (= we have almost finished what we are doing for the present).* **ALL DIRECTIONS** ▷ 3 (B2) mainly UK (US usually **around**) in many different directions: *They heard someone moving about outside.* ◦ *I've been running about all morning trying to find you.* **NO ORDER** ▷ 4 (B2) mainly UK (US usually **around**) positioned around a place, often without a clear purpose or order: *She always leaves her clothes lying about on the floor.* **PLACE** ▷ 5 mainly UK (US usually **around**) in or near a place: *Is John about (= somewhere near)?* ◦ *There's a lot of flu about (= many people have it) at the moment.*

▶ **adj** **INTENDING** ▷ **be about to do sth** (B1) to be going

Other ways of saying about

Common alternatives to 'about' are **approximately** or **around**:

The job will take approximately three months.

The accident happened around four o'clock.

When you are talking about an approximate number, you can use **roughly**:

There were roughly two hundred people at the meeting.

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 for charity.

Her son must be 40-odd years old by now.

to do something very soon: *I was about to leave when Mark arrived.* ◦ *She looked as if she was about to cry.*

a, bout- turn **noun** [C] UK (US **a bout-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.* **2** a complete change of opinion or behaviour: *This is the government's second about-turn on the issue.*

above /ə'beɪv/ **adv, preposition; adv, adj**

▶ **adv, preposition** **HIGHER POSITION** ▷ 1 (A1) 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.* ◦ *It's on the shelf just above your head.* **MORE** ▷ 2 (A2) 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.* **3 above all** (B1) most importantly: *Above all, I'd like to thank my family.* ◦ *Above all, I'd say I value kindness.* **RANK** ▷ 4 in a more important or advanced position than someone else: *Sally's a grade above me.* **TOO IMPORTANT** ▷ 5 (C2) 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.*

▶ **adv, adj** **ON PAGE** ▷ 1 (B1) 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 letter was sent to the above address.* **2 the above** all the people or things listed earlier: *All of the above should be invited.* ◦ *Once we've finished all of the above we can start on the next project.*

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

abracadabra /,æb.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 /ə'breɪ.sɪv/ **adj; noun**

▶ **adj** **PERSON** ▷ 1 rude and unfriendly: *She has a rather abrasive manner.* ◦ *He can sometimes be quite abrasive*

in meetings. **CLEANING SUBSTANCE** ▷ **2** An abrasive substance is slightly rough, and often used for cleaning surfaces: *an abrasive cleaner/powder/liquid*
 • **abrasively** /-li/ **adv** • **abrasiveness** /-nəs/ **noun** [U]
 ▶ **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.*

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 make sure you know all the most recent facts about a subject or situation: *I try to keep abreast of any developments.*

abridge /ə'brɪdʒ/ **verb** [T] 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.* • **abridged** /ə'brɪdʒd/ **adj** the abridged **edition/version** of her novel • **abridgment** (also **abridgement**) /-mənt/ **noun** [C or U]

abroad /ə'brɔːd/ **adv** [after verb] **OTHER COUNTRY** ▷ **1** (B) in or to a foreign country or countries: *He's currently abroad on business.* • *We always go abroad in the summer.* **OUTSIDE** ▷ **2** [after verb] literary or old use outside, or not at home: *Not a soul was abroad that morning.* **GOING AROUND** ▷ **3** [after verb] 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 /'æb.rə.ɡeɪt/ **verb** [T] formal to end a law, agreement, or custom formally: *The treaty was abrogated in 1929.* • **abrogation** /'æb.rə.ɡeɪ.ʃən/ **noun** [S or U]

abrupt /ə'brʌpt/ **adj** **SUDDEN** ▷ **1** (C) 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.* **UNFRIENDLY** ▷ **2** (C) 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** /-li/ **adv** *The talks ended abruptly when one of the delegations walked out in protest.* • **abruptness** /-nəs/ **noun** [U]

abs /æbz/ **noun** [plural] informal **abdominals**: *exercises to tone/build up your abs*

ABS /,æi.bi:'es/ **noun** [S] abbreviation for anti-lock braking system: a BRAKE fitted to some road vehicles that prevents SKIDDING (= uncontrolled sliding) by reducing the effects of stopping suddenly

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 /'æb.skɒnd/ (US) /-'skɑːnd/ **verb** [I] **ESCAPE** ▷ **1** 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.* **STEAL** ▷ **2** to go away suddenly and secretly because you have stolen something, usually money: *They absconded with £10,000 of the company's money.* • **absconder** /'æb.skɒn.də/ (US) /-'skɑːn.də/ **noun** [C]

abseil /'æb.seɪl/ **verb** [I] UK (US **rappel**) to go down a very steep slope by holding on to a rope that is fastened to the top of the slope: *She abseiled down the rock face.* • **abseil** **noun** [C] UK (US **rappel**)

absence /'æb.səns/ **noun** **NOT BEING PRESENT** ▷ **1** (C) [U or C] the fact of not being where you are usually expected to be: *A new manager was appointed during/in her absence.* • *She has had repeated absences from*

work this year. **NOT EXISTING** ▷ **2** (C) [U] the fact of not existing: *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.

IDIOM absence makes the heart grow fonder saying This means that when people we love are not with us, we love them even more.

abseil



absent **adj**; **preposition**; **verb**

▶ **adj** /'æb.sənt/ **NOT PRESENT** ▷ **1** (B) 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.* **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 thinking about other things and are not paying attention to what is happening near them

▶ **preposition** /'æb.sənt/ US without: *Absent a detailed plan, the project was doomed from the start.*

▶ **verb** /'æb.sənt/ **absent yourself** 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** /-ɪ.zəm/ **noun** [U] *The high rate of absenteeism is costing the company a lot of money.*

absentee ballot **noun** [C] US a piece of paper that a person who is 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 never or almost never visits it

absentee vote **noun** [C] Australian English a piece of paper that a person who is unable to be present at an election can vote on and send in by post → **Compare absentee ballot**

absently /'æb.sənt.li/ **adv** as if you are not paying attention to what is happening near you, and are thinking about other things: *He stared absently at his food.*

absent-minded **adj** describes someone who often forgets things or does not pay attention to what is happening near them because they are thinking about other things • **absent-mindedly** **adv** *She absent-mindedly left her umbrella on the bus.* • **absent-mindedness** **noun** [U]

absinthe (also **absinth**) /'æb.sɪθ/, /-sɪθ/ **noun** [U] a strong alcoholic drink that is green and has a bitter taste

absolute /'æb.sə.luːt/ **adj** **VERY GREAT** ▷ **1** (C) 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** (C) [before noun] used when expressing a strong opinion: *He's an absolute idiot!* • *That's absolute rubbish!* **NOT CHANGING** ▷ **3** [before noun] true, right,

absolutely

6

A

or the same in all situations and not depending on anything else: *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.* **POWERFUL** ▶ **4** describes a ruler who has unlimited power: *an absolute monarch*

absolutely /æb.sə'lu:t.li/ **adv** **1** **(B)** completely: *I believed/trusted him absolutely.* • *You must be absolutely silent or the birds won't appear.* • *We've achieved absolutely nothing today.* **2** **(B)** used for adding force to a strong adjective that 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** **(B)** used as a strong way of saying 'yes': *'It was an excellent film, though.' 'Absolutely!'* **4** **absolutely not** **(B)** used as a strong way of saying 'no': *'Are you too tired to continue?' 'Absolutely not!'*

I Common mistake: **absolutely****Warning:** Common word-building error!

If an adjective ends with 'te', just add 'ly' to make an adverb. Don't write 'absolutly' or 'absolutelly', write **absolutely**.

absolute majority **noun** [C] a situation in which one person or political party wins more than half of the total votes in an election

absolute zero **noun** [S] the lowest temperature possible (-273.15°C)

absolution /æb.sə'lu:ʃən/ **noun** [U] formal the act of forgiving someone, especially in the Christian religion, for something bad that they have done or thought: *She was granted/given absolution.*

absolutism /'æb.sə.lu:ti.z'm/ **(US)** /-tɪ-/ **noun** [U] a political system in which a single ruler, group, or political party has complete power over a country

absolve /əb'zɒlv/ **(US)** /-'zɑ:lv/ **verb** [T] formal (especially in religion or law) to free someone from guilt, blame, or responsibility for something: *The report absolved her from/of all blame for the accident.* • *The priest absolved him (of all his sins).*

absorb /əb'zɔ:b/ **(US)** /-'zɔ:rb/ **verb** [T] **TAKE IN** ▶ **1** **(B2)** to take something in, especially gradually: *Plants absorb carbon dioxide.* • *In cold climates, houses need to have walls that will absorb heat.* • *Towels absorb moisture.* • *The drug is quickly absorbed into the bloodstream.* • *Our countryside is increasingly being absorbed by/into the large cities.* **2** to reduce the effect of a physical force, shock, or change: *The barrier absorbed the main impact of the crash.* **UNDERSTAND** ▶ **3** **(C)** to understand facts or ideas completely and remember them: *It's hard to absorb so much information.* **INTEREST VERY MUCH** ▶ **4** **(B2)** to take up someone's attention completely: *The project has absorbed her for several years.* → **Synonym engross** **PAY** ▶ **5** if a business absorbs the cost of something, it pays that cost easily: *The school has absorbed most of the expenses so far, but it may have to offer fewer places next year to reduce costs.* **TAKE CONTROL** ▶ **6** if one company absorbs another company, it takes control of it and they become one company: *Telecorp Holdings absorbed its Spanish subsidiary into its British headquarters.*

absorbed /əb'zɔ:bd/ **(US)** /-'zɔ:rbd/ **adj** [after verb] **absorbed in sth** **(B2)** very interested in something and not paying attention to anything else: *Simon was so absorbed in his book that he didn't even notice me come in.* → **Synonym engrossed** → **See also self-absorbed**

absorbent /əb'zɔ:bənt/ **(US)** /-'zɔ:r-/ **adj** able to take liquid in through the surface and to hold it: *absorbent paper* • **absorbency** /əb'zɔ:bənsi/ **(US)** /-'zɔ:r-/ **noun** [U] the ability to absorb liquid

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

absorption /əb'zɔ:p.ʃən/ **(US)** /-'zɔ:rp-/ **noun** [U] **TAKING IN** ▶ **1** the process of taking something into another substance: *Some poisonous gases can enter the body by absorption through the skin.* **INTEREST** ▶ **2** complete interest in something: *Her absorption in her work is so great that she thinks about nothing else.* → **See also self-absorption (self-absorbed)** **PAYING COSTS** ▶ **3** the situation in which a company pays the cost of something easily: *We can justify the company's absorption of higher manufacturing costs.* **TAKING CONTROL** ▶ **4** the situation in which one company takes control of another so that they become one company: *Reports confirmed the absorption of Kode's operations into DCM's offices.*

abstain /əb'steɪn/ **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.* **NOT VOTE** ▶ **2** to decide not to use your vote: *63 members voted in favour, 39 opposed, and 15 abstained.* **STAY AWAY** ▶ **3** Indian English to stay away from work: *During a recent general strike, employees of all major trade unions abstained.*

• **abstainer** /əb'steɪ.nə/ **(US)** /-nə/ **noun** [C]

abstemious /əb'sti:mi.əs/ **adj** formal not doing things that give you pleasure, especially not eating good food or drinking alcohol • **abstemiously** /-li/ **adv**

abstention /əb'sten.ʃən/ **noun** **NOT VOTING** ▶ **1** [C or U] the fact of not voting in favour of or against someone or something: *There were high levels of abstention (from voting) in the last elections.* • *There were ten votes in favour, six against, and three abstentions.* **NOT DOING** ▶ **2** [U] formal not doing something, such as drinking alcohol or having sex: *Abstention from alcohol is essential while you are taking this medication.*

abstinence /'æb.stɪ.nəns/ **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** /-nənt/ **adj** sexually abstinent

abstract /'æb.strækt/ **adj; noun**

▶ **adj** **GENERAL** ▶ **1** **(B2)** 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!* **3** the abstract 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).* **ART** ▶ **4** **(B2)** describes a type of painting, drawing, or sculpture that uses shapes, lines, and colour in a way that does not try to represent the appearance of people or things: *abstract art* • *an abstract painter*

▶ **noun** [C] **SHORT DOCUMENT** ▶ **1** a short 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 that includes abstracts of recent articles/books.* **ART** ▶ **2** a painting that uses shapes, lines, and colour in a way that does not try to represent the appearance of people or things

abstracted /'æb'strækt.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** /-li/ adv

abstraction /æb'stræk.ʃən/ noun [U or C] formal the situation in which a subject is very general and not based on real situations: *She's always talking in abstractions.*

abstract noun noun [C] a noun that refers to a thing that 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/ (US) /-'sɜ:d/ adj **1** (E) stupid and unreasonable, or silly in a humorous 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?*
2 the **absurd** things that happen that are stupid or unreasonable: *The whole situation borders on the absurd.* • *She has a keen sense of the absurd.* • **absurdly** /-li/ adv *You're behaving absurdly.* • *It was absurdly expensive.* • **absurdity** /əb'zɜ:.di.ti/, /-'sɜ:-/ (US) /-'zɜ:.dɔ.ʃi/ noun [U or C] *Standing there naked, I was suddenly struck by the absurdity of the situation.* • *There are all sorts of absurdities in the proposal.*

ABTA /æb.tə/ noun abbreviation for Association of British Travel Agents: a UK organization that protects travellers and people on holiday if a company that arranges travel fails to do something or goes out of business

abundance /ə'bʌn.dəns/ noun [S or U] formal the situation in which there is more than enough of something: *There was an abundance of food at the wedding.* • *We had wine in abundance.*

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.* • **abundantly** /-li/ adv formal *The plant grows abundantly in woodland.* • *You've made your feelings abundantly clear (= very clear).*

abuse verb; noun

► verb [T] /ə'bjuz/ **WRONGLY** ▶ **1** to use something for the wrong purpose in a way that is harmful or morally wrong: *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.* • *to abuse alcohol* **TREAT CRUELLY** ▶ **2** to treat someone cruelly or violently: *Several of the children had been sexually/physically/emotionally abused.* **SPEAK RUDELY** ▶ **3** to speak to someone rudely or cruelly • **abuser** /ə'bjuz.ə/ (US) /-'zə/ noun [C] *a child abuser* • *a drug/solvent abuser*

► noun /ə'bjuz/ **WRONG USE** ▶ **1** (E) [C or U] the use of something in a way that is harmful or morally wrong: *an abuse (= wrong use) of privilege/power/someone's kindness* • **Drug and alcohol abuse** (= using these substances in a bad way) *contributed to his early death.* **CRUEL BEHAVIOUR** ▶ **2** (E) cruel, violent, or unfair treatment of someone: *She claimed to have been a victim of child abuse.* • *sexual/physical/mental abuse (= bad treatment)* **RUDE SPEECH** ▶ **3** (E) [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 term of abuse (= an insulting expression).*

abusive /ə'bjuz.siv/ adj (E) using rude and offensive

words: *an abusive letter/phone call* • *He was apparently abusive to the flight attendants.*

abut /ə'bʌt/ verb [T never passive, I + prep] (-tt) formal If a building or area of land abuts something or 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'bʌz/ adj [after verb] filled with noise and activity: *When we arrived, the party was in full swing and the room was abuzz.* • *The air was abuzz with military helicopters.*

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

abyss /ə'bɪs/ noun [C usually singular] **HOLE** ▶ **1** literary a very deep hole that seems to have no bottom **BAD SITUATION** ▶ **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.*

abysmal /ə'bɪs.əl/ adj specialized found in the deepest parts of the ocean or on the bottom of deep oceans: *abysmal marine life*

AC /,eɪ'si:/ noun **ELECTRICITY** ▶ **1** [U] abbreviation for alternating current: electrical current that regularly changes the direction in which it flows → Compare **DC AIR** ▶ **2** [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 that has small leaves and yellow or white flowers

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

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

academic /'æk.ə'dem.ɪk/ adj; noun

► adj **STUDYING** ▶ **1** (E) 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 during which students go to school or college)* • *academic standards* **2** (E) describes someone who is clever and enjoys studying: *I was never a particularly academic child.* **IN THEORY** ▶ **3** based on ideas and theories and not related to practical effects in real life: *a purely academic argument/question* • **academically** /-i.kə'lɪ/ adv *She's always done well academically.*

► noun [C] (US or Indian English also **academician**) someone who teaches at a college, or who studies as part of their job

academician /ə'kæd.ə'mɪʃ.ən/ noun [C] **1** a member of an academy **2** US or Indian English for **academic**

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

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

açai

8

A

açai /ˌæsɑːiː/ **noun** [U] a small, round, dark purple fruit from Brazil that people believe is good for their health: *The cocktails are made of tropical ingredients such as fresh passion fruit and açai berries.*

a cappella /ˌæ.kəˈpel.ə/ (US) /ˌɑː-/ **adj** [before noun], **adv** specialized sung by a group of people without any musical instruments

accede /əkˈsiːd/ **verb**

PHRASAL VERB **accede to sth** formal **1** 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.* **2** **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.*

accelerate /əkˈsel.ə.reɪt/ (US) /-ə.eɪt/ **verb** **1** (C) [I] When a vehicle or its driver accelerates, the speed of the vehicle increases: *I accelerated to overtake the bus.* → **Opposite** **decelerate** **2** (C) [I] If a person or object accelerates, he, she, or it goes faster. **3** (C) [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 /əkˈsel.əˈreɪ.ʃən/ **noun** [U] the increase in something's speed, or its ability to go faster: *An older car will have poor acceleration.* • *High winds significantly hampered the plane's acceleration.* **2** [S or U] the increase in the speed at which something happens: *The acceleration in the decline of manufacturing industry began several years ago.*

accelerator /əkˈsel.əˈreɪ.tə/ (US) /-ə.eɪ.tə/ **noun** [C] **1** the PEDAL (= a part that you push with your foot) in a vehicle that makes it go faster **2** specialized in physics, a machine that makes PARTICLES (= small pieces of matter) move very fast

accent **noun; verb**

► **noun** [C] /ˈæ.k.sənt/ **PRONUNCIATION** ► **1** (B) 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.* **MARK** ► **2** (B) 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'.* **EMPHASIS** ► **3** 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.* **4** **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.* • **accented** /əkˈsen.tɪd/ (US) /ˈæ.k.sən.tɪd/ **adj** *He spoke in heavily accented English.*

► **verb** [T] /əkˈsent/ (US) /ˈæ.k.sən.t/ to emphasize something: *In any advertising campaign, you must accent the areas where your product is better than the competition.*

accentuate /əkˈsen.tʃu.eɪt/ **verb** [T] to emphasize a particular feature of something or to make something more noticeable: *Her dress was tightly belted, accentuating the slimness of her waist.* • *The new policy only serves to accentuate the inadequacy of provision for the homeless.* • **accentuation** /əkˈsen.tʃu.eɪ.ʃən/ **noun** [U]

accept /əkˈsept/ **verb** **TAKE** ► **1** (B) [T] to agree to take something: *Do you accept credit cards?* • *She was in*

London to accept an award for her latest novel. • *I offered her an apology, but she wouldn't accept it.* • *I accept full responsibility for the failure of the plan.* • *The new coffee machines will accept coins of any denomination.* **2** (B) [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.*

! 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 agreed to pick me up from the airport.

APPROVE ► **3** (B) [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).*

BELIEVE ► **4** (B) [T] to believe that something is true: *The police refused to accept her version of the story.* • *He still hasn't accepted the situation (= realized that he cannot change it).* • [+ that] *I can't accept that there's nothing we can do.*

acceptable /əkˈsept.ə.bəl/ **adj** **1** (B) satisfactory and able to be agreed to or approved of: *Clearly we need to come to an arrangement that is acceptable to both parties.* • *This kind of attitude is simply not acceptable.* **2** (B) just good enough, but not very good: *Her performance was acceptable, but not stunning.* • **acceptability** /əkˈsept.əˈbɪ.lɪ.ti/ (US) /-ə.ti/ **noun** [U]

acceptance /əkˈsept.əns/ **noun** [U] **1** 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.* • *The party marked his acceptance into the community.* **2** (C) the act of agreeing to an offer, plan, or invitation: *Her acceptance of the award was very controversial.* • *an acceptance speech* **3** the fact of accepting a difficult or unpleasant situation: *His attitude to his children's behaviour is one of resigned acceptance.*

accepted /əkˈsep.tɪd/ **adj** (C) 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 /ækˈses/ **noun; verb**

► **noun** [U] **GETTING NEAR** ► **1** (B) the method or possibility of getting near to a place or person: *The only access to the village is by boat.* • *The main access to (= entrance to) the building is at the side.* • *The children's father was refused access to them at any time (= refused official permission to see them).* **RIGHT** ► **2** (B) the right or opportunity to use or look at something: *The system has been designed to give the user quick and easy access to the required information.* • *The tax inspector had/gained complete access to the company files.*

► **verb** [T] (B) 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 that people take so they can get a qualification that 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 /ækˈses.ə.bəl/ **adj** **1** (B) able to be reached or easily got: *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: *Covent Garden has made some attempt to make opera accessible to a wider public.* • **accessibility** /æk'ses.ə-'bil.i.ti/ (US) /-ə.ti/ **noun** [U] *Two new roads are being built to increase accessibility to the town centre.* • *The accessibility of her plays means that she is able to reach a wide audience.*

accession /æk'seɪ.ʃən/ **noun** [U] **1** formal the time when someone starts a position of authority, especially a 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*

accessorize mainly US (UK usually **accessorise**) /æk'ses.ə-'r.aɪz/ (US) /-ə.aɪz/ **verb** [T] to add an accessory or accessories to something: *She was wearing a little black dress, accessorized simply with a silver necklace.*

accessory /æk'ses.ə-'ri.i/ (US) /-ə-/ **noun** **EXTRA** ▷ **1** [C usually plural] something added to a machine or to clothing that 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, electric windows, and a sunroof.* **CRIMINAL** ▷ **2** [C] someone who helps another person to commit a crime but does not take part in it: *an accessory to murder* **3** **accessory after the fact** legal someone who helps someone after they have committed a crime, for example by hiding them from the police **4** **accessory before the fact** legal someone who helps in the preparation of a crime

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** UK a road leading to a main road

accha (also **achha**) /'ætʃ.a:/ **exclamation** Indian English **1** used for showing that you agree with something or understand something: *Accha, that's good. Go ahead!* **2** used for showing surprise or happiness: *'I managed to buy it for half the price.' Accha!*

accident /'æk.sɪ.dənt/ **noun** [C] **1** something bad that happens that is not expected or intended and that often damages something or injures someone: *Josh had an accident and spilled water all over his work.* • *She was injured in a car/road accident (= when one car hit another).* **2** **by accident** without intending to, or without being intended: *I deleted the file by accident.*

Word partners for accident

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

IDIOMS **accidents will happen** saying said after an accident in order to make it seem less bad • **an accident waiting to happen** a very dangerous situation in which an accident is very likely • **have an accident** to urinate or EXCRETE (= pass solid waste) when you do not intend to: *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.*

accidental /æk.sɪ'den.təl/ (US) /-təl/ **adj** happening

by chance: *Reports suggest that eleven soldiers were killed by accidental fire from their own side.*

accidental death **noun** [C] legal a VERDICT (= an 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

accidentally /æk.sɪ'den.təl.i/ (US) /-təl-/ **adv** by chance or by mistake: *I accidentally knocked a glass over.*

'accident-prone **adj** describes someone who often has accidents, usually because they are very awkward

acclaim /ə'kleɪm/ **noun; verb**

▷ **noun** [U] public approval and praise: *Despite the critical acclaim, the novel did not sell well.* • *Hamlet was played by Ion Caramitrou to rapturous acclaim.*

▷ **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 • *'Dinner Party', based on the critically acclaimed novel by Bill Davies, was made into a film last year.*

acclamation /æk.lə'mei.ʃən/ **noun** [U] formal public approval and praise: *His speech was greeted with (shouts of) acclamation.*

acclimatize (UK usually **acclimatise**) /ə'kleɪ.mə.taɪz/ (US) /-taɪz/ **verb** [I or T] (US also **acclimate** /'æk.lə.meɪt/) 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 has acclimatized to the 90°F sunshine by spending the past month in Florida.* • **acclimatization** (UK usually **acclimatisation**) /ə'kleɪ.mə.taɪ'zeɪ.ʃən/ (US) /-tʃ-/ **noun** [U]

accolade /'æk.ə.leɪd/ **noun** [C] formal praise and approval: *He's been granted the ultimate accolade – his face on a postage stamp.* • *Her approval was the highest accolade he could receive.*

accommodate /ə'kɒm.ə.dert/ (US) /-'kɑ:.mə-/ **verb** [T] **FIND A PLACE FOR** ▷ **1** 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.* **SUIT** ▷ **2** 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.* **3** **accommodate yourself** 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'kɒm.ə.deɪ.tɪŋ/ (US) /-'kɑ:.mə.deɪ.tɪŋ/ **adj** describes a person who is eager or willing to help other people, for example by changing his or her plans: *I'm sure she'll help you – she's always very accommodating.*

Common mistake: accommodation

Warning: Check your spelling!

Accommodation is one of the 50 words most often spelled wrongly by learners. Remember: the correct spelling has 'cc' and 'mm'.

accommodation /ə'kɒm.ə.deɪ.ʃən/ (US) /-'kɑ:.mə-/ **noun** [U] mainly UK a place to live, work, stay, etc. in: *There's a shortage of cheap accommodation (= places to live).*

accommodations

10

A

! Common mistake: **accommodation**

In British English, **accommodation** does not have a plural form and cannot be used with **a** or **an**. To talk about an amount of **accommodation**, do not say 'accommodations', just say **accommodation, some accommodation**, etc.:

Would you like me to book overnight accommodations for you?

Would you like me to book overnight accommodation for you?

To talk about **accommodation** in the singular, do not say 'an accommodation', just say **accommodation**:

The college provides an excellent accommodation for students.

The college provides excellent accommodation for students.

accommodations /əˈkɒm.əˈdeɪ.ʃənz/ (US) /-ˈkɑːmə-/ noun [plural] (B) 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.*

accompaniment /əˈkʌm.pə.nɪ.mənt/ noun **MUSIC** (B) **1** [C or U] music that is played with someone who is singing or playing the main tune: *a song with piano accompaniment* • humorous *We worked to the accompaniment of (= while hearing the sound of) Mr French's drill.* **FOOD AND DRINK** (B) **2** [C] something that you eat or drink with something else: *A dry champagne makes the ideal accompaniment for/to this dish.*

accompanist /əˈkʌm.pə.nɪst/ noun [C] 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.*

accompany /əˈkʌm.pə.ni/ verb [T] **GO WITH** (B) **1** (B) to go with someone or to be provided or exist at the same time as something: *The course books are accompanied by four CDs.* • *Depression is almost always accompanied by insomnia.* • *The salmon was accompanied by (= served with) a fresh green salad.* **2** 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 like to accompany me?* **PLAY MUSIC** (B) **4** (B) to sing or play an instrument with another musician or singer: *Miss Jessop accompanied Mr Bentley on the piano.*

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

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

accomplish /əˈkʌm.plɪʃ/ (US) /-ˈkɑːm-/ verb [T] (B) 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.*

accomplished /əˈkʌm.plɪʃt/ (US) /-ˈkɑːm-/ adj skilled: *She's a very accomplished pianist/painter/horsewoman.* • *He was accomplished in all the arts.*

accomplishment /əˈkʌm.plɪʃ.mənt/ (US) /-ˈkɑːm-/ 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 finishing of something: *We celebrated the successful accomplishment of our task.* **3** [C] a skill: *Cordon bleu cookery is just one of her many accomplishments.*

accord /əˈkɔːd/ (US) /-ˈkɔːr-/ noun; verb

noun [C or U] **1** (a formal) agreement: *On 31 May the two leaders signed a peace accord.* • *The project is completely in accord with government policy.* **2 of your own accord** (B) 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.* **3 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.*

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.*

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

accordance /əˈkɔː.dəns/ (US) /-ˈkɔːr-/ noun formal in accordance with a rule, law, wish, etc. (B) following or obeying a rule, law, wish, etc.: *In accordance with her wishes, she was buried in France.*

accordingly /əˈkɔː.dɪŋ.li/ (US) /-ˈkɔːr-/ 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.*

according to preposition **OPINION** (B) **1** (B) as stated by: *According to Sarah they're not getting on very well at the moment.* • *According to our records you owe us \$130.*

! Common mistake: **according to**

Warning: according to is used to introduce what another person said:

According to Rory, the training course was a waste of time.

To introduce your own opinion, don't say 'according to me', say **in my opinion** or **I think**:

According to me, the training course was a waste of time.

In my opinion, the training course was a waste of time.

METHOD (B) **2** (B) in a way that agrees with: *Students are all put in different groups according to their ability.*

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

accordion /əˈkɔː.di.ən/

accordion

(US) /-ˈkɔːr-/ noun [C] a box-shaped musical instrument consisting of a folded central part with a keyboard, played by pushing the two ends towards each other



accost /əˈkɒst/ (US) /-ˈkɑːst/

verb [T often passive] formal

to go up to or stop and speak to someone in a threatening way: *I'm usually accosted by beggars and drunks as I walk to the station.*