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 978-1-108-02464-8 - The Bible Word-Book
 William Aldis Wright
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A.

A, An. 1. At the time of the printing of our Authorised Version (1611) the usage of *a* or *an* before words beginning with *h* was by no means uniform. Thus we find 'a half' (Ex. xxv. 10), 'a hurt' (Ex. xxi. c), 'a hairy man' (Gen. xxvii. 11), 'a hammer' (Jer. xxiii. 29), 'a hole' (Ex. xxxix. 23*), 'a hard thing' (2 Kings ii. 10), 'a harp' (1 Chr. xxv. 3), 'a high wall' (Is. xxx. 13), 'a horseman' (2 Macc. xii. 35), 'a hot burning' (Lev. xiii. 24), and so on; while, on the other hand, we more frequently meet with 'an half' (Ex. xxxvii. 6*), 'an hammer' (Judg. iv. 21), 'an hole' (Ex. xxviii. 32), 'an hairy man' (2 Kings i. 8), 'an hard man' (Matt. xxv. 24), 'an harp' (1 Sam. xvi. 16), 'an high hand' (Ex. xiv. 8), 'an horse' (Ps. xxxiii. 17), 'an hundred' (Gen. xi. 10), 'an hot burning oven' (2 Esd. iv. 48). The former usage appears on the whole to be exceptional, and we may infer that at the beginning of the 17th century the sound of *h* had much less of the aspirate in it than it has at the present day. It must be remembered also that *an* (A.S. *án*, one) was the earlier form and *a* the later.

2. *A* or *An* is used as a prefix in a manner which is now obsolete. Thus 'a dying' (Luke viii. 42), 'a fishing' (John xxi. 3), 'an hungred' (Matt. iv. 2), as in the following examples.

When the prophet came unto him, and said.....'Set thy house in order, for thou shalt surely die, and not live' (2 Kings xx.), it struck him so to the heart that he fell *a-weeping*. Lati-mer, *Serm.* p. 221.

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On a time the King had him out *a hunting* with him, he made him see his mother, with whom he grew familiar. North's Plutarch, *Themistocles*, p. 139.

Whereas in the meantime we see Christ's faithful and lively images, bought with no less price than with his most precious blood, (alas, alas!) to be *an hungred*, *a-thirst*, *a-cold*, and to lie in darkness. Latimer, *Serm.* p. 37.

Thou, now *a-dying*, say'st thou flatterest me.

Shakespeare, *Rich. II.* II. I. 90.

We would so, and then go *a bat-fowling*.

Id. *The Tempest*, II. I. 185.

In these cases, 'weeping,' 'hunting,' 'dying,' &c. are verbal nouns, the termination -ing corresponding to the A.S. -ung. Compare 'a warfare,' I Cor. ix. 7. 'An-hungred' is a genuine participle in form, used as an adjective, and the affix appears to have an intensive force.

Yet sone *a hungerd* from thence I yode.

Lydgate, *Minor Poems* (Percy Soc.), p. 106.

Shakespeare uses the form 'a-hungry,' in *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, I. I. 280, where Master Slender says, 'I am not *a-hungry*, I thank you, forsooth.' Compare Sir Andrew in *Twelfth Night*, II. 3. 136: 'Twere as good a deed as to drink when a man's *a-hungry*.' Perhaps it was a provincial word even in Shakespeare's time, for Coriolanus (I. I. 209), imitating the language of the common people, says scornfully, 'They said they were *an-hungry*.'

This prefix *a-* or *an-* is generally regarded as a corruption of the Anglo-Saxon particle *on-*, but more probably the two are essentially identical and only different dialectal forms of the same. *An-* with its abbreviation *a-* is said to characterize the dialect of the southern counties, while *on-* and *o-* mark the northern dialect. In many instances the two forms remain side by side, as in *aboard* and *on board*, *aground* and *on ground* (Shakespeare, 2 *Hen. IV.* IV. 4. 40), *a high** and *on high*, *afoot* and *on foot*, *asleep* and *on sleep* (Acts xiii. 36; A.S. *on slæp*), *aloft* and *on loft* (Chaucer, *Man of Law's Tale*, 4697), *abed* and *on bed* (Chaucer, *Wife of Bath's Tale*, 6509), *apart* and *on*

* One heaved *a-high* to be hurl'd down below.

Shakespeare, *Rich. III.* IV. 4. 86.

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part (Chaucer, *Shipman's Tale*, 14667), *alive* and *on live* (Chaucer, *Wife of Bath's Prol.*, 5587), *aland* (*Sir Generydes*, 93) and *on land*, *ahead*, and *on head* (*Homilies*, p. 509, 3). Compare also the A.S. forms *on-ginnan* and *a-ginnan*, to begin, *on-weg* and *a-weg*, away. On the other hand, most of the words which formerly had the prefix have rejected it. Of this class are *abow*, *acool*, *adaunt*, *adraw*, *afire*, &c. &c. In *a work* (2 Chr. ii. 18) the prefix is the same as in *ado*. Compare Shakespeare, 2 *Hen. IV.* iv. 3. 124:

So that skill in the weapon is nothing without sack; for that sets it *a-work*.

And husbandmen dare not set them *a worke*. More, *Utopia* (ed. Arber), p. 38.

Set your talents *a worke*, lay not vp your tresure for taking rust. Gosson, *The Schoole of Abuse* (ed. Arber), p. 52.

3. Used with numerals (Luke ix. 28).

And everich of these riotoures ran,
 Til thay come to the tre, and ther thay founde
 Of florins fyn of gold y-coyned rounde,
 Wel neygh *a* seven busshels, as hem thought.

Chaucer, *Pardoner's Tale*, 14186.

And there were found not past *a* two hundred men slaine, and eight knights of the round table in their pavilions. *King Arthur*, c. 63, vol. I. p. 122.

Leauinge much fayre yssue, that is to witte, Edward the Prynce *a* thirtene yeare of age, &c. Sir T. More, *Works*, p. 35.

A three yeeres go, I had expounded the booke of Psalmes in this my slender schoole. Calvin, *On the Psalmes*, trans. Golding [To the Reader, p. 1].

Compare also Tyndale's version of Acts xxiv. 24, 'Aftir *a* certayne dayes cam Felix, and his wife Drusilla.'

4. Redundantly, in the phrase 'in *a* readiness' (2 Cor. x. 6).

When al thynges were prepared in *a* redynes and the day of departing and settinge forward was appoynted...the whole armye went on shypboorde. Hall, *Rich. III.* fol. 16 b.

And that therefore the Skottes muste be hadde in *a* readines, as it were in a standynge, readie at all occasions, in aunter the Englishmen shoulde sturte neuer so lytle, incontinent to set vpon them. More, *Utopia* (ed. Arber), p. 57.

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In Josh. iv. 3, where the A.V. has 'where the priests' feet stood firm,' the Geneva Bible reads, 'where the Priests stode in a readines.'

Abashed, followed by 'of,' occurs in Ecclus. iv. 25, 'be *abashed* of the error of thine ignorance.' The earlier versions, from Coverdale downwards, have 'ashamed,' and our translators in substituting a stronger word appear to have neglected to alter the preposition to 'at' as in Tobit ii. 14.

Abate, *v. t.* (Lev. xxvii. 18; Deut. xxxiv. 7; Wisd. xvi. 24; Ecclus. xxv. 23; 1 Macc. v. 3). Literally, to beat down, from Fr. *abattre*; hence to lower, depress, diminish, weaken the force of anything. In this sense it is equivalent to 'bate,' which is merely an abbreviated form of the word.

Abate hem with benes · for bollyng of her wombe.
Piers Plowman, B-text, vi. 218.

You would *abate* the strength of your displeasure.
 Shakespeare, *Mer. of Ven.* v. i. 198.

Haply, my presence
 May well *abate* the over-merry spleen,
 Which otherwise would grow into extremes.
Id. Tam. of Shrew, Ind. i. 137.

It is true, that Taxes levied by Consent of the Estate, doe *abate* Mens Courage lesse. Bacon, *Ess.* xxix. p. 121.

Abhor, *v. t.* (Te Deum; Oath of Allegiance). Lat. *abhorreo*, 'to have the hair stand on end with terror' (from *horreo*, 'to bristle'); hence 'to shrink from with dread.' In the old canon law, according to Nares, it was technically employed in the sense of 'to protest against, reject solemnly.' In Calvini *Lexicon Juridicum* we find 'Abhorrere, alienum esse.'

I haue seene many of you whiche were wont to sporte your selues at Theaters, when you perceiued the abuse of those places, schoole your selues, and of your owne accorde *abhorre* Playes. Gosson, *Schoole of Abuse* (ed. Arber), p. 58.

He condemne the Cardinall of vntroth, accuseth hym of dissimulation, *abhorreth* his practises, as by y^e whiche he lost the fruition of the K. of Englande his friendship, and might no longer enioy it. Holinshed, *Chron.* p. 1517 b.

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Therefore I say again,
 I utterly *abhor*, yea, from my soul
 Refuse you for my judge.
 Shakespeare, *Hen. VIII.* II. 4. 81.

This house is but a butchery ;
Abhor it, fear it, do not enter it.
 Id. *As You Like It*, II. 3. 28.

It is used in the A.V. to express several different Hebrew words, most of which involve the idea of loathing or disgust. But in Prov. xxii. 14, 'he that is *abhorred* of the Lord' would be better rendered 'he with whom Jehovah is *angry*' (see Ps. vii. 11 ; Mal. i. 4), and 'despised' would be better than *abhorred* in Deut. xxxii. 19 and 1 Sam. ii. 17.

Abhorring, *sô.* (Is. lxvi. 24). An object of abhorrence.

Rather on Nilus' mud
 Lay me stark naked, and let the water-flies
 Blow me into *abhorring*.
 Shakespeare, *Ant. and Cl.* v. 2. 60.

Abide, *v.t.* (Ps. xxxvii. 9, Pr. Bk. ; Acts xx. 23). To wait for, await ; from A. S. *abidan*. Mr Wedgwood (*Dict. of Eng. Etym.* s.v.) observes that in old English "the active sense of looking out for a thing was much more strongly felt in the word *abide* than it is now." He quotes in illustration of this Wiclif's version of 2 Pet. iii. 11, "What manner men behoveth you to be in holi livings *abiding* and highing unto the coming of the day of our Lord." In the sense of awaiting it is used by Shakespeare :

Abide me, if thou darest.
Mid. Night's Dream, III. 2. 422.

So also in Gower (*Conf. Am.* I. p. 220):

This Perseus as nought seende
 This mischef which that him *abode*.

And Tyndale (*Doctr. Treat.* p. 37):

While I *abode* a faithful companion, which now hath taken another voyage upon him.

In Ps. xxxvii. 7, Pr. Bk. 'abide upon' is used in the sense of 'wait upon,' as in Gower (*Conf. Am.* I. p. 71):

She wolde in Ysis temple at eve
 Upon her goddes grace *abide*
 To serven him the nightes tide.

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From this idea to that of simple endurance the transition is easy (Num. xxxi. 23; Joel ii. 11). Compare Shakespeare, 3 *Hen. VI.* iv. 3. 58:

What fates impose, that men must needs *abide*.

And *Cymb.* i. i. 89;

You must be gone;
 And I shall here *abide* the hourly shot
 Of angry eyes.

This fear of death was the bitterest pain that ever he *abode*.
 Latimer, *Serm.* p. 223.

Abject, *sb.* (Ps. xxxv. 15). From Lat. *abjectus*, cast aside; a worthless, despicable person or thing.

Finallie, sturgion and pike, which fishe, as in times paste, it hath ben taken for an *abjecte*, soe now thought verie precious emonge Englishemen. Pol. Vergil, *Hist.* Vol. I. p. 24.

Yet farre I deem'd it better so to dye
 Then at my enmies foote an *abject* lye.

Mirror for Magistrates, fol. 10b.

Yf hir majesty fayle with such suplye and maintenance as shalbe fytt, all she hath donn hetherto wylbe utterly lost and cast away, and wee hir pore subiectes no better than *abiectes*. *Leycester Correspondence*, 5 Dec. 1585, p. 23.

Not for my selfe a sinfull wretch I pray,
 That in thy presence am an *abject* vilde.

Fairfax's *Tasso*, XII. 27.

We are the queen's *abjects*, and must obey.

Shakespeare, *Rich. III.* I. i. 106.

All other objects will but *abjects* prove.

Ben Jonson, *Poetaster*, I. 1.

'Abject' was formerly used as a verb, in the sense of 'reject.'

How comyn wytte doothe full well electe
 What it should take, and what it shall *abjecte*.

Hawes, *Pastime of Pleasure*, cap. 8, p. 29.

Basely *abjecting* and binding ourselves to the elements and creatures. *Homilies*, p. 445, l. 4.

Abroad, *adv.* (Judg. xii. 9; 1 Sam. ix. 26; 1 Kings ii. 42; Lam. i. 20). Away from home, out of doors as opposed to indoors; not necessarily out of the country. It occurs in the forms *abrod* (Rob. of Glouc. p. 542), *abrood* (Wiclif, Matt. xxiii.

5), *on brod* (*Destruction of Troy*, 8780). After a verb of motion it is used simply for 'out' or 'forth.'

When any did send him rare fruites, or fish, from the countries neare the sea side, he would send them *abroad* vnto his friendes. North's Plutarch, *Alex.* p. 729.

She's kept as warily as is your gold :
 Never does come *abroad*, never takes air
 But at a window. Ben Jonson, *The Fox*, I. 1.

Compare the *Spectator*, No. 329, in the description of Sir Roger de Coverley :

He was no sooner dressed, than he called for a glass of the Widow Trueby's water, which he told me he always drank before he went *abroad*.

To 'come abroad,' in the sense of 'get abroad,' 'become known,' is found in Mark iv. 22, Rom. xvi. 19.

Abuse, *v.t.* (Judg. xix. 25 ; 1 Sam. xxxi. 4 ; 1 Chr. x. 4). To misuse, deceive, mock, as in the margin of the two last passages ; from Fr. *abuser*, Lat. *abuti*. Sir T. More says of Jane Shore :

But when the king had *abused* her, anon her husband...left her vp to him al together. *Works*, p. 56 h.

Whether thou beest he or no,
 Or some enchanted trifle to *abuse* me.
 Shakespeare, *Temp.* v. I. 112.

That blind rascally boy that *abuses* every one's eyes because his own are out. Id. *As You Like It*, IV. I. 219.

Away! these are mere gulleries, horrid things,
 Invented by some cheating mountebanks
 To *abuse* us.

Webster, *The Duchess of Malfi*, III. 1.

'Misuse' is employed in the latter sense in *Much Ado*, II. 2. 28 : 'Proof enough to *misuse* the prince.'

Accept, *v.t.* (Gen. xxxii. 20, &c.). From Lat. *acceptare*. In the sense of 'to approve, receive with favour,' the Biblical usage of this word corresponds with that of its Latin original, and still clings to the root in the common word 'acceptable.' The following are instances of its former use :

What fruit is come of your long and great assembly? What one thing that the people of England hath been the better of a hair ; or you yourselves, either more *accepted* before God, or

better discharged toward the people committed unto your cure?
 Latimer, *Serm.* p. 45.

And our request *accept*, we you beseche.

Surrey, *Virg. Æn.* iv. 819.

Call them again, my lord, and *accept* their suit.

Shakespeare, *Rich. III.* III. 7. 221.

Shall wee not thinke, that God above, that knowes the heart,
 doth not discerne, that fraile men, in some of their contradictions,
 intend the same thing; and *acceptieth* of both? Bacon, *Ess.* III. p. 11.

Acceptable, *adj.* (Deut. xxxiii. 24; Eccl. xii. 10). Used, like the Lat. *acceptabilis*, of that which is worthy of acceptance or approval, and then in the secondary sense of 'agreeable, delightful.' It is employed in the N. T. frequently as the equivalent of the Gk. *εὐάρεστος*, elsewhere rendered 'well-pleasing.' The following examples will illustrate the usage of the word:

It [Anime] is of a very *acceptable* and pleasaunt smell. Framp-ton, *Joyfull News out of the New-found Worlde*, fol. 2b.

The Iacint also at the first sight is pleasant and *acceptable*. Holland's *Pliny*, xxxvii. 9.

Access, *sb.* (Fr. *accès*, from Lat. *accedere*, *accessum*), occurs in the sense of accession or increase in the heading of Isa. xviii.

Besides, infinite is the *access* of territory and empire by the same enterprise. Bacon, *Adv. touching an Holy War (Works)*, ed. Spedding, vii. 20).

Wordsworth has preserved the word in his *Prelude*, Book 2:

But, oh! what happiness to live
 When every hour brings palpable *access*
 Of knowledge.

Halliwell (*Arch. Dict.* s.v.) quotes from Lambarde's *Perambulation of Kent*, 1596, p. 301: 'Brought thereunto more *accesse* of estimation and reverence than all that ever was done before or since.'

Accomplish, *v. t.* (Luke ii. 21; Burial Service). To complete, make complete; used of number or time. The word had formerly a wider use than at present. We speak of accomplishing a task, but not of accomplishing a number or period of time. Shakespeare uses it in a passage which combines both senses:

And all the number of his fair demands
 Shall be *accomplish'd* without contradiction.

Rich. II. III. 3. 124.

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In *Henry V.* iv. Chorus 12, it occurs in its literal sense :

The armourers *accomplishing* the knights ;
 that is, giving the finishing touch to their equipment.

Accordingly, *adv.* (Litany). In an appropriate and becoming manner, correspondingly. 'That they may set forth and shew it accordingly,' that is, in a manner corresponding to its importance.

Then came in an other bende of horse men, freshly and well appareled in clothe of gold, in siluer, in Goldsmithes worke, and brouderie, to the nombre of three score, with trappers *accordingly* to their garmentes. Hall, *Hen. VIII.* fol. 5a.

Compare Shakespeare, *All's Well*, II. 5. 9 :

I do assure you, my lord, he is very great in knowledge, and *accordingly* valiant ;
 that is, as valiant as he is learned.

According to (Ezek. xlii. 12), corresponding to. Richardson quotes from Chaucer, *The Floure and the Leafe*, 112 :

That gaue so passing a delicious smell
According to the eglantere full well.

Accurse, *v. t.* To curse. This word, of which the participle 'accursed' is now the only part in common use, occurs in the heading of Gal. i. It is an intensive form of 'curse.'

Hii myzte *acorsy* the fole quene, þat Seynt Edward slou.

Robert of Gloucester, p. 296.

He *acorsede* alle thulke men, that he hadde uorth ibrouzt.

Ibid. p. 474.

Drede is at the laste
 Lest Crist in consistorie
A-corse ful manye.

Vision of Piers Ploughman, 198.

They decreed also, that all the religious priests and women should ban and *accurse* him. North's Plutarch, *Alcib.* p. 222.

Accustomably, *adv.* (Communion Service ; last Rubric). Customarily, habitually. Richardson quotes from Lord Berners's *Translation of Froissart*, II. c. 91 : 'It was shewed thē howe he was about the marchesse of Wānes, wher as most *accustomably* he lay.'

Upon the which day, as is plain in the Acts of the Apostles, the people *accustomably* resorted together, and heard diligently the Law and the Prophets read among them. *Homilies*, ed. Griffiths, p. 339.

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The title of one of the works attributed to Coverdale is an 'Exhortation to *accustomable* swearers.'

Acquaint, *v. refl.* (Job xxii. 21). To make oneself acquainted with, accustom oneself to. The etymology of the word is doubtful. There is an old French word *accointer*, corresponding to the Prov. *accoindar*, the former being from *coint* = Lat. *cognitus*. On the other hand there is the Germ. *kund*, *kundig*, akin to O.E. *couth*, *ken*, *can*. Most probably the word came to us through the former channel.

*Acqueinte the with charite,
 Which is the vertue soveraine.*

Gower, *Conf. Am.* I. 277.

To bring them therefore by his example, to *acquaint themselves* with hardnes: he tooke more paines in warres and in hunting. North's Plutarch, *Alex.* p. 740.

*Acquaint you with the perfect spy o' the time,
 The moment on't.*

Shakespeare, *Macb.* III. I. 130.

Acquaintance, *sb.* (Ps. xxxi. 11). Used as a collective noun.

Return in haste, for I do feast to-night
 My best-esteem'd *acquaintance*.

Shakespeare, *Merchant of Venice*, II. 2. 181.

And to see how many of my old *acquaintance* are dead!
 Id. 2 *Henry IV.* III. 2. 38.

Acquaintance of, to take (Gen. xxix. c). To become acquainted with, to recognize.

So it befell upon a chaunce
 A yonge knight *toke* her *acquaintaunce*.

Gower, *Conf. Am.* I. 305.

They then will lose their thoughts, and be ashamed
 To *take acquaintance* of them.

Ben Jonson, *Sejanus*, II. 1.

For though I dare not goe out of the bounds of Canaan to give these Nations a visit at their own homes, yet finding them here within my Precincts, it were incivility in me not to *take* some *acquaintance* of them. Fuller, *Pisgah Sight*, II. 5, § 15.

Acquainted with (Is. liii. 3). Familiar with, accustomed to.

For their purses being full, and they *acquainted with* finenes, were become so dull and lasie, that they could endure no paines nor hardnes of warres. North's Plutarch, *Lucullus*, p. 562.