

# Aa

**a** *adjective* (called the *indefinite article* and changing to **an** before most vowel sounds)

**1** one (but not any special one), *Can you lend me a book?* **2** each; per, *We can see it once a day or once an hour.*

**a-<sup>1</sup>** *prefix* **1** on; to; towards (as in *afoot*, *ashore*, *aside*). **2** in the process of (as in *a-hunting*).

**a-<sup>2</sup>** *prefix* (**an-** is used before a vowel sound) not; without (as in *asymmetrical*, *anarchy*). [from Greek *a-* = not]

**aardvark** (say *ahd-vahk*) *noun* an African animal with a pig-like body and a tubular snout, feeding on termites. [from Afrikaans *aarde* = earth, + *vark* = pig]

**ab-** *prefix* (changing to **abs-** before *c* and *t*) away; from (as in *abduct*, *abnormal*, *abstract*). [from Latin *ab* = away]

**aback** *adverb* **taken aback** surprised.

**abacus** (say *ab-uh-kuhs*) *noun* (*plural abacuses*) a frame used for counting with beads sliding on wires. [Latin from Greek from Hebrew]

**abalone** (say *ab-uh-loh-nee*) *noun* an edible mollusc with a shell lined with mother-of-pearl.

**abandon<sup>1</sup>** *verb* **1** give up. **2** leave a person, thing, or place without intending to return, *Abandon ship!* **abandonment** *noun*

**abandon<sup>2</sup>** *noun* a casual and careless manner, *dancing with great abandon.*

**abase** *verb* (**abased**, **abasing**) humiliate.

**abashed** *adjective* embarrassed.

**abate** *verb* (**abated**, **abating**) make or become less; die down, *The storm had abated.* **abatement** *noun*

**abattoir** (say *ab-uh-twah*) *noun* a place where animals are killed for food. [French]

**abbess** *noun* the head of an abbey of nuns.

**abbey** *noun* (*plural abbeys*) **1** a monastery or convent. **2** a church that was once part of a monastery, *Westminster Abbey.*

**abbot** *noun* the head of an abbey of monks.

**abbreviate** *verb* (**abbreviated**, **abbreviating**) shorten something.

**abbreviation** *noun* **1** a shortened form of a word or words, such as *maths*, *TV*, *USA*. **2** abbreviating something.

**ABC** *noun* **1** a name for the alphabet, *We know our ABC.* **2** Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

**abdicate** *verb* (**abdicated**, **abdication**) resign from a throne; give up an important responsibility. **abdication** *noun*

**abdomen** (say *ab-duh-muhn*) *noun* **1** the lower front part of a person's or animal's body, containing the stomach, intestines, and other digestive organs. **2** the rear section of an insect's body. **abdominal** (say *ab-dom-uh-nuhl*) *adjective*

**abduct** *verb* take a person away illegally; kidnap. **abduction** *noun*, **abductor** *noun* [from *ab-*, + Latin *ductum* = led]

**aberration** (say *ab-uh-ray-shuhn*) *noun* a deviation from what is normal.

**abet** *verb* (**abetted**, **abetting**) help or encourage someone to commit a crime. **abetter** or **abettor** *noun*

**abeyance** (say *uh-bay-uhns*) *noun* in **abeyance** suspended or postponed.

**abhor** *verb* (**abhorred**, **abhorring**) detest. **abhorrence** *noun*, **abhorrent** *adjective* [from Latin *abhorrere* = shrink in fear]

**abide** *verb* (**abided** (in sense **1** **abode**), **abiding**) **1** (*old use*) remain; dwell. **2** bear; tolerate, *I can't abide flies.*

**abide by** keep a promise; act in accordance with a rule or decision.

**abiding** *adjective* lasting; permanent.

**ability** *noun* (*plural abilities*) **1** being able to do something. **2** cleverness; talent.

**abiotic** *adjective* not having life.

**abject** (say *ab-jekt*) *adjective* **1** wretched; miserable, *living in abject poverty.* **2** humble, *an abject apology.* [from *ab-*, + Latin *-jectum* = thrown]

**ablaze** *adjective* blazing; on fire.

**able** *adjective* **1** having the power or skill or opportunity to do something. **2** skilful; clever. **ably** *adverb*

**ablution** *noun* ceremonial washing of the hands or sacred vessels.

**ablutions** *plural noun* (*informal*) washing yourself, *perform your ablutions.*

**abnormal** *adjective* not normal; unusual. **abnormality** *noun*, **abnormally** *adverb*

**aboard** *adverb & preposition* on or into a ship or aircraft or train.

**abode**<sup>1</sup> *noun* (old use) the place where someone lives.

**abode**<sup>2</sup> *past tense & past participle* of **abide**.

**abolish** *verb* put an end to. **abolition** (say ab-uh-lish-uhn) *noun*

**abominable** *adjective* very bad; detestable. **abominably** *adverb*

**abominate** *verb* (abominated, abominating) detest. **abomination** *noun*

**aboriginal**<sup>1</sup> *adjective* 1 inhabiting or existing in a land from the earliest times. 2 (Aboriginal) of Australian Aboriginal people.

**aboriginal**<sup>2</sup> *noun* 1 an aboriginal inhabitant of a place. 2 (Aboriginal) a person belonging to one of the indigenous peoples of Australia. 3 (informal) (Aboriginal) any of the numerous Australian Aboriginal languages.

**Aboriginality** *noun* 1 the quality of being Aboriginal. 2 Aboriginal culture.

**aborigine** (say ab-uh-rij-uh-nee) *noun* (plural aborigines) 1 an original inhabitant of a place. 2 (Aborigine) an aboriginal inhabitant of Australia. [from Latin *ab origine* = from the beginning]

**abort** *verb* put an end to something before it has been completed, *They aborted the space flight because of problems.*

**abortion** *noun* removal of a foetus from the womb before it has developed enough to survive.

**abortive** *adjective* unsuccessful, *an abortive attempt.*

**abound** *verb* 1 be plentiful or abundant, *Fish abound in the river.* 2 have something in great quantities, *The river abounds in fish.*

**about**<sup>1</sup> *preposition* 1 near in amount or size or time; approximately, *It costs about \$5; Come about two o'clock.* 2 on the subject of; in connection with, *Tell me about your holiday.* 3 all round; in various parts of, *They ran about the yard.*

**about**<sup>2</sup> *adverb* 1 approximately. 2 in various directions, *They were running about.* 3 not far away, *He is somewhere about.*

**be about to** be going to do something.

**about-face** *noun* (also **about-turn**) a reversal of previous actions or opinions.

**above**<sup>1</sup> *preposition* 1 higher than. 2 more than.

**above**<sup>2</sup> *adverb* 1 at or to a higher place. 2 earlier in a book or article, *mentioned above.*

**above board**<sup>1</sup> *adjective* legitimate, honest, and open.

**above board**<sup>2</sup> *adverb* in a legitimate, honest, and open way.

**abrade** *verb* (abraded, abrading) scrape or wear something away by rubbing it. **abrasion** *noun*

**abrasive**<sup>1</sup> *adjective* 1 that abrades things. 2 harsh, *an abrasive manner.*

**abrasive**<sup>2</sup> *noun* a rough substance used for rubbing or polishing things.

**abreast** *adverb* 1 side by side. 2 keeping up with something.

**abridge** *verb* (abridged, abridging) shorten, especially by using fewer words, *an abridged edition.* **abridgement** *noun* [from Old French *abregier* = shorten]

**abroad** *adverb* in or to another country.

**abrupt** *adjective* 1 sudden; hasty. 2 brief and rude. **abruptly** *adverb*, **abruptness** *noun* [from *ab-*, + Latin *ruptum* = broken]

**ABS** *abbreviation* 1 anti-lock braking system. 2 Australian Bureau of Statistics.

**abs-** *prefix* see **ab-**.

**abscess** (say ab-suhs) *noun* (plural abscesses) an inflamed place where pus has formed in the body.

**abscond** *verb* go away secretly, *The cashier had absconded with the money.*

**abseil** (say ab-sayl) *verb* descend a rock face using a doubled rope that is fixed at a higher point.

**absence** *noun* 1 being away; the period of this. 2 a lack of something.

**absent**<sup>1</sup> (say ab-suht) *adjective* not here; not present, *absent from school.*

**absent**<sup>2</sup> (say ab-sent) *verb* absent yourself stay away.

**absentee** *noun* a person who is absent. **absenteeism** *noun*

**absent-minded** *adjective* having your mind on other things; forgetful.

**absolute** *adjective* 1 complete. 2 not restricted. [same origin as *absolve*]

**absolutely** *adverb* 1 completely. 2 (informal) yes, I agree.

**absolute majority** *noun* a majority over all rivals combined; more than half.

**absolution** *noun* a priest's formal declaration that people's sins are forgiven.

**absolve** *verb* (absolved, absolving) 1 clear a person of blame or guilt. 2 release from a promise or obligation. [from *ab-*, + Latin *solvere* = set free]

**absorb** *verb* 1 soak up; take in. 2 receive something and reduce its effects, *The buffers absorbed most of the shock.* 3 take up a person's attention or time. **absorbent** *adjective*, **absorption** *noun*

# Aa

**abandon**<sup>1</sup> *verb* **1** abdicate, cancel, chuck in (*informal*), discontinue, drop, forgo, give up, quit, resign, scrap, surrender, throw in (*informal*), waive, yield. **2** (*abandon a person*) desert, ditch (*informal*), forsake, jilt, leave, leave in the lurch, run out on (*informal*), walk out on (*informal*); (*abandon a place*) evacuate, leave, quit, vacate.

**abate** *verb* decrease, die down, ease, moderate, subside, weaken.

**abbey** *noun* **1** convent, friary, monastery, nunnery, priory, religious house.

**abbreviate** *verb* abridge, contract, cut, reduce, shorten, truncate.

**abbreviation** *noun* **1** acronym, contraction, shortening.

**abdic** *verb* quit, resign, stand down, step down; see also RENOUNCE.

**abdomen** *noun* **1** belly, gut (*informal*), insides (*informal*), intestines, paunch, stomach, tummy (*informal*).

**abduct** *verb* carry off, kidnap, seize, snatch (*informal*).

**aberration** *noun* abnormality, anomaly, deviation, peculiarity, variation.

**abet** *verb* aid, assist, encourage, help, incite, support.

**abhor** *verb* abominate, detest, hate, loathe, recoil from, shrink from.

**abhorrent** *adjective* abominable, detestable, disgusting, hateful, horrid, loathsome, odious, repugnant, repulsive, revolting.

**abide** *verb* **1** dwell, live, remain, reside, stay. **2** bear, endure, put up with, stand, stomach, suffer, take, tolerate.

**abide by** accept, adhere to, agree to, comply with, conform to, follow, keep to, obey, observe, stick to.

**abiding** *adjective* endless, enduring, eternal, everlasting, lasting, permanent, steadfast, unending.

**ability** *noun* **1** capability, capacity, potential, power, strength. **2** aptitude, capability, capacity, cleverness, competence, expertise, facility, flair, genius, gift, knack, know-how, potential, proficiency, prowess, skill, talent.

**able** *adjective* **1** allowed, authorised, available, eligible, fit, free, permitted.

**2** accomplished, adept, adroit, capable, clever, competent, gifted, intelligent, proficient, qualified, skilful, talented.

**abnormal** *adjective* anomalous, atypical, bizarre, curious, deviant, eccentric, exceptional, extraordinary, freakish, irregular, odd, peculiar, rare, singular, strange, uncommon, unconventional, unnatural, unusual, weird.

**abnormality** *noun* anomaly, deformity, irregularity, malformation, peculiarity.

**abolish** *verb* cancel, do away with, eliminate, end, eradicate, extinguish, get rid of, put an end to, remove, stamp out, wipe out.

**abolition** *noun* cancellation, elimination, ending, eradication, removal.

**abominable** *adjective* abhorrent, appalling, atrocious, base, contemptible, despicable, detestable, disgusting, execrable, foul, hateful, heinous, horrible, loathsome, obnoxious, odious, repugnant, repulsive, terrible, vile.

**abominate** *verb* abhor, detest, hate, loathe.

**aboriginal**<sup>1</sup> *adjective* **1** earliest, first, indigenous, native, original.

**aboriginal**<sup>2</sup> *noun* **1** aborigine, indigene, local, original inhabitant.

**aborigine** *noun* **1** see ABORIGINAL<sup>2</sup>.

**abortion** *noun* (*when spontaneous*) miscarriage, (*when induced*) termination.

**abortive** *adjective* failed, fruitless, futile, ineffective, unsuccessful, vain.

**abound** *verb* **1** be abundant, be plentiful, flourish, proliferate, thrive. **2** be full, overflow, swarm, teem.

**about**<sup>1</sup> *preposition* **1** around, close to, near. **2** concerning, connected with, dealing with, involving, on, regarding, relating to.

**about**<sup>2</sup> *adverb* **1** almost, approximately, around, more or less, nearly, roughly.

**3** around, hereabouts, near, nearby. **be about to** be going to, be on the brink of, be on the point of, be on the verge of, be ready to.

**above**<sup>1</sup> *preposition* **1** higher than, on top of, over, superior to. **2** beyond, exceeding, greater than, higher than, more than, over.

**above**<sup>2</sup> *adverb* **1** on high, overhead, upstairs. **2** before, earlier, previously.

**above board**<sup>1</sup> *adjective* clean, fair, honest, honourable, legal, legitimate, open, straight.

**above board**<sup>2</sup> *adverb* cleanly, fairly, honestly, honourably, legally, legitimately, openly.

**abrade** *verb* corrode, erode, scrape, wear, wear away, wear down.

**abrasion** *noun* graze, lesion, scrape, scratch.

**abridge** *verb* abbreviate, condense, cut, edit, reduce, shorten, trim.

**abroad** *adverb* overseas.

**abrupt** *adjective* **1** hasty, precipitate, quick, rapid, sharp, sudden, swift, unexpected. **2** blunt, brisk, brusque, curt, gruff, impolite, rude, short.

**abscond** *verb* bolt, disappear, escape, flee, make off, nick off (*Australian informal*), run off, shoot through (*Australian informal*).

**absence** *noun* **1** absenteeism, non-attendance, truancy. **2** dearth, deficiency, lack, want.

**absent**<sup>1</sup> *adjective* away, elsewhere, missing, off.

**absent-minded** *adjective* abstracted, daydreaming, distracted, dreamy, forgetful, inattentive, oblivious, preoccupied, scatterbrained, scatty (*informal*), vague.

**absolute** *adjective* **1** complete, downright, out-and-out, outright, perfect, positive, pure, sheer, thorough, total, unmitigated, unqualified, utter. **2** autocratic, complete, omnipotent, sovereign, supreme, total, unconditional, unlimited, unqualified, unrestricted.

**absolution** *noun* forgiveness, pardon, remission.

**absolve** *verb* **1** acquit, clear, exonerate, forgive, pardon, vindicate. **2** discharge, excuse, exempt, free, release, set free.

**absorb** *verb* **1** (*absorb liquid*) draw up, mop up, soak up, suck up, take up; (*absorb information*) assimilate, digest, take in. **3** captivate, capture, engage, engross, interest, monopolise, occupy, preoccupy.

**absorbing** *adjective* captivating, engrossing, fascinating, gripping, interesting, riveting.

**abstain** *verb* (*abstain from*) avoid, decline, desist from, do without, forgo, go without, refrain from.

**abstinence** *noun* non-indulgence, self-denial, sobriety, teetotalism, temperance.

**abstract**<sup>1</sup> *adjective* **1** academic, conceptual, intangible, intellectual, theoretical.

**abstract**<sup>2</sup> *noun* outline, precis, resumé, summary, synopsis.

**absurd** *adjective* comic, crazy, farcical, foolish, funny, illogical, inane, laughable, ludicrous, mad, nonsensical, outrageous,

preposterous, ridiculous, senseless, silly, strange, stupid, unreasonable, zany.

**abundance** *noun* heaps (*informal*), lashings (*informal*), loads (*informal*), lots (*informal*), oodles (*informal*), plenty, stacks (*informal*), tons (*informal*), wealth.

**abundant** *adjective* ample, bountiful, copious, generous, lavish, liberal, overflowing, plentiful, profuse, teeming.

**abuse**<sup>1</sup> *verb* **1** exploit, misuse. **2** assault, damage, harm, hurt, ill-treat, maltreat, mistreat, molest. **3** attack, be rude to, curse, denigrate, disparage, insult, revile, slander, swear at.

**abuse**<sup>2</sup> *noun* **2** assault, exploitation, ill-treatment, maltreatment, mistreatment. **3** calumny, curses, denigration, insults, invective, obscenities, revilement, slander, swearing, vilification, vituperation.

**abusive** *adjective* derogatory, disparaging, foul-mouthed, impolite, insulting, obscene, offensive, pejorative, rude, scornful, scurrilous, slanderous.

**abyss** *noun* bottomless pit, chasm, hole.

**academic** *adjective* **1** educational, pedagogic, scholastic. **2** bookish, erudite, highbrow, intellectual, learned, scholarly, studious. **3** abstract, hypothetical, speculative, theoretical.

**accelerate** *verb* **1** go faster, quicken, speed up, step on it (*informal*). **2** expedite, hasten, speed up, step up.

**accent**<sup>1</sup> *noun* **1** brogue, dialect, intonation, pronunciation. **2** emphasis, prominence, stress.

**accent**<sup>2</sup> *verb* accentuate, emphasise, stress.

**accentuate** *verb* accent, draw attention to, emphasise, highlight, stress, underline.

**accept** *verb* **1** get, receive, take. **2** agree to, consent to, go along with, put up with, reconcile yourself to, resign yourself to, take, tolerate, welcome.

**acceptable** *adjective* adequate, admissible, appropriate, passable, pleasing, proper, satisfactory, seemly, suitable, tolerable.

**access**<sup>1</sup> *noun* admission, admittance, approach, entrance, entry, way in.

**access**<sup>2</sup> *verb* obtain, retrieve.

**accessible** *adjective* attainable, available, handy, obtainable, retrievable.

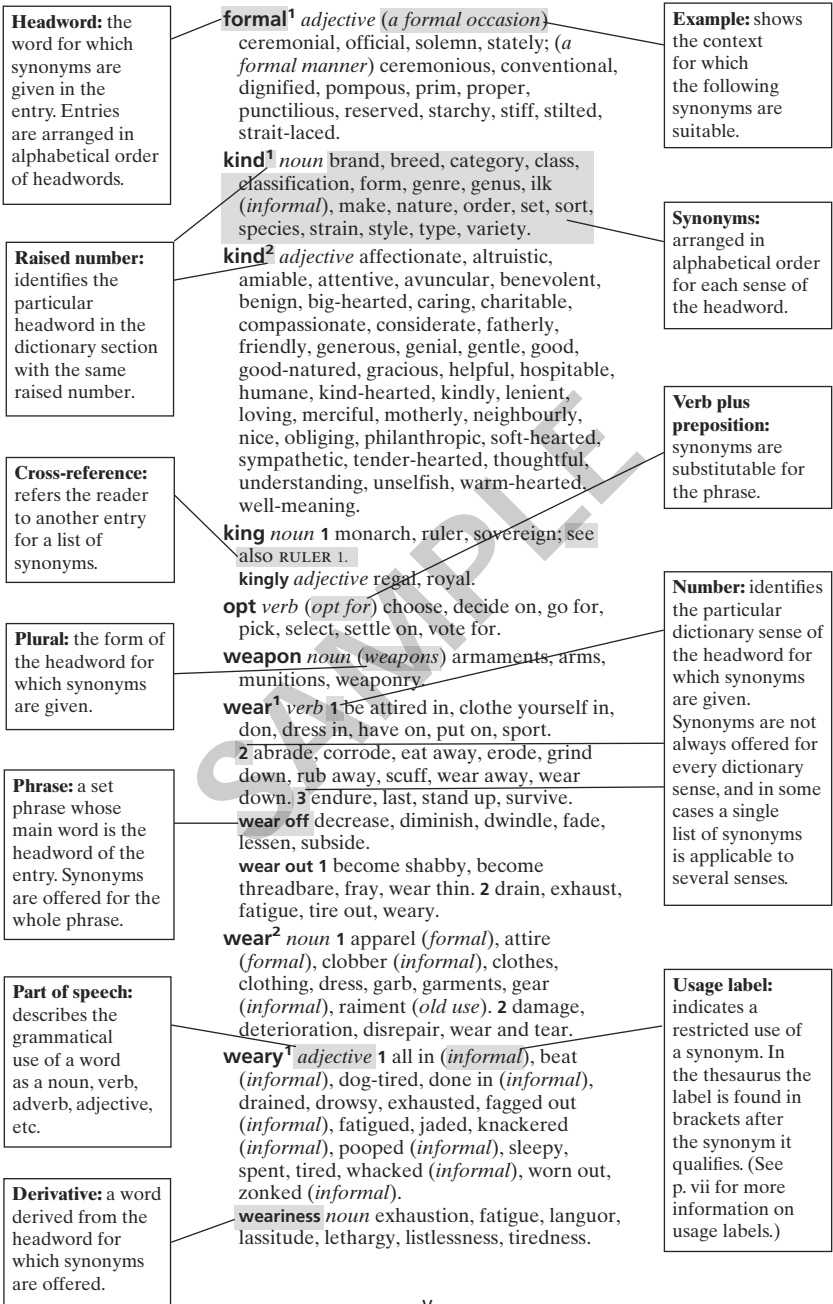
**accessory** *noun* **1** attachment, extension, extra, fitting. **2** abettor, accomplice, assistant, associate, confederate, partner.

**accident** *noun* calamity, catastrophe, disaster, misadventure, misfortune, mishap; (*a car accident*) collision, crash, pile-up (*informal*), prang (*informal*), smash.

## Guide to dictionary entries

<p><b>Headword:</b> the word being defined in the entry. Entries are arranged in alphabetical order of headwords.</p>	<p><b>amnesia</b> (<i>say am-nee-zee-uh</i>) <i>noun</i> loss of memory. [from Greek <i>a-</i> = without, + <i>-mnesis</i> = memory]</p>	<p><b>Pronunciation:</b> shows how to say the word. (See also p. vi.)</p>
<p><b>Plural:</b> the plural form of the headword.</p>	<p><b>formal</b><sup>1</sup> <i>adjective</i> strictly following the accepted rules or customs; ceremonious. <b>formally</b> <i>adverb</i></p>	<p><b>Etymology:</b> the origin of the headword.</p>
<p><b>Raised numbers:</b> distinguish words with the same spelling that have separate entries for different parts of speech or unrelated meanings.</p>	<p><b>kilo</b> <i>noun</i> (<i>plural kilos</i>) a kilogram.</p> <p><b>kind</b><sup>1</sup> <i>noun</i> a class of similar things or animals; a sort or type.</p> <p><b>payment in kind</b> payment in goods not in money.</p> <div data-bbox="332 480 723 568" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <p><b>Usage</b> Correct use is <i>this kind of thing</i> or <i>these kinds of things</i> (not 'these kind of things').</p> </div>	<p><b>Definition:</b> the meaning of the headword.</p>
<p><b>Compound:</b> a word formed from the headword plus one or more other words.</p>	<p><b>kind</b><sup>2</sup> <i>adjective</i> friendly and helpful; considerate. <b>kind-hearted</b> <i>adjective</i>, <b>kindness</b> <i>noun</i></p> <p><b>kindy</b> <i>noun</i> (<i>Australian informal</i>) kindergarten.</p>	<p><b>Usage note:</b> a note explaining correct usage.</p>
<p><b>Derivative:</b> a word derived from the headword whose meaning can be worked out from the meaning of the headword.</p>	<p><b>king</b> <i>noun</i> <b>1</b> a man who is the ruler of a country through inheriting the position. <b>2</b> a person or thing regarded as supreme, <i>the lion is the king of beasts</i>. <b>3</b> the most important piece in chess. <b>4</b> a playing card with a picture of a king. <b>kingly</b> <i>adjective</i></p>	<p><b>Usage label:</b> indicates the word belongs to Australian English and is normally used informally. (See p. vii for more information on usage labels.)</p>
<p><b>Verb forms:</b> the first form is the past tense, the second the past participle, and the third the present participle.</p>	<p><b>opt</b> <i>verb</i> choose. <b>opt out</b> decide not to join in. [from Latin <i>optare</i> = wish for]</p> <p><b>weapon</b> <i>noun</i> something used to do harm in a battle or fight. <b>weaponry</b> <i>noun</i></p>	<p><b>Part of speech:</b> describes the grammatical use of a word as a <i>noun, verb, adverb, adjective, etc.</i></p>
<p><b>Phrase:</b> listed and defined under the entry for the main word in the phrase.</p>	<p><b>wear</b><sup>1</sup> <i>verb</i> (<b>wore, worn, wearing</b>) <b>1</b> have something on your body as clothes, ornaments, etc. <b>2</b> damage something by rubbing or using it often; become damaged in this way, <i>The carpet has worn thin</i>. <b>3</b> last while in use, <i>It has worn well</i>. <b>wearable</b> <i>adjective</i>, <b>wearer</b> <i>noun</i></p>	<p><b>Numbers:</b> used for different senses of the headword.</p>
<p><b>Verb forms:</b> the first form is the past tense and past participle; the second is the present participle.</p>	<p><b>wear off</b> <b>1</b> be removed by wear or use. <b>2</b> become less intense. <b>wear on</b> pass gradually, <i>The night wore on</i>. <b>wear out</b> <b>1</b> use or be used until it becomes weak or useless. <b>2</b> exhaust.</p>	<p><b>Example:</b> shows how the word is used and helps to clarify the meaning.</p>
<p><b>Verb forms:</b> the first form is the past tense and past participle; the second is the present participle.</p>	<p><b>wear</b><sup>2</sup> <i>noun</i> <b>1</b> clothes, <i>formal wear</i>. <b>2</b> damage resulting from ordinary use, <i>wear and tear</i>. <b>weary</b><sup>1</sup> <i>adjective</i> (<b>weariest</b>) <b>1</b> tired. <b>2</b> tiring, <i>It's weary work</i>. <b>wearily</b> <i>adverb</i>, <b>weariness</b> <i>noun</i></p> <p><b>weary</b><sup>2</sup> <i>verb</i> (<b>wearied, wearying</b>) tire.</p> <p><b>worn</b><sup>1</sup> <i>past participle of wear</i><sup>1</sup></p>	<p><b>Adjective forms:</b> the comparative and superlative forms of the headword.</p>
		<p><b>Cross-reference:</b> refers the reader to another entry for more information.</p>

# Guide to thesaurus entries



## Grammar

Grammar refers to the ways we combine words in phrases, clauses and sentences and organise them in texts. We do this according to conventions that have developed over time that are generally accepted and used. Grammar also refers to the ways we describe how language works as a system.

The language we use to discuss language, its conventions and their use is called metalanguage.

## Parts of speech

Each word in a sentence has a job to do and its function is called its part of speech. There are eight parts of speech: nouns, pronouns, adjectives, verbs, adverbs, prepositions, conjunctions, and interjections. Each one is used to do different things in a sentence.

We need to see a word in a phrase or clause before we can identify what part of speech it is. The same word can be a different part of speech depending on its relationship to the other words.

water

We need to save **water**. (noun)

We **water** the garden twice a week in summer. (verb)

## Nouns

Nouns are words that represent people, creatures, places, things, qualities, feelings, and ideas.

scientist, elephant, lake, monitor, courage, pride, equality

To check if a word in a sentence is a noun, see if it answers the question Who? or What?

**Fran** plays the **flute**. (Who plays? 'Fran') (Fran plays what? 'the flute')

There are different types of nouns:

Proper nouns usually begin with a capital letter as they specifically name a particular person, place, or thing.

Tom, Mount Everest, Logie

Common nouns do not begin with a capital letter (unless they begin a sentence).

They refer to people or things that can be counted

boy, mountain, award

and things that cannot be counted.

air, rice, traffic

Most common nouns are concrete as they name something that we can see, hear, smell, taste or touch.

river, whistle, rose, pineapple, fur

Some common nouns are abstract as they name something we cannot understand with our senses.

love, respect, democracy, talent

Abstract modal nouns can also express judgements about the likelihood of events.

possibility, probability, certainty

Collective nouns name groups of people, animals, or things.

team, flock, bunch

## Grammar and reference guide

Compound nouns are formed by combining two nouns into one word.

rain/coat, hair/style, foot/ball, house/boat

### **Noun groups**

Noun groups are groups of words that build on a noun and usually consist of an article, one or more adjectives, and a noun.

a simple solution

the economic and social conditions

### **Nominalisation**

To nominalise an adjective or verb is to change it into a noun. A noun can be formed from a verb by adding a suffix such as ‘-ing’, ‘-ation’, ‘-ance’, ‘-ment’ or ‘-ness’.

argue (verb)                      argument (noun)

ignore (verb)                    ignorance (noun)

emit (verb)                        emission (noun)

A noun can similarly be formed from an adjective.

stagnant (adj)                  stagnation (noun)

polite (adj)                        politeness (noun)

Nominalisation can allow complex ideas to be conveyed compactly.

Australia agrees to carbon emission targets

is more concise than

Australia agrees to set targets for how much carbon can be emitted.

### **Articles**

Nouns are often preceded by ‘the’, ‘a’ or ‘an’, known as articles.

‘The’ is the definite article as it introduces a particular noun.

**The** car collided with **the** pole.

‘A’ (or ‘an’ if the noun begins with a vowel) is an indefinite article as it introduces a general noun.

**A** car is **an** expensive purchase.

### **Pronouns**

Pronouns help avoid repetition by replacing nouns that have already been mentioned.

The tourists hired a guide. The guide showed the tourists around the town.

The tourists hired a guide. **She** showed **them** around the town.

The tourists hired a guide **who** showed **them** around the town.

Because they replace nouns, pronouns also answer Who?, Whom? or What?

Aunt Mary gave **me** a present. **She** said I would treasure **it**.

(To whom did Aunt Mary give a present? ‘me’)

(Who said? ‘She’)

(She said who would treasure it? ‘I’)

(What would I treasure? ‘it’)

The noun that the pronoun stands in for is called the antecedent (meaning the word that comes before). It is important that it is clear which noun the pronoun is replacing.

Fran told Gemma **she** had won the competition. (Who has won it?)

Fran boasted to Gemma that **she** had won the competition. (Now it is clear.)