

Aa

a

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

a-² *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.

abandon¹ *verb* **1** give up. **2** leave a person, thing, or place without intending to return, *Abandon ship!* **abandonment** *noun*

abandon² *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, abdicating**) 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 *abhorre* = shrink in fear]

THESAURUS

abandon¹ *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.

abdicate *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.

b

c

d

e

f

g

h

i

j

k

l

m

n

o

p

q

r

s

t

u

v

w

x

y

z

- 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**¹ *noun* (*old use*) the place where someone lives.
- abode**² *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**¹ *adjective* **1** inhabiting or existing in a land from the earliest times. **2** (**Aboriginal**) of Australian Aboriginal people.
- aboriginal**² *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.**

- 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**¹ *adjective* **1** earliest, first, indigenous, native, original.
- aboriginal**² *noun* **1** aborigine, indigene, local, original inhabitant.
- aborigine** *noun* **1** see **ABORIGINAL**².
- 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.