

# A

**a** /eɪ/, **A** *noun* the first letter of the alphabet, followed by B ○ *Do you mean 'pendant' spelt with an 'a' or with an 'e'?* □ **from A to Z** completely, all the way through

**a** /ə, eɪ/, **an** /ən, æn/ *article* **1.** one ○ *an enormous hole* ○ *a useful guidebook* ○ *She's bought a new car.* ○ *I want a cup of tea.* ○ *We had to wait an hour for the bus.* **2.** for each or to each ○ *Apples cost 50p a kilo.* ○ *The car was travelling at 50 kilometres an hour.* ○ *He earns £100 a day.* (NOTE: **an** is used before words beginning with **a, e, i, o, u** and with **h** if the **h** is not pronounced: *an apple* or *an hour*. **a** is used before words beginning with all other letters and also before **u** where **u** is pronounced /ju:/: *a useful guidebook*)

**A&E** *abbr* accident and emergency

**aback** /ə'bæk/ *adv* □ **taken aback** surprised and shocked by something unpleasant ○ *She was somewhat taken aback when he told her there was no train that evening.*

**abacus** /'æbəkəs/ *noun* an object used for counting, consisting of a frame with balls which can be moved on bars

③ **abandon** /ə'bændən/ *verb* **1.** to leave someone or something without help ○ *The crew abandoned the sinking boat.* Synonym **desert** **2.** to give up or stop doing something ○ *The company has decided to abandon the project.* ○ *We abandoned the idea of setting up a London office.*

**abandoned** /ə'bændənd/ *adj* no longer used or lived in

**abandonment** /ə'bændənmənt/ *noun* **1.** the act or process of giving someone or something up **2.** the act or process of leaving someone or something without help. Synonym **desertion**

**abashed** /ə'bæʃt/ *adj* ashamed or embarrassed

**abate** /ə'beɪt/ *verb* to become less strong or forceful (*formal*). Synonym **decrease**

**abattoir** /'æbətwa:/ *noun* a place where animals are killed for meat. Synonym **slaughterhouse**

**abbey** /'æbi/ *noun* **1.** a place where a community of Christian monks or nuns live **2.** a large church ○ *Westminster Abbey*

**abbreviate** /ə'bri:vɪeɪt/ *verb* **1.** to shorten a word by leaving out some of the letters **2.** to shorten a piece of writing by leaving out part of it. Synonym **cut**

**abbreviated** /ə'bri:vɪeɪtɪd/ *adj* shortened by having something left out

**abbreviation** /ə'bri:vɪ'eɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a shortened form of a word. Compare **acronym**

**ABC** /,eɪ bi: 'si:/ *noun* the alphabet (NOTE: The name comes from the first letters of the Roman alphabet.) □ **it's as easy as ABC** it's very easy

**abdicate** /'æbdɪkeɪt/ *verb* to give up the position as king or queen of a country

**abdication** /,æbdɪ'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of giving up the position of king or queen of a country

**abdomen** /'æbdəmən/ *noun* the space in the front part of your body, containing the stomach and other organs

**abdominal** /æb'dɒmɪn(ə)l/ *adj* referring to the abdomen

**abduct** /æb'dʌkt/ *verb* to take someone away, usually by force. Synonym **kidnap**

**abduction** /æb'dʌkʃən/ *noun* the act of taking someone away, usually by force. Synonym **kidnap**

**aberrant** /æ'berənt/ *adj* not usual or as expected (*formal*). Synonym **abnormal**. Antonym **normal**

**aberration** /,æbə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an action or thing which is not usual or expected. Synonym **abnormality**

**abet** /ə'bet/ *verb* to encourage or help someone to do something wrong or illegal (*formal*) ◇ **aid** (NOTE: **abetting** – **abetted**)

**abhorrence** /əb'hɒrəns/ *noun* a feeling of hatred or horror (*formal*)

**abhorrent** /əb'hɒrənt/ *adj* horrible or disgusting (*formal*)

**abide** /ə'baɪd/ *verb* □ **to abide by** to follow rules or customs ○ *You must abide by the rules of the game.* ○ *We have to abide by the decision of the referee.* □ **to abide by a promise** to keep a promise

**abiding** /ə'baɪdɪŋ/ *adj* lasting a long time (*formal*). Synonym **enduring**. Antonym **transient**

① **ability** /ə'bilɪti/ *noun* **1.** the force or capacity to do something ○ *She has many abilities but singing isn't one of them.* (NOTE: The plural in this meaning is **abilities**.) □ **I'll do it to the best of my ability** I'll do it as well as I can **2.** the fact of being clever ○ *a person of great or outstanding ability*

**abject** /'æbdʒekt/ *adj* (formal) **1.** very bad ○ *abject poverty* **2.** making you feel ashamed ○ *an abject apology* ○ *abject terror*

**ablaze** /ə'bleɪz/ *adv* **1.** on fire ○ *Thirty hectares of trees were ablaze.* **2.** shining brightly ○ *At midnight the house was still ablaze with lights.*

① **able** /'eɪb(ə)l/ *adj* **1.** (NOTE: In this sense, **able** is only used with **to** and a verb.) □ **to be able to do something** to be capable of something or have the chance to do something ○ *They weren't able to find the house.* □ **will you be able to come to the meeting?** can you come to the meeting? **2.** being strong enough or clever enough to do something ○ *He's a very able general.*

**able-bodied** /'eɪb(ə)l 'bɒdɪd/ *adj* fit and healthy

**ably** /'eɪbli/ *adv* in a very competent or efficient way. Synonym **capably**

**abnormal** /æb'nɔːm(ə)l/ *adj* not normal. Synonym **irregular**. Antonym **normal**

**abnormality** /,æb'nɔːmə'lɪti/ *noun* **1.** the state of being abnormal **2.** something which is abnormal (NOTE: The plural is **abnormalities**.)

**abnormally** /æb'nɔːməli/ *adv* in a way which is different from normal

**aboard** /ə'boɪd/ *adv, prep* on a ship or vehicle ○ *The passengers went aboard the 'Queen Elizabeth' at 10 p.m.* ○ *When the ship docked, customs officers came aboard to inspect the cargo.* □ **all aboard!** everyone get on, please!

**abode** /ə'boʊd/ *noun* the place where someone lives (literary) Synonym **home** □ **of no fixed abode** with no permanent address (formal)

**abolish** /ə'bɒlɪʃ/ *verb* to get rid of something such as a law or right

**abolition** /,æbə'liʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of abolishing something such as a law or right. Synonym **elimination**

**abominable** /ə'bɒmɪnəb(ə)l/ *adj* very bad. Synonym **dreadful**

**abominably** /ə'bɒmɪnəbli/ *adv* in a horrible way

**Aboriginal** /,æbə'rɪdʒən(ə)l/ *adj* referring to Aborigines ■ *noun* same as **Aborigine**

**Aborigine** /,æbə'rɪdʒɪni/ *noun* an Australian who is a member of the peoples who lived in Australia before Europeans arrived. Also called **Aboriginal**

**abort** /ə'boʊt/ *verb* **1.** to stop something taking place **2.** to perform an abortion on a foetus **3.** (of a woman) to have an abortion or miscarriage

**abortion** /ə'boʊtʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the ending of a woman's pregnancy before a live infant can be born

**abortive** /ə'boʊtɪv/ *adj* attempted without success. Synonym **unsuccessful**. Antonym **successful**

**abound** /ə'baʊnd/ *verb* □ **to abound in or with** to be full of something (formal) ○ *The forests abound in game.*

① **about** /ə'baʊt/ *prep* **1.** referring to something ○ *He told me all about his operation.* ○ *What do you want to speak to the doctor about?* **2.** □ **to be about to do something** to be going to do something very soon ○ *We were about to go home when you arrived.* **3.** approximately ○ *I've been waiting for about four hours.* ○ *She's only about fifteen years old.* □ **how about, what about** what do you think about (informal) ○ *We can't find a new chairperson for the club – what about Sarah?* □ **how about a cup of tea?** would you like a cup of tea? □ **while you're about it** at the same time as the thing you are doing ○ *While you're about it, can you post this letter?* ■ *adv* in various places ○ *There were papers lying about on the floor.* ○ *There is a lot of flu about during the winter months.*

**about-turn** /əbaʊt'tɜːn/, **about-face** /əbaʊt'feɪs/ *noun* **1.** an order to soldiers to turn to face in the opposite direction **2.** an act of changing your plans or policy to the opposite of what you did before. Synonym **U-turn**

① **above** /ə'baʊ/ *prep* **1.** higher than ○ *The plane was flying above the clouds.* ○ *The temperature in the street was above 30 degrees.* ○ *At prices above £2.00, nobody will buy it.* **2.** older than ○ *If you are above 18, you have to pay the full fare.* **3.** louder than ○ *I couldn't hear the telephone above the noise of the drills.* **4.** □ **they're living above their means** they're living more extravagantly than they can afford ■ *adv* earlier on in a book or higher up on a page ○ *See the section on computers on page 25 above.* ■ *noun* □ **the above** the people mentioned earlier in a text ○ *All the above have passed the test.*

**above board** /ə'baʊ 'boɪd/ *adj* openly honest and legal

**abrasion** /ə'breɪʒ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the action of rubbing off the surface of something **2.** an area of skin damaged by rubbing against something hard ○ *There were cuts and abrasions all over her legs.*

**abrasive** /ə'breɪsɪv/ *adj* **1.** rude and impatient in dealing with people **2.** which rubs away a surface ■ *noun* a substance which rubs away a surface ○ *Avoid using abrasives to clean this surface.*

**abreast** /ə'breɪst/ *adv* **1.** side by side **2.** □ **to keep abreast of something** to keep up to date with something ○ *She wants to keep abreast of the latest developments in cancer therapy.*

**abridge** /ə'brɪdʒ/ *verb* to shorten a text such as a book or play

**abridged** /ə'brɪdʒd/ *adj* shortened by removing parts of a text

**abridgement** /ə'brɪdʒmənt/ *noun* a shortened form of a text such as a book or play

② **abroad** /ə'brɔːd/ *adv* in or to another country ○ *They've gone abroad on holiday.* ○ *Holidays abroad are more and more popular.* Synonym **overseas**

**abrupt** /ə'brʌpt/ *adj* **1.** sudden **2.** using few words and not being very polite

**abruptly** /ə'brʌptli/ *adv* **1.** suddenly, without giving any warning **2.** briefly and impolitely

**abruptness** /ə'brʌptnəs/ *noun* **1.** the fact of happening suddenly **2.** the fact of using few words and not being very polite

**abscess** /'æbses/ *noun* a collection of pus in the body. Synonym **boil** (NOTE: The plural is **abscesses**.)

**abscond** /əb'skɒnd/ *verb* **1.** to leave somewhere suddenly and secretly (*formal*) **2.** to escape from prison (*formal*)

**abseil** /'æbsaɪl/ *verb* to come down a cliff or wall using a fixed rope wound around your body

② **absence** /'æbsəns/ *noun* **1.** the fact of being away from a place ○ *She did not explain her absence from the meeting.* ○ *The former president was sentenced in his absence.* □ **in the absence of** because someone is not there ○ *In the absence of the chairman, his deputy took the chair.* **2.** because of a lack of something ○ *In the absence of any town maps we had to ask our way.*

③ **absent** *adj* /'æbsənt/ not there ■ *verb* /æb'sent/ □ **to absent yourself from** to stay away from a class or meeting deliberately (*formal*)

**absentee** /,æbsən'tiː/ *noun* a person who is not there

**absenteeism** /,æbs(ə)n'tiːɪz(ə)m/ *noun* the act or fact of deliberately staying away from work

**absentee landlord** /,æbs(ə)ntiː 'lændlɔːd/ *noun* an owner of a property who lives a long way away and uses other people to deal with those who live in or use it

**absent-minded** /,æbs(ə)nt 'maɪndɪd/ *adj* often forgetting things. Synonym **forgetful**

② **absolute** /'æbsəluːt/ *adj* complete or total

① **absolutely** /'æbsəluːtli/ *adv* **1.** completely or totally ○ *I am absolutely sure I left*

*the keys in my coat pocket.* **2.** yes, of course ○ *Did you build it yourself?* – *Absolutely!*

**absolute majority** /,æbsəluːt mə-'dʒɔːrɪti/ *noun* a majority over all the others counted together

**absolve** /əb'zɒlv/ *verb* to remove blame for a sin from someone. Synonym **pardon**

③ **absorb** *verb* /əb'zɔːb/ **1.** to take in something such as a liquid ○ *The water should be absorbed by the paper.* ○ *Salt absorbs moisture from the air.* **2.** to make something part of something larger ○ *When we took over the company we absorbed most of their staff.* **3.** to learn or accept something new ○ *When I started my new job there was a lot of information to absorb.* **4.** to reduce a shock ○ *The car's springs are supposed to absorb any shock from the road surface.* ■ *adj* □ **absorbed** in totally interested in ○ *He was so absorbed in his newspaper that he didn't notice that the toast had burnt.*

**absorbent** /əb'zɔːbənt/ *adj* which can absorb something such as a liquid. Synonym **porous**

**absorbing** /əb'zɔːbɪŋ/ *adj* very interesting. Synonym **fascinating**. Antonym **boring**

**absorption** /əb'zɔːpʃən/ *noun* **1.** the act of absorbing something or of being absorbed **2.** the fact of being very interested in something

**abstain** /əb'steɪn/ *verb* **1.** deliberately not to do something (NOTE: You abstain from doing something.) **2.** not to vote on a matter

**abstemious** /əb'stiːmiəs/ *adj* not drinking or eating too much. Antonym **self-indulgent**

**abstention** /əb'stenʃən/ *noun* **1.** a person who deliberately does not vote on a matter **2.** the act or fact of deliberately not voting on a matter

**abstinence** /'æbstɪnəns/ *noun* the act or fact of deliberately not doing something, especially not drinking alcohol

**abstract** /'æbstrækt/ *adj* **1.** which exists only in the mind rather than in the physical world **2.** (of art) which does not copy things exactly as they appear ■ *noun* **1.** something which exists in the mind only □ **in the abstract** in a general way **2.** an abstract painting ○ *He started by painting abstracts and then turned to portraits.* **3.** a short form of a report or document ○ *to make an abstract of a report*

**abstract noun** /'æbstrækt 'naʊn/ *noun* a noun that refers to an idea or quality, e.g. 'truth'

**abstruse** /æb'struːs/ *adj* difficult to understand. Synonym **obscure**

**absurd** /əb'sɜːd/ *adj* ridiculous

**absurdity** /əb'sɜːdɪti/ *noun* the fact of being absurd

**abundance** /ə'bʌndəns/ *noun* a large quantity. Synonym **profusion**. Antonym **scarcity** □ **in abundance** in large quantities (formal) ○ *The fridge was full, so we had food and drink in abundance.*

**abundant** /ə'bʌndənt/ *adj* existing in large quantities. Synonym **plentiful**. Antonym **scarce**

**abundantly** /ə'bʌndənt(ə)li/ *adv* 1. to a very large degree 2. in large or more than large enough quantities

② **abuse** /ə'bju:s/; /ə'bju:z/ *noun* 1. a bad use ○ *The minister's action is an abuse of power.* 2. rude words ○ *The people being arrested shouted abuse at the police.* 3. very bad treatment ○ *sexual abuse of children* ○ *She suffered physical abuse in prison.* (NOTE: [all noun senses] no plural) ■ **verb** 1. to make the wrong use of something ○ *He abused his position as finance director.* □ **he abused my confidence** he took advantage of my trust in him 2. to treat someone very badly, usually sexually ○ *As a child, she was abused by her uncle.* 3. to say rude things about someone ○ *The crowd sang songs abusing the president's wife.*

**abusive** /ə'bju:sɪv/ *adj* 1. rude and insulting ○ *an abusive letter* ○ *He had too much to drink and became abusive.* 2. treating someone in a violent or cruel way, or referring to a violent and cruel situation ○ *an abusive father* ○ *an abusive relationship*

**abysmal** /ə'bɪzm(ə)l/ *adj* extremely bad. Synonym **terrible**. Antonym **superb**

**abysmally** /ə'bɪzməli/ *adv* extremely badly

**abyss** /ə'bɪs/ *noun* 1. a deep hole (NOTE: The plural is **abysses**.) 2. a horrible or frightening situation (NOTE: no plural)

**AC** *abbr* alternating current

② **academic** /ˌækə'demɪk/ *adj* 1. referring to study at a university ○ *Members of the academic staff received a letter from the principal.* 2. only in theory, not in practice ○ *It is only of academic interest.* ■ *noun* a university teacher ○ *All her friends are academics.*

**academically** /ˌækə'demɪkli/ *adv* with regard to study in general, or to teaching at a university

**academic year** /ˌækədemɪk 'jɪə/ *noun* a period which starts in September and finishes in August

**academy** /ə'kædəmi/ *noun* 1. a college where specialised subjects are taught 2. a secondary school in Scotland that chooses its pupils on academic ability 3. a private society for the study of art or science

**accelerate** /ək'seləreɪt/ *verb* 1. to go faster 2. to make something go faster. Antonym **decelerate**

**acceleration** /ək'selə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* 1. the ability to go at a faster speed 2. the action of going at a faster speed

③ **accelerator** /ək'selə'reɪtə/ *noun* a pedal which makes a car go faster

**accent** /'æksənt/ *noun* 1. a particular way of pronouncing ○ *He speaks with an American accent.* 2. stress in speaking ○ *In the word 'haberdashery' the accent is on the first syllable.* 3. a mark over a letter indicating a particular way of pronouncing it ○ *'Résumé' has two accents.* 4. emphasis ○ *The accent is on youth unemployment.*

**accentuate** /æk'sentʃueɪt/ *verb* to put emphasis on something. Synonym **emphasise**. Antonym **play down**

① **accept** /ək'sept/ *verb* 1. to take and keep a present ○ *We hope you will accept this little gift.* 2. to say 'yes' or to agree to something ○ *She accepted the offer of a job in Australia.* ○ *I invited her to come with us and she accepted.* 3. to agree to handle something ○ *'All major credit cards accepted.'* ○ *Do you accept traveller's cheques?* (NOTE: Do not confuse with **except**.)

③ **acceptable** /ək'septəb(ə)l/ *adj* easily accepted ○ *A small gift of flowers would be very acceptable.* ○ *The offer is not acceptable to the vendor.*

③ **acceptance** /ək'septəns/ *noun* 1. the act of taking something which is offered 2. the act or fact of agreeing to do something

③ **accepted** /ək'septɪd/ *adj* which is taken as correct by most people. Synonym **conventional**. Antonym **unconventional**

① **access** /'ækses/ *noun* 1. a way of getting to a place ○ *The concert hall has access for wheelchairs.* ○ *At present there is no access to the site.* 2. □ **to have (easy) access to** be able to get to a place or obtain something ○ *The company has access to substantial funds.* ■ *verb* to get information from a computer ○ *She tried to access the address list.* Synonym **get into**

**access course** /'ækses kɔ:s/ *noun* a course of study designed to qualify someone for higher education

**accessible** /ək'sesɪb(ə)l/ *adj* 1. easily reached ○ *They live on a farm which is not accessible by car.* 2. easy to read or understand ○ *Her style of writing is quite accessible.* 3. suitable for disabled people ○ *accessible toilets* ○ *accessible holidays*

**accession** /ək'seɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* □ **accession to the throne** the act of becoming king or queen ○ *On his accession to the throne, he took the title Alexander III.*

③ **accessory** /ək'sesəri/ *noun* 1. a useful piece of equipment, added to others 2. small items of clothing □ **had a brown silk dress with yellow accessories** had a dress worn with items such as a yellow belt, handbag,

gloves, and shoes **3.** a person who helps someone commit a crime (NOTE: The plural is **accessories**.)

① **accident** /'æksɪd(ə)nt/ *noun* **1.** an unpleasant thing which happens and causes damage or injury ○ *He missed his flight, because his bus had an accident.* ○ *She was involved in a car accident and had to go to hospital.* **2.** something that happens unexpectedly □ **by accident** without being planned or expected ○ *He found the missing papers by accident.* Synonym **accidentally** **accidental** /'æksɪd(ə)nt(ə)l/ *adj* which happens by chance ○ *an accidental meeting* ○ *accidental damage* ○ *His death was not accidental.* Synonym **unintentional** ■ *noun* (in music) an additional sharp, flat or natural **accidentally** /'æksɪd(ə)nt(ə)li/ *adv* by chance

**acclaim** /ə'kleɪm/ *noun* great praise. Synonym **approval**. Antonym **disapproval** ■ *verb* to praise someone or something publicly ○ *She was acclaimed as the best novelist of the decade.* Antonym **criticise**

**acclaimed** /ə'kleɪmd/ *adj* much praised, especially publicly

**acclimatise** /ə'klaɪmətaɪz/, **acclimatize** *verb* (NOTE: The US term is **acclimate**.) □ **to become acclimatised to** to become used to something ○ *Gradually, the animals became acclimatised to their new habitat.* ○ *Did you ever become acclimatised to living in Hong Kong?*

**accolade** /'ækəleɪd/ *noun* a thing given to someone as a sign of praise. Synonym **tribute**

③ **accommodate** /ə'kɒmədeɪt/ *verb* to provide someone with a place to live

**accommodating** /ə'kɒmədeɪtɪŋ/ *adj* taking trouble to help people. Synonym **helpful**. Antonym **uncooperative**

② **accommodation** /ə'kɒmə'deɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** a place to live ○ *All the available accommodation in the town has been taken by journalists.* ○ *Visitors have difficulty in finding hotel accommodation during the summer.* **2.** an agreement in which both sides change their demands (formal) ○ *He reached an accommodation with his creditors.*

**accompaniment** /ə'kʌmp(ə)nɪmənt/ *noun* **1.** a thing which accompanies something ○ *They served cranberry sauce as an accompaniment to the turkey.* **2.** music played to accompany someone singing or playing an instrument ○ *a piece for violin with piano accompaniment* □ **to the accompaniment of** while being accompanied by ○ *He sang a rude song to the accompaniment of loud whistles from the audience.*

② **accompany** /ə'kʌmp(ə)ni/ *verb* **1.** to go with someone or something **2.** to play a musical instrument when someone else plays or

sings (NOTE: accompanied **by** someone or something)

**accomplice** /ə'kʌmplɪs/ *noun* a person who helps another person to commit a crime

**accomplish** /ə'kʌmplɪʃ/ *verb* to do something successfully. Synonym **achieve**

**accomplished** /ə'kʌmplɪʃt/ *adj* talented or skilled

**accomplishment** /ə'kʌmplɪʃmənt/ *noun* the successful finishing of something after a lot of work

**accord** /ə'kɔ:d/ *noun* **1.** an agreement □ **with one accord** with the agreement of everyone **2.** □ **of your own accord** without being ordered or forced by anyone ○ *Of his own accord he decided to sell the business and retire to a Greek island.* ■ *verb* **1.** to give something to someone as an honour **2.** □ **to accord with** to agree with (formal) ○ *His way of behaving does not accord with his principles.*

③ **accordance** /ə'kɔ:dns/ *noun* □ **in accordance with** in agreement with or following ○ *In accordance with your instructions we have sold the house.*

**accordingly** /ə'kɔ:dɪŋli/ *adv* as a result of something just mentioned

① **according to** /ə'kɔ:dɪŋ tu:/ *prep* as someone says or writes ○ *The washing machine was installed according to the manufacturer's instructions.* ○ *According to the witness, the car was going too fast.* ■ *adv* in relation to ○ *The teachers have separated the children into classes according to their ages.*

**accost** /ə'kɒst/ *verb* to approach or stop someone in an aggressive or suggestive way

① **account** /ə'kaʊnt/ *noun* **1.** same as **bank account** **2.** (in a shop) an arrangement which a customer makes with a shop to buy goods and pay for them later ○ *Put it on my account* or *Charge it to my account.* **3.** □ **on account** as part of a total bill □ **to pay money on account** to pay part of a bill **4.** □ **I was worried on her account** I was afraid something might happen to her □ **on no account** not under any circumstances **5.** □ **to take something into account, to take account of something** to consider something ○ *We have to take the weather into account.* **6.** a story of how something happened ○ *They listened to his account of the journey.* □ **by all accounts** as everyone says ○ *By all accounts, she is a very attractive woman.* **7.** □ **the accounts of a business, a company's accounts** detailed records of the money a company receives and pays out □ **to keep the accounts** to write a record of money received or paid out in a book for that purpose ■ *verb* (formal) □ **to account for** to explain something that has happened ○ *He was asked to account for all his expenditure.*



**accountability** /əˈkauntəˈbɪlɪti/ *noun* the fact of being accountable for something

**accountable** /əˈkauntəb(ə)l/ *adj* having to explain what you have done, especially how you have spent or received money (NOTE: You are accountable to someone for something.)

**accountancy** /əˈkauntənsi/ *noun* the study or the work of being an accountant (NOTE: The US term is **accounting** in this meaning.)

③ **accountant** /əˈkauntənt/ *noun* a person who deals with financial accounts. Synonym **bookkeeper**

**accounting** /əˈkauntɪŋ/ *noun* the work of recording money paid, received, borrowed or owed

**accredit** /əˈkredit/ *verb* to make someone an official representative. Synonym **recognise**

**accredited** /əˈkreditɪd/ *adj* given official approval

**accrue** /əˈkruː/ *verb* to accumulate. Antonym **dwindle**

③ **accumulate** /əˈkjuːmjəleɪt/ *verb* to grow larger by addition. Synonym **build up**, **accrue**

**accumulation** /əˈkjuːmjəˈleɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* 1. the action of accumulating something 2. an amount of something built up over time

**accuracy** /ækjʊərəsi/ *noun* the fact of being correct in every detail

② **accurate** /ækjʊərət/ *adj* correct in all details ○ *Are the figures accurate?* ○ *We asked them to make an accurate copy of the plan.* Synonym **precise**. Antonym **inaccurate**

**accurately** /ækjʊərətli/ *adv* correctly  
**accusation** /ækjʊˈzeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a statement that someone has done wrong. Synonym **allegation**

**accusative** /əˈkjuːzətɪv/ *noun* the grammatical case which shows the object of a verb  
■ *adj* in the accusative

③ **accuse** /əˈkjuːz/ *verb* to say that someone has done something wrong ○ *The police accused her of stealing the money.* (NOTE: You accuse someone of a crime or of doing something.)

**accusing** /əˈkjuːzɪŋ/ *adj* □ **in an accusing tone** as if you are accusing someone of something

**accusingly** /əˈkjuːzɪŋli/ *adv* as if you are accusing someone of something wrong

**accustom** /əˈkʌstəm/ *verb* □ **to accustom yourself to something** to gradually accept that something is normal or usual ○ *They had to accustom themselves to working in Swedish.*

**accustomed** /əˈkʌstəmd/ *adj* normal or usual □ **accustomed to** used to ○ *She was accustomed to walking her dog in the park every morning.* ○ *It took him some time to become accustomed to driving on the right-hand side of the road.*

**ache** /eɪk/ *noun* a pain that lasts for a while. ▶ **toothache**, **headache**. Synonym **pain** ■ *verb* 1. to hurt or feel pain that lasts for a while (*formal*) 2. to feel a painful desire. Synonym **long**

① **achieve** /əˈtʃiːv/ *verb* to succeed in doing something ○ *What do you hope to achieve by writing to your MP?* ○ *He achieved all his objectives.* Synonym **attain**

② **achievement** /əˈtʃiːvmənt/ *noun* a thing which has been done successfully ○ *Coming sixth was a great achievement, since he had never raced before.* ○ *She is excessively modest about her achievements.* Synonym **attainment**

**Achilles' heel** /əˈkɪlɪz 'hi:l/ *noun* a weak spot where you can be hurt

**Achilles' tendon** /əˈkɪlɪz 'tendən/ *noun* the tendon at the back of the ankle

② **acid** /ˈæsɪd/ *noun* a chemical substance containing hydrogen that forms a salt when combined with an alkali, and turns litmus paper red. Antonym **alkali** ■ **acid sour** ○ *the acid taste of lemons.* Synonym **acidic**

**acidic** /əˈsɪdɪk/ *adj* which has a sour taste. Synonym **acid**

**acidity** /ˈæsɪdɪti/ *noun* 1. the percentage of acid in something 2. bitter taste

**acid rain** /ˈæsɪd 'reɪn/ *noun* polluted rain which kills trees

**acid test** /ˈæsɪd 'test/ *noun* a test which will show the true value of something

③ **acknowledge** /əkˈnɒlɪdʒ/ *verb* 1. to say that something has been received 2. to accept that something is true. Synonym **admit**

**acknowledgement** /əkˈnɒlɪdʒmənt/ *noun* 1. a reply to say that something has been received 2. an admission that something is true

**acme** /ˈækmi/ *noun* the highest point. Synonym **peak**. Antonym **nadir**

**acne** /ækni/ *noun* spots on the skin, usually on the face, neck and shoulders

**acolyte** /əˈkɒlaɪt/ *noun* 1. a person who helps a priest during religious ceremonies 2. a person who supports someone else, often without criticising their behaviour or opinions

**acorn** /ˈeɪkɔːn/ *noun* the fruit of an oak tree

**acoustic** /əˈkuːstɪk/ *adj* referring to sound

**acoustics** /əˈkuːstɪks/ *plural noun* the quality to carry sound without changing its quality ○ *The acoustics in the concert hall are good.*

**acquaint** /ə'kweɪnt/ *verb* **1.** □ **to be acquainted with someone or something** have some knowledge of someone or something (formal) ○ *Is he acquainted with the details of the case?* ○ *She is acquainted with my father.* **2.** to inform someone

**acquaintance** /ə'kweɪntəns/ *noun* **1.** knowledge of someone ○ *My first acquaintance with him was in Hong Kong in 1997.* □ **to make the acquaintance of** to get to know someone for the first time ○ *I made her acquaintance when we were at college together.* **2.** a person you know slightly ○ *She has many acquaintances in the publishing industry but no real friends.*

**acquiesce** /,ækwi'əs/ *verb* to agree to something without protesting about it (formal). Synonym **accept**. Antonym **resist**

**acquiescence** /,ækwi'əs(ə)ns/ *noun* agreement without protest. Synonym **acceptance**

② **acquire** /ə'kwaɪə/ *verb* to obtain or to get something

③ **acquisition** /,ækwi'zɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the act of acquiring something **2.** a thing which has been acquired

**acquisitive** /ə'kwɪzɪtɪv/ *adj* always wanting to acquire new things. Synonym **greedy**

**acquit** /ə'kwɪt/ *verb* **1.** to state formally that someone is not guilty **2.** □ **to acquit yourself well** to do well when trying something difficult or for the first time ○ *She said she had never played tennis before, but in the event she acquitted herself very well.*

**acquittal** /ə'kwɪt(ə)l/ *noun* a decision by a court that someone is not guilty

**acre** /'eɪkə/ *noun* a measure of land, 4840 square yards or 0.4047 hectares (NOTE: The plural is used with figures, except before a noun: a farm of 250 acres or a 250-acre farm)

**acrid** /'ækrɪd/ *adj* with a bitter smell

**acrimonious** /,ækrɪ'məniəs/ *adj* angry and bitter. Synonym **hostile**. Antonym **amicable**

**acrobat** /'ækrəbæt/ *noun* a person who performs difficult and exciting physical movements for the public

**acrobatic** /,ækrə'bætɪk/ *adj* **1.** moving in a difficult and exciting way, like an acrobat. Synonym **gymnastic** **2.** lively and energetic. Synonym **agile**

**acrobatics** /,ækrə'bætɪks/ *plural noun* **1.** acrobatic movements **2.** skills used in doing something difficult ○ *We enjoyed the verbal acrobatics as they tried to explain their actions.*

**acronym** /'ækrənɪm/ *noun* a word made from the first letters of the name of something ○ *NATO and AIDS are both acronyms.* Compare **abbreviation**

① **across** /ə'krɒs/ *prep* **1.** from one side to the other ○ *Don't run across the road without looking to see if there is any traffic coming.* **2.** on the other side of ○ *He called to her from across the street.* □ **their house is across the street from ours** it is opposite our house ■ **adv** from one side to the other ○ *The river is only twenty feet across.* ○ *The stream is very narrow – you can easily jump across.*

**across-the-board** /ə,krɒs ðə 'bɔ:d/ *adj, adv* having the same effect on everyone or everything

**acrylic** /ə'krɪlɪk/ *noun* a synthetic substance used to make many products, including fibres ■ *adj* made from acrylic

**acrylic paint** /ə'krɪlɪk peɪnt/ *noun* a paint used by artists, made from acrylic

① **act** /ækt/ *noun* **1.** a thing which is done ○ *the many acts of kindness she had shown him over the years* □ **we caught him or her in the act** we caught him or her as he or she was doing it **2.** a distinct part of a play or show ○ *Act II of the play takes place in the garden.* ○ *The circus has acts by clowns and wild animals.* □ **to get your act together** to organise yourself properly (informal) ○ *If they don't get their act together, they'll miss their train.*

**3.** a law passed by Parliament ○ *an act to ban the sale of weapons* ■ **verb** **1.** to take part in a performance such as a film or play ○ *She's acted on TV many times.* ○ *He acted the part of Hamlet in the film.* **2.** to do something ○ *You will have to act quickly if you want to stop the fire.* ○ *She acted in a very responsible way.* □ **to act on behalf of** to do something official for someone or represent someone ○ *The lawyer is acting on behalf of the old lady's family.* □ **to act as** to do the work of ○ *The thick curtain acts as a screen to cut out noise from the street.* **3.** to behave ○ *acting very strangely* **4.** to take effect ○ *How long will the drug take to act?*

**acting** /'æktɪŋ/ *adj* taking the place of someone who is absent. Synonym **temporary**. Antonym **permanent** ■ *noun* the profession of an actor

① **action** /'ækʃən/ *noun* **1.** something done, or the doing of something ○ *What action are you going to take to prevent accidents?* □ **out of action** not working ○ *The car has been out of action for a week.* ○ *The goalkeeper broke his leg and will be out of action for some time.* **2.** what happens in a performance such as a play or film ○ *The action of the play takes place in a flat in London.* **3.** an instruction to start recording a film ○ *Camera, lights, action!* **4.** a case in a law court where someone tries to get money from someone else ○ *to bring an action for damages against someone* ○ *an action for libel* or a libel action □ **to take legal action against someone**

to take someone to court to try to get money from him or her

**action-packed** /'ækʃən pækt/ *adj* with a large number of exciting events

**action replay** /'ækʃən 'ri:pleɪ/ *noun* a section of a sporting event which is shown again on TV at a slower speed, so that the action can be examined carefully

③ **activate** /'æktɪveɪt/ *verb* **1.** to make something start to work **2.** to start a chemical reaction

② **active** /'æktɪv/ *adj* **1.** energetic or positive ○ *He didn't play an active part in the attack on the police station.* ○ *My grandmother is still very active at the age of 88.* **2.** (of a volcano) which is erupting or liable to erupt ○ *Scientists think the volcano is no longer active.* **3.** □ **on active service, on active duty** US serving in the armed services in time of war ○ *He was killed on active service.* **4.** the form of a verb which shows that the subject is doing something (NOTE: If you say 'the car hit him' the verb is active, but in 'he was hit by the car' it is passive.)

② **actively** /'æktɪvli/ *adv* in an active way. Synonym **vigorously**

③ **activist** /'æktɪvɪst/ *noun* a person who vigorously supports a political party. Synonym **campaigner**

① **activity** /'æktɪvɪti/ *noun* **1.** the act or fact of being active ○ *There is a possibility of volcanic activity.* **2.** something that someone does to occupy or pass time pleasantly. ○ *Children are offered various holiday activities – sailing, windsurfing and water-skiing.* (NOTE: The plural in this meaning is **activities**.)

**activity holiday** /'æktɪvɪti ˌhɒlɪdeɪ/ *noun* a holiday taken to do a leisure activity such as painting or rock-climbing

**Act of Parliament** /'ækt əv 'pɑ:ləmənt/ *noun* a law which has been passed by parliament

**actor** /'æktə/, **actress** /'æktres/ *noun* a person who acts in the theatre, in films, on TV (NOTE: The plural of **actress** is **actresses**.)

① **actual** /'æktʃuəl/ *adj* real ○ *It looks quite small but the actual height is 5 metres.* ○ *Her actual words were much stronger.* Antonym **imaginary** □ **in actual fact** really ○ *In spite of what the newspapers said, in actual fact he did win first prize.*

① **actually** /'æktʃuəli/ *adv* really ○ *It looks quite small, but actually it is over 5 metres high.* ○ *He said he was ill, but actually he wanted to go to the football match.*

**actuary** /'æktʃuəri/ *noun* a person who calculates insurance rates

**acumen** /'ækjʊmə/ *noun* the ability to make clever and successful decisions. Synonym **insight**

**acupuncture** /'ækjʊpʌŋktʃəl/ *noun* a medical treatment that comes from China, in which needles are stuck through the skin into nerve centres in order to reduce or remove pain or to treat an illness, etc.

**acupuncturist** /'ækjʊpʌŋktʃərɪst/ *noun* a person who practises acupuncture

**acute** /ə'kju:t/ *adj* **1.** (of serious illness or pain) which starts suddenly and lasts for a short time ○ *a child with acute bronchitis* ○ *The pain was very acute.* Compare **chronic** **2.** able to notice something easily ○ *Dogs have an acute sense of smell.*

**acute accent** /ə'kju:t 'æksənt/ *noun* a mark sloping forwards over a vowel, indicating a change of sound

**acute angle** /ə'kju:t 'æŋɡəl/ *noun* an angle which is less than 90°

**acutely** /ə'kju:tli/ *adv* to a high degree. Synonym **very**. Antonym **slightly**

③ **ad** /æd/ *noun* an advertisement (informal) ○ *If you want to sell your car quickly, put an ad in the paper.*

**AD** abbr Anno Domini (used in dates) ○ *Claudius invaded Britain in 43 AD.* (NOTE: Latin for 'in the year of our Lord'. For dates before the birth of Christ, use **BC**.)

**adage** /'ædɪdʒ/ *noun* a traditional statement about an aspect of everyday life ○ *According to the old adage, 'time is a great healer'.* Synonym **saying**

**adagio** /ə'dɑ:dʒəʊ/ *noun* a slow piece of music (NOTE: The plural is **adagios**.)

**Adam** /'ædəm/ *noun* □ **I don't know him or her from Adam** I have no idea who he or she is (informal)

**adamant** /'ædəmənt/ *adj* with firm opinions. Synonym **obstinate**. Antonym **amenable**

**Adam's apple** /'ædəmz 'æp(ə)/ *noun* a piece of cartilage that makes a lump in the front of the throat, which can sometimes be seen in men

③ **adapt** /ə'dæpt/ *verb* **1.** to change something to be suitable for a new situation ○ *She adapted the story for TV.* ○ *The car has been adapted for disabled drivers.* **2.** to change your behaviour to fit into a new situation ○ *We'll all have to learn to adapt to the new system.*

**adaptability** /ə'dæptə'bɪlɪti/ *noun* being able to change or be changed easily to new situations or uses. Synonym **flexibility**

**adaptable** /ə'dæptəb(ə)/ *adj* able to change or be changed easily to deal with new situations or uses. Synonym **flexible**

③ **adaptation** /'ædæpt'eɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** a change which fits new situations or uses **2.**



something such as a film or play which has been developed from another

① **add** /æd/ *verb* **1.** to make a total of numbers ○ *If you add all these numbers together it should make fifty.* (NOTE: **Adding** is usually shown by the sign + : **10 + 4 = 14.**) **2.** to join to something else ○ *Interest is added to the account monthly.* ○ *Add two cupsful of sugar.* ○ *Put a teabag into the pot and add boiling water.* ○ *By building the annexe, they have added thirty rooms to the hotel.* **3.** to say or to write something more ○ *I have nothing to add to what I put in my letter.* ○ *She added that we still owed her some money for work she did last month.*

**added** /'ædɪd/ *adj* included as well as what there is already. Synonym **extra**

**adder** /'ædə/ *noun* a type of poisonous European snake. Also called **viper**

**addict** /'ædɪkt/ *noun* a person who cannot stop doing something

**addicted** /ə'dɪktɪd/ *adj* unable to stop doing something

**addiction** /ə'dɪkʃən/ *noun* the fact or state of being unable to stop doing something. Synonym **habit**

**addictive** /ə'dɪktɪv/ *adj* **1.** which people can become addicted to **2.** which you can get used to doing

① **addition** /ə'dɪf(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the action of adding figures to make a total ○ *You don't need a calculator to do a simple addition.* **2.** a thing or person added ○ *the latest addition to the family* ○ *He showed us the additions to his collection of paintings.* **3.** □ **in addition** as well □ **in addition to** as well as ○ *There are twelve registered letters to be sent in addition to this parcel.*

② **additional** /ə'dɪf(ə)nəl/ *adj* included as well as what there is already. Synonym **extra**

② **additionally** /ə'dɪf(ə)nəli/ *adv* as well as what there is already

**additive** /'ædɪtɪv/ *noun* a substance which is added to something, especially to food to preserve it or alter the taste or colour

① **address** /ə'dres/ *noun* **1.** a set of details of the number of a house, the name of a street and the town where someone lives or works ○ *What is the doctor's address?* ○ *Our address is: 1 Cambridge Road, Teddington, Middlesex.* **2.** a formal speech ○ *He made an address to the Parliament.* (NOTE: The plural is **addresses.**) ■ *verb* **1.** to write details such as someone's name, street and town on a letter or parcel ○ *That letter is addressed to me – don't open it!* **2.** to speak or write to someone ○ *Please address your inquiries to the information office.* ○ *Teachers are not normally addressed as 'Sir' in the USA.* **3.** to make a formal speech to a group ○ *The chairman addressed the meeting.* **4.** to examine a problem ○ *This is an important issue*

*which must be addressed at the next meeting.* ○ *The committee failed to address the question of sexual harassment.*

**address book** /ə'dres bʊk/ *noun* a special book with columns printed in such a way that names, addresses and phone numbers can be entered

**address list** /ə'dres lɪst/ *noun* a list of names and addresses of people and companies

**add up** /,æd 'ʌp/ *verb* **1.** to put several figures together to make a total □ **the figures do not add up** the total given is not correct **2.** □ **it doesn't add up** it doesn't make sense, it is confusing ○ *The story she told the police simply did not add up.*

**add up to** /,æd 'ʌp tu/ *verb* to make a total of something. Synonym **come to**

**adenoids** /'ædɪnɔɪdz/ *plural noun* small masses of tissue in the back of the throat

**adept** /ə'dept/ *adj* skilful at doing something ○ *She's adept at avoiding paying her bills.* Antonym **inept** ■ *noun* a person who is skilful at doing something (formal)

③ **adequate** /'ædɪkwət/ *adj* enough to fulfil a purpose ○ *We don't have adequate supplies for the whole journey.* ○ *His salary is barely adequate to support his family.*

**adhere** /əd'hɪə tu:/ *verb* to attach physically to something. Synonym **stick** □ **to adhere to something** to keep to a rule, agreement or promise

**adherent** /əd'hɪərənt/ *noun* a person who supports a policy or a religion. Synonym **supporter**

**adhesion** /əd'hɪ:ʒ(ə)n/ *noun* the ability of something to stick to something else

**adhesive** /əd'hɪ:sɪv/ *adj* which sticks ■ *noun* a substance which sticks things together. Synonym **glue**

**ad hoc** *adj* /æd 'hɒk/ arranged for a specific case ○ *an ad hoc decision* ○ *We order the books on an ad hoc basis.* ■ *adv* as necessary, without planning in advance ○ *I did it ad hoc.*

**ad infinitum** /æd ɪnfɪ'nɪtəm/ *adv* for ever. Synonym **endlessly**

**adj.** *abbr* **1.** adjective **2.** adjunct

**adjacent** /ə'dʒeɪs(ə)nt/ *adj* very close to or almost touching something □ **adjacent to** very near to ○ *The house is adjacent to the garden centre.*

**adjectival** /,ædʒɪk'taɪv(ə)l/ *adj* used like an adjective

① **adjective** /'ædʒɪktɪv/ *noun* a word which describes a noun ○ *In the phrase 'a big black cloud', 'big' and 'black' are both adjectives.*

**adjoin** /ə'dʒɔɪn/ *verb* to be close to or touching something □ **adjoining rooms**

rooms which are next to each other ○ *They asked to be put in adjoining rooms.*

**adjourn** /ə'dʒɜ:n/ *verb* to stop something such as a meeting or court proceedings in order to continue at a later time or date □ **let's adjourn to the bar** let's go on talking over a drink in the bar

**adjournment** /ə'dʒɜ:nmənt/ *noun* the act of stopping a meeting or court proceedings in order to continue at a later time or date

**adjudicate** /ə'dʒu:dikeɪt/ *verb* **1.** to give an official decision in a legal matter or a disagreement **2.** to act as a judge in a competition

**adjudication** /ə'dʒu:dɪkeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** an official decision in a legal matter or a disagreement **2.** the judging of a competition

**adjudicator** /ə'dʒu:dɪkeɪtə/ *noun* **1.** a person who gives an official decision in a legal matter or a disagreement **2.** a person who judges a competition

**adjunct** /ə'dʒʌŋkt/ *noun* something which is joined to something else

③ **adjust** /ə'dʒʌst/ *verb* **1.** to make a slight change to something **2.** □ **to adjust** to to change and adapt to something ○ *How are you adjusting to living in a tropical climate?*

**adjustable** /ə'dʒʌstəb(ə)l/ *adj* which can be adjusted. Synonym **adaptable**

③ **adjustment** /ə'dʒʌstmənt/ *noun* a slight change to make something work well. Synonym **modification**

**ad-lib** /,æd 'lɪb/ *adj, adv* spoken without using a prepared set of words ○ *a few ad-lib remarks* ■ *verb* to speak without a prepared set of words. Synonym **improvise** (NOTE: **ad-libbing** – **ad-libs** – **ad-libbed**)

**admin** /'ædmɪn/ *noun* **1.** the work of administration **2.** staff dealing with administration (NOTE: singular or plural verb)

**administer** /əd'mɪnɪstə/ *verb* **1.** to manage or organise something **2.** to give someone a drug or treatment **3.** □ **to administer an oath to someone** to make someone swear an oath (*formal*)

② **administration** /əd'mɪnɪ'streɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the act of organising something such as a company or office ○ *Hospital administration must be improved.* ○ *Who's in charge of administration here?* **2.** a particular government ○ *the Bush Administration* **3.** □ **the administration of justice** providing justice

③ **administrative** /əd'mɪnɪstrətɪv/ *adj* referring to administration

③ **administrator** /əd'mɪnɪstreɪtə/ *noun* **1.** a ruler or governor **2.** a person who runs an organisation

**admirable** /'ædm(ə)rəb(ə)l/ *adj* which must be approved of and praised. Synonym **praiseworthy**

**admirably** /'ædm(ə)rəbli/ *adv* to a remarkable or excellent degree

**admiral** /'ædm(ə)rəl/ *noun* a high ranking officer in a country's navy

**admiration** /,ædmə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* respect for someone or something. Synonym **regard**. Antonym **disapproval**

③ **admire** /əd'maɪə/ *verb* **1.** to consider someone or something with approval ○ *a much-admired chief minister* ○ *He was admired for his skill as a violinist.* Synonym **respect** **2.** to look at someone or something you find attractive ○ *We admired their garden.* ○ *She admired and envied their slim figures.*

**admirer** /əd'maɪərə/ *noun* a person who loves someone or is attracted by someone. Synonym **fan**

**admiring** /əd'maɪərɪŋ/ *adj* showing that you admire someone or something. Synonym **appreciative**

**admiringly** /əd'maɪərɪŋli/ *adv* in an admiring way

③ **admission** /əd'mɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** the act or fact of being allowed to go in □ **no admission** no one can enter **2.** a statement saying that something is true

**admission fee** /əd'mɪʃ(ə)n fi:/ *noun* a fee paid to go into a place such as a museum or a sports stadium

① **admit** /əd'mɪt/ *verb* **1.** to allow someone to go in ○ *Children are admitted free, but adults have to pay.* ○ *This ticket admits three persons.* **2.** to say that something is true ○ *They admitted stealing the car.* ○ *She admitted she had taken the wrong road.* **3.** to accept evidence in court (NOTE: **admitting** – **admits** – **admitted**)

**admittance** /əd'mɪtns/ *noun* the allowing of someone to go into a place. Synonym **admission**

**admittedly** /əd'mɪtɪdli/ *adv* admitting that this is true

**admonish** /əd'mɒnɪʃ/ *verb* to criticise or warn someone. Synonym **reprove**. Antonym **praise**

**admonishment** /əd'mɒnɪʃmənt/ *noun* a warning given to someone (*formal*). Synonym **reprimand**. Antonym **approval**

**ad nauseam** /æd 'no:ziæm/ *adv* until everyone is sick of it

**ado** /ə'du:/ *noun* □ **without any more ado** without any more delay

**adolescence** /,ædə'les(ə)ns/ *noun* a period between childhood and adulthood, between the ages of 12 and 18. Synonym **teens**

**adolescent** /,ædə'les(ə)nt/ *adj* referring to the period between childhood and adulthood ○ *She teaches a class of adolescent boys.* ■ *noun* a young person between 12 and 18. Synonym **teenager**

② **adopt** /ə'dɒpt/ *verb* **1.** to take someone legally as a son or daughter ○ *They have adopted a little boy.* **2.** to take and use something ○ *adopted an air of superiority* ○ *The opposition parties have adopted a different line of argument.* **3.** to tell all students to use something ○ *The book has been adopted for use in all English classes.* **4.** (of a political party) to choose a candidate ○ *James Black was adopted as the candidate for our constituency.*

**adopted** /ə'dɒptɪd/ *adj* taken legally as someone's son or daughter

③ **adoption** /ə'dɒpʃən/ *noun* **1.** the legal taking of someone as a son or daughter □ **to put someone up for adoption** to offer a child to be adopted **2.** the act of choosing an official candidate

**adoptive** /ə'dɒptɪv/ *adj* who has or have adopted a child as a son or daughter □ **adoptive parents** or **mother** or **father** Synonym **legal**. Antonym **natural**

**adorable** /ə'dɔːrəb(ə)l/ *adj* attractive and appealing. Synonym **lovable**

**adoration** /,ædə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* admiration or love

**adore** /ə'dɔː/ *verb* to like someone or something very much. Synonym **love**. Antonym **hate**

**adoring** /ə'dɔːrɪŋ/ *adj* who or which adores. Synonym **affectionate**

**adorn** /ə'dɔːn/ *verb* to decorate something with ornaments (*formal*)

**adrenalin** /ə'drenəlɪn/ *noun* a hormone produced by glands in the body when a person or animal is experiencing surprise, shock, fear or excitement. It speeds up the heartbeat and raises the blood pressure. □ **to get the adrenalin going, flowing** to make someone excited and energetic ○ *The preparation for the great race got the adrenalin going.*

**adrift** /ə'drɪft/ *adv* **1.** floating on the water but not being guided by anyone □ **to cast a boat adrift** to let a boat float without control **2.** not connected ○ *It won't work because the wire has come adrift from the plug.* **3.** away from the correct figure ○ *I think we are about £250 adrift in our calculations.*

**adroit** /ə'drɔɪt/ *adj* clever, especially in negotiating. Synonym **skilful**. Antonym **clumsy**

**adroitly** /ə'drɔɪtli/ *adv* skilfully

**ADSL** *abbr* asymmetrical digital subscriber line

**adulation** /,ædju'leɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* excessive praise. Synonym **adoration**. Antonym **disparagement**

② **adult** /'ædʌlt/ *adj* **1.** fully grown ○ *an adult tiger* **2.** referring to mature people ○ *adult fiction* ■ *noun* a mature person, or a

mature animal or plant. Synonym **grown-up**.

Antonym **child**

**adult education** /,ædʌlt edʃu'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the teaching of people over the age of 20

**adulterate** /ə'dʌltəreɪt/ *verb* **1.** to add water to milk or wine **2.** to make something less pure by adding an inferior substance to it

**adulteration** /ə'dʌltə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of making something less pure. Synonym **contamination**. Antonym **purification**

**adulterer** /ə'dʌltərə/, **adulteress** /ə'dʌlt(ə)rəs/ *noun* a person who commits adultery

**adultery** /ə'dʌlt(ə)rɪ/ *noun* sexual intercourse with someone who is not your husband or wife

**adulthood** /'ædʌlθud/ *noun* the period when someone is adult. Synonym **maturity**.

Antonym **childhood**

**adv.** *abbr* **1.** adverb **2.** adverbial

② **advance** /əd'vɑːns/ *noun* **1.** a movement forwards **2.** □ **in advance** earlier than something happens ○ *If you want to get good seats for the play, you need to book three weeks in advance.* ○ *You must phone well in advance to make an appointment.* **3.** money paid as a loan or as a part of a payment to be made later ■ *verb* **1.** to go forward **2.** to pay money as a loan or as part of a later payment **3.** to change a date or time for something to an earlier one **4.** to move a clock to a later time. Synonym **put forward** ■ *adj* done before something happens

③ **advanced** /əd'vɑːnst/ *adj* **1.** which is studied after studying for several years ○ *taking advanced mathematics* ○ *studying for an advanced degree* **2.** which has moved forward ○ *in an advanced state of decay* □ **the season is well advanced** the season is coming to an end

**advancement** /əd'vɑːnsmənt/ *noun* **1.** the act of moving something forwards **2.** a promotion in a job or organisation

**advances** /əd'vɑːnsɪz/ *plural noun* attempts to be friendly with someone

① **advantage** /əd'vɑːntɪdʒ/ *noun* something which will help you to be successful ○ *Being able to drive a car is an advantage.* ○ *Knowledge of two foreign languages is an advantage in this job.* ○ *She has several advantages over the other candidates for the job.* Synonym **benefit**. Antonym **disadvantage** □ **to take advantage of** to profit from something ○ *They took advantage of the cheap fares on offer.* □ **to take advantage of someone** to cheat someone ○ *He took advantage of the old lady.* □ **to advantage** in a way that makes someone look perfect ○ *Her dress shows off her figure to advantage.* □ **to use something to great advantage** to use something in a way which helps you win

**advantageous** /ˌædvən'teɪdʒəs/ *adj* likely to help or make something successful. Synonym **beneficial**. Antonym **disadvantageous**

**advent** /'ædvənt/ *noun* the introduction or appearance of something new

**Advent** /'ædvənt/ *noun* the period just before Christmas

**adventure** /əd'ventʃə/ *noun* a new, exciting and dangerous experience ○ *I must tell you about our adventures in the Gobi desert.* Synonym **escapade**

**adventure playground** /əd'ventʃə'pleɪgraʊnd/ *noun* a children's playground with objects such as climbing frames, slides and wooden houses

**adventurous** /əd'ventʃ(ə)rəs/ *adj* 1. happy to do something risky 2. exciting and full of adventure

② **adverb** /'ædvɜːb/ *noun* a word which applies to a verb, an adjective, another adverb or a whole sentence ○ *In the phrase 'He walked slowly, because the snow was very thick.' 'slowly' and 'very' are both adverbs.*

**adverbial** /æd'vɜːbiəl/ *adj* used as an adverb

**adversary** /'ædvəs(ə)rɪ/ *noun* the person you are fighting or opposed to. Synonym **opponent**. Antonym **supporter** (NOTE: The plural is **adversaries**.)

**adverse** /'ædvɜːs/ *adj* 1. (of a wind) which blows against you 2. (conditions) which do not help or which go against you □ **adverse balance of trade** a situation where a country imports more than it exports

**adversely** /'ædvɜːsli/ *adv* in a bad or damaging way

**adversity** /əd'vɜːsɪti/ *noun* difficult times, when you have to face all sorts of problems. Synonym **hardship**. Antonym **privilege**

③ **advert** /'ædvɜːt/ *noun* GB same as **advertisement** (informal)

**advertise** /'ædvətaɪz/ *verb* to make sure that people know that something is for sale, that something is going to happen or that a show is on ○ *I sent away for a watch which I saw advertised in the paper.* ○ *The company is advertising for secretaries.* ○ *Did you see that the restaurant is advertising cheap meals on Sundays?* □ **there's no need to advertise the fact** there's no need to tell everyone something which would be better kept secret

③ **advertisement** /əd'vɜːtɪsmənt/ *noun* an announcement which tries to make sure that people know that something is for sale, that something is going to happen or that a show is on

**advertiser** /'ædvətaɪzə/ *noun* a person who advertises something

① **advertising** /'ædvətaɪzɪŋ/ *noun* the action of making sure that people know that something is for sale, that something is going to happen or that a show is on ○ *They spent millions on the advertising campaign.* ○ *The company has increased the amount of money it spends on advertising.* Synonym **publicity**

**advertising agency** /'ædvətaɪzɪŋ, 'eɪdʒənsɪ/ *noun* an agency which organises advertisements for other companies

① **advice** /əd'vaɪs/ *noun* the saying of what should be done ○ *She took or followed the doctor's advice.* ○ *He went to the bank manager for advice on how to pay his debts.* ○ *They would not listen to the doctor's advice.* ○ *My grandfather gave me a very useful piece of advice.* ○ *His mother's advice was to stay in bed.* (NOTE: no plural: **some advice**; for one item say **a piece of advice**)

**advisable** /əd'vaɪzəb(ə)/ *adj* which is recommended. Synonym **sensible**. Antonym **unwise**

① **advise** /əd'vaɪz/ *verb* 1. to suggest to someone what should be done ○ *He advised her to put all her money into a deposit account.* 2. to tell someone officially that something has happened (formal) ○ *They advised us that the sale of the house had been completed.*

③ **adviser** /əd'vaɪzə/, **advisor** *noun* 1. a person who gives advice 2. a person who advises students on their courses and other academic matters 3. a teacher who advises school heads and teachers on the teaching of a specialist subject

**advisory** /əd'vaɪz(ə)rɪ/ *adj* giving advice

**advocacy** /'ædvəkəsi/ *noun* strong support for a cause or policy

**advocate** *noun* /'ædvəkət/ 1. a lawyer in a Scottish court 2. a person who strongly supports a cause 3. a person who says that something is a good thing ■ *verb* /'ædvəkeɪt/ to say that something is a good thing. Synonym **support**. Antonym **oppose**

**aerial** /'eəriəl/ *adj* referring to the air ■ *noun* a device for receiving radio or TV signals (NOTE: The US term is **antenna**.)

**aerobic** /eə'rəʊbɪk/ *adj* using or needing oxygen. Antonym **anaerobic**

**aerobics** /eə'rəʊbɪks/ *noun* active exercises which aim to increase the amount of oxygen taken into the body (NOTE: takes a singular verb)

**aerodrome** /'eərədrəʊm/ *noun* a small airport. Synonym **airfield**

**aerodynamic** /eə'rəʊdaɪ'næmɪk/ *adj* referring to the movement of objects through the air

**aerodynamics** /eə'rəʊdaɪ'næmɪks/ *noun* 1. the science of the movement of objects through the air (NOTE: takes a singular verb)

2. the way in which a machine moves through the air (NOTE: takes a plural verb)

**aeronautical** /ˈɛərəˈnɔːtɪk(ə)l/ *adj* referring to the flying of aircraft

③ **aeroplane** /ˈɛərəpleɪn/ *noun* a machine which flies in the air, carrying passengers or cargo. Synonym **aircraft, plane** (NOTE: The US term is **airplane**.)

**aerosol** /ˈɛərəsɒl/ *noun* 1. a can which sprays a liquid such as an insecticide or medicine in the form of tiny drops 2. tiny particles of a chemical in the air

**aerospace** /ˈɛərəspeɪs/ *noun* Earth's atmosphere and space beyond it

**aerospace industry** /ˈɛərəspeɪs ˌɪndəstri/ *noun* the industry involved in making and flying aeroplanes

**aesthetic** /iːsˈθetɪk/ *adj* pleasant, from an artistic point of view (NOTE: The usual US spelling is **esthetic**.)

**aesthetically** /iːsˈθetɪkli/ *adv* from an artistic point of view (NOTE: The usual US spelling is **esthetically**.)

**aesthetics** /iːsˈθetɪks/ *noun* the science of and study of beauty, especially in art (NOTE: takes a singular verb. The usual US spelling is **esthetics**.)

**afar** /əˈfɑː/ *adv* □ **from afar** from a long way away (*formal*) ○ *Travellers came from afar to the great market at Samarkand.*

**affability** /ˌæfəˈbɪləti/ *noun* the state of being pleasant and easy to talk to

**affable** /ˌæfəb(ə)l/ *adj* pleasant and easy to talk to. Synonym **genial**. Antonym **unfriendly**

**affably** /ˌæfəbli/ *adv* in a pleasant or friendly way

① **affair** /əˈfeə/ *noun* 1. something which is relevant to one person or a group of people only ○ *That's his affair – it's nothing to do with me.* ○ *It's an affair for the police.* ○ *She's always sticking her nose into other people's affairs.* ○ *His business affairs were very complicated.* 2. a sexual relationship with someone who is not the person's husband or wife ○ *He's having an affair with his boss's wife.* 3. □ **state of affairs** general situation ○ *the present state of affairs*

① **affect** /əˈfekt/ *verb* 1. to have an influence on or change someone or something ○ *The new regulations have affected our business.* ○ *Train services have been seriously affected by the strike.* 2. to pretend ○ *He affected not to notice.*

**affectation** /ˌæfekˈteɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* something which someone pretends but which is not sincere

**affected** /əˈfektɪd/ *adj* pretended and not sincere. Synonym **pretentious**

**affection** /əˈfekʃən/ *noun* a feeling of liking or love

**affectionate** /əˈfekʃənət/ *adj* showing love. Synonym **loving**

**affectionately** /əˈfekʃənətli/ *adv* in a loving way

**affidavit** /ˌæfɪˈdeɪvɪt/ *noun* a written statement which is signed and sworn before a solicitor and which can then be used as evidence in court

**affiliate** *noun* /əˈfɪliət/ a company formally associated with another one ○ *We have affiliates in several European countries.* Synonym

**associate** ■ *verb* /əˈfɪliet/ to connect something or someone to a larger group. Synonym **link**

**affiliated** /əˈfɪlietɪd/ *adj* connected to or with another as an affiliate

**affiliation** /əˈfɪliəʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act or fact of being affiliated. Synonym **association**

**affinity** /əˈfɪnɪti/ *noun* the fact of being similar in character □ **to feel an affinity for** to feel a special link with someone or something ○ *She feels an affinity for homeless people.*

**affirm** /əˈfɜːm/ *verb* 1. to state publicly that something is true 2. to make a statement in court that you will tell the truth, though this is not sworn on oath

**affirmation** /ˌæfəˈmeɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* 1. a statement that something is true 2. a statement in court that you will tell the truth, though this is not sworn on oath

**affirmative** /əˈfɜːmətɪv/ *adj* meaning 'yes'. Antonym **negative** ■ *noun* a word or statement meaning 'yes' □ **the answer is in the affirmative** the answer is 'yes'

**affix** *verb* /əˈfɪks/ to fix something in place (*formal*) ○ *He affixed the seal to the contract.*

○ *There is no need to affix a stamp on a pre-paid envelope.* Synonym **attach**. Antonym **remove** ■ *noun* /əˈfɪks/ a group of letters added to the beginning or end of a word to make a new word

**afflict** /əˈflɪkt/ *verb* (of a serious problem or illness) to make someone suffer (*formal*)

**affliction** /əˈflɪkʃən/ *noun* (*formal*) 1. an illness affecting someone physically or mentally 2. something that causes distress

**affluence** /ˈæfluəns/ *noun* wealth. Synonym **prosperity**. Antonym **poverty**

**affluent** /ˈæfluənt/ *adj* very rich. Synonym **wealthy**

① **afford** /əˈfɔːd/ *verb* to have enough money, time or other resources to do something ○ *We can't afford to run a large car these days.* ○ *He couldn't afford the time to take a holiday.* (NOTE: only used after **can**, **cannot**, **could**, **could not**, **able to**, **unable to**)



**affordable** /ə'fɔ:dəb(ə)l/ *adj* which can be afforded. **Synonym** **reasonable**. **Antonym** **expensive**

**affront** /ə'frʌnt/ *noun* an action which insults someone ■ *verb* to insult someone ► **Synonym** (all senses) **insult**. **Antonym** **compliment**

**afield** /ə'fi:ld/ *adv* □ **far afield** a long way away ○ *People come from far afield to visit the grave.*

**afloat** /ə'fləʊt/ *adv* **1.** floating, not sinking ○ *She kept afloat by holding on to a piece of wood.* ○ *Our boat was driven onto the beach by the storm, but we managed to get it afloat again.* **2.** (of a company) not in financial difficulties ○ *I wonder how they manage to stay afloat when the market is so difficult.*

**afout** /ə'fʊt/ *adv* in the process of being planned

**aftermentioned** /ə'fɔ:menʃənd/ (formal) *adj* mentioned earlier ■ *noun* someone or something mentioned earlier

① **afraid** /ə'freɪd/ *adj* **1.** frightened of something ○ *I am afraid of snakes.* ○ *He is too afraid to climb the ladder.* **2.** □ **to be afraid (that)** to be sorry to say ○ *I'm afraid that all the cakes have been sold.* ○ *You can't see the boss – I'm afraid he's ill.* ○ *Have you got a pocket calculator?* – No, I'm afraid not.

**afresh** /ə'freʃ/ *adv* again. **Synonym** **anew**

① **African** /'æfrɪkən/ *adj* referring to Africa ■ *noun* a person from Africa

**African American** /'æfrɪkən ə'merɪkən/ *noun* an American whose ancestors came from Africa

**African Caribbean** /'æfrɪkən kærɪ-'bi:ən/ *noun* someone from the Caribbean whose ancestors came from Africa

**Afro-** /æfrəʊ/ *prefix* African, or between Africa and another country

**Afro-Caribbean** /æfrəʊ kærɪ-'bi:ən/ *noun* same as **African Caribbean**

**aft** /ɑ:ft/ *adv* in the back of a ship or plane. **Antonym** **forward**

① **after** /'ɑ:ftə/ *prep* **1.** following or next in order to ○ *If today is Tuesday, the day after tomorrow is Thursday.* ○ *They spoke one after the other.* ○ *What's the letter after Q in the alphabet?* □ **after you** you go first □ **after you with the milk** pass me the milk when you have finished with it (informal) **2.** later than ○ *We arrived after six o'clock.* ○ *We don't let the children go out alone after dark.* **3.** □ **what's she after?** what does she want? (informal) ■ *conj* later than a time ○ *After the snow fell, the motorways were blocked.* ○ *Phone me after you get home.* (NOTE: **after** is used with many verbs: **to look after**, **to take after**, etc.) ◇ **after all** **1.** in spite of everything **2.** the fact is ◇ **to be after someone** (informal) **1.** to be looking for someone

○ *The police are after him.* **2.** to be angry with someone ○ *If you leave mud all over the kitchen floor, your mother will be after you.*

**aftercare** /'ɑ:ftəkeə/ *noun* the care of a patient after an operation

**after-effects** /,ɑ:ftə r'fektɪz/ *plural noun* effects which follow after something ○ *The after-effects of the bomb lasted for years.* ○ *The operation can have some unpleasant after-effects.*

**afterlife** /'ɑ:ftəlaɪf/ *noun* **1.** life believed to go on after death **2.** a stage of life that follows a period or event

**aftermath** /'ɑ:ftəmə:θ/ *noun* the period immediately after a bad event when its effects are seen. **Synonym** **consequence**

① **afternoon** /,ɑ:ftə'nʊ:n/ *noun* the time between lunchtime and the evening ○ *He always has a little sleep in the afternoon.* ○ *There is an afternoon flight to Paris.* ○ *I'm playing tennis tomorrow afternoon.* ○ *Can we meet tomorrow afternoon?*

**afternoon tea** /,ɑ:ftə'nʊ:n 'ti:/ *noun* a meal eaten in the afternoon, usually with small sandwiches, cakes and tea

**afters** /'ɑ:ftəz/ *noun* GB a sweet course of a meal (informal). **Synonym** **dessert**

**after-sales service** /,ɑ:ftə seɪlz 'sɜ:vɪs/ *noun* the maintaining of a machine by the seller for the buyer

**aftershave** /'ɑ:ftəʃeɪv/, **aftershave lotion** /'ɑ:ftəʃeɪv ,ləʊʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a lotion for soothing a man's face after he has shaved

**aftershock** /'ɑ:ftəʃɒk/ *noun* a light earth tremor felt after a major earthquake

**aftertaste** /'ɑ:ftəteɪst/ *noun* **1.** a taste that continues after something has been eaten or drunk **2.** an unpleasant feeling after something has happened

**afterthought** /'ɑ:ftəθɔ:t/ *noun* a thing which you only think of or do later □ **as an afterthought** showing that you have just thought of something new ○ *He signed the letter and as an afterthought added a row of kisses.*

① **afterwards** /'ɑ:ftəwədɪz/ *adv* later ○ *We'll have lunch first and go shopping afterwards.* (NOTE: The US term is **afterward**.)

① **again** /ə'geɪn/ *adv* **1.** another time or once more ○ *We'd love to come to see you again.* ○ *He had to take his driving test again.* □ **again and again** several times ○ *The police officer asked the same question again and again.* □ **now and again** sometimes ○ *Now and again I get a pain in my right elbow.* **2.** back as you were before ○ *Although I like going on holiday, I'm always glad to be home again.*

① **against** /ə'geɪnst/ *prep* **1.** so as to touch ○ *He was leaning against the wall.* ○ *She hit her head against the low doorway.* **2.** not as

someone proposes □ **it's against the rules, against the law** it's not as the rules say or the law says ○ *It's against the law to drive in the dark without lights.* ○ *You mustn't hold the football in your hands – it's against the rules.* □ **what do you have against the plan?** why don't you agree with the plan? ○ *She was against the idea of going to the cinema.* **3.** in opposition to ○ *England is playing against South Africa tomorrow.* ○ *It's hard cycling uphill against the wind.* **4.** as part of ○ *Can I have an advance against next month's salary?*

① **age** /eɪdʒ/ *noun* **1.** the number of years which you have lived ○ *She is thirty years of age.* ○ *He looks younger than his age.* □ **under age** younger than the legal age to do something ○ *under-age drinkers* **2.** □ **ages** a very long time ○ *I've been waiting here for ages.* ○ *It took us ages to get served.* **3.** a period in history ○ *They found remains dating back to the Stone Age.* ○ *The Victorian age covered most of the nineteenth century.* ■ **verb** to look older ○ *He has aged a lot since I last saw him.*

② **aged** *adj* **1.** /eɪdʒd/ with the age of ○ *a girl aged nine* ○ *She died last year, aged 83.* **2.** /eɪdʒɪd/ very old ○ *an aged man*

**age group** /'eɪdʒ gru:p/ *noun* all the people of a particular age. Synonym **generation**

**ageing** /'eɪdʒɪŋ/ *adj* which is becoming older (NOTE: The US spelling is **aging**.)

**age limit** /'eɪdʒ ,lɪmɪt/ *noun* the youngest or oldest age at which you are allowed to do something

① **agency** /'eɪdʒənsi/ *noun* an office which represents another firm ○ *an advertising agency* ○ *We have the agency for Ford cars.*

③ **agenda** /ə'dʒendə/ *noun* a list of points for discussion □ **what's on the agenda?** what are we going to discuss?

③ **agent** /'eɪdʒənt/ *noun* **1.** a person who works for or represents someone else ○ *Our head office is in London but we have an agent in Paris.* **2.** a person or thing that causes something ○ *War is an agent of mass destruction.*

**age of consent** /,eɪdʒ əv kən'sent/ *noun* the age at which someone can legally agree to have sex

**age-old** *adj, adv* which has existed for a long time

**aggravate** /'ægrəveɪt/ *verb* **1.** to make something worse **2.** to annoy someone

**aggravating** /'ægrəveɪtɪŋ/ *adj* who or which annoys someone (*informal*). Synonym **annoying**. Antonym **pleasing**

**aggregate** /'ægrɪɡət/ *noun* **1.** a total of everything added together □ **on aggregate, in the aggregate** as a final total ○ *Liverpool*

*won 7–2 on aggregate.* **2.** a mixture of sand and gravel used to make roads

③ **aggression** /ə'ɡresɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a feeling of anger against someone that is expressed, especially in physical force □ **an act of aggression** an attack on someone

③ **aggressive** /ə'ɡresɪv/ *adj* ready to attack someone

**aggressively** /ə'ɡresɪvli/ *adv* as if wanting to attack someone

**aggressiveness** /ə'ɡresɪvnəs/ *noun* the state of being aggressive towards someone

**aggressor** /ə'ɡresa/ *noun* a person or country that attacks another. Synonym **attacker**

**aggrieved** /ə'ɡri:vɪd/ *adj* annoyed because you have been badly treated

**aggro** /'ægrəʊ/ *noun* violent quarrelling or disagreement

**aghost** /ə'ɡɔ:tst/ *adj* filled with horror and amazement. Synonym **horrified**. Antonym **unaffected**

**agile** /'ædʒaɪl/ *adj* that can move easily

**agility** /ə'dʒɪlɪti/ *noun* the fact of being agile. Antonym **clumsiness**

**agitate** /'ædʒɪteɪt/ *verb* **1.** to stir up public opinion for or against something **2.** to shake a container such as a bottle (*formal*)

**agitated** /'ædʒɪteɪtɪd/ *adj* very nervous, worried or upset and often not able to keep still. Synonym **restless**. Antonym **calm**

**agitation** /,ædʒɪ'teɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* **1.** nervous worry **2.** struggle for change, especially political change

**agitator** /'ædʒɪteɪtə/ *noun* a person who stirs up political unrest. Synonym **campaigner**

**AGM** *abbr* annual general meeting

**agnostic** /æ'ɡnɒstɪk/ *adj* believing that no one can know if God exists ■ *noun* a person who believes that no one can know if God exists. Compare **atheist**. Antonym **believer**

**agnosticism** /æ'ɡnɒstɪsɪz(ə)m/ *noun* a belief that no one can know if God exists. Synonym **doubt**

① **ago** /ə'ɡəʊ/ *adv* in the past ○ *He phoned a few minutes ago.* ○ *This all happened a long time ago.* Synonym **before**. Antonym **ahead** (NOTE: **ago** always follows a word meaning time.)

**agog** /ə'ɡɒɡ/ *adj* □ **all agog** very eager ○ *They were all agog to hear her story.*

**agonise** /'æɡənaɪz/, **agonize** *verb* to spend a lot of time worrying about something □ **to agonize over a decision** to worry about a decision

**agonising** /'æɡənaɪzɪŋ/, **agonizing** *adj* **1.** (*of pain*) very sharp **2.** very painful and difficult

③ **agony** /'æɡəni/ *noun* extreme pain

**agony aunt** /'æɡəni aʊnt/ *noun* a person who writes an agony column

**agony column** /'æɡəni ˌkɒləm/ *noun* a newspaper column giving advice on personal problems

① **agree** /ə'ɡriː/ *verb* **1.** to say yes ○ *Most of the group agreed with her suggestion.* ○ *After some discussion he agreed to our plan.* (NOTE: You agree **to** or **on** a plan.) **2.** □ **to agree with someone** to think the same way as someone ○ *I agree with you that most people drive too fast.*

**agreeable** /ə'ɡriːəb(ə)l/ *adj* **1.** pleasant **2.** □ **to be agreeable to** to be in agreement with (formal) ○ *Are they all agreeable to the plan?*

**agreeably** /ə'ɡriːəbli/ *adv* pleasantly

**agreed** /ə'ɡriːd/ *adj* which has been accepted. Synonym **decided**

① **agreement** /ə'ɡriːmənt/ *noun* **1.** the act or fact of thinking the same ○ *to reach an agreement or to come to an agreement on salaries* ○ *Agreement between the two sides is still a long way off.* □ **they are in agreement with our plan** they agree with our plan ○ *We discussed the plan with them and they are in agreement.* **2.** a contract ○ *to draw up or to draft an agreement* ○ *We signed an agreement with the Italian company.*

② **agricultural** /,æɡrɪˈkʌltʃ(ə)rəl/ *adj* referring to agriculture

**agricultural labourer** /,æɡrɪkʌltʃərəl 'leɪb(ə)rəl/ *noun* a person who does heavy work on a farm

② **agriculture** /'æɡrɪkʌltʃə/ *noun* the practice of growing crops or raising animals on farms. Synonym **cultivation**

**aground** /ə'graʊnd/ *adv* stuck on sand or rocks, not afloat □ **the ship ran aground,** **went aground** the ship hit sand or rocks

③ **ah** /ɑː/ *interj* showing surprise ■ *noun* an act of saying 'ah!' ○ *The audience let out 'oohs' and 'ahs' as they watched the lion tammers.* ■ *verb* ◇ **um**

**aha** /ɑːˈhɑː/ *interj* showing that something has been discovered, especially expressing satisfaction or excitement

① **ahead** /ə'hed/ *adv* in front ○ *Our team was losing, but now we are ahead again.* ○ *Run on ahead and find some seats for us.* ○ *You need to go straight ahead, and then turn left.* □ **full steam ahead!** go forwards as fast as possible □ **to draw ahead** to become the leader in a race

**ahoy** /ə'hɔɪ/ *interj* used by sailors to call another ship

**AI** *abbr* **1.** artificial insemination **2.** artificial intelligence

② **aid** /eɪd/ *noun* **1.** help ○ *aid to Third World countries* ○ *aid worker* **2.** □ **in aid of** to help ○ *We give money in aid of the Red*

*Cross.* ○ *They are collecting money in aid of refugees.* □ **what's all this in aid of?** what's all the fuss about? (informal) **3.** a device which helps ○ *He wears a hearing aid.* ○ *Food processors are useful aids in the kitchen.* □ to help someone or a process. Antonym **thwart** □ **to aid and abet someone** to help someone to commit a crime

**aide** /eɪd/ *noun* a person employed to assist someone important. Synonym **assistant**

**AIDS** /eɪdz/ *noun* a viral infection which breaks down the body's immune system ○ *a clinic for people with AIDS* Full form **acquired immune deficiency syndrome**

**ailing** /'eɪlɪŋ/ *adj* **1.** sick **2.** in financial difficulties

**ailment** /'eɪlmənt/ *noun* an illness, though not generally a very serious one

② **aim** /eɪm/ *noun* what you are trying to do ○ *His aim is to do well at school and then go to university.* ○ *One of our aims is to increase the speed of service.* Synonym **goal** ■ *verb* **1.** to plan to do something ○ *We aim to go on holiday in June.* **2.** to point a weapon at something ○ *He was not aiming at the target.*

**aimless** /'eɪmləs/ *adj* without any particular plan. Antonym **purposeful**

**aimlessly** /'eɪmləsli/ *adv* without any particular plan

**ain't** /eɪnt/ *contraction* is not, has not, have not (informal) ○ *It ain't fair.* ○ *He ain't finished yet.*

① **air** /eə/ *noun* **1.** a mixture of gases, mainly oxygen and nitrogen, which cannot be seen, but which is all around us and which every animal breathes ○ *His breath was like steam in the cold air.* ○ *He threw the ball up into the air.* **2.** a method of travelling or sending goods using aircraft **3.** a little tune ○ *She played an air by Bach.* **4.** an appearance or feeling ○ *There was an air of gloom over the meeting.* ■ *verb* to freshen a room or clothes by giving them more air ○ *Let's open the windows to air the room.*

**air bag** /'eə bæɡ/ *noun* a bag in a car which inflates when there is an accident and protects the driver or passenger

**airbase** /'eəbeɪs/ *noun* a military airfield

**airborne** /'eəbəʊn/ *adj* **1.** carried in the air **2.** carried by an aircraft

**air-conditioned** /'eə kən,dɪf(ə)nd/ *adj* having the temperature controlled by an air-conditioner

**air-conditioner** /'eə kən,dɪf(ə)nəl/ *noun* a device which filters and cools the air in a room

**air-conditioning** /'eə kən,dɪf(ə)nɪŋ/ *noun* a system of controlling the temperature in a place such as a room or a train

② **aircraft** /'eəkrɑːft/ *noun* a machine which flies in the air ○ *The passengers got*

into the aircraft. ○ *The airline has a fleet of ten aircraft.* Synonym **aeroplane** (NOTE: The plural is **aircraft**: **one aircraft**, **six aircraft**.)

**aircraft carrier** /'eəkrɑ:ft, 'kæriə/ *noun* a large ship in a navy, which has a large flat deck where aircraft can land and take off

**airfare** /'eəfeə/ *noun* what it costs for a journey in an aircraft

**airfield** /'eəfi:ld/ *noun* a small, usually military, airport. Synonym **airstrip**

**air force** /'eə fɔ:s/ *noun* a country's military air organisation

**air freshener** /'eə, freʃ(ə)nəl/ *noun* a substance which makes the air in a room smell fresh and clean

**air hostess** /'eə, həʊstəs/ *noun* a woman flight attendant (*dated*)

**airing cupboard** /'eəriŋ, 'kʌbəd/ *noun* a warm cupboard where clothes can be aired

**airless** /'eələs/ *adj* without any air. Synonym **stuffy**

**air letter** /'eə, letə/ *noun* a special sheet of thin blue paper which when folded can be sent by airmail without an envelope

**airlift** /'eəlift/ *noun* an emergency transporting of something by air ■ *verb* to transport someone or something by air in an emergency ○ *The climbers were airlifted to safety.* Synonym **fly**

② **airline** /'eəlaɪn/ *noun* a company which runs air services ○ *He's an airline pilot.* ○ *The airline has been voted the most popular with business travellers.*

**airliner** /'eəlaɪnə/ *noun* a large aircraft that carries passengers

③ **airmail** /'eəmeɪl/ *noun* a way of sending letters or parcels by air ■ *verb* to send letters or parcels by air ○ *We airmailed the documents to New York.*

**airman** /'eəmən/ *noun* a man who serves in an air force (NOTE: The plural is **airmen**.)

**airplane** /'eəpleɪn/ *noun* US an aeroplane

② **airport** /'eəpɔ:t/ *noun* a place where aircraft land and take off ○ *You can take the underground to the airport.* ○ *We are due to arrive at Heathrow Airport at midday.*

**airport tax** /'eəpɔ:t tæks/ *noun* a tax added to the price of an air ticket to cover the cost of running an airport

**air raid** /'eə reɪd/ *noun* an attack by military aircraft

**airship** /'eəʃɪp/ *noun* a large balloon driven by an engine

**airsickness** /'eəsɪknəs/ *noun* the feeling of being sick while in an aircraft. Synonym **travel sickness**

**airspace** /'eəspeɪs/ *noun* the air above a country

**airstream** /'eəstri:m/ *noun* a flow of air in a particular direction

**airstrip** /'eəstri:p/ *noun* a small runway

**airtight** /'eətaɪt/ *adj* which does not allow air to get in or out

**air time** /'eə taɪm/ *noun* 1. the amount of time that is given to a programme or subject in radio or TV broadcasting 2. the time at which a programme or item is to be broadcast

**air traffic controller** /eə 'træfɪk kən-, trəʊlə/ *noun* a person on land who gives instructions for the movements of aircraft as they land or take off

**airwaves** /'eəweɪvz/ *plural noun* 1. □ **on the airwaves** on the radio (*old*) ○ *His was a familiar voice on the airwaves in the 1950s.*

2. the way in which radio signals move through the air

**airway** /'eəweɪ/ *noun* 1. a name given to an airline 2. a passage for air

**airworthiness** /'eə,wɜ:ðɪnəs/ *noun* the safety of an aircraft for use

**airy** /'eəri/ *adj* 1. full of fresh air 2. vague and not likely to be put into practice (NOTE:

**airier – ariest**)

**airy-fairy** /,eəri 'feəri/ *adj* not possible to put into practice (*informal*) Synonym **vague**

**aisle** /aɪl/ *noun* 1. a gangway between seats in something such as a plane, theatre or church 2. a gangway between shelves in a supermarket 3. a side part of a church (NOTE: Do not confuse with **isle**.)

**aisle seat** /'aɪl si:t/ *noun* a seat which is next to an aisle

**ajar** /ə'dʒɑ:/ *adj* slightly open

**aka** *abbr* also known as

**akin** /ə'kɪn/ *adj* □ **akin to** similar to ○ *She experienced a sensation akin to burning on her skin.*

**à la carte** /,æ læ 'kɑ:t/ *adv, adj* made of several dishes ordered separately from a menu

**alacrity** /ə'lækɪrɪti/ *noun* speed □ **with alacrity** fast

② **alarm** /ə'lɑ:m/ *noun* 1. a loud warning ○ *An alarm will sound if someone touches the wire.* □ **to raise the alarm** to warn everyone of danger □ **it was a false alarm** it was a wrong warning 2. the fact or feeling of being afraid ○ *The expression on his face increased her alarm.* ○ *There's no cause for alarm, the injection won't hurt at all.* ■ *verb* to frighten someone ○ *I don't want to alarm you, but the police say a dangerous criminal has been seen in the village.* Synonym **worry**. Antonym **calm**

**alarm bells** /ə'lɑ:m belz/ *plural noun* an indication that something unpleasant or dangerous will happen

③ **alarm clock** /ə'lɑ:m klɒk/ *noun* a clock which rings a bell to wake you up

**alarmed** /ə'lɑ:md/ *adj* worried and frightened. Synonym **worried**

**alarming** /ə'la:mɪŋ/ *adj* frightening. Synonym **disturbing**. Antonym **soothing**

**alarmist** /ə'la:mɪst/ *noun* someone who makes people feel frightened or worried when they do not need to ■ *adj* which makes people feel frightened or worried when they do not need to ○ *an alarmist report*

**alas** /ə'læs/ *interj* showing sadness ○ *He died in the war, alas.* ○ *Alas, there is no time left to continue the discussion.*

**albatross** /'ælbətrɒs/ *noun* a very large white sea bird which flies for long distances (NOTE: The plural is **albatrosses**.)

③ **albeit** /ɔ:l'bi:t/ *conj* although

**albino** /æl'bi:nəʊ/ *noun* an animal or person born with pale skin, white hair, and pink eyes (NOTE: The plural is **albinos**.)

③ **album** /'ælbəm/ *noun* 1. a large book 2. a collection of songs on a CD, cassette or record

③ **alcohol** /'ælkəhɒl/ *noun* a substance in drinks such as beer or wine, that can make people drunk ○ *They will not serve alcohol to anyone under the age of 18.*

**alcoholic** /,ælkə'hɒlɪk/ *adj* referring to alcohol. Synonym **intoxicating** ■ *noun* a person who depends on alcohol as a drug

**alcoholism** /'ælkəhɒlɪz(ə)m/ *noun* the condition of depending on drinking alcohol regularly

**alcove** /'ælkəʊv/ *noun* a part of the wall of a room which is set back. Synonym **recess**

③ **ale** /eɪl/ *noun* a type of British beer, especially bitter beer, but not lager

**alert** /ə'lɜ:t/ *adj* 1. able to think clearly 2. watching carefully ■ *noun* news that something dangerous is happening or going to happen ○ *a flood alert.* Synonym **warning** □ **to be on the alert** to watch out for something ■ *verb* □ **to alert someone to** to warn someone of something ○ *She was alerted to the dangers of smoking.*

② **A Level** /'eɪ lev(ə)/ *noun* an examination taken by pupils aged 17 or 18 ○ *If you pass your A Levels, you can go on to higher education.* Full form **advanced level**

**alfresco** /æl'freskəʊ/ *adj* in the open air. Synonym **outdoor**. Antonym **indoor** (NOTE: Do not confuse with **fresco**.)

**algae** /'ældʒi:/ *noun* very small plants living in water or in wet conditions which have no stems or roots or leaves

**algebra** /'ældʒɪbrə/ *noun* a type of mathematics where letters are used to represent quantities

**algebraic** /,ældʒɪ'brenɪk/ *adj* referring to algebra

**algorithm** /'ælgərɪð(ə)m/ *noun* a plan for working out a complicated calculation

**alias** /'eɪliəs/ *adv* also known as ○ *John Smith, alias 'The Bulldog'* ■ *noun* a different

name that is not the person's own. Synonym **assumed name** (NOTE: The plural is **aliases**.)

**alibi** /'ælibaɪ/ *noun* a claim that a person charged with a crime was somewhere else when the crime was committed

**alien** /'eɪliən/ *adj* foreign, from another country. Synonym **unfamiliar** ■ *noun* a person who is from a foreign country

**alienate** /'eɪliənert/ *verb* 1. to make someone feel unfriendly 2. to make someone not want to support you

**alienated** /'eɪliənertɪd/ *adj* not feeling included or welcome, especially in society at large

**align** /ə'laɪt/ *verb* to get off a vehicle (*formal*) ■ *adj* on fire

**align** /ə'laɪn/ *verb* 1. to arrange in line with 2. □ **to align yourself with** to decide on a similar policy to another country ○ *The three neighbouring states aligned themselves with France.*

**alignment** /ə'laɪnmənt/ *noun* 1. a row □ **out of alignment** not parallel ○ *I think the front wheels are out of alignment.* 2. an agreement between people on the same side of an argument. ♦ **realignment**

**alike** /ə'laɪk/ *adj* very similar. Antonym **different** ■ *adv* in a similar way ○ *My sister and I just don't think alike.* ○ *The change will affect rich and poor alike.*

**alimentary canal** /æɪ,ment(ə)ri kə'næl/ *noun* the tube by which food goes into the stomach, and passes through the body

**alimony** /'æɪməni/ *noun* money paid regularly by someone to a wife or husband they are no longer married to

② **alive** /ə'laɪv/ *adj* 1. not dead ○ *He was still alive when he was rescued, even though he had been in the sea for hours.* ○ *When my grandfather was alive, there were no supermarkets.* (NOTE: not used in front of a noun: **the fish is alive but a live fish**.) 2. □ **alive to** knowing and understanding □ **alive with** full of 3. lively ○ *The fishing village is rather dead during the day time, but really comes alive at night.*

**alkali** /'ælkəlaɪ/ *noun* a substance which reacts with an acid to form a salt and water (NOTE: The British English plural is **alkalis**, but American English is **alkalies**.)

**alkaline** /'ælkəlaɪn/ *adj* containing more alkali than acid

① **all** /ɔ:l/ *adj, pron* 1. everything or everyone ○ *They all or All of them like coffee.* ○ *All trains stop at Clapham Junction.* ○ *Did you pick all (of) the tomatoes?* ○ *Where are all the children?* □ **let's sing the song all together** everyone should sing at the same time 2. □ **fifteen all** (in tennis) fifteen points each ■ *adv* 1. completely ○ *The ground was*



*all white after the snow fell.* ○ *I forgot all about her birthday.* **2.** □ **all by yourself** all alone ○ *You can't do it all by yourself.* ○ *I'm all by myself this evening – my girlfriend's gone out.* ○ *He drove the lorry all by himself.* ◇ **all along** right from the beginning ◇ **all but** almost ◇ **all in** (informal) **1.** tired out **2.** including everything ◇ **all over 1.** everywhere over something **2.** finished **3.** everywhere

**Allah** /'ælə/ *noun* the Muslim name for God  
**allay** /ə'leɪ/ *verb* to calm something. Synonym **dispel**. Antonym **stimulate**  
**all day** /ɔ:l 'deɪ/ *adv* for the whole day ○ *It's been raining hard all day.*

**allegation** /,ælə'geɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the suggestion that someone has possibly done something wrong

**allege** /ə'ledʒ/ *verb* to suggest that someone may have done something wrong. Synonym **claim**

**alleged** /ə'ledʒd/ *adj* suggested. Antonym **confirmed**

**allegedly** /ə'ledʒɪdli/ *adv* as has been suggested, but not proved

**allegiance** /ə'li:dʒ(ə)ns/ *noun* the fact of being loyal. Synonym **loyalty**. Antonym **disloyalty**

**allegorical** /,æli'gɔrɪk(ə)l/ *adj* referring to allegory. Synonym **metaphorical**. Antonym **literal**

**allegory** /'æləg(ə)rɪ/ *noun* a painting or story where the characters represent ideas or are symbols of something else. Synonym **parable**

**allegro** /ə'legrəʊ/ *adv, adj* (in music) played fast

**allergen** /'ælədʒən/ *noun* a substance which produces an allergic reaction

**allergic** /ə'li:dʒɪk/ *adj* suffering from or referring to an allergy ◇ **to be allergic to 1.** to react badly to a substance ○ *Many people are allergic to grass pollen.* ○ *She is allergic to cats.* **2.** to dislike something or someone very much (informal) ○ *He is allergic to jazz.* ○ *She is allergic to men with beards.*

**allergy** /'ælədʒi/ *noun* a bad reaction to a substance

**alleviate** /ə'li:vɪeɪt/ *verb* to make less painful. Synonym **ease**

③ **alley** /'æli/ *noun* a narrow little street

③ **alliance** /ə'laɪəns/ *noun* a formal agreement between two or more groups or countries

① **allied** /'ælaɪd/ *adj 1.* joined in an alliance **2.** □ **allied to** combined with ○ *His poor health allied to his age means that he will not be able to run the marathon.*

**alligator** /'ælɪgətə/ *noun* a large reptile like a crocodile, found in the southern parts of the United States

**all-important** /ɔ:l ɪm'pɔ:tənt/ *adj* very important or necessary

**all-inclusive** /ɔ:l ɪn'klu:sɪv/ *adj* that includes everything. Synonym **comprehensive**

**all-in rate** /ɔ:l ɪn 'reɪt/, **all-in price** /ɔ:l ɪn 'praɪs/ *noun* a price which covers everything

**alliteration** /ə,lɪtə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the practice of using words which begin with the same sound to make special effects in poetry

**all-night** /ɔ:l naɪt/ *adj* lasting, open or available throughout the night, or throughout a specific night

② **allocate** /'æləkeɪt/ *verb* to give something out to various people

③ **allocation** /,ælə'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the process of giving something as a share

**allot** /ə'lɒt/ *verb* to give something to someone as a share of something (NOTE: **allotting – allotted**)

**allotment** /ə'lɒtmənt/ *noun 1.* the process of giving out money **2.** a piece of land which belongs to a local council and which can be rented for growing vegetables

**all-out** /ɔ:l 'aʊt/ *adj* total, involving a lot of work. Synonym **maximum**. Antonym **half-hearted**

① **allow** /ə'laʊ/ *verb 1.* to let someone do something ○ *She allowed me to borrow her book.* ○ *Smoking is not allowed in the restaurant.* ○ *You are allowed to take two pieces of hand luggage onto the plane.* **2. to give ○ *We will allow you a discount.* **3. to agree or to accept legally ○ *to allow a claim for damages* □ **to allow for something** to provide a certain amount of time or money for something ○ *to allow 10% extra for postage and packing* ○ *Allow 28 days for delivery.*****

**allowable** /ə'laʊəb(ə)l/ *adj* which can be allowed. Synonym **permissible**. Antonym **unacceptable** □ **allowable expenses** expenses which are allowed against tax

① **allowance** /ə'laʊəns/ *noun 1.* money paid regularly **2.** something which is allowed **3.** an amount of money which you are allowed to earn without paying tax **4.** □ **to make allowances for** to take something into account ○ *You must make allowances for his age.*

**alloy** /'æləɪ/ *noun* a mixture of metals ■ *verb* to mix metals ○ *You alloy copper and zinc to get brass.*

**all-purpose** /ɔ:l 'pɜ:pəs/ *adj* which can be used in many different situations. Antonym **specialised**

① **all right** /ɔ:l 'raɪt/ *adj* well ○ *She was ill yesterday but is all right now.* ■ *interj* meaning 'yes' (NOTE: **OK** and **no problem** are often used in this meaning.)

**all-round** *adj* able to do many things well, or useful in a number of different ways, not specialised ■ *adv* **1.** considering everything **2.** for, from or involving everyone

**all-rounder** /ɔ:l 'raʊndə/ *noun* a person who is good at anything

**all-star** /'ɔ:lstɑ:/ *adj* with many stars or celebrities. Antonym **unknown**

**all-time** /'ɔ:ltaɪm/ *adj* biggest, best, worst, etc. ever (*informal*) Antonym **insignificant**

**allude** /ə'lu:d/ *verb* □ **to allude to something** to refer to something in an indirect way ○ *He alluded to it in his speech, without giving any details.*

**allure** /ə'luə, ə'ljʊə/ *noun* a mysteriously attractive quality. Synonym **attraction** ■ *verb* to attract someone ○ *Allured by the high salary offered, he answered the advertisement.*

**alluring** /ə'luəriŋ, ə'ljʊəriŋ/ *adj* very attractive. Synonym **appealing**. Antonym **repulsive**

**allusion** /ə'lu:ʒ(ə)n/ *noun* referring indirectly to something. Synonym **reference**

**alluvial** /ə'lu:viəl/ *adj* left behind by rivers

③ **ally** *noun* /'ælaɪ/ a person or country which is on the same side. Synonym **friend** (NOTE: The plural is **allies**.) ■ *verb* /ə'laɪ/ □ **to ally yourself with or to someone** to join forces with someone ○ *The unions have allied themselves with the opposition.*

**almighty** /ɔ:l'maɪti/ *adj* very powerful, very loud ■ *noun* □ **the Almighty** God ○ *We pray to the Almighty every day that they find our daughter alive.*

**almond** /'ɑ:mənd/ *noun* **1.** a type of nut **2.** same as **almond tree**

**almond tree** /'ɑ:mənd tri:/ *noun* a tree which produces almonds

① **almost** /'ɔ:lɪməʊst/ *adv* nearly ○ *London is almost as far from here as Paris.* ○ *She's almost as tall as I am.* ○ *She'll eat almost anything.* ○ *Hurry up, it's almost time for the train to leave.* Synonym **nearly**

**aloft** /ə'lɒft/ *adv* high in the air. Antonym **below**

① **alone** /ə'ləʊn/ *adj* with no one else ○ *She lives alone with her cats.* ○ *He was all alone in the shop.* ○ *We don't let the children go out alone after dark.* □ **I want to talk to you alone** I want the two of us to talk in private ■ *adv* □ **to leave someone alone** not to disturb someone ○ *Leave that cat alone and come and have your tea.*

① **along** /ə'lɒŋ/ *prep* **1.** by the side of ○ *He has planted fruit trees along both sides of the garden path.* ○ *The river runs along one side of the castle.* **2.** from one end to the other ○ *She ran along the pavement.* ○ *Walk along the street until you come to the post office.* ■ *adv* □ **to get along with someone** to agree

with or to work well with someone ○ *She doesn't get along very well with her new boss.*

③ **alongside** /ə'lɒŋ'saɪd/ *prep* at the side of ○ *The ship was tied up alongside the quay.* ■ *adv* so as to be beside or level with something ○ *We had stopped at a red light when a police car pulled up alongside.* Synonym **abreast**

**aloof** /ə'lu:f/ *adj* quiet, private and unfriendly to other people ■ *adv* □ **to keep yourself aloof, to stand aloof from** to keep separate from, not to get involved with other people ○ *They kept themselves aloof from the rest of the crowd.*

**aloud** /ə'laʊd/ *adv* in a voice which can be heard

**alpha** /'ælfə/ *noun* the first letter of the Greek alphabet, or a mark showing the best results. Symbol α

**alphabet** /'ælfəbet/ *noun* a series of letters in order, e.g. A, B, C, etc. ○ *G comes before H in the alphabet.* ○ *If you're going to Greece on holiday, you ought to learn the Greek alphabet.*

**alphabetical** /'ælfə'betɪk(ə)l/ *adj* referring to the alphabet □ **in alphabetical order** in order of the first letter of each word ○ *The words in the dictionary are in alphabetical order.* ○ *Sort out the address cards into alphabetical order of their names.*

**alphabetically** /'ælfə'betɪkli/ *adv* in alphabetical order

**alphabetise** /'ælfəbetaɪz/, **alphabetize** *verb* to put words into alphabetical order, especially automatically

**alpine** /'ælpain/ *adj* referring to high mountains, especially the Alps. Synonym **mountainous** ■ *noun* a plant which grows on or originally comes from high mountains

① **already** /ɔ:l'redi/ *adv* **1.** before now or before the time mentioned ○ *I've already done my shopping.* ○ *It was already past ten o'clock when he arrived.* □ **I have seen that film already** I have seen that film before **2.** sooner than expected ○ *Have you finished your work already?*

**alright** /ɔ:l'raɪt/ *adj, adv* another spelling of **all right**

**Alsation** /æl'seɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a type of large dog, often used as a guard dog. Also called **German shepherd**

① **also** /'ɔ:lsoʊ/ *adv* too, in addition ○ *She sings well and can also play the violin.* ○ *They came to visit us, and their children also came.*

**altar** /'ɔ:lta/ *noun* a table for important objects in religious ceremonies, especially in a church □ **to lead someone to the altar** to marry someone, especially a woman ○

*Grandfather led his wife to the altar when he was only 22 years old.*

③ **alter** /'ɔ:ltə/ *verb* to become or make something different. Synonym **change** (NOTE: Do not confuse with **altar**.)

③ **alteration** /,ɔ:ltə'reɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* an act of becoming different or of making something different. Synonym **change, modification**

**altercation** /,ɔ:ltə'keɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* a verbal disagreement. Synonym **argument**

**alternate** *adj* /ɔ:l'tɜ:nət/ every other one ■ *verb* /'ɔ:ltəneɪt/ to keep changing from one particular position or state to another

**alternately** /ɔ:l'tɜ:nətli/ *adv* with one first and then the other. Synonym **consecutively**  
**alternating current** /'ɔ:ltəneɪtɪŋ 'kʌrənt/ *noun* an electric current which changes direction all the time, as opposed to direct current which flows in one direction. Abbr **AC**. Compare **direct current**

② **alternative** /ɔ:l'tɜ:nətɪv/ *adj* **1.** in place of something else ○ *If the plane is full, we will put you on an alternative flight.* **2.** following a different way from usual ■ *noun* something which takes the place of something else ○ *Now that she's got measles, do we have any alternative to calling the holiday off?* □ **there is no alternative** there is nothing else we can do

**alternative energy** /ɔ:l'tɜ:nətɪv 'enədʒi/ *noun* energy produced by the sun, the sea or the wind

**alternatively** /ɔ:l'tɜ:nətɪvli/ *adv* on the other hand

**alternative medicine** /ɔ:l'tɜ:nətɪv 'med(ə)sɪn/ *noun* the treating of diseases by means such as herbal medicines which are not usually used by doctors

**alternator** /'ɔ:ltəneɪtə/ *noun* a device which produces alternating current

① **although** /ɔ:l'dəʊ/ *conj* in spite of the fact that ○ *Although it was freezing, she didn't put a coat on.* ○ *I've never been into that shop although I've often walked past it.*

**altimeter** /'æltɪmɪ:tə/ *noun* an instrument for measuring height above sea level

③ **altitude** /'æltɪtju:d/ *noun* height above sea level

**altitude sickness** /'æltɪtju:d ,sɪknəs/ *noun* a condition caused by lack of oxygen because of being at a high altitude, as when you are on a mountain

**alto** /'æltəʊ/ *noun* **1.** a high singing voice of a man or boy **2.** a man or boy with a high voice (NOTE: The plural is **altos**.)

① **altogether** /,ɔ:ltə'geðə/ *adv* **1.** taking everything together ○ *The food was £10 and the drinks £5, so that makes £15 altogether.* ○ *The staff of the three shops come to 200 altogether.* **2.** completely ○ *He's altogether a*

*happier man since he got married.* ○ *Their situation is altogether different from ours.*

**altruistic** /,æltɹu'ɪstɪk/ *adj* not selfish.

Synonym **unselfish**. Antonym **selfish**

**aluminium** /,ælə'mɪniəm/ *noun* a silver-coloured metal which is extremely light (NOTE: The US spelling is **aluminum**.)

**alumnus** /ə'lʌmnəs/ *noun* US a male student who used to attend a university or college or high school. Synonym **graduate** (NOTE: The plural is **alumni** /ə'lʌmnɪ/.)

① **always** /'ɔ:lweɪz/ *adv* **1.** every time ○ *She is always late for work.* ○ *Why does it always rain when we want to go for a walk?* **2.** all the time ○ *It's always hot in tropical countries.* **3.** frequently, especially when someone finds it annoying ○ *She's always asking me to lend her money.*

**Alzheimer's disease** /'æltʃəzməz dɪ'zɪz/ *noun* a disease of the brain that leads to memory loss that gets worse and worse

① **am** /əm, æm/ *ɔ* **be**

① **a.m.** /'eɪ 'em/ *adv* before midday ○ *I have to catch the 7 a.m. train to work every day.* ○ *Telephone calls made before 6 a.m. are charged at the cheap rate.* (NOTE: **a.m.** is usually used to show the exact hour and the word **o'clock** is left out. The US spelling is **A.M.**)

**amalgam** /ə'mælgəm/ *noun* a mixture, especially the mixture used by dentists to fill holes in teeth

**amalgamate** /ə'mælgəmeɪt/ *verb* to combine together. Synonym **merge**

**amalgamation** /ə'mælgə'meɪʃ(ə)n/ *noun* the act of combining together

**amass** /ə'mæs/ *verb* to collect a lot of money, information or things. Synonym

**accumulate**

**amateur** /'æmətə, 'æmətʃʊə/ *noun* **1.** a person who is not paid to play his or her sport **2.** a person who does something because he or she likes doing it ■ *adj* **1.** not paid **2.** the practice of doing something for enjoyment rather than to earn money

**amateurish** /'æmətərɪʃ/ *adj* not done well or in a professional way

**amaze** /ə'meɪz/ *verb* to surprise someone very much. Synonym **astonish**

**amazed** /ə'meɪzɪd/ *adj* very surprised. Synonym **astonished**

**amazement** /ə'meɪzmənt/ *noun* great surprise. Synonym **astonishment**

② **amazing** /ə'meɪzɪŋ/ *adj* **1.** very surprising ○ *It was amazing that she never suspected anything.* **2.** extremely interesting and unusual ○ *It was an amazing experience, sailing down the Nile.*

**ambassador** /æm'bæsədə/ *noun* a person who is regarded as a representative or a symbol of something