

ab-sorb ^{W3}

/əb'sɔ:b, əb'zɔ:b \$ -ɔ:rb/

verb [transitive]

- 1 **liquid/gas** to take in liquid, gas, or another substance from the surface or space around something:

Plants absorb nutrients from the soil.

absorb something into something

Water and salts are absorbed into our blood stream.

- 2 **information** to read or hear a large amount of new information and understand it:

Her capacity to absorb information is amazing.

- 3 **interest** to interest someone so much that they do not pay attention to other things:

The movement and noise of the machines absorbed him completely.

be absorbed in something

Judith lay on the settee, absorbed in her book.

- 4 **become part of something** to become part of something larger:

California absorbs many of the legal immigrants to the US.

be absorbed into something

We were soon absorbed into local village life.

- 5 **light/heat/energy/noise** if something absorbs light, heat, energy, or noise, it takes it in:

Darker surfaces absorb heat.

- 6 **deal with change/costs** if something absorbs changes or costs, it accepts them and deals with them successfully:

The beer industry had absorbed a doubling of federal tax in 1991.

7 | money/time if something absorbs money, time etc, it uses a lot of it:
Defence spending absorbs almost 20% of the country's wealth.

8 | force to reduce the effect of a sudden violent movement:
A well-designed sports shoe should absorb the impact on your feet.

Word origin

Date: 1400–1500

Language: French

Origin: *absorber*, from Latin *absorbere*, from *ab-* 'away' + *sorbere* 'to suck up'

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

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