

ab·so·lute¹

S2 W3

/ˈæbsəluːt/

adjective

1 COMPLETELY complete or total:

I have absolute confidence in her.

We don't know with absolute certainty that the project will succeed.

2 [only before noun] (*especially BrE*) (informal) used to emphasize your opinion about something or someone:

Some of the stuff on TV is absolute rubbish.

How did you do that? You're an absolute genius.

That meal last night cost an absolute fortune.

3 CERTAINLY/DEFINITELY definite and not likely to change:

We need absolute proof that he took the money.

4 LIMIT not restricted or limited:

an absolute monarch

Parents used to have absolute power over their children.

5 true, correct, and not changing in any situation:

You have an absolute right to refuse medical treatment.

6 in absolute terms COMPARE

measured by itself, not in comparison with other things:

In absolute terms wages have risen, but not in comparison with the cost of living.

Word origin

Date: 1300–1400

Language: Latin

Origin: past participle of *absolvere*; → [ABSOLVE](#)

absolute²

noun

[countable]

something that is considered to be true or right in all situations:

She believed in the importance of moral absolutes.

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

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