

a·ban·don¹

W3 AC

/ə'bəndən/

verb [transitive]

- 1** LEAVE A RELATIONSHIP to leave someone, especially someone you are responsible for → **abandoned**:

How could she abandon her own child?

- 2** LEAVE A PLACE to go away from a place, vehicle etc permanently, especially because the situation makes it impossible for you to stay

SYN leave

→ **abandoned**:

We had to abandon the car and walk the rest of the way.

Fearing further attacks, most of the population had abandoned the city.

- 3** STOP DOING SOMETHING to stop doing something because there are too many problems and it is impossible to continue:

The game had to be abandoned due to bad weather.

*They **abandoned** their **attempt** to recapture the castle.*

*Because of the fog they **abandoned** their **idea** of driving.*

- 4** STOP DOING SOMETHING to stop having a particular idea, belief, or attitude:

They were accused of abandoning their socialist principles.

*Rescuers had **abandoned** all **hope** of finding any more survivors.*

- 5** **abandon yourself to something** (literary) EMOTIONAL

to feel an emotion so strongly that you let it control you completely:

She abandoned herself to grief.

- 6** **abandon ship** ESCAPE

to leave a ship because it is sinking

— **abandonment** noun [uncountable]

Word origin**Date:** 1300–1400**Language:** Old French**Origin:** *abandoner*, from *abandon* 'surrendering', from *a bandon* 'into someone's power'

abandon²

noun

[uncountable]

CONTROL if someone does something with abandon, they behave in a careless or uncontrolled way, without thinking or caring about what they are doing:

with reckless/wild abandon*They drank and smoked with reckless abandon.*

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

© Pearson Education Limited 2009, 2011, 2015