

# Webster's All-In-One Dictionary & Thesaurus

**SECOND EDITION**

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# A

**1a** \ˈā\ *n*, *pl a's* or *as* \ˈāz\ *often cap* **1**: the 1st letter of the English alphabet **2**: a grade rating a student's work as superior

**2a** \ə, (ˈ)ā\ *indefinite article*: ONE, SOME — used to indicate an unspecified or unidentified individual <there's ~ man outside>

**3a** *abbr*, *often cap* **1** absent **2** acre **3** alto **4** answer **5** are **6** area

**AA** *abbr* **1** Alcoholics Anonymous **2** anti aircraft **3** associate in arts

**AAA** *abbr* American Automobile Association

**A and M** *abbr* agricultural and mechanical

**A and R** *abbr* artists and repertory

**aard-vark** \ˈārd-ˌvārk\ *n*: a large burrowing African mammal that feeds on ants and termites with its long sticky tongue

**1ab** \ˈab\ *n*: an abdominal muscle

**2ab** *abbr* about

**AB** *abbr* **1** able-bodied seaman **2** airman basic **3** bachelor of arts

**ABA** *abbr* American Bar Association

**aback** \ə-ˈbək\ *adv* ♦: by surprise <taken ~>

♦ suddenly, unaware, unawares

**aba-cus** \ə-ˈbɑ-kəs\ *n*, *pl* **aba-ci** \-sī, -ˌkē\ or **aba-cus-es**: an instrument for making calculations by sliding counters along rods or grooves

**1abaft** \ə-ˈbɑft\ *prep*: to the rear of

**2abaft** *adv*: toward or at the stern; AFT

**ab-a-lo-ne** \ə-ˈbɑ-lō-nē, ˈɑ-bɑ-ˌ\ *n*: any of a genus of large edible sea mollusks with a flattened slightly spiral shell with holes along the edge

**1abandon** \ə-ˈbɑn-dən\ *vb* ♦: to give up completely: FORSAKE, DESERT

♦ desert, forsake, maroon, quit

**2abandon** *n* ♦: a thorough yielding to natural impulses

♦ abandonment, ease, lightheartedness, naturalness, spontaneity, unrestraint **Ant** constraint, restraint

**abandon-ed** \ə-ˈbɑn-dənd\ *adj* **1**: morally unrestrained

**2** ♦: given up: FORSAKEN

♦ derelict, deserted, forsaken

**aban-don-ment** \ə-ˈbɑn-dən-mənt\ *n* **1** ♦: the act of abandoning

**2** ♦: freedom from restraint

♦ [1] dereliction, desertion ♦ [2] abandon, ease, lightheartedness, naturalness, spontaneity, unrestraint

**abase** \ə-ˈbās\ *vb* **abased**; **abas-ing** ♦: to lower in rank, office, prestige, or esteem: HUMBLE, DEGRADE — **abase-ment** *n*

♦ debase, degrade, demean, demoralize, humble, subvert, warp

**abash** \ə-ˈbɑsh\ *vb* ♦: to destroy the composure of: EMBARRASS

♦ confound, confuse, discomfit, disconcert, discountenance, embarrass, faze, fluster, mortify, rattle

**abash-ment** \ə-ˈbɑsh-mənt\ *n* ♦: the quality or state of being abashed

♦ confusion, discomfiture, embarrassment, fluster, mortification

**abate** \ə-ˈbāt\ *vb* **abated**; **abat-ing** **1**: to put an end to <~ a nuisance>

**2** ♦: to decrease in amount, number, or degree

♦ decline, decrease, diminish, dwindle, ebb, fall, lessen, recede, subside, taper, wane

**abate-ment** \ə-ˈbāt-mənt\ *n* **1** ♦: an amount of taking away; *esp*: a deduction from a tax

**2** ♦: an amount abated or lessened

♦ [1] deduction, discount, reduction ♦ [1, 2] decline, decrease, decrement, diminution, drop, fall, loss, reduction, shrinkage

**ab-at-toir** \ˈɑ-bə-ˌtwār\ *n*: SLAUGHTERHOUSE

**ab-ba-cy** \ˈɑ-bə-sē\ *n*, *pl* **-cies**: the office or term of office of an abbot or abess

**ab-bé** \ə-ˈbā, ˈɑ-ˌ\ *n*: a member of the French secular clergy — used as a title

**ab-bess** \ˈɑ-bəs\ *n*: the superior of a convent for nuns

**ab-bey** \ˈɑ-bē\ *n*, *pl* **abbeys** **1** ♦: a house for persons and especially monks under religious vows: MONASTERY **2**: CONVENT **3**: an abbey church

♦ cloister, friary, monastery, priory

**ab-bot** \ˈɑ-bət\ *n*: the superior of a monastery for men

**abbr** *abbr* abbreviation

**ab-bre-vi-ate** \ə-ˈbrē-vē-ˌāt\ *vb* **-at-ed**; **-at-ing** ♦: to make briefer: SHORTEN, CURTAIL; *esp*: to reduce to an abbreviation

♦ abridge, curtail, cut back, shorten

**ab-bre-vi-a-tion** \ə-ˈbrē-vē-ˌā-shən\ *n* **1** ♦: the act or result of abbreviating: ABRIDGMENT **2**: a shortened form of a word or phrase used for brevity especially in writing

♦ abridgment, condensation, digest

**1ABC** \ˌā-(ˌ)bē-ˈsē\ *n*, *pl* **ABC's** or **ABCs** \-ˈsēz\ **1**: ALPHABET — usually used in plural **2**: RUDIMENTS — usually used in plural

**2ABC** *abbr* American Broadcasting Company

**Ab-di-as** \əb-ˈdī-əs\ *n*: OBADIAH

**ab-di-cate** \əb-dī-ˌkāt\ *vb* **-cat-ed**; **-cat-ing** ♦: to give up (as a throne) formally — **ab-di-ca-tion** \əb-dī-ˌkā-shən\ *n*

♦ abnegate, cede, relinquish, renounce, resign, step down, surrender

**ab-do-men** \əb-də-ˌmən, əb-ˈdō-ˌ\ *n* **1** ♦: the cavity in or area of the body between the chest and the pelvis **2**: the part of the body posterior to the thorax in an arthropod — **ab-dom-i-nal** \əb-ˈdā-mən-ˈl\ *adj* — **ab-dom-i-nal-ly** *adv*

♦ belly, gut, solar plexus, stomach, tummy

**ab-duct** \əb-ˈdʌkt\ *vb*: to take away (a person) by force: KIDNAP — **ab-duc-tion** \-ˈdʌk-shən\ *n* — **ab-duc-tor** \-ˌtər\ *n*

**abeam** \ə-ˈbēm\ *adv* or *adj*: on a line at right angles to a ship's keel

**abed** \ə-ˈbed\ *adv* or *adj*: in bed

**Ab-e-na-ki** \ə-ˈbə-ˈnā-kē\ *n*, *pl* **Abenaki** or **Abenakis**: a member of a group of American Indian peoples of northern New England and southern Quebec

**ab-er-rant** \ə-ˈber-ənt\ *adj* **1** ♦: departing from the right or normal way **2** ♦: departing from the usual or natural type: ATYPICAL

♦ [1] abnormal, anomalous, deviant, irregular, unnatural

♦ [2] abnormal, atypical, exceptional, extraordinary, freak, odd, peculiar, uncommon, uncustomary, unique, unusual, unwanted

**ab-er-ra-tion** \ə-ˈbə-ˌrā-shən\ *n* **1**: deviation especially from a moral standard or normal state **2**: failure of a mirror or lens to produce exact point-to-point correspondence between an object and its image **3** ♦: unsoundness of mind: DERANGEMENT

♦ dementia, derangement, insanity, lunacy, madness, mania

**abet** \ə-ˈbet\ *vb* **abet-ted**; **abet-ting** **1** ♦: to actively second and encourage (as in wrongdoing): INCITE **2** ♦: to assist or support in the achievement of a purpose

♦ [1, 2] ferment, foment, incite, instigate, provoke, raise, stir, whip ♦ [2] aid, assist, back, help, prop, support

**abet-tor** *also* **abet-ter** \-ˈbe-tər\ *n* ♦: one that abets

♦ accessory, accomplice, cohort, confederate ♦ ally, backer, confederate, supporter, sympathizer

**abey-ance** \ə-ˈbā-əns\ *n* ♦: a condition of suspended activity

♦ doldrums, dormancy, latency, quiescence, suspension **Ant** continuance, continuation

**ab-hor** \əb-ˈhōr, əb-ˌ\ *vb* **ab-horred**; **ab-hor-ring** ♦: to regard with extreme dislike: LOATHE, DETEST

♦ abominate, despise, detest, execrate, hate, loathe

**ab-hor-rence** \-əns\ *n* **1** ♦: the feeling of one who abhors

**2** ♦: one that is abhorred

♦ [1] abomination, excretion, hate, hatred, loathing

♦ [2] abomination, anathema, antipathy, aversion, bête noire, hate

**ab-hor-rent** \-ənt\ *adj* ♦: causing or deserving strong dislike: LOATHSOME

♦ abominable, appalling, hideous, horrible, horrid, offensive, repellent, repugnant, repulsive, revolting, shocking

**abid-ance** \ə-ˈbī-dən(t)\ *n* ♦ : an act or state of abiding

♦ ceaselessness, continuance, continuation, duration, endurance, persistence, subsistence

**abide** \ə-ˈbīd\ *vb* **abode** \-ˈbōd\ *or* **abid-ed**; **abid-ing** **1** ♦ : to bear patiently : ENDURE **2 a** ♦ : to continue in a state or place **b** ♦ : to have one's abode — **abide by** to conform or acquiesce to *<abide by the law>*

♦ [1] bear, brook, countenance, endure, meet, stand, stick out, stomach, support, sustain, take, tolerate ♦ [2a] continue, endure, hold, keep up, last, persist, run on ♦ [2b] dwell, live, reside

**abid-ing** \ə-ˈbī-dīŋ\ *adj* ♦ : lasting and unchanging : ENDURING, CONTINUING *<an ~ interest in nature>*

♦ ageless, continuing, dateless, enduring, eternal, everlasting, immortal, imperishable, lasting, perennial, perpetual, timeless, undying

**abid-ity** \ə-ˈbī-lə-tē\ *n, pl -ties* ♦ : the quality of being able

♦ capability, capacity, competence, faculty *Ant* inability, incapability, incapacity, incompetence, ineptitude

**-ability** *also -ibility* *n suffix* : capacity, fitness, or tendency to act or be acted on in a (specified) way *<flammability>*

**ab-ject** \ˈab-ˌjekt, ˈab-ˌjekt\ *adj* : low in spirit or hope : CRINGING — **ab-jection** \ˈab-ˌjek-shən\ *n* — **ab-jectly** *adv* — **ab-ject-ness** *n*

**ab-jure** \ˈab-ˌjʊr\ *vb* **ab-jured**; **ab-ju-ring** **1** ♦ : to renounce solemnly : RECANT **2** : to abstain from — **ab-ju-ration** \ˈab-ˌjʊ-ˈrā-shən\ *n*

♦ recant, renounce, retract, take back, unsay, withdraw *Ant* adhere (to)

**abl** *abbr* ablative

**ab-late** \ə-ˈblāt\ *vb* **ab-lat-ed**; **ab-lat-ing** : to remove or become removed especially by cutting, abrading, or vaporizing

**ab-la-tion** \ə-ˈblā-shən\ *n* **1** : surgical cutting and removal **2** : loss of a part (as the outside of a nose cone) by melting or vaporization

**ab-la-tive** \ˈab-lə-tiv\ *adj* : of, relating to, or constituting a grammatical case (as in Latin) expressing typically the relation of separation and source — **ablative** *n*

**ablaze** \ə-ˈblāz\ *adj or adv* **1** ♦ : being on fire : BLAZING **2** ♦ : radiant with light

♦ [1] afire, burning, fiery ♦ [2] alight, bright, light

**able** \ˈā-bəl\ *adj* **abler** \-b(ə-)lər\; **ablest** \-b(ə-)ləst\ **1** ♦ : having sufficient power, skill, or resources to accomplish an object **2** ♦ : marked by skill or efficiency

♦ [1, 2] capable, competent, fit, good, qualified, suitable

**-able** *also -ible* *adj suffix* **1** : capable of, fit for, or worthy of (being so acted upon or toward) *<breakable>* *<collectible>* **2** : tending, given, or liable to *<knowledgeable>* *<perishable>*

**able—bod-ied** \ˈā-bəl-ˈbōd-ēd\ *adj* ♦ : having a sound strong body ♦ chipper, fit, hale, healthy, hearty, robust, sound, well, whole, wholesome

**abloom** \ə-ˈblūm\ *adj* : BLOOMING

**ab-lu-tion** \ə-ˈblū-shən, ə-ˈl- : the washing of one's body or part of it

**ably** \ˈā-blē\ *adv* ♦ : in an able manner

♦ adeptly, capably, expertly, masterfully, proficiently, skillfully, well

**ABM** \ˈā-(ɪ)bē-ˈem\ *n, pl ABM's or ABMs* : ANTIBALLISTIC MISSILE

**ab-ne-gate** \ˈab-ni-ˌgāt\ *vb* **-gat-ed**; **-gat-ing** **1** : DENY, RENOUNCE **2** ♦ : to give up (as a right or privilege) : SURRENDER, RELINQUISH

♦ abdicate, cede, relinquish, renounce, resign, step down, surrender

**ab-ne-gation** \ˈab-ni-ˌgā-shən\ *n* ♦ : restraint or denial of desire or self-interest

♦ renouncement, renunciation, repudiation, self-denial

**ab-nor-mal** \ˈab-nór-məl\ *adj* ♦ : deviating from the normal or average — **ab-nor-mal-ly** *adv*

♦ aberrant, exceptional, extraordinary, rare, singular, uncommon, uncustomary, unique, unusual ♦ aberrant, anomalous, atypical, deviant, irregular, unnatural

**ab-nor-mal-ity** \ˈab-nór-ˈma-lə-tē\ *n* ♦ : something abnormal

♦ freak, monster, monstrosity

**1aboard** \ə-ˈbōrd\ *adv* **1** : ALONGSIDE **2** : on, onto, or within a car, ship, or aircraft **3** : in or into a group or association *<welcome new workers ~>*

**2aboard** *prep* : ON, ONTO, WITHIN

**abode** \ə-ˈbōd\ *n* **1** : STAY, SOJOURN **2** ♦ : the place where one abides : HOME, RESIDENCE

♦ domicile, dwelling, home, house, lodging, quarters, residence

**abol-ish** \ə-ˈbā-līsh\ *vb* ♦ : to do away with : ANNUL — **ab-o-li-tion** \ə-bā-ˈlī-shən\ *n*

♦ abrogate, annul, cancel, dissolve, invalidate, negate, nullify, quash, repeal, rescind, void

**ab-o-li-tion-ism** \ə-bā-ˈlī-shə-ˈnī-zəm\ *n* : advocacy of the abolition of slavery — **ab-o-li-tion-ist** \-ˈlī-sh(ə-)nist\ *n or adj*

**A-bomb** \ˈā-,bām\ *n* : ATOMIC BOMB — **A-bomb** *vb*

**abom-i-na-ble** \ə-ˈbā-mə-nə-bəl\ *adj* ♦ : worthy of or causing disgust or hatred : ODIOUS

♦ abhorrent, appalling, awful, horrible, horrid, odious, offensive, repellent, repugnant, repulsive, revolting

**abominable snow-man** \-ˈsnō-mən, -ˈman\ *n, often cap A&S* : a mysterious creature with human or apelike characteristics reported to exist in the high Himalayas

**abom-i-nate** \ə-ˈbā-mə-nā\ *vb* **-nat-ed**; **-nat-ing** ♦ : to hate or loathe intensely : LOATHE, DETEST

♦ abhor, despise, detest, execrate, hate, loathe

**abom-i-na-tion** \ə-ˈbā-mə-ˈnā-shən\ *n* **1** ♦ : something abominable **2** ♦ : extreme disgust and hatred : LOATHING

♦ [1] abhorrence, anathema, antipathy, aversion, bête noire, hate ♦ [2] abhorrence, execration, hate, hatred, loathing

**ab-orig-i-nal** \ə-bə-ˈrī-jə-nəl\ *adj* ♦ : being the first or earliest known of its kind present in a region : INDIGENOUS

♦ born, endemic, indigenous, native

**ab-orig-i-ne** \ə-bə-ˈrī-jə-nē\ *n* : a member of the original race of inhabitants of a region : NATIVE

**aborn-ing** \ə-ˈbōr-nīŋ\ *adv* : while being born or produced

**1abort** \ə-ˈbōrt\ *vb* **1** : to cause or undergo abortion **2** ♦ : to terminate prematurely *<~ a spaceflight>*

♦ call, call off, cancel, drop, recall, repeal, rescind, revoke

**2abort** *n* : the premature termination of a mission or of a procedure relating to an aircraft or spacecraft

**abor-tion** \ə-ˈbōr-shən\ *n* **1** : the spontaneous or induced termination of a pregnancy after, accompanied by, resulting in, or closely followed by the death of the embryo or fetus **2** ♦ : arrest of development (as of a part or process); *also* : a result of such arrest

♦ calling, cancellation, recall, repeal, rescission, revocation

**abor-tion-ist** \-sh(ə-)nist\ *n* : one who induces abortions

**abor-tive** \ə-ˈbōr-tiv\ *adj* ♦ : not successful

♦ fruitless, futile, ineffective, unproductive, unsuccessful

**abound** \ə-ˈbaʊnd\ *vb* **1** ♦ : to be plentiful : TEEM **2** : to be fully supplied

♦ brim, bulge, burst, crawl, swarm, teem

**1about** \ə-ˈbaʊt\ *adv* **1** ♦ : reasonably close to; *also* : on the verge of *<~ to join the army>* **2** : on all sides **3** : in the vicinity : NEARBY **4** ♦ : in the opposite direction

♦ [1] almost, most, much, near, nearly, next to, nigh, practically, some, virtually, well-nigh ♦ [4] around, back, round

**2about** *prep* **1** : on every side of **2** ♦ : near to **3** ♦ : relating to : CONCERNING **4** ♦ : over or in different parts of

♦ [2] around, by, near, next to ♦ [3] apropos of, concerning, of, on, regarding, respecting, toward ♦ [4] around, over, round, through, throughout

**about-face** \-ˈfās\ *n* : a reversal of direction or attitude — **about-face** *vb*

**1above** \ə-ˈbəʊ\ *adv* **1** : in the sky; *also* : in or to heaven **2** ♦ : in or to a higher place; *also* : higher on the same page or on a preceding page

♦ aloft, over, overhead, skyward *Ant* below, beneath, under

**2above** *prep* **1** : in or to a higher place than : OVER *<storm clouds*

~ the bay> **2**: superior to <he thought her far ~ him> **3**: more than; EXCEEDING **4**: as distinct from <~ the noise>

**above-board** \ə-ˈbɔrd\ *adv* or *adj*: without concealment or deception: OPENLY

**abp** *abbr* archbishop

**abr** *abbr* abridged; abridgment

**ab-ra-ca-dab-ra** \ə-brə-kə-ˈdɑ-brə\ *n* **1** ♦: a magical charm or incantation against calamity **2** ♦: unintelligible or meaningless language: GIBBERISH

♦ [1, 2] *abracadabra*, bewitchment, charm, conjuration, enchantment, incantation, spell

**abrade** \ə-ˈbræd\ *vb* **abrad-ed**; **abrad-ing** **1** a ♦: to wear away by friction **b** ♦: to irritate or roughen by rubbing **2**: to wear down in spirit: IRRITATE

♦ [1a] chafe, erode, fray, fret, gall, rub, wear ♦ [1b] graze, scrape, scratch, scuff

**abra-sion** \ə-ˈbrā-zhən\ *n*: an abraded area of the skin or mucous membrane

**1** **abra-sive** \ə-ˈbrā-siv\ *n*: a substance (as pumice) for abrading, smoothing, or polishing

**2** **abrasive** *adj*: tending to abrade: causing irritation <~ relationships> — **abra-sive-ly** *adv* — **abra-sive-ness** *n*

**abreast** \ə-ˈbrɛst\ *adv* or *adj* **1**: side by side **2** ♦: up to a standard or level especially of knowledge

♦ conversant, familiar, informed, knowledgeable, up, up-to-date, versed

**abridge** \ə-ˈbrɪj\ *vb* **abridged**; **abridg-ing** ♦: to lessen in length or extent: SHORTEN

♦ abbreviate, curtail, cut back, shorten

**abridg-ment** or **abridge-ment** \ə-ˈbrɪj-ment\ *n* ♦: a shortened form of a work

♦ abbreviation, condensation, digest

**abroad** \ə-ˈbrɔd\ *adv* or *adj* **1**: over a wide area **2**: away from one's home **3**: outside one's country

**ab-ro-gate** \ə-ˈbrə-ɡāt\ *vb* **-gat-ed**; **-gat-ing** ♦: to abolish by authoritative action: ANNUL — **ab-ro-gation** \ə-ˈbrə-ɡā-shən\ *n*

♦ abolish, annul, cancel, dissolve, invalidate, negate, nullify, quash, repeal, rescind, void

**abrupt** \ə-ˈbrʌpt\ *adj* **1**: broken or as if broken off **2**: SUDDEN, HASTY **3** ♦: so quick as to seem rude **4**: DISCONNECTED **5**: STEEP

♦ bluff, blunt, brusque, curt, snippy

**abrupt-ly** \ə-ˈlɛ\ *adv*: in an abrupt manner

**abs** *abbr* absolute

**ab-scess** \ə-ˈsɛs\ *n*, *pl* **ab-scess-es**: a localized collection of pus surrounded by inflamed tissue — **ab-scessed** \-sɛst\ *adj*

**ab-scis-sa** \əb-ˈsɪ-sə\ *n*, *pl* **ab-scissas** also **ab-scis-sae** \-ˈsɪ-(j)sē\: the horizontal coordinate of a point in a plane coordinate system obtained by measuring parallel to the x-axis

**ab-scision** \əb-ˈsɪ-zhən\ *n* **1**: the act or process of cutting off **2**: the natural separation of flowers, fruits, or leaves from plants — **ab-scise** \əb-ˈsɪz\ *vb*

**ab-scond** \əb-ˈskænd\ *vb* ♦: to depart secretly and hide oneself

♦ clear out, escape, flee, fly, get out, lam, run away, run off

**ab-sence** \əb-ˈsəns\ *n* **1**: the state or time of being absent **2** ♦: failure to be present where needed, wanted, or normally expected: WANT, LACK **3**: INATTENTION

♦ lack, need, want

**1** **ab-sent** \əb-ˈsənt\ *adj* **1** ♦: not present **2** ♦: to be deficient or missing: LACKING **3**: not paying attention: INATTENTIVE

♦ [1] away, missing, out *Ant* here, present ♦ [2] missing, non-existent, wanting *Ant* existent, present

**2** **ab-sent** \əb-ˈsɛnt\ *vb*: to keep (oneself) away

**3** **ab-sent** \əb-ˈsənt\ *prep*: in the absence of: WITHOUT

**ab-sen-tee** \əb-ˈsən-ˈtē\ *n*: one that is absent or keeps away

**absentee ballot** *n*: a ballot submitted (as by mail) in advance of an election by a voter who is unable to be present at the polls

**ab-sen-tee-ism** \əb-ˈsən-ˈtē-ɪ-zəm\ *n*: chronic absence (as from work or school)

**ab-sent-mind-ed** \əb-ˈsənt-ˈmɪn-dəd\ *adj* ♦: unaware of one's surroundings or actions: INATTENTIVE — **ab-sent-mind-ed-ly** *adv* — **ab-sent-mind-ed-ness** *n*

♦ abstracted, preoccupied *Ant* alert

**ab-sinthe** also **ab-sinth** \əb-ˈsɪnth\ *n*: a liqueur flavored especially with wormwood and anise

**ab-so-lute** \əb-sə-ˈlüt, əb-sə-ˈlüt\ *adj* **1** ♦: free from imperfection or mixture **2** ♦: free from control, restriction, or qualification **3**: lacking grammatical connection with any other word in a sentence <~ construction> **4** ♦: not disputable: POSITIVE <~ proof> **5**: relating to the fundamental units of length, mass, and time **6**: FUNDAMENTAL, ULTIMATE

♦ [1] faultless, flawless, ideal, impeccable, letter-perfect, perfect, unblemished ♦ [1] fine, neat, plain, pure, refined, straight, unadulterated, undiluted, unmixed ♦ [2] autocratic, despotic, dictatorial, tyrannical, tyrannous *Ant* limited ♦ [2] complete, consummate, perfect, total, unequivocal, unqualified, utter ♦ [4] clear, conclusive, decisive, definitive, positive

**ab-so-lute-ly** \ə-ˈlɛ\ *adv* ♦: in an absolute manner or condition

♦ all, altogether, clean, completely, entirely, fully, quite, totally, utterly, wholly

**absolute pitch** *n* **1**: the position of a tone in a standard scale independently determined by its rate of vibration **2**: the ability to sing a note asked for or to name a note heard

**absolute value** *n*: a nonnegative number equal to a given real number with any negative sign removed

**absolute zero** *n*: a theoretical temperature marked by a complete absence of heat and motion and equivalent to exactly -273.15°C or -459.67°F

**ab-so-lu-tion** \əb-sə-ˈlū-shən\ *n* ♦: the act of absolving; *esp*: a remission of sins pronounced by a priest in the sacrament of reconciliation

♦ amnesty, forgiveness, pardon, remission

**ab-so-lut-ism** \əb-sə-ˈlüt-ɪ-zəm\ *n* **1**: the theory that a ruler or government should have unlimited power **2**: government by an absolute ruler or authority

**ab-solve** \əb-ˈzɔlv, -ˈsɔlv\ *vb* **ab-solved**; **ab-solv-ing** ♦: to set free from an obligation or the consequences of guilt

♦ acquit, clear, exculpate, exonerate, vindicate

**ab-sorb** \əb-ˈsɔrb, -ˈzɔrb\ *vb* **1**: to take in and make part of an existent whole **2** ♦: to suck up or take in in the manner of a sponge **3** ♦: to engage (one's attention): ENGRESS **4**: to receive without recoil or echo <a ceiling that ~s sound> **5**: ASSUME, BEAR <~ all costs> **6**: to transform (radiant energy) into a different form usually with a resulting rise in temperature

♦ [2] drink, imbibe, soak, sponge, suck ♦ [3] busy, engage, engross, enthral, fascinate, grip, immerse, interest, intrigue, involve, occupy

**ab-sorbed** \əb-ˈsɔrbd, -ˈzɔrbd\ *adj* ♦: obliviously engaged or occupied

♦ attentive, engrossed, intent, observant, rapt

**ab-sor-bent** also **ab-sor-bant** \əb-ˈsɔr-bənt, -ˈzɔr-ə\ *adj*: able to absorb <~ cotton> — **ab-sor-ben-cy** \-bən-sē\ *n* — **ab-sorbent** also **absorbent** *n*

**ab-sorb-ing** \əb-ˈsɔrb-ɪŋ, -ˈzɔrb-ɪŋ\ *adj* ♦: fully taking attention: ENGRESSING — **ab-sorb-ing-ly** *adv*

♦ engaging, engrossing, enthralling, fascinating, interesting, intriguing

**ab-sorp-tion** \əb-ˈsɔrp-shən, -ˈzɔrp-ən\ *n*: a process of absorbing or being absorbed **2** ♦: concentration of attention — **ab-sorp-tive** \-tɪv\ *adj*

♦ attention, concentration

**ab-stain** \əb-ˈstān\ *vb* ♦: to refrain from an action or practice — **ab-stain-er** *n* — **ab-sten-tion** \-ˈstɛn-ʃən\ *n*

♦ forbear, forgo, keep, refrain

**ab-ste-mi-ous** \əb-ˈstē-mē-əs\ *adj* ♦: sparing in use of food or drink: TEMPERATE — **ab-ste-mi-ous-ly** *adv* — **ab-ste-mi-ous-ness** *n*

♦ abstinent, sober, temperate *Ant* self-indulgent

**ab-sti-nence** \əb-ˈstə-nəns\ *n*: voluntary refraining especially from eating certain foods, drinking liquor, or engaging in sexual intercourse

**ab-sti-nent** \əb-ˈstə-nənt\ *adj* ♦: practicing abstinence

♦ abstemious, sober, temperate

**abstr** *abbr* abstract

**1** **ab-stract** \əb-ˈstrakt, əb-ˈstrakt\ *adj* **1**: considered apart from a particular instance **2**: expressing a quality apart from an object <whiteness is an ~ word> **3**: having only intrinsic form with