

Webster's Notebook Dictionary

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Preface

This new dictionary is unique in many respects. While small in size, it contains more than 19,000 words that represent the very core of the language. It is intended to serve as a quick reference for spelling, hyphenation, and meaning of the words in everyday use. Conciseness of presentation necessarily requires special treatment of entries, and this book has a number of special features all its own.

Entry words appear in **boldface type** with raised periods to indicate where they can be hyphenated at the end of a line in writing. Words that begin an entry paragraph are **main entry words** and are followed by definitions or cross-references to related entries.

aard-vark . . . : ant-eating African mammal
abroad . . . **1** : over a wide area **2** :
outside one's country
ate *past of EAT*

Variant spellings of bold words are shown following a comma.

blond, blonde . . . **1** : fair in complexion

Labels indicating a word's grammatical function in the sentence (**part of speech**) are shown as abbreviations in italics after the bold word.

cam-era *n* : box with a lens for taking pictures . . .
cam-ou-flage *vb* : hide by disguising . . .
can-did *adj* **1** : frank **2** : not posed . . .
— **can-did-ly** *adv* . . .

Within an entry paragraph, derived words with the same spelling but a different part of speech are represented by a **swung dash** and are provided with their own definitions.

di-rect *vb* **1** : address **2** : cause to move or to follow a certain course . . .
~ *adj* **1** : leading to or coming from a point without deviation or interruption . . .

Derived words are run on undefined at the end of the entry when their meanings are self-evident from the definitions preceding. This treatment allows for the saving of space to permit many more words to be entered and at the same time shows word relationships.

ex-haust *vb* **1** : draw out or develop completely **2** : use up . . .
~ *n* : waste steam or gas from an engine . . . — **ex-haus-tion** *n*
— **ex-haus-tive** *adj*

Main entries with the same spelling but not derived from one another are entered separately, marked with a superscript numeral.

¹file *n* : tool for smoothing or sharpening . . .
²file *vb* **1** : arrange in order **2** : enter or record officially . . .
³file *n* : row of persons or things one behind the other

Plurals of nouns, principal parts of verbs, and comparative and superlative forms of adjectives (and adverbs) are known as **inflected forms**. Those formed by the regular addition of a suffix (such as *-s*, *-ed*, *-ing*, *-er*, *-est*) are well-known regular formations and are not shown in this dictionary. Inflections formed by an internal change in the spelling of the word (or no change) are shown inside parentheses. For nouns, the forms shown will be plurals (*pl*); for verbs, the forms shown will be past tense (*past*) and past participle (*past part*). The past and past participle are separated by a semicolon. If variant spellings are shown for any inflected form, that spelling is set off by a slash (*/*).

grow *vb* **grew**; **grown** **1** : come into existence and develop to maturity
knife *n* **knives** : sharp blade with a handle . . .
¹lie *vb* **lay**; **lain** **1** : be in, rest in, or assume a horizontal position . . .

moose *n* **moose** : large heavy-antlered deer
prove *vb* **proved**; **proved/prov-en** **1** : test by experiment or by a standard . . .

When a particular sense of a word is used in a special way, such as used only in the plural form, that information is indicated after the sense number.

re-fresh-ment *n* **1** : act of refreshing **2**
pl : light meal

If at a particular sense the form of the inflection is unique or not regularly formed, that information is also provided.

an-ten-na *n* **1** *pl an-ten-nae* : one of the long slender paired sensory organs on the head of an arthropod **2** *pl an-ten-nas* : metallic device for sending or receiving radio waves
young *adj* **1** : being in the first or an early stage of life . . . ~ *n* **young** : persons or animals that are young
up *adv* **1** : in or to a higher position or level . . . ~ *vb* **1 up**; **upped** : act abruptly **2 upped**; **upped** : move or cause to move upward . . .

In the first example, the form of the plural is different for each of the two noun senses and is therefore shown. In the second example, the plural form for the noun sense is unchanged. In the third example, the verb inflections for the past tense are different for each of these two verb senses.

To show the range of entries on a page, **guide words** appear at the top, indicating the first main entry word and the last main entry word on that page.

Common **abbreviations**, including those used in this book, are shown in a separate section immediately following the dictionary proper.

A

¹a *n*: 1st letter of the alphabet
²a *indefinite article*: one or some — used to indicate an unspecified or unidentified individual
aard-vark *n*: ant-eating African mammal
aback *adv*: by surprise
aba-lo-ne *n*: large edible shellfish
aban-don *vb*: give up without intent to reclaim — **aban-don** *n* — **aban-doned** *adj* — **aban-don-ment** *n*
abase *vb*: lower in dignity — **abase-ment** *n*
abate *vb*: decrease or lessen — **abate-ment** *n*
ab-bess *n*: head of a convent
ab-bey *n*: monastery or convent
ab-bot *n*: head of a monastery
ab-bre-viate *vb*: shorten — **ab-bre-via-tion** *n*
ab-di-cate *vb*: renounce — **ab-di-ca-tion** *n*
ab-do-men *n* 1: body area between chest and pelvis 2: hindmost part of an insect — **ab-dom-i-nal** *adj* — **ab-dom-i-nally** *adv*
ab-er-ra-tion *n*: deviation or distortion — **ab-er-rant** *adj*
abet *vb*: incite or encourage — **abet-tor**, **abet-ter** *n*
abey-ance *n*: state of inactivity
ab-hor *vb*: hate — **ab-hor-rence** *n* — **ab-hor-rent** *adj*
abide *vb* 1: endure 2: remain, last, or reside
abil-ity *n* 1: competence 2: natural aptitude
ab-ject *adj*: low in spirit or hope — **ab-jec-tion** *n* — **ab-ject-ly** *adv* — **ab-ject-ness** *n*
ablaze *adj* or *adv*: on fire
able *adj* 1: having sufficient power, skill, or resources 2: skilled or efficient — **ably** *adv*
ab-lu-tion *n*: washing of one's body
ab-nor-mal *adj*: deviating from the normal or average — **ab-nor-mal-ity** *n* — **ab-nor-mally** *adv*
aboard *adv*: on, onto, or within a car, ship, or aircraft ~ *prep*: on or within
abode *n*: residence
abol-ish *vb*: do away with — **ab-o-li-tion** *n*
abom-i-na-ble *adj*: thoroughly unpleasant or revolting
abom-i-nate *vb*: hate — **abom-i-na-tion** *n*
ab-or-i-gi-nal *adj* 1: original 2: primitive
ab-or-i-gi-ne *n*: original inhabitant
abort *vb*: terminate prematurely — **abor-tion** *n* — **abor-tive** *adj*
abound *vb*: be plentiful
about *adv*: around ~ *prep* 1: on every side of 2: on the verge of 3: having as a subject
above *adv*: in or to a higher place ~ *prep* 1: in or to a higher place than 2: more than
above-board *adv* or *adj*: without deception
abrade *vb*: wear away by rubbing — **abra-sion** *n* — **abra-sive** *adj* — **abra-sive-ly** *adv*
abreast *adv* or *adj* 1: side by side 2: up to a standard or level
abridge *vb*: shorten or condense — **abridg-ment**, **abridge-ment** *n*
abroad *adv* or *adj* 1: over a wide area 2: outside one's country
abrupt *adj* 1: sudden 2: so quick as to seem rude — **abrupt-ly** *adv*
ab-scess *n*: collection of pus surrounded by inflamed tissue — **ab-scessed** *adj*
ab-scond *vb*: run away and hide
ab-sent *adj*: not present ~ **ab-sent** *vb*: keep oneself away — **ab-sence** *n* — **absent-ly** *adv*
ab-sent-mind-ed *adj*: unaware of one's surroundings or action — **ab-**

sent-mind-ed-ly *adv* — **ab-sent-mind-ed-ness** *n*
ab-so-lute *adj* 1: pure 2: free from restriction 3: definite — **ab-so-lute-ly** *adv*
ab-so-lu-tion *n*: remission of sins
ab-solve *vb*: set free of the consequences of guilt
ab-sorb *vb* 1: suck up or take in as a sponge does 2: engage (one's attention) — **ab-sorb-en-cy** *n* — **ab-sorb-ent** *adj* or *n* — **ab-sorb-ing** *adj* — **ab-sorp-tion** *n* — **ab-sorp-tive** *adj*
ab-stain *vb*: refrain from doing something — **ab-stain-er** *n* — **ab-sten-tion** *n* — **ab-sti-nence** *n*
ab-ste-mi-ous *adj*: sparing in use of food or drink — **ab-ste-mi-ous-ly** *adv* — **ab-ste-mi-ous-ness** *n*
ab-tract *adj* 1: expressing a quality apart from an object 2: not representing something specific ~ *n*: summary ~ *vb* 1: remove or separate 2: make an abstract of — **ab-tract-ly** *adv* — **ab-tract-ness** *n* — **ab-strac-tion** *n*
ab-surd *adj*: ridiculous or unreasonable — **ab-sur-dity** *n* — **ab-sur-dly** *adv*
abun-dant *adj*: more than enough — **abun-dance** *n* — **abun-dant-ly** *adv*
abuse *vb* 1: misuse 2: mistreat 3: attack with words ~ *n* 1: corrupt practice 2: improper use 3: mistreatment 4: coarse and insulting speech — **abus-er** *n* — **abu-sive** *adj* — **abu-sive-ly** *adv* — **abu-sive-ness** *n*
abut *vb*: touch along a border — **abut-ter** *n* — **abut-ment** *n*
abys-mal *adj* 1: immeasurably deep 2: wretched — **abys-mal-ly** *adv*
abyss *n*: immeasurably deep gulf
acad-e-my *n* 1: private high school 2: society of scholars or artists — **aca-dem-ic** *adj* or *n* — **aca-dem-i-cally** *adv*
ac-cede *vb* 1: become a party to an agreement 2: express approval 3: enter upon an office
ac-cel-er-ate *vb* 1: bring about earlier 2: speed up — **ac-cel-er-a-tion** *n* — **ac-cel-er-a-tor** *n*
ac-cent *n* 1: distinctive manner of pronunciation 2: prominence given to one syllable of a word 3: mark (as ´, `) over a vowel in writing or printing to indicate pronunciation ~ *vb*: emphasize — **ac-cen-tu-al** *adj* — **ac-cen-tu-ate** *vb* — **ac-cen-tu-a-tion** *n*
ac-cept *vb* 1: receive willingly 2: agree to — **ac-cept-a-bil-ity** *n* — **ac-cept-able** *adj* — **ac-cept-ance** *n*
ac-cess *n*: capability or way of approaching — **ac-ces-si-bil-ity** *n* — **ac-ces-si-ble** *adj*
ac-ces-so-ry *n* 1: nonessential addition 2: one guilty of aiding a criminal — **ac-ces-so-ry** *adj*
ac-ci-dent *n* 1: event occurring by chance or unintentionally 2: chance — **ac-ci-den-tal** *adj* — **ac-ci-den-tal-ly** *adv*
ac-claim *vb* or *n*: praise — **ac-cla-ma-tion** *n*
ac-cli-mate *vb*: acclimatize — **ac-cli-ma-tion** *n*
ac-cli-ma-tize *vb*: accustom to a new climate or situation — **ac-cli-ma-ti-zation** *n*
ac-co-lade *n*: expression of praise
ac-com-mo-date *vb* 1: adapt 2: provide with something needed 3: hold without crowding — **ac-com-mo-da-tion** *n*
ac-com-pa-ny *vb* 1: go or occur with 2: play supporting music — **ac-com-pa-ni-ment** *n* — **ac-com-pa-nist** *n*
ac-com-plice *n*: associate in crime
ac-com-plish *vb*: do, fulfill, or bring about — **ac-com-plish-ed** *adj* — **ac-com-plish-er** *n* — **ac-com-plish-ment** *n*

ac-cord *vb* 1: grant 2: agree ~ *n* 1: agreement 2: willingness to act — **ac-cord-ance** *n* — **ac-cord-ant** *adj*
ac-cord-ing-ly *adv*: consequently
ac-cord-ing *prep* 1: in conformity with 2: as stated by
ac-cor-di-on *n*: keyboard instrument with a bellows and reeds ~ *adj*: folding like an accordion bellows — **ac-cor-di-on-ist** *n*
ac-cost *vb*: approach and speak to esp. aggressively
ac-count *n* 1: statement of business transactions 2: credit arrangement with a vendor 3: report 4: worth 5: sum deposited in a bank ~ *vb*: give an explanation — **ac-count-able** *adj* — **ac-count-a-bil-ity** *n* — **ac-count-ant** *n*
ac-cou-ter-ment, **ac-cou-ter-ment** *n* 1: accessory item — usu. pl. 2: identifying characteristic
ac-cred-it *vb* 1: approve officially 2: attribute — **ac-cred-i-ta-tion** *n*
ac-cru-e *vb*: be added by periodic growth — **ac-cru-al** *n*
ac-cu-mu-late *vb*: collect or pile up — **ac-cu-mu-la-tion** *n*
ac-cu-rate *adj*: free from error — **ac-cu-ra-cy** *n* — **ac-cu-rate-ly** *adv* — **ac-cu-rate-ness** *n*
ac-cursed, **ac-curst** *adj* 1: being under a curse 2: damnable
ac-cuse *vb*: charge with an offense — **ac-cu-sa-tion** *n* — **ac-cused** *n* — **ac-cu-ser** *n*
ac-cus-tom *vb*: make familiar through use or experience
ace *n*: one that excels
ac-er-bid *adj*: sour or biting in temper, mood, or tone
acet-amin-o-phen *n*: pain reliever
ac-e-tate *n*: fabric or plastic derived from acetic acid
ac-etic acid *n*: acid found in vinegar
ache *vb* 1: suffer a dull persistent pain 2: yearn — **ache** *n*
achieve *vb*: gain by work or effort — **achievement** *n* — **achiev-er** *n*
acid *adj* 1: sour or biting to the taste 2: sharp in manner 3: of or relating to an acid ~ *n*: sour water-soluble chemical compound that reacts with a base to form a salt — **acid-ic** *adj* — **acid-ify** *vb* — **acid-i-ty** *n* — **acid-ly** *adv*
ac-knowl-edge *vb* 1: admit as true 2: admit the authority of 3: express thanks for — **ac-knowl-edg-ment** *n*
ac-me *n*: highest point
ac-me *n*: skin disorder marked esp. by pimples
acorn *n*: nut of the oak
acous-tic *adj*: relating to hearing or sound — **acous-ti-cal** *adj* — **acous-ti-cally** *adv*
acous-tics *n* *sing* or *pl* 1: science of sound 2: qualities in a room that affect how sound is heard
ac-quit *vb* 1: inform 2: make familiar — **ac-quit-tance** *n* — **ac-quit-tance-ship** *n*
ac-qui-esc-e *vb*: consent or submit — **ac-qui-es-cence** *n* — **ac-qui-es-cent** *adj* — **ac-qui-es-cent-ly** *adv*
ac-quire *vb*: gain — **ac-qui-sition** *n* — **ac-qui-si-tive** *adj*
ac-quit *vb* 1: pronounce not guilty 2: conduct (oneself) usu. well — **ac-quit-tal** *n*
acre *n* 1 *pl*: lands 2: 4840 square yards — **acre-age** *n*
ac-rid *adj*: sharp and biting — **ac-rid-i-ty** *n* — **ac-rid-ly** *adv* — **ac-rid-ness** *n*
ac-ri-mo-ny *n*: harshness of language or feeling — **ac-ri-mo-ni-ous** *adj* — **ac-ri-mo-ni-ous-ly** *adv*
ac-ro-bat *n*: performer of tumbling feats — **ac-ro-ba-tic** *adj*
across *adv*: to or on the opposite side ~ *prep* 1: to or on the opposite side of 2: on so as to cross

acry-lic *n* 1: plastic used for molded parts or in paints 2: synthetic textile fiber
act *n* 1: thing done 2: law 3: main division of a play ~ *vb* 1: perform in a play 2: conduct oneself 3: operate 4: produce an effect — **ac-tive** *adj* or *n* — **ac-tive-ly** *adv* — **ac-tor** *n* — **ac-tress** *n*
ac-tion *n* 1: legal proceeding 2: manner or method of performing 3: activity 4: thing done over a period of time or in stages 5: combat 6: events of a literary plot 7: operating mechanism
ac-ti-vate *vb*: make active or reactive — **ac-ti-va-tion** *n*
ac-tiv-i-ty *n* 1: quality or state of being active 2: what one is actively doing
ac-tu-al *adj*: really existing — **ac-tu-al-ity** *n* — **ac-tu-al-i-zation** *n* — **ac-tu-al-ize** *vb* — **ac-tu-al-ly** *adv*
ac-tu-ary *n*: one who calculates insurance risks and premiums — **ac-tu-ari-al** *adj*
acumen *n*: mental keenness
acu-punc-ture *n*: treatment by puncturing the body with needles — **acu-punc-tur-ist** *n*
acute *adj* 1: sharp 2: containing less than 90 degrees 3: mentally alert 4: severe — **acute-ly** *adv* — **acute-ness** *n*
ad *n*: advertisement
ad-age *n*: old familiar saying
ad-a-mant *adj*: insistent — **ad-a-man-t-ly** *adv*
adapt *vb*: adjust to be suitable for a new use or condition — **adapt-a-bil-ity** *n* — **adapt-able** *adj* — **ad-ap-ta-tion** *n* — **adapt-er** *n* — **adapt-ive** *adj*
add *vb* 1: join to something else so as to increase in amount 2: say further 3: find a sum — **ad-di-tion** *n* — **ad-di-tional** *adj*
ad-dler *n* 1: poisonous European snake 2: No. American snake
ad-dict *n*: one who is psychologically or physiologically dependent (as on a drug) ~ *vb*: cause to become an addict — **ad-di-c-tion** *n* — **ad-di-c-tive** *adj*
ad-di-tive *n*: substance added to another
ad-dle *vb*: confuse
ad-dress *vb* 1: direct one's remarks to 2: mark an address on ~ *n* 1: formal speech 2: place where a person may be reached or mail may be delivered
adept *adj*: highly skilled — **adept-ly** *adv* — **adept-ness** *n*
ad-e-quate *adj*: good or plentiful enough — **ad-e-qua-cy** *n* — **ad-e-quate-ly** *adv*
ad-her-e *vb* 1: remain loyal 2: stick fast — **ad-her-ence** *n* — **ad-her-ent** *adj* or *n*
ad-her-sion *n*: act or state of adhering
ad-her-sive *adj*: tending to adhere ~ *n*: adhesive substance
adieu *n*: farewell
ad-jacent *adj*: situated near or next
ad-ject-ive *n*: word that serves as a modifier of a noun — **ad-ject-i-val** *adj* — **ad-ject-i-val-ly** *adv*
ad-join *vb*: be next to
ad-journ *vb*: end a meeting — **ad-journ-ment** *n*
ad-ju-di-cate *vb*: settle judicially — **ad-ju-di-ca-tion** *n*
ad-junct *n*: something joined or added but not essential
ad-just *vb*: fix, adapt, or set right — **ad-just-able** *adj* — **ad-just-er**, **ad-just-er** *n* — **ad-just-ment** *n*
ad-lib *vb*: speak without preparation — **ad-lib** *n* or *adj*
ad-min-is-ter *vb* 1: manage 2: give out esp. in doses — **ad-min-is-tra-ble** *adj*
ad-min-is-tra-tion *n* 1: process of managing 2: persons responsible for managing — **ad-min-is-tra-tive** *adj* —

ad-min-is-tra-tive-ly *adv* — **ad-min-is-tra-tor** *n*
ad-mi-ra-ble *adj*: worthy of admiration — **ad-mi-ra-bly** *adv*
ad-mi-ral *n*: commissioned officer in the navy ranking next below a fleet admiral
ad-mire *vb*: have high regard for — **ad-mi-ra-tion** *n* — **ad-mir-er** *n* — **ad-mir-ing-ly** *adv*
ad-mis-si-ble *adj*: that can be permitted — **ad-mis-si-bil-i-ty** *n*
ad-mis-sion *n* 1: act of admitting 2: admittance or a fee paid for this 3: acknowledgment of a fact
ad-mit *vb* 1: allow to enter 2: permit 3: recognize as genuine — **ad-mit-ter** *adv* — **ad-mit-tance** *n*
ad-mix-ture *n* 1: thing added in mixing 2: mixture
ad-mon-ish *vb*: rebuke — **ad-mon-ish-ment** *n* — **ad-mon-i-tion** *n* — **ad-mon-i-to-ry** *adj*
ado *n* 1: fuss 2: trouble
ado-be *n*: sun-dried building brick
ad-o-les-cence *n*: period of growth between childhood and maturity — **ad-o-les-cent** *adj* or *n*
adopt *vb* 1: take (a child of other parents) as one's own child 2: take up and practice as one's own — **ad-opts** *n* — **ad-ore** *vb* 1: worship 2: be extremely fond of — **ad-orable** *adj* — **ad-or-ably** *adv* — **ad-o-ra-tion** *n*
adorn *vb*: decorate with ornaments — **ad-orn-ment** *n*
adrift *adv* or *adj* 1: afloat without motive power or moorings 2: without guidance or purpose
adroit *adj*: dexterous or shrewd — **adroit-ly** *adv* — **adroit-ness** *n*
adult *adj*: fully developed and mature ~ *n*: grown-up person — **ad-ult-hood** *n*
adul-ter-ate *vb*: make impure by mixture — **adul-ter-a-tion** *n*
adul-tery *n*: sexual unfaithfulness of a married person — **adul-ter-er** *n* — **adul-ter-ess** *n* — **adul-ter-ous** *adj*
ad-vice *vb* 1: bring or move forward 2: promote 3: lend ~ *n* 1: forward movement 2: improvement 3: offer ~ *adj*: being ahead of time — **ad-vice-ment** *n*
ad-van-tage *n* 1: superiority of position 2: benefit or gain — **ad-van-ta-geous** *adj* — **ad-van-ta-geously** *adv*
ad-vent *n* 1 *cap*: period before Christmas 2: a coming into being or use
ad-ven-ture *n* 1: risky undertaking 2: exciting experience — **ad-ven-tur-er** *n* — **ad-ven-ture-some** *adj* — **ad-ven-tur-ous** *adj*
ad-verb *n*: word that modifies a verb, an adjective, or another adverb — **ad-verb-ial** *adj* — **ad-verb-ial-ly** *adv*
ad-ver-sary *n*: enemy or rival — **ad-ver-sary** *adj*
ad-verse *adj*: opposing or unfavorable — **ad-verse-ly** *adv* — **ad-ver-si-ty** *n*
ad-vert-ise *vb*: call public attention to — **ad-vert-ise-ment** *n* — **ad-vert-is-er** *n* — **ad-vert-is-ing** *n*
ad-vice *n*: recommendation with regard to a course of action
ad-vis-able *adj*: wise or prudent — **ad-vis-a-bil-i-ty** *n*
ad-vice *vb*: give advice to — **ad-vis-a-bil-i-ty** *n* — **ad-vis-er** *n* — **ad-vis-er** *n* — **ad-vis-er** *n*
ad-vis-or-ate *adj*: having power to advise
ad-vo-ca-ry *n*: one who argues or pleads for a cause or proposal ~ *vb*: recommend — **ad-vo-ca-ry** *n*
aeg-is *n*: protection or sponsorship
aer-ate *vb*: supply or impregnate with air — **aer-a-tion** *n* — **aer-a-tor** *n*
aer-ial *adj*: inhabiting, occurring in, or done in the air ~ *n*: antenna
aer-o-bic *adj*: using or needing oxygen
aer-o-bics *n* *sing* or *pl*: exercises that produce a marked increase in respiration and heart rate
aer-o-dy-nam-ics *n*: science of bodies

in motion in a gas — **aer-o-dy-nam-ic** *adj* — **aer-o-dy-nam-i-cal-ly** *adv*
aer-o-nau-tics *n*: science dealing with aircraft — **aer-o-nau-ti-cal** *adj*
aer-o-sol *n* 1: liquid or solid particles suspended in a gas 2: substance sprayed as an aerosol
aer-o-space *n*: earth's atmosphere and the space beyond — **aer-o-space** *adj*
aes-thet-ic *adj*: relating to beauty — **aes-thet-i-cal-ly** *adv* — **aes-thet-ics** *n*
af-fa-ble *adj*: easy to talk to — **af-fa-bil-i-ty** *n* — **af-fa-bly** *adv*
af-fair *n*: something that relates to or involves one
af-fect *vb*: assume for effect — **af-fec-ta-tion** *n*
af-fect *vb*: produce an effect on
af-fect-ed *adj* 1: pretending to some trait 2: artificially assumed to impress — **af-fect-ed-ly** *adv*
af-fect-ing *adj*: arousing pity or sorrow — **af-fect-ing-ly** *adv*
af-fec-tion *n*: kind or loving feeling — **af-fec-tion-ate** *adj* — **af-fec-tion-ate-ly** *adv*
af-fi-da-vit *n*: sworn statement
af-fil-i-ate *vb*: become a member or branch — **af-fil-i-ate** *n* — **af-fil-i-a-tion** *n*
af-fin-i-ty *n*: close attraction or relationship
af-firm *vb*: assert positively — **af-firm-a-tion** *n*
af-fir-ma-tive *adj*: asserting the truth or existence of something ~ *n*: statement of affirmation or agreement
af-flict *vb*: cause pain and distress to — **af-flic-tion** *n*
af-flu-ence *n*: wealth — **af-flu-ent** *adj*
af-ford *vb* 1: manage to bear the cost of 2: provide
af-front *vb* or *n*: insult
af-ghan *vb*: crocheted or knitted blanket
af-lame *adj* or *adv*: flaming
af-loat *adj* or *adv*: floating
af-oot *adv* or *adj* 1: on foot 2: in progress
af-raid *adj*: filled with fear
af-resh *adv*: anew
af-ter *adv*: at a later time ~ *prep* 1: behind in place or time 2: in pursuit of ~ *conj*: following the time when ~ *adj* 1: later 2: located toward the back
af-ter-life *n*: existence after death
af-ter-math *n*: results
af-ter-noon *n*: time between noon and evening
af-ter-thought *n*: later thought
af-ter-ward, af-ter-wards *adv*: at a later time
again *adv* 1: once more 2: on the other hand 3: in addition
against *prep* 1: directly opposite to 2: in opposition to 3: so as to touch or strike
ag-ate *n*: quartz with bands or masses of various colors
age *n* 1: length of time of life or existence 2: particular time in life (as majority or the latter part) 3: quality of being old 4: long time 5: period in history ~ *vb*: become old or mature — **age-less** *adj*
aged *adj* 1: old 2: allowed to mature
agen-da *n*: list of things to be done
agent *n* 1: means 2: person acting or doing business for another — **agen-cy** *n*
ag-gra-vate *vb* 1: make more severe 2: irritate — **ag-gra-va-tion** *n*
ag-gre-gate *adj*: formed into a mass ~ *vb*: collect into a mass ~ *n* 1: mass 2: whole amount
ag-gres-sion *n* 1: unprovoked attack 2: hostile behavior — **ag-gres-sor** *n* — **ag-gres-sive** *adj* — **ag-gres-sive-ly** *adv* — **ag-gres-sive-ness** *n*
ag-grieve *vb* 1: cause grief to 2: inflict injury on
ag-ile *adj*: able to move quickly and easily — **ag-il-i-ty** *n*
ag-i-tate *vb* 1: shake or stir back and forth 2: excite or trouble the mind of

3: try to arouse public feeling — **ag-i-ta-tion** *n* — **ag-i-ta-tor** *n*
ag-nos-tic *n*: one who doubts the existence of God
ago *adj* or *adv*: earlier than the present
agog *adj*: full of excitement
ag-o-nize *vb*: suffer mental agony — **ag-o-niz-ing-ly** *adv* — **ag-o-ny** *n*
agree *vb* 1: be of the same opinion 2: express willingness 3: get along together 4: be similar 5: be appropriate, suitable, or healthful — **agree-able** *adj* — **agree-able-ness** *n* — **agree-ably** *adv* — **agree-ment** *n*
ag-ri-cul-ture *n*: farming — **ag-ri-cul-tur-al** *adj* — **ag-ri-cul-tur-ist**, **ag-ri-cul-tur-al-ist** *n*
ag-round *adv* or *adj*: on or onto the bottom or shore
ahead *adv* or *adj* 1: in or toward the front 2: into or for the future 3: in a more advantageous position
ahead of *prep* 1: in front or advance of 2: in excess of
aid *vb*: provide help or support ~ *n*: help
aide *n*: helper
AIDS *n*: serious disease of the human immune system
ail *vb* 1: trouble 2: be ill — **ail-ment** *n*
aim *vb* 1: point or direct (as a weapon) 2: direct one's efforts ~ *n* 1: an aiming or the direction of aiming 2: object or purpose — **aim-less** *adj* — **aim-less-ly** *adv* — **aim-less-ness** *n*
air *n* 1: mixture of gases surrounding the earth 2: melody 3: outward appearance 4: artificial manner 5: compressed air 6: travel by or use of aircraft 7: medium of transmission of radio waves ~ *vb* 1: expose to the air 2: broadcast — **air-borne** *adj*
air-condition *vb*: equip with an apparatus (air conditioner) for filtering and cooling the air
air-craft (**air-craft**) *n*: craft that flies
air force *n*: military organization for conducting warfare by air
air-lift *n*: a transporting of esp. emergency supplies by aircraft — **air-lift** *vb*
air-line *n*: air transportation system — **air-lin-er** *n*
air-mail *n*: system of transporting mail by airplane — **air-mail** *vb*
air-plane *n*: fixed-wing aircraft heavier than air
air-port *n*: place for landing aircraft and usu. for receiving passengers
air-tight *adj*: tightly sealed to prevent flow of air
air-waves *n pl*: medium of transmission of radio waves
airy *adj* 1: delicate 2: breezy
aisle *n*: passage between sections or rows
ajar *adj* or *adv*: partly open
akin *adj* 1: related by blood 2: similar in kind
al-a-bas-ter *n*: white or translucent mineral
al-ac-ri-ty *n*: cheerful readiness
alarm *n* 1: warning signal or device 2: fear at sudden danger ~ *vb* 1: warn 2: frighten
alas *interj* — used to express unhappiness, pity, or concern
al-be-it *conj*: even though
al-bum *n* 1: book for displaying a collection (as of photographs) 2: collection of recordings
al-bu-men *n* 1: white of an egg 2: albumin
al-bu-min *n*: protein found in blood, milk, egg white, and tissues
al-co-hol *n* 1: intoxicating agent in liquor 2: liquor — **al-co-hol-ic** *adj* or *n* — **al-co-hol-ism** *n*
al-cove *n*: recess in a room or wall
al-der-man *n*: city official
ale *n*: beerlike beverage — **ale-house** *n*
alert *adj* 1: watchful 2: quick to perceive and act ~ *n*: alarm ~ *vb*: warn — **alert-ly** *adv* — **alert-ness** *n*
al-fal-fa *n*: cloverlike forage plant

al-ga *n*: any of a group of lower plants that includes seaweed — **al-gal** *adj*
al-ge-bra *n*: branch of mathematics — **al-ge-bra-ic** *adj* — **al-ge-bra-i-cal-ly** *adv*
alias *adv*: otherwise called ~ *n*: assumed name
al-i-bi *n* 1: defense of having been elsewhere when a crime was committed 2: justification ~ *vb*: offer an excuse
alien *adj*: foreign ~ *n* 1: foreign-born resident 2: extraterrestrial
alien-ate *vb*: cause to be no longer friendly — **alien-a-tion** *n*
align *vb*: bring into line — **align-er** *n* — **align-ment** *n*
alike *adj*: identical or very similar ~ *adv*: equally
al-i-men-ta-ry *adj*: relating to or functioning in nutrition
al-i-mo-ny *n*: money paid to a separated or divorced spouse
alive *adj* 1: having life 2: lively or animated
al-ka-li *n*: strong chemical base — **al-ka-line** *adj* — **al-ka-lin-i-ty** *n*
all *adj* 1: the whole of 2: greatest possible 3: every one of ~ *adv* 1: wholly 2: so much 3: for each side ~ *pron* 1: whole number or amount 2: everything or everyone
Al-lah *n*: God of Islam
al-lay *vb* 1: alleviate 2: calm
al-lege *vb*: assert without proof — **al-le-ga-tion** *n* — **al-le-ged-ly** *adv*
al-le-giance *n*: loyalty
al-le-go-ry *n*: story in which figures and actions are symbols of general truths — **al-le-go-ri-cal** *adj*
al-ler-gen *n*: something that causes allergy — **al-ler-gen-ic** *adj*
al-ler-gy *n*: abnormal reaction to a substance — **al-ler-gic** *adj* — **al-ler-gist** *n*
al-le-vi-ate *vb*: relieve or lessen — **al-le-vi-a-tion** *n*
al-ley *n* 1: place for bowling 2: narrow passage between buildings
al-li-ance *n*: association
al-li-ga-tor *n*: large aquatic reptile related to the crocodiles
al-li-ter-a-tion *n*: repetition of initial sounds of words — **al-li-ter-a-tive** *adj*
al-lo-cate *vb*: assign — **al-lo-ca-tion** *n*
al-lot *vb*: distribute as a share — **al-lot-ment** *n*
al-low *vb* 1: admit or concede 2: permit — **al-low-able** *adj*
al-low-ance *n* 1: allotted share 2: money given regularly for expenses
al-loy *n*: metals melted together — **al-loy** *vb*
all right *adv* or *adj* 1: satisfactorily 2: yes 3: certainly
al-lude *vb*: refer indirectly — **al-lu-sion** *n* — **al-lu-sive** *adj*
al-lure *vb*: entice ~ *n*: attractive power
al-ly *vb*: enter into an alliance — **al-ly** *n*
al-ma-nac *n*: annual information book
al-mighty *adj*: having absolute power
al-most *adv*: very nearly
alms *n*: charitable gift
al-oft *adv*: high in the air
alone *adj* 1: separated from others 2: not including anyone or anything else — **alone** *adv*
along *prep* 1: in line with the direction of 2: at a point on or during ~ *adv* 1: forward 2: as a companion
along-side *adv* or *prep*: along or by the side
alongside of *prep*: alongside
aloud *adv*: so as to be heard
al-pha-bet *n*: ordered set of letters of a language — **al-pha-bet-i-cal**, **al-pha-bet-ic** *adj* — **al-pha-bet-i-cal-ly** *adv*
al-pha-be-tize *vb*: arrange in alphabetical order — **al-pha-be-tiz-er** *n*
al-ready *adv*: by a given time
al-so *adv*: in addition
al-tar *n*: structure for rituals
al-ter *vb*: make different — **al-ter-a-tion** *n*
al-ter-ca-tion *n*: dispute
al-ter-na-te *adj* 1: arranged or succeeding by turns 2: every other ~ *vb*:

Basic English Grammar

The essence of the English language is the sentence. A sentence is a grammatically self-contained group of words that expresses a statement, a question, a command, a wish, or an exclamation. It is composed of a *subject*, about which something is said, and a *predicate*, which expresses what is said about the subject. The subject can be a single noun, a noun phrase, such as “*the strong wind*,” or a noun clause, such as “*what he decides* is important to all of us.” The predicate can be a single verb, a verb phrase, such as “*will be going*,” a verb and all its modifiers, such as “*will be going as soon as the bus arrives*,” or a verb and its complements, such as “*gave his client the bad news*.”

In English, word order is important. The subject usually comes first, but not necessarily:

An amusement park is across the river.
Across the river is **an amusement park**.
Is **an amusement park** across the river?

The grammar of English is concerned with the structure of these elements that make up a sentence. Every word in a sentence can be classified as a particular part of speech (*noun, verb, adjective, etc.*), according to its function in the sentence. The major parts of speech are briefly discussed in the following guide to basic English grammar.

THE ADJECTIVE

The adjective gives information about a noun or pronoun, such as what kind

the **black** cat
a **joyful** occasion

or which one

a **first** draft
that suggestion

or how many

ten players
few new ideas

The adjective usually precedes the noun it modifies, but some adjectives can also follow certain verbs:

the house is **white** (→ **white** house)
the speeches seemed **long**
(→ **long** speeches)
the chair felt **comfortable**
(→ **comfortable** chair)
the tree grew **tall** (→ **tall** tree)

A few adjectives will follow their nouns, but usually only in set phrases:

court-martial
secretary-general

POSITIVE, COMPARATIVE, AND SUPERLATIVE DEGREES OF ADJECTIVES

The positive degree is the basic form of the adjective. It gives basic information about the noun without reference to anything else (a *white* house). The comparative degree relates a noun to another—as having more or less of some quality (this house is *whiter* than that); the superlative degree relates the noun to all others of its class (this is the *whitest* house in the neighborhood).

When the adjective consists of a single syllable, the suffix *-er* is added to form the comparative degree, and the suffix *-est* is added to form the superlative degree. When the adjective consists of two syllables, the suffixes are often used to form the comparative (as *gentler*) and superlative (as *gentlest*), but the adverbs *more/less* can also be used to form the comparative (as *more*

skillful and *less skillful*), and likewise, the adverbs *most/least* can be used to form the superlative (as *most skillful* and *least skillful*). For adjectives of more than two syllables, the adverbs are usually used to form the comparative and superlative forms (as *more fortunate*, *most fortunate*).

There are a few adjectives that have unique comparative and superlative forms:

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
good	better	best
bad	worse	worst
some	more	most
little (amount)	less	least
<i>but</i>		
little (size)	littler	littlest

There are a few adjectives that have no comparative or superlative forms:

an **utter** failure
the **principal** objections

DEMONSTRATIVE ADJECTIVES

The demonstrative adjectives *this* and *that* are used to point out the one person or thing referred to (as “not *this* coat but *that* one”). The plural forms are *these* and *those*, respectively.

These books are mine and **those** books are yours.

DESCRIPTIVE ADJECTIVES

A descriptive adjective describes or indicates a quality, type, or condition:

a **fascinating** conversation
a **positive** attitude
a **fast** computer

INDEFINITE ADJECTIVES

An indefinite adjective is used to designate unspecified person(s) or thing(s):

some children
other projects
any book

INTERROGATIVE ADJECTIVES

An interrogative adjective is used to form a question:

Whose office is this?
Which book do you want?

THE NOUN USED AS ADJECTIVE

A noun sometimes serves to modify another noun and thus functions as an adjective:

the **Vietnam War**
word processing

POSSESSIVE ADJECTIVES

The possessive form of a personal pronoun is called a possessive adjective. Following is a list of possessive adjectives and a few examples of how they are used:

Singular	Plural
my	our
your	your
his/her/its	their

Where's **my** magazine?
Your cab is here.
They can read **his** story.
It was **her** idea.
The box and **its** contents were inspected.
She's **our** mother.
Your photos are ready.
We paid for **their** tickets.

PREDICATE ADJECTIVES

A predicate adjective modifies the subject of a linking verb, such as *be, become, feel, taste, smell, or seem*:

He is **lucky**.
She became **angry**.
They are **happy** with the outcome.
The milk smells **bad**.
The student seems **lonely**.

PROPER ADJECTIVES

A proper adjective is derived from a proper noun and is capitalized:

Victorian furniture
a **Chinese** custom
a **Shakespearean** scholar

THE ADVERB

Adverbs, whether single words or phrases, usually give information about the verbs, such as *when*

We arrived **yesterday**
He woke up **late**

or *where*

I found them **at the restaurant**
He spent time **in [the] hospital**

or *how*

They arose **quickly**
She worked **hard**

Most single-word adverbs end in *-ly* and are formed by adding the suffix *-ly* to an adjective:

mad → **madly**
wonderful → **wonderfully**

When the adjective ends in *-y*, the adverb is formed by changing *-y* to *-i* and adding the suffix *-ly*:

happy → **happily**
dainty → **daintily**

When the adjective ends in *-ic*, the adverb is formed by adding the suffix *-ally*:

basic → **basically**
numeric → **numerically**

When an adjective ends in *-ly*, the adverb retains the same spelling:

a **daily** routine (adjective)
she calls her mother **daily** (adverb)
an **early** meeting (adjective)
the show started **early** (adverb)

Also, there are adverbs that do not end in *-ly*, for example:

again
now
soon
too
there
how

POSITIVE, COMPARATIVE, AND SUPERLATIVE DEGREES OF ADVERBS

Adverbs, like adjectives, can have three degrees of comparison: the *positive* form exists without reference to anything else; the *comparative* degree relates to another—as being more or less of the adverb quality; and *superlative* relates to all members of a class. As a general rule, a single-syllable adverb ends in *-er* when it is comparative (as *faster*) and in *-est* when it is superlative (as *fastest*). For adverbs of three or more syllables, the comparative and superlative degrees are formed by using the adverbs *more/less* and *most/least*. The comparative and superlative degrees of an adverb of two syllables are formed by following either one of these methods:

Positive	Comparative	Superlative
early	earlier	earliest
easy	easier	easiest
nearly	more nearly	most nearly
quickly	more quickly	most quickly
satisfactorily	less satisfactorily	least satisfactorily

Some adverbs, such as *only*, *quite*, and *very*, have no comparative or superlative forms.

INTENSIVE ADVERBS

Intensive adverbs, such as *just* and *only*, are usually used only to emphasize other words. The emphasis varies according to the placement of the adverb within the sentence:

He **just** nodded to me as he passed.
He nodded to me **just** as he passed.
I **only** wanted to speak with you.
I wanted to speak **only** with you.

INTERROGATIVE ADVERBS

Interrogative adverbs, such as *when*, *where*, and *why*, are used chiefly to introduce questions:

When will he return?
Where is the remote control?
Why did you hide it?

THE ARTICLE

Articles, sometimes called “determiners,” are elements of a noun phrase that indicate whether the noun is “definite,” that is, a specific individual, or “indefinite,” that is, very general in nature.

THE DEFINITE ARTICLE

There is only one form of the definite article: *the*.

The boys were expelled.
It was **the** best movie I have seen.

THE INDEFINITE ARTICLE

The indefinite article *a* is used with every noun or abbreviation beginning with either a consonant or the sound of a consonant:

a door
a union
a one-way street
a B.A. degree
a hat
a U.S. Senator

The indefinite article *an* is used with every noun or abbreviation that begins with a vowel sound, whether or not the first letter of the noun or abbreviation is a vowel or consonant:

an icicle
an MP
an honor
an FAQ

When the first syllable of a noun beginning with *h* is not stressed or has only a slight stress, the article *a* is frequently used:

a historian
a heroic attempt
a hilarious performance

However, the article *an* is sometimes used in these cases:

an historian
an heroic attempt
an hilarious performance

Both forms are acceptable.

THE CONJUNCTION

There are three main types of conjunctions: *coordinating conjunctions*, *correlative conjunctions*, and *subordinating conjunctions*.

COORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS

Coordinating conjunctions, such as *and*, *but*, *for*, *or*, *nor*, *so*, and *yet*, are used to connect grammatical elements of the same type. These elements may be words, phrases, clauses, or complete sentences. Coordinating conjunctions are used to connect similar elements, to make exclusions or contrasts, to indicate an alternative, to indicate a cause, or to specify a result:

connecting similar elements:	She ordered pencils, pens, and erasers.
exclusion or contrast:	He is a brilliant but arrogant man. They offered a promising plan, but it had not yet been tested.
alternative:	She can wait here or go on ahead.
cause:	The report is useless, for its information is no longer current.
result:	His diction is excellent, so every word is clear.

CORRELATIVE CONJUNCTIONS

Correlative conjunctions are used in groups of two to connect choices or elements of the same grammatical type:

Both Rita **and** Jane attended the conference.
Either you go **or** you stay.
He had **neither** looks **nor** wit.

SUBORDINATING CONJUNCTIONS

Subordinating conjunctions are used to connect a subordinate clause to an independent clause. These conjunctions express cause, condition or concession, manner, intention or result, time, place, or circumstance, as well as a possibility.

cause:	Because she learns quickly, she is doing well in her new job.
condition or concession:	Don't call unless you are coming.
manner:	We'll do it however you tell us.
intention or result:	They burned all the bridges so that the enemy could not use them.
time:	She kept the meeting to a minimum when she could.
place:	Wherever he goes, he is welcomed with open arms.

THE NOUN

Basic Uses

The noun may be a single word or a phrase (noun phrase). The noun phrase may consist of an article and/or adjectives and/or prepositional phrases. The noun can function as subject of a sentence, object of a verb, object of a preposition, predicate nominative, complement of an object, in apposition, and in direct discourse:

subject:	The office was quiet. The house with the green shutters was for sale.
direct object of a verb:	He locked the office .
indirect object of a verb:	He gave his client the papers.
object of a preposition:	The business was in bankruptcy . The file is in the office .
predicate nominative:	Ms. Adams is the managing partner .
complement of an object:	They made Ms. Adams managing partner .