

WEBSTER'S Dictionary for Students

≡≡≡ FIFTH EDITION ≡≡≡

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Preface

This dictionary defines more than 37,000 words and phrases that reflect the vocabulary level, curriculum requirements, and personal interests of students. This newly updated version adds dozens of new words students are likely to encounter in their everyday life, including *aha moment*, *BFF*, *carbon footprint*, *chat room*, *e-book*, *FAQ*, *google*, *hashtag*, *ringtone*, *selfie*, and *unfriend*. We have also included special Canadian and British spellings, such as *colour* and *endeavour* when they differ from the usual spelling in the U.S.

We are proud of this dictionary, and we think it will be a great help to young students. The features of this dictionary are similar to those of larger dictionaries. It is important to understand them to make best use of this valuable language tool. For this reason we urge you to become familiar with the information in the next section, Using the Dictionary.

A

1 *a* *n, pl a's or as* often *cap* **1** : the first letter of the English alphabet **2** : a grade that shows a student's work is excellent **3** : a musical note referred to by the letter A

2 *a* *indefinite article* **1** : someone or something being mentioned for the first time **2** : the same **3** : ¹ANY **1** **4** : for or from each **5** : ²ONE **3** — used before words that do not begin with a vowel sound

a- *prefix* **1** : on : in : at **2** : in (such) a state, condition, or manner **3** : in the act or process of

aardvark *n* : an African animal with a long snout and a long sticky tongue that feeds mostly on ants and termites and is active at night

AB *abbr* Alberta

ab- *prefix* : from : differing from

aback *adv* : by surprise

abacus *n, pl abaci or abacus-es* : an instrument for doing arithmetic by sliding counters along rods or in grooves

abalone *n* : a shellfish that is a mollusk which has a flattened shell with a pearly lining

abandon *vb* **abandoned; abandon-ing** **1** : to leave and never return to : give up completely **2** : to stop having or doing — **abandon-ment** *n*

2 **abandon** *n* : a feeling of complete freedom **abandoned** *adj* : given up : left empty or unused

abash *vb* **abashed; abashing** : EMBARRASS

abate *vb* **abated-ed; abat-ing** : to make or become less — **abate-ment** *n*

ab-bess *n* : the head of an abbey for women **ab-bey** *n, pl abbeys* **1** : MONASTERY, CONVENT **2** : a church that is connected to buildings where nuns or monks live

ab-bot *n* : the head of an abbey for men

abbr *abbr* abbreviation

ab-bre-viate *vb* **ab-bre-viated-ed; ab-bre-viat-ing** : to make briefer : SHORTEN

ab-bre-via-tion *n* : a shortened form of a word or phrase

ab-di-cate *vb* **ab-di-cated-ed; ab-di-cat-ing** : to give up a position of power or authority — **ab-di-ca-tion** *n*

ab-do-men *n* **1** : the part of the body between the chest and the hips including the cavity containing the stomach and other digestive organs **2** : the hind part of the body of an arthropod (as an insect)

ab-dom-i-nal *adj* : relating to or located in the abdomen

ab-duct *vb* **ab-duct-ed; ab-duct-ing** : to take a person away by force : KIDNAP — **ab-duc-tion** *n*

abed *adv or adj* : in bed

ab-er-ra-tion *n* : an instance of being different from what is normal or usual

ab-hor *vb* **ab-hor-red; ab-hor-ring** : to dislike very much : LOATHE

ab-hor-rent *adj* : causing or deserving strong dislike

abide *vb* **abode or abid-ed; abid-ing** **1** : to put up with patiently : TOLERATE **2** : ¹LAST **1**, ENDURE **3** : to stay or live in a place — **abide by** : to accept the terms of : OBEY

abil-ity *n, pl abil-ities* **1** : power to do something **2** : natural talent or acquired skill

-abil-ity *also -ibil-ity* *n* *suffix, pl -abil-ities* *also -ibil-ities* : ability, fitness, or tendency to act or be acted upon in (such) a way

ab-ject *adj* **1** : very bad or severe **2** : low in spirit, strength, or hope — **ab-ject-ly** *adv*

ablaze *adj* **1** : on fire **2** : glowing with light, color, or emotion

able *adj* **abler; ablest** **1** : having enough power, resources, or skill to do something **2** : having the freedom or opportunity to do something **3** : having or showing much skill

-able *also -ible* *adj* *suffix* **1** : capable of, fit for, or worthy of being **2** : tending or likely to — **-ably** *also -ibly* *adv* *suffix*

able-bod-ied *adj* : physically fit

ably *adv* : in a skillful way

ab-nor-mal *adj* : differing from the normal usually in a noticeable way — **ab-nor-mal-ly** *adv*

ab-nor-mal-ity *n, pl ab-nor-mal-i-ties* : something that is not usual, expected, or normal

1 **aboard** *adv* : on, onto, or within a ship, train, bus, or airplane

2 **aboard** *prep* : on or into especially for passage

1 **abode** *past of* ABIDE

2 **abode** *n* : the place where someone stays or lives

abol-ish *vb* **abol-ished; abol-ish-ing** : to do away with : put an end to

ab-o-li-tion *n* : a complete elimination of

ab-o-li-tion-ist *n* : a person favoring the abolition of slavery

A-bomb *n* : ATOMIC BOMB

abom-i-na-ble *adj* **1** : deserving or causing disgust **2** : very disagreeable or unpleasant — **abom-i-na-bly** *adv*

abominable snow-man *n, often cap A&S* : a creature somewhat resembling a human

being or ape that is reported to exist in the Himalaya mountains

abom-i-na-tion *n* : something that causes disgust

ab-orig-i-nal *adj* **1** : being the first of its kind in a region **2** : of or relating to the original people living in a region

ab-orig-i-ne *n, pl ab-orig-ines* : a member of the original people living in a region : NATIVE

abound *vb* **abounded**; **abound-ing** **1** : to be plentiful : TEEM **2** : to be fully supplied

1**about** *adv* **1** : ALMOST, NEARLY **2** : on all sides : AROUND **3** : in the opposite direction **4** : on the verge of

2**about** *prep* **1** : having to do with **2** : on every side of : AROUND **3** : over or in different parts of **4** : near or not far from in time

1**above** *adv* : in or to a higher place

2**above** *prep* **1** : higher than : OVER **2** : too good for **3** : more than **4** : to a greater degree than **5** : having more power or importance than

3**above** *adj* : said or written earlier

1**above-board** *adv* : in an honest open way

2**aboveboard** *adj* : free from tricks and secrecy

ab-ra-ca-dab-ra *n* : a magical charm or word

abrade *vb* **abraded**; **abrad-ing** : to wear away or irritate by rubbing

1**abra-sive** *n* : a substance for grinding, smoothing, or polishing

2**abrasive** *adj* **1** : causing damage or wear by rubbing **2** : very unpleasant or irritating

abreast *adv or adj* **1** : right beside one another **2** : up to a certain level of knowledge

abridge *vb* **abridged**; **abridg-ing** : to shorten by leaving out some parts

abridg-ment or abridge-ment *n* : a shortened form of a written work

abroad *adv or adj* **1** : over a wide area **2** : in the open : OUTDOORS **3** : in or to a foreign country **4** : known to many people

abrupt *adj* **1** : happening without warning : SUDDEN **2** : ¹STEEP **1** **3** : rudely brief — **abrupt-ly** *adv* — **abrupt-ness** *n*

ab-scess *n* : a collection of pus with swollen and red tissue around it — **ab-scessed** *adj*

ab-sence *n* **1** : a failure to be present at a usual or expected place **2** : ²LACK, WANT

ab-sent *adj* **1** : not present **2** : not existing **3** : showing a lack of attention

ab-sen-tee *n* : a person who is not present

ab-sent-mind-ed *adj* : tending to forget or not pay attention — **ab-sent-mind-ed-ly** *adv* — **ab-sent-mind-ed-ness** *n*

ab-so-lute *adj* **1** : ¹TOTAL **1**, COMPLETE **2** : not limited in any way **3** : free from doubt : CERTAIN — **ab-so-lute-ly** *adv*

ab-solve *vb* **ab-solved**; **ab-solv-ing** : to make free from guilt or responsibility

ab-sorb *vb* **ab-sorbed**; **ab-sorb-ing** **1** : to take in or swallow up **2** : to hold the complete attention of **3** : to receive without giving back

ab-sor-ben-cy *n* : the quality or state of being able to draw in or soak up

ab-sor-bent *adj* : able to draw in or soak up

ab-sorp-tion *n* **1** : the process of drawing in or soaking up : absorbing or being absorbed **2** : complete attention

ab-stain *vb* **ab-stained**; **ab-stain-ing** : to choose not to do or have something — **ab-stain-er** *n*

ab-sti-nence *n* : an avoidance by choice especially of certain foods or of liquor

1**ab-tract** *adj* **1** : hard to understand **2** : relating to general ideas or qualities rather than specific people, things, or actions — **ab-tract-ly** *adv*

2**ab-tract** *n* : ²SUMMARY

3**ab-tract** *vb* **ab-tract-ed**; **ab-tract-ing** **1** : to take away : SEPARATE **2** : SUMMARIZE

ab-strac-tion *n* **1** : the act of summarizing : the state of being summarized **2** : a thought or thoughts about general qualities or ideas rather than people or things

ab-surd *adj* : completely foolish, unreasonable, or untrue : RIDICULOUS — **ab-surd-ly** *adv*

ab-sur-dity *n, pl ab-sur-dities* **1** : the fact of being ridiculous **2** : something that is ridiculous

ab-un-dance *n* : a large quantity : PLENTY

ab-un-dant *adj* : more than enough : PLENTIFUL — **ab-un-dant-ly** *adv*

1**ab-use** *n* **1** : wrong or unfair treatment or use **2** : the act or practice of improperly using or of using in harmful amounts **3** : harmful treatment of a person or an animal **4** : harsh insulting language **5** : a dishonest practice

2**ab-use** *vb* **ab-used**; **abus-ing** **1** : to treat in a cruel or harmful way **2** : to use wrongly : MISUSE **3** : to use improperly or in harmful amounts **4** : to blame or scold rudely

abu-sive *adj* **1** : using or involving harmful treatment **2** : using harsh insulting language

abut *vb* **abut-ted**; **abut-ting** : to touch along an edge

abys-mal *adj* : extremely bad

abys-s *n* : a gulf so deep or space so great that it cannot be measured

AC *abbr* **1** air-conditioning **2** alternating current **3** area code

ac-a-dem-ic *adj* **1** : of or relating to schools and education **2** : having no practical importance — **ac-a-dem-i-cal-ly** *adv*

acad-e-my *n, pl acad-e-mies* **1** : a private high school **2** : a high school or college