

WEBSTER'S
Dictionary
for Students
Special Encyclopedic Edition

≡ FIFTH EDITION ≡

Created in Cooperation with the Editors of
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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.

In addition to the dictionary proper, in the back are sections of up-to-date information on the U.S., Canada, and other countries of the world as well as information on the making of U.S. laws, on U.S. presidents, and important events in American history.

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.

Using the Dictionary

The **bold** word that begins an entry is known as the main entry word. All of the material in the entry is related to the main entry word or to derived words or phrases that also appear in the entry.

co-la *n, pl co-las* : a sweet brown carbonated soft drink that contains flavoring from the nut of a tropical tree

icon *n . . . 4* : a small picture or symbol on a computer screen that represents a function that the computer can perform

Centered dots in the bold forms show where the words may be hyphenated at the end of a line on a page, and they may serve as an aid in sounding out the words.

Other bold forms may appear in this entry, such as **variant spellings** and **inflected forms** of the main entry word. Inflected forms are the plurals of nouns, the principal parts of verbs, or the comparative and superlative forms of adjectives.

¹down-ward or down-wards *adv* : from a higher place, amount, or level to a lower one

anx-i-ety *n, pl anx-i-eties* : fear or nervousness about what might happen

²witness *vb* **wit-nessed; wit-ness-ing 1** : to see or gain personal knowledge of something . . .

¹free *adj* **fre-er; fre-est 1** : given without charge

Other bold items in the entry may be defined **run-on phrases** that have the main entry word in the phrase, and **run-in entries** that are being explained in the definition itself.

¹stand *vb* **stood; stand-ing 1** : to be in or take an upright position . . . — **stand by 1** : to be or remain loyal or true to . . . — **stand for 1** : to be a symbol for : REPRESENT . . .

ol-ive *n . . .* : the oily fruit of an evergreen tree that is eaten both ripe and unripe and is the source of an edible oil (**olive oil**) . . .

One of the more common bold forms appearing at an entry is the **undefined run-on entry**. This is a word at the end of an entry that is derived from the main entry by the addition of a common word ending (suffix).

af-fa-ble *adj* : friendly and easy to talk to — **af-fa-bly** *adv*

Since you know the meaning of the main entry word and the meaning of the suffix, the meaning of the run-on entry is self-explanatory.

The way a word is used in a sentence, its *function*, sometimes called its *part of speech*, is indicated by any of several *italic* abbreviations: *n* for *noun* (**cat, dog, mother**), *vb* for *verb* (**run, jump, cry**), *adj* for *adjective* (**blue, tall, happy**), *adv* for *adverb* (**easily, fast**),

nearby), *pron* for *pronoun* (**who, them, none**), *conj* for *conjunction* (**and, but, if**), *prep* for *preposition* (**about, for, to**), and *interj* for *interjection* (**hello, ahoy**). Others include *helping verb* (**may, can**), *prefix* (**anti-, bio-**), and *suffix* (**-age, -er, -graph**).

When there are two or more words that have the same spelling but are different in their meanings or how they function in a sentence, these are distinguished by a small superscript numeral in front of the spelling. The numeral is not part of the spelling; it is there in this dictionary to distinguish these identically spelled words (called **homographs**).

¹**calf** *n, pl calves **1** : a young cow . . .*

²**calf** *n, pl calves* : the muscular back part of the leg . . .

¹**dai-ly** *adj* **1** : occurring, done, produced, appearing, or used every day . . .

²**daily** *adv* : every day

³**daily** *n, pl dai-lies* : a newspaper published every weekday

One very important way a dictionary saves space when two or more words have the same meaning is by putting the definition at the more common word and linking to that entry by means of a cross-reference in SMALL CAPITALS. Look at the following.

abash *vb* . . . : EMBARRASS

The treatment here tells you to look at the entry **embarrass** for a definition of both *abash* and *embarrass*. And this treatment tells you also that *abash* and *embarrass* are **synonyms**.

Sometimes the synonym cross-reference is used in place of a definition and sometimes following a definition.

lightning bug *n* : FIREFLY

om-nip-o-tent *adj* : having power or authority without limit : ALMIGHTY . . .

When the synonym cross-reference has a following sense number or has a superscript homograph number attached, it tells you which specific sense number and which homograph to look to for the shared meaning.

prince *n* **1** : MONARCH **1** . . .

con-fi-den-tial *adj* **1** : ¹SECRET **1** . . .

There is a special treatment for Canadian (*Can*) and British (*Brit*) spelling variants. These variants are usually listed along with the U.S. spelling.

cal-i-ber or *Can and Brit* **cal-i-bre** *n* **1** : level of excellence, skill, or importance . . .

the-ater or *chiefly Can and Brit* **the-atre** *n* **1** : a building in which plays, motion pictures, or shows are presented . . .

The *or Can and Brit* at **caliber** indicates that the following spelling is the typical spelling in Canada and Britain and is relatively uncommon in the U.S.; the *or chiefly Can and Brit* at **theater** indicates that the following spelling, while typical in Canada and Britain, has some currency in the U.S.

Using the Dictionary

x

When the Canadian or British spelling would fall more than five entries away, it is also reentered with a cross-reference to the main entry.

cheque *Can and Brit spelling of* CHECK n, sense 4
plough, ploughshare *chiefly Brit spelling of*
PLOW, PLOWSHARE

Your dictionary also guides you in the way a particular word is used. **Usage notes** may follow a definition or be used in place of a definition.

ath·let·ics *n pl* : games, sports, and exercises requiring strength, endurance, and skill — used as singular or plural
³why *interj* — used to express surprise, uncertainty, approval, disapproval, or impatience

Guidance on capitalization for entries where the main entry word is not shown capitalized is usually shown by an italic note at the beginning of the definition.

french fry *n, often cap 1st F* : a strip of potato fried in deep fat
cpu *n often cap C&P&U* : the part of a computer that does most of the processing of data

A

- ¹a** *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
- ²a** *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
- aard-vark** *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
- aba-cus** *n, pl aba-ci or aba-cus-es* : an instrument for doing arithmetic by sliding counters along rods or in grooves
- ab-a-lo-ne** *n* : a shellfish that is a mollusk which has a flattened shell with a pearly lining
- ¹aban-don** *vb* **aban-doned; aban-don-ing** **1** : to leave and never return to : give up completely **2** : to stop having or doing — **aban-don-ment** *n*
- ²abandon** *n* : a feeling of complete freedom
- aban-doned** *adj* : given up : left empty or unused
- abash** *vb* **abashed; abash-ing** : EMBARRASS
- abate** *vb* **abated; 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-vi-ate** *vb* **ab-bre-vi-ated; ab-bre-vi-at-ing** : to make briefer : SHORTEN
- ab-bre-vi-a-tion** *n* : a shortened form of a word or phrase
- ab-di-cate** *vb* **ab-di-cat-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 abided; 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-bodied** *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-ities* : something that is not usual, expected, or normal
- ¹aboard** *adv* : on, onto, or within a ship, train, bus, or airplane
- ²aboard** *prep* : on or into especially for passage
- ¹abode** *past of* ABIDE
- ²abode** *n* : the place where someone stays or lives
- abol-ish** *vb* **abol-ish-ed; abol-ish-ing** : to do away with : put an end to
- ab-ol-i-tion** *n* : a complete elimination of
- ab-ol-i-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

abomination

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-i-nes*: 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* **abrad-ed**; **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-scess-ed** *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*

2

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-sorb-en-cy *n*: the quality or state of being able to draw in or soak up

ab-sorb-ent *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-trac-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-di-ty *n, pl ab-sur-di-ties* **1**: the fact of being ridiculous **2**: something that is ridiculous

abun-dance *n*: a large quantity: PLENTY

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

1**abuse** *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**abuse** *vb* **abused**; **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

aby-s-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

where special subjects are taught **3** : an organization which supports art, science, or literature

ac-cede *vb* **ac-ced-ed**; **ac-ced-ing** : to agree to

ac-cel-er-ate *vb* **ac-cel-er-ated**; **ac-cel-er-ating** **1** : to move or cause to move faster **2** : to cause to happen more quickly

ac-cel-er-a-tion *n* : the act or process of speeding up

ac-cel-er-a-tor *n* : a pedal in an automobile for controlling the speed of the motor

¹ac-cent *vb* **ac-cent-ed**; **ac-cent-ing** **1** : to give a greater force or stress **2** : to mark with a written or printed accent

²ac-cent *n* **1** : a way of pronouncing words shared by the people of a particular country or region **2** : greater stress or force given to a syllable of a word in speaking or to a beat in music **3** : a mark (as ¹ or ₁) used in writing or printing to show the place of greater stress on a syllable

ac-cen-tu-ate *vb* **ac-cen-tu-ated**; **ac-cen-tu-at-ing** : to make more noticeable

ac-cept *vb* **ac-cept-ed**; **ac-cept-ing** **1** : to receive or take willingly **2** : to agree to **3** : to stop resisting **4** : to admit deserving

ac-cept-able *adj* **1** : worthy of being accepted **2** : ADEQUATE **2** — **ac-cept-ably** *adv*

ac-cep-tance *n* **1** : the act of accepting **2** : the quality or state of being accepted or acceptable

¹ac-cess *n* **1** : the right or ability to approach, enter, or use **2** : a way or means of approaching

²access *vb* **ac-cess-ed**; **ac-cess-ing** : to get at : get access to

ac-ces-si-ble *adj* **1** : able to be reached **2** : able to be used or obtained

ac-ces-sion *n* : the rise to a position of power

ac-ces-so-ry *n, pl* **ac-ces-so-ries** **1** : a person who helps another in doing wrong **2** : an object or device not necessary in itself but adding to the beauty or usefulness of something else

ac-ci-dent *n* **1** : something that happens by chance or from unknown causes and that often causes injury or damage : MISHAP **2** : ¹CHANCE **1**

ac-ci-den-tal *adj* **1** : happening by chance or unexpectedly **2** : not happening or done on purpose — **ac-ci-den-tal-ly** *adv*

¹ac-claim *vb* **ac-claim-ed**; **ac-claim-ing** : ¹PRAISE **1**

²acclaim *n* : ²PRAISE **1**

ac-cli-mate *vb* **ac-cli-mat-ed**; **ac-cli-mat-ing** : to adjust or change to fit a new climate or new surroundings

ac-cli-ma-tize *vb* **ac-cli-ma-tized**; **ac-cli-ma-tiz-ing** : ACCLIMATE

ac-com-mo-date *vb* **ac-com-mo-dat-ed**; **ac-com-mo-dat-ing** **1** : to provide with a place to stay or sleep **2** : to provide with something needed : help out **3** : to have room for

ac-com-mo-dat-ing *adj* : ready to help

ac-com-mo-da-tion *n* **1** **accommodations** *pl* : a place where travelers can sleep and find other services **2** : something supplied that is useful or handy

ac-com-pa-ni-ment *n* : music played in support of someone singing or playing an instrument

ac-com-pa-nist *n* : a musician who plays in support of someone else who is singing or playing an instrument

ac-com-pa-ny *vb* **ac-com-pa-nied**; **ac-com-pa-ny-ing** **1** : to go with as a companion **2** : to play a musical accompaniment for **3** : to go or occur with

ac-com-plice *n* : a partner in wrongdoing

ac-com-plish *vb* **ac-com-plish-ed**; **ac-com-plish-ing** : to succeed in doing or reaching

ac-com-plish-ed *adj* : skilled through practice or training : EXPERT

ac-com-plish-ment *n* **1** : the act of successfully doing or reaching **2** : something successfully done or reached especially through effort **3** : an ability or skill gained by practice or training

¹ac-cord *vb* **ac-cord-ed**; **ac-cord-ing** **1** : ¹GIVE **3** **2** : to be in harmony : AGREE

²accord *n* **1** : AGREEMENT **1**, HARMONY **2** : willingness to act or to do something

ac-cord-dance *n* : AGREEMENT **1**

ac-cord-ing-ly *adv* **1** : in the necessary way : in the way called for **2** : as a result : CONSEQUENTLY, SO

ac-cord-ing to *prep* **1** : in agreement with **2** : as stated by

ac-cord-ion *n* : a portable keyboard musical instrument played by forcing air from a bellows past metal reeds

ac-cost *vb* **ac-cost-ed**; **ac-cost-ing** : to approach and speak to in a demanding or aggressive way

¹ac-count *n* **1** : a record of money received and money paid out **2** : an arrangement with a bank to hold money and keep records of transactions **3** : an arrangement for regular dealings with a business **4** : a statement of explanation or of reasons or causes **5** : a statement of facts or events : REPORT **6**

: ²WORTH **1**, IMPORTANCE — **on account of** : for the sake of : because of — **on some-**

one's account : because of someone

²account *vb* **ac-count-ed**; **ac-count-ing** **1** : to think of as : CONSIDER **2** : to take into

consideration **3** : to give an explanation **4** : to be the only or chief reason

ac-coun-tant *n* : someone whose job is keeping the financial records of a person or a business

ac-count-ing *n* : the work of keeping the financial records of a person or a business

ac-cu-mu-late *vb* **ac-cu-mu-lat-ed**; **ac-cu-mu-lat-ing** **1** : COLLECT **3**, GATHER **2** : to increase in quantity or number

ac-cu-mu-la-tion *n* **1** : an act of collecting or gathering **2** : COLLECTION **2**

ac-cu-ra-cy *n* : freedom from mistakes

ac-cu-rate *adj* : free from mistakes : RIGHT — **ac-cu-rate-ly** *adv*

ac-cursed or **ac-curst** *adj* **1** : being under a curse **2** : greatly or strongly disliked

ac-cu-sa-tion *n* : a claim that someone has done something bad or illegal

ac-cuse *vb* **ac-cused**; **ac-cus-ing** : to blame for something wrong or illegal — **ac-cus-er** *n*

ac-cus-tom *vb* **ac-cus-tomed**; **ac-cus-tom-ing** : to cause (someone) to get used to something

ac-cus-tomed *adj* **1** : CUSTOMARY **2**, USUAL **2** : familiar with

ace *n* **1** : a playing card with one figure in its center **2** : a person who is expert at something

2ace *adj* : of the very best kind

ache *vb* **ached**; **ach-ing** **1** : to suffer a dull continuous pain **2** : to desire very much : YEARN

2ache *n* : a dull continuous pain

achieve *vb* **achieved**; **achiev-ing** **1** : to get by means of hard work **2** : to become successful

achieve-ment *n* **1** : the state of having gotten through great effort **2** : something gotten especially by great effort

acid *adj* **1** : having a taste that is sour, bitter, or stinging **2** : harsh or critical in tone **3** : of, relating to, or like an acid — **acid-ly** *adv*

2acid *n* : a chemical compound that tastes sour and forms a water solution which turns blue litmus paper red

acid-i-ty *n, pl acid-i-ties* : the quality, state, or degree of being acid

ac-knowl-edge *vb* **ac-knowl-edged**; **ac-knowl-edg-ing** **1** : to admit the truth or existence of **2** : to make known that something has been received or noticed **3** : to recognize the rights or authority of **4** : to express thanks or appreciation for

ac-knowl-edged *adj* : generally accepted

ac-knowl-edg-ment or **ac-knowl-edg-ment** *n* **1** : an act of admitting the truth or existence of **2** : an act of praising or thanking for

some deed or achievement **3** : a usually written statement saying that a letter or message was received

ac-ne *n* : a skin condition in which pimples and blackheads are present

acorn *n* : the nut of the oak tree

acous-tic or **acous-ti-cal** *adj* **1** : of or relating to hearing or sound **2** : not having the sound changed by electrical devices

acous-tics *n pl* : the qualities in a room that affect how well a person in it can hear

ac-quaint *vb* **ac-quainted**; **ac-quaint-ing** **1** : to cause to know personally **2** : to make familiar

ac-quain-tance *n* **1** : a person someone knows slightly **2** : personal knowledge

ac-qui-esce *vb* **ac-qui-esced**; **ac-qui-es-cing** : to accept, agree, or give consent by keeping silent or by not making objections

ac-qui-es-cence *n* : the act of agreeing, accepting, or giving consent

ac-quire *vb* **ac-quired**; **ac-quir-ing** : to get especially through effort : GAIN

ac-qui-si-tion *n* **1** : the act of gaining especially through effort **2** : something gained especially through effort

ac-quit *vb* **ac-quit-ted**; **ac-quit-ting** **1** : to declare innocent of a crime or of wrongdoing **2** : to behave in a certain way

ac-quit-tal *n* : the act of declaring someone innocent of a crime or wrongdoing

acre *n* : a measure of land area equal to 43,560 square feet (about 4047 square meters)

acre-age *n* : area in acres

ac-rid *adj* **1** : sharp or bitter in taste or odor **2** : very harsh or unpleasant

ac-ro-bat *n* : a person skillful at performing stunts like jumping, balancing, tumbling, and swinging from a bar

ac-ro-bat-ic *adj* : relating to acrobats or acrobatics

ac-ro-bat-ics *n pl* **1** : the art or performance of an acrobat **2** : difficult or dangerous stunts — used either as a singular or a plural in writing

ac-ro-nym *n* : a word formed from the first letter or letters of the words of a compound term

1across *adv* **1** : from one side to the other **2** : a measurement from one side to another **3** : on the opposite side

2across *prep* **1** : to or on the opposite side of **2** : so as to pass, go over, or intersect at an angle **3** : in every part of

1act *n* **1** : something that is done : DEED **2** : a law made by a governing body **3** : a main division of a play **4** : one of the performances in a show **5** : an insincere way of behaving

2act *vb* **acted**; **act-ing** **1** : to do something
: MOVE **2** : to behave oneself in a certain way
3 : to perform as a character in a play **4** : to
perform a certain function **5** : to have a re-
sult : make something happen : WORK — **act**
up : to behave badly

acting *adj* : serving for a short time only or
in place of another

action *n* **1** : the process by which something
produces a change in another thing **2** : the
doing of something **3** : something done **4**
: the way something runs or works **5** : com-
bat in war

action figure *n* : a model often of a super-
hero used as a toy

activate *vb* **ac-ti-vated**; **ac-ti-vating** : to
start working or cause to start working

active *adj* **1** : producing or involving action
or movement **2** : showing that the subject of
a sentence is the doer of the action repre-
sented by the verb **3** : quick in physical
movement : LIVELY **4** : taking part in an ac-
tion or activity — **active-ly** *adv*

activ-ity *n*, *pl* **ac-tiv-i-ties** **1** : energetic ac-
tion **2** : something done especially for relax-
ation or fun

actor *n* : a person who acts especially in a
play or movie

actress *n* : a woman or girl who acts espe-
cially in a play or movie

actual *adj* : really existing or happening
: not false

actual-ly *adv* : in fact ; REALLY

acute *adj* **acuter**; **acutest** **1** : measuring
less than 90 degrees **2** : marked by or show-
ing an ability to understand things that are
not obvious **3** : SEVERE **2**, SHARP **4** : devel-
oping quickly and lasting only a short time
5 : CRITICAL **4**, URGENT **6** : very strong
and sensitive — **acute-ly** *adv* — **acute-ness**
n

ad *n* : ADVERTISEMENT

A.D. *abbr* in the year of our Lord — abbrevi-
ation for Latin *anno Domini*, which means
“in the year of our Lord”

ad-age *n* : an old familiar saying : PROVERB

ad-a-mant *adj* : not giving in

Ad-am's apple *n* : the lump formed in the
front of a person's neck by cartilage in the
throat

adapt *vb* **adapt-ed**; **adapt-ing** **1** : to change
behavior so that it is easier to function in a
particular place or situation **2** : to make or
become suitable or able to function

adapt-able *adj* : capable of changing or being
changed to better suit a situation

ad-ap-ta-tion *n* **1** : the act or process of
changing to better suit a situation **2** : a body
part or feature or a behavior that helps a liv-

ing thing survive and function better in its
environment

add *vb* **add-ed**; **add-ing** **1** : to combine num-
bers into a single sum **2** : to join or unite to
something **3** : to cause to have **4** : to say
something more — **add up** **1** : to be added
together to equal the expected amount **2** : to
make sense

ad-dend *n* : a number that is to be added to
another number

ad-den-dum *n*, *pl* **ad-den-da** : something
added (as to a book)

ad-der *n* **1** : a poisonous snake of Europe or
Africa **2** : a harmless North American snake

ad-dict *n* **1** : a person who is not able to stop
taking drugs **2** : a person who likes or en-
joys something excessively

ad-dicted *adj* **1** : unable to stop using a drug
2 : having an unusually great need to do or
have something — **ad-dic-tion** *n*

ad-di-tion *n* **1** : the act or process of adding
numbers to obtain their sum **2** : something
added — **in addition** : as something more
— **in addition to** : along with or together
with

ad-di-tion-al *adj* : ¹EXTRA — **ad-di-tion-al-ly**
adv

ad-di-tive *n* : a substance added to another in
small amounts

ad-dle *vb* **ad-dled**; **ad-dling** : to make or be-
come confused

1ad-dress *vb* **ad-dressed**; **ad-dress-ing** **1**
: to put directions for delivery on **2** : to
speak or write to **3** : to use a specified name
or title when speaking or writing to (some-
one) **4** : to deal with : give attention to

2ad-dress *n* **1** : the place where a person can
usually be reached **2** : the directions for de-
livery placed on mail **3** : the symbols (as nu-
merals or letters) that identify the location
where particular information (as a home
page) is stored on a computer especially on
the Internet **4** : a formal speech **5** : the name
of a computer account from which e-mail
can be sent or received

ad-dress-ee *n* : the person to whom some-
thing is addressed

ad-e-noids *n pl* : fleshy growths near the
opening of the nose into the throat

ad-e-pt *adj* : very good at something —
ade-pt-ly *adv* — **ade-pt-ness** *n*

ad-e-quate *adj* **1** : ¹ENOUGH **2** : good enough
— **ad-e-quate-ly** *adv*

ad-her-e *vb* **ad-hered**; **ad-her-ing** **1** : to stick
tight : CLING **2** : to act in the way that is re-
quired by

ad-her-ence *n* : the act of doing what is re-
quired by

ad-her-ent *n* : a person who is loyal to a be-
lief, an organization, or a leader