

abandon: lacking restraint or control; feeling of extreme emotional intensity; unbounded enthusiasm

abandoned: recklessly unrestrained; deserted; left to destruction

abandonment: giving up completely; freedom from constraint

abase: humiliate; lower or depress in rank or esteem

abash: embarrass; make ashamed or uneasy; disconcert

abate: subside; decrease; become less in amount or intensity

abbreviate: make shorter; reduce to shorter form intended to represent full form, as for word or phrase

abdicate: give up, renounce, abandon, lay down, or withdraw from, as a right or claim

aberrant: abnormal; markedly different from an accepted norm

abet: aid, usually in doing something wrong; encourage

abeyance: suspended action; temporary cessation or suspension

abhor: fill with horror and loathing; horrify; hate

abide: endure; put up with; bear; tolerate

abiding: lasting for a long time; enduring; permanent

abjure: renounce upon oath; abandon forever

ablution: washing or cleansing of the body, especially as part of religious rite

abnegate: give up or surrender; deny something to oneself

abnegation: repudiation; self-sacrifice; renouncing your own interests in favor of interests of others

abolish: cancel; put an end to; destroy completely

abolition: ending; act of abolishing; act of doing away with

abominable: detestable; extremely unpleasant; very bad

aboriginal: being the first of its kind in a region; primitive; native

abortive: unsuccessful; failing to accomplish an intended objective; fruitless

abrade: wear away by friction; scrape; erode

abrasive: rubbing away; tending to grind down

abridge: condense; shorten; reduce length of written text

abrogate: abolish, do away with, or annul, especially by authority

abscond: leave quickly and secretly and hide oneself, often to avoid arrest or prosecution

absent: go away or leave ; missing; not present

absenteeism: habitual not to appear, especially for work or other regular duty

abstain: refrain; hold oneself back voluntarily from an action or practice

abstemious: sparing or moderation in eating and drinking; temperate

abstruse: obscure; profound; difficult to understand.

abundant: plentiful; possessing riches or resources

abundantly: in great numbers; in a plentiful or sufficient degree; plentifully

abut: border upon; adjoin; touch or end at one end or side; lie adjacent

abysmal: bottomless; very profound; limitless; very bad

accede: agree; give consent, often at insistence of another; concede

accelerating: increasing in speed

acceleration: faster rate of improvement; rate of change of velocity with respect to time

accentuate: emphasize; stress; pronounce with a stress or accent; mark with an accent

accessible: easily approached or entered; obtainable; easy to talk to or get along with

accident: event that takes place without one's foresight or expectation; sudden, and unexpected event

accidentally: inadvertently; by chance; casually; fortuitously; not essentially or intrinsically

acclaim: applaud; announce with great approval

acclimate: accustom or become accustomed to a new environment or situation; adapt

acclivity: upward slope, as of hill

accolade: award of merit; expression of approval; praise

accommodate: do a favor or service for; provide for; supply with; make suitable; adapt; allow for

accommodating: helpful in bringing about a harmonious adaptation

accomplish: succeed in doing; bring to pass; achieve; reach the end of; complete

accost: approach and speak to boldly or aggressively, as with demand or request

accouter: equip; provide with military equipment

accretion: growth or increase in size by gradual external addition, fusion, or inclusion

accrue: increase, accumulate, or come about as a result of growth; accumulate over time

accumulation: increase by natural growth or addition; concentration

accusation: indictment; charge of wrongdoing that is made against a person or other party

accustomed: habitual to; used to; frequently practiced, used, or experienced; customary

acerbity: bitterness of speech and temper; sourness or acidness of taste, character, or tone

acetic: having properties of vinegar; sour

achieve: gain with effort; accomplish; fulfill

achievement: feat; accomplishment; award for completing a particular task or meeting an objective

acidulous: slightly sour in taste or in manner; sharp; caustic

acoustics: science of sound; quality that makes a room easy or hard to hear in

acquaint: inform about; cause to come to know personally; make familiar

acquainted: known by or familiar with another; informed or familiar

acquiesce: assent; agree without protesting

acquire: gain through experience or effort; gain possession of; locate with tracking system

acrid: unpleasantly sharp or bitter to taste or smell; bitterly pungent

acrimonious: bitter and sharp in language, tone, or manner

acrophobia: fear of heights; abnormal fear of high places

actively: energetically; vigorously; in an active manner; voluntarily, not passively

actuarial: calculating; pertaining to insurance statistics

actuate: put into motion or action; activate

acuity: sharpness; acuteness of vision or perception; keenness

acumen: mental keenness; quickness of perception

adaptable: flexible; becoming or being made suitable to particular situation or use

adaptive: having a capacity for adaptation; capable of adapting

addendum: something added or to be added, especially a supplement to a book

additional: further; extra; supplemental or added to

addle: muddle; drive crazy; become confused

adept: expert at; very skilled; having or showing knowledge and skill and aptitude

adherent: person who adheres; one who follows or upholds a leader, party, cause

adhesive: glue; paste ; substance that unites or bonds surfaces together

adjoin: be next to; be contiguous to; border on

adjudicate: hear and settle a case by judicial procedure

adjunct: something added on or attached generally nonessential or inferior

adjure: appeal to or entreat earnestly; command or enjoin solemnly, as under oath

administer: govern; supervise; give or apply medications

admiration: favorable judgment; feeling of pleasure, wonder, and approval

admittedly: doubtlessly; in an acknowledged manner; confessedly

admonish: warn; counsel someone against something to be avoided

admonition: gentle or friendly reproof; cautionary advice or warning

adorn: enhance or decorate with or as if with ornaments

adornment: embellishment; decoration; something that beautifies or adorns; ornament

adroit: skillful and adept under pressing conditions

adulation: excessive flattery or admiration; unmerited praise

adulterate: make impure by adding inferior or tainted substances

adumbrate: give hint or indication of something; disclose partially or guardedly; overshadow; shade

advance: proceed; move forward; improve; moving forward

advanced: improved; highly developed or complex; ahead of the times; progressive

advent: coming or arrival, especially of something extremely important

adventitious: accidental; casual; not inherent but added extrinsically

adverse: in opposing direction; harmful or unfavorable; acting or serving to oppose

advocacy: support; active pleading on behalf of something

aerie: nest of bird, such as eagle, built on a cliff or other high place

aesthetic: elegant or tasteful; of or concerning appreciation of beauty or good taste

affable: easily approachable; warmly friendly

affect: have an emotional or cognitive impact upon

affection: fondness; tender feeling toward another; fondness

affectionate: having affection or warm regard; loving; fond; kindly inclined; zealous

affinity: natural attraction, liking, or feeling of kinship; relationship by marriage

affirmation: positive assertion; confirmation; solemn pledge by one who refuses to take an oath

affix: fasten; append; add on; secure to something

affluence: abundance; a plentiful supply of material goods; wealth

affluent: having an abundant supply of money or possessions of value

affront: insult; offense; intentional act of disrespect

agenda: items of business at a meeting; list or program of things to be done or considered

agglomeration: collection; heap; act or process of gathering into a mass

aggrandize: increase scope of; extend; intensify; make greater in power, influence, stature, or reputation

aggravating: irritating; annoying; making worse or more heinous

aggregate: gather into a mass, sum, or whole; amount to

aggressive: making assaults; unjustly attacking; combative; hostile; tending to sp quickly

aggressiveness: feeling of hostility that arouses thoughts of attack; quality of being bold and enterprising

aghast: struck by shock, terror, or amazement

agility: mentally quick; moving quickly and lightly

agitate: cause to move with violence or sudden force; upset; disturb

agitation: anxiety; extreme emotional disturbance

agnostic: one who is skeptical of existence of a god or any ultimate reality

agrarian: pertaining to land or its cultivation; relating to agricultural or rural matters

ajar: half-open; slightly turned or opened

alacrity: cheerful promptness or willingness; eagerness; speed or quickness

alchemy: medieval chemistry; magical or mysterious power or process of transforming

alcove: nook; small, recessed section of a room

algorithm: established procedure for solving problem

alien: dissimilar, inconsistent, or opposed in nature; very different place, society, or person

alimentary: providing nourishment; concerned with food, nutrition, or digestion

allay: calm; pacify; reduce the intensity of; relieve

allege: state without proof; assert to be true

allegory: symbolic representation of abstract ideas or principles in narrative, dramatic, or pictorial form

alliteration: repetition of beginning sound in poetry

allocate: assign; distribute according to plan

allude: refer casually or indirectly, or by suggestion

allusion: indirect reference; symbolical reference or comparison; metaphor

aloft: in or into a high place; high or higher up

alternate: happening or following in turns; succeeding each other continuously; substitute

altitude: elevation especially above sea level; height

altruistic: unselfishly generous; concerned for others

amalgamate: combine; unite in one body; mix or alloy a metal with mercury

amass: collect; gather for oneself, as for one's pleasure or profit

ambidextrous: capable of using either hand with equal ease

ambience: particular environment or surrounding influence; atmosphere of environment

ambiguous: unclear or doubtful in meaning

ambivalence: state of having contradictory or conflicting emotional attitudes, such as love and hate

amble: moving at an easy pace; walk slowly or leisurely

ambulatory: able to walk; formed or adapted for walking; not stationary

ameliorate: make or become better; improve; grow better

amenable: responsive to advice or suggestion; responsible to higher authority; willing to comply with; agreeable

amenities: convenient features; courtesies

amiable: good-natured and likable; lovable; warmly friendly

amicable: exhibiting friendliness or goodwill; not quarrelsome

amid: in the middle of; among; surrounded by

amity: friendship; peaceful relations, as between nations

amorous: moved by sexual love; loving

amorphous: formless; lacking shape or definition

amphibian: able to live both on land and in water

amphitheater: oval building with tiers of seats from central open space or arena

amplify: broaden or clarify by expanding; intensify; make larger or more powerful; increase

amputate: cut off part of body, especially by surgery; prune

anachronistic: having time error in story; erroneous in date; in wrong time

analgesic: serving to reduce sensibility to pain without loss of consciousness

analogous: comparable; similar or alike

anarchist: person who seeks to overturn established government; advocate of abolishing authority

anathema: solemn curse; someone or something regarded as a curse

ancestor: forefather; forebear; forerunner or predecessor

ancestry: family descent; series or line of ancestors; lineage

ancillary: serving as aid or accessory; auxiliary

anecdotal: having the character of an anecdote; of short story of interesting or humorous incident

angular: sharp-cornered; consisting of an angle or angles; stiff in manner

animate: endowed with life; alive; living; animated

animated: having life or vigor or spirit; filled with activity; in form of cartoon

animus: feeling of enmity or ill will; attitude that informs one's actions; disposition

annals: chronological record of the events of successive years

annihilate: destroy completely; reduce to nonexistence

annotate: comment; make explanatory notes

announce: herald; give out; proclaim; make known publicly

announcement: formal public statement; act of making known publicly

annoy: disturb, especially by minor irritations; irritate

annuity: annual payment of allowance or income; periodical payment, amounting to a fixed sum in each year

annul: make or declare void or invalid; reduce to nothing

anodyne: source of relaxation or comfort; medicine that relieves pain

anoint: apply oil or similar substance to; put oil on during religious ceremony as a sign of sanctification or consecration.

anomalous: deviating from normal or common order, form, or rule

anomaly: irregularity; person or something that is unusual; departure from normal or common order

anonymous: having no name; having unknown or unacknowledged name

antagonism: active resistance; condition of being an opposing principle, force, or factor

antecede: precede; go before in time, and sometimes in place, rank, or logical order

antecedents: preceding events or circumstances that influence what comes later; ancestors or early background

antediluvian: antiquated; extremely old and ancient; belonging to very ancient times

anthology: book of literary selections by various authors

anthropocentric: regarding human beings as the center of the universe

anthropoid: manlike; resembling a human, especially in shape or outward appearance

anthropomorphic: having human form or characteristics

anticlimax: letdown in thought or emotion; decline viewed in disappointing contrast with previous rise

antipathy: strong feeling of aversion; dislike

antithesis: contrast; direct contrast; opposition

anxious: eager; keen; worried; uneasy and apprehensive about an uncertain event or matter

apathy: lack of caring; indifference

aperture: opening; diameter of such an opening; hole

apex: highest point; vertex; summit; climax

aphasia: loss of speech due to injury or illness

aphorism: definition or concise statement of principle; tersely phrased statement of truth or opinion

apiary: place where bees and beehives are kept, especially where bees are raised for their honey

aplomb: poise; self-confident assurance

apocryphal: untrue; of questionable authorship or authenticity; erroneous; fictitious

apogee: the highest point; point in orbit most distant from the body being orbited

apolitical: having aversion or lack of concern for political affairs

apologist: person who argues in defense or justification of something, such as doctrine, policy, or institution

apostate: one who abandons his religious faith or political beliefs

apotheosis: elevation to godhood; fact or action of becoming a god; an ideal example of something

appall: depress or discourage with fear; grow faint or become weak

apparition: ghostly figure; sudden or unusual sight; appearance; state of being visible

appellation: name; title; act of naming; act of appealing for aid, sympathy

append: attach; add as supplement or appendix

appliance: durable goods for home or office use; device or instrument for household use

apply: exert; put into service; avail oneself to;

apportion: distribute; allot; give out as one's portion or share

apposite: strikingly appropriate and relevant; well-suited

appraise: estimate value of; evaluate, especially in official capacity

apprehension: fearful or uneasy anticipation of the future; act of seizing or capturing; understanding

apprenticeship: term during which one learns a trade from skilled worker; service or legal condition of an apprentice

apprise: inform; give notice to; make aware

approaching: impending; of the relatively near future; coming closer to another

approbation: expression of warm approval; praise

appropriation: funding; money set aside for a specific purpose

apropos: with reference or regard; in respect

aptly: in a competent capable manner; in an apt or suitable manner

aquatic: consisting of, relating to, or being in water

aquiline: curved or hooked like an eagle's beak

arable: fit for growing crops, as by plowing

arbiter: person with power to decide a dispute; judge

arboretum: place where different tree varieties are exhibited

arcane: secret; mysterious; known only to the initiated

archaeology: study of artifacts and relics of early mankind

archaic: no longer current or applicable; antiquated

archetype: prototype; original model or type after which other similar things are patterned

archipelago: group of closely located islands

architecture: art and science of designing and erecting buildings; buildings and other large structures

ardent: displaying or by strong enthusiasm or devotion; passionate

arduous: demanding great effort or labor; difficult

arid: dry; lacking moisture, especially having insufficient rainfall to support trees or plants

aristocracy: hereditary nobility; privileged class

armada: a fleet of warships; a large group of moving things

aroma: fragrance; scent; pleasant characteristic odor, as of a plant, spice, or food

aromatic: fragrant or sweet-smelling; caused by fragrant odor

arousal: act of awaking from sleep; arousing from what is like sleep

arouse: excite; stimulate; awaken from or as if from sleep

arraign: officially charge someone in a court of law

arrears: being in debt; unpaid, overdue debt or an unfulfilled obligation

arrogate: claim without justification; claim for oneself without right

arroyo: deep gully; a dry gulch; brook or creek; watercourse

arthritis: inflammation of a joint or joints

article: essay; editorial; individual thing or element of a class

articulate: expressing oneself easily in clear and effective language

artifice: subtle but base deception; trickery; cleverness or skill; ingenuity

artisan: manually skilled worker; craftsman, as opposed to artist

artless: free of artificiality; natural; open and honest

ascendancy: superiority or decisive advantage; domination

ascetic: leading a life of self-discipline and self-denial; austere

ascribe: inscribe or dedicate; attribute to a specified cause, source, or origin; assign as a quality

aseptic: preventing infection; having cleansing effect

ashen: ash-colored; very pale; consisting of ashes

askance: with sideways or indirect look; Turned to side, especially of eyes

askew: turned or twisted toward one side; at an angle

aspect: distinct feature or element in a problem; a way in which something can be viewed by the mind

asperity: sharpness of temper; roughness or harshness, as of surface, sound, or climate

aspirant: one who aspires, as to advancement, honors, or a high position

assail: assault; attack with or as if with violent blows

assay: analyze; evaluate; examine by trial or experiment; put to test

assembly: gathering; meeting; a group of persons gathered together for common reason

assent: express agreement to what is alleged or proposed; accept

assiduous: constant in application or attention; diligent; unceasing or persistent

assimilate: incorporate and absorb into mind; make similar; cause to resemble

assist: give help or support to, especially as a subordinate

assistant: helper; person who assists or helps someone else

assuage: ease or lessen pain; satisfy or appease

astigmatism: eye defect that prevents proper focus

astriquent: causing contraction; having the effect of drawing tissue together; stern or austere

astronomical: enormously large or extensive; relating to astronomy

asunder: into separate parts or pieces; apart

asymmetric: not identical on both sides of a dividing central line

atavism: resemblance to remote ancestors rather than to parents; deformity returning after passage of two or more generations

atavistic: displaying characteristics of previous cultural era or of previous ancestral form

atheistic: denying existence of God; godless

atrocit: brutal deed; atrocious condition, quality, or behavior; monstrousness

atrophy: wasting away; decrease in size; reduction in the functionality of an organ caused by disease

attach: fasten; annex; be in contact with

attached: fastened together; joined by wall, especially by sharing a wall with another building; not freestanding

attainment: something, such as an accomplishment or achievement; achievement

attenuate: make slender, fine, or small; weaken; lessen density of

attorney: lawyer; one who is appointed by another to act in his place or stead; proxy

attract: draw to, or cause to tend to; engage or fix, as the mind, attention; invite or allure

attribute: essential quality; reputation; honor

attrition: gradual decrease in numbers; reduction in work force without firing employees; wearing away of opposition by means of harassment

atypical: not normal; unusual or irregular; not representative of a group, class, or type

audacious: fearlessly, often recklessly daring; bold

audit: examination of accounts; adjustment or correction of accounts

auditory: of or relating to hearing, the organs of hearing, or the sense of hearing

auger: hand tool for boring holes; hollow drill used to take core samples of soil, ice

augment: make greater, as in size, extent, or quantity

augury: sign of something coming; art or practice of foretelling events by signs or omens

aureole: the outermost region of the sun's atmosphere; halo

auroral: characteristic of dawn; dawning, eastern, like new beginning; relating to the atmospheric phenomenon auroras

auspicious: attended by favorable circumstances; marked by success; prosperous

austere: strict or severe in discipline; severely simple and unornamented

authenticate: prove genuine; establish authenticity of

authoritarian: expecting absolute obedience; completely dominating another's will

authoritative: having weight of authority; peremptory and dictatorial

authority: jurisdiction; power to enforce laws, exact obedience, command, determine, or judge; government

authorize: empower; give permission for; sanction

autocrat: dictator; ruler having unlimited power

autocratic: having absolute, unchecked power; dictatorial

automaton: mechanism that imitates actions of humans

autonomous: self-governing; not controlled by others or by outside forces; independent

autonomy: independence; self-government or the right of self-government; self-determination

auxiliary: helper, additional or subsidiary

avalanche: great mass of falling snow and ice

avarice: greediness for wealth; insatiable desire of gain

aver: declare to be true; affirm

averse: reluctant; disinclined; turned away or backward; unwilling

aversion: firm dislike; turning away; avoidance of a thing, situation, or behavior because of dislike

aviary: large cage, building, or enclosure in which birds are reared or kept

aviation: art or science of flying; flight; aeronautics

avid: greedy; eager for; marked by keen interest and enthusiasm

avocation: activity taken up in addition to one's regular work or profession, usually for enjoyment

avoidance: keeping away from or preventing from happening

avow: declare openly; acknowledge openly, boldly, and unashamedly

avuncular: in manner of uncle, pertaining to uncle; kind, genial, benevolent or tolerant

awkwardly: in an uncomfortable, nervous or embarrassed way

awry: in a position that is turned toward one side; away from correct course

axiom: self-evident truth requiring no proof

azure: sky blue; light purplish-blue