

PTE Word List for Academic (A B)

abbreviation

n.
shortening something by omitting parts of it

abnormal

a. Syn. anomalous; unusual
unusual; not typical; not normal

abolish

v. Syn. cancel; annul
cancel; put an end to; destroy completely

aboriginal

a. Syn. primitive; native
being the first of its kind in a region; primitive; native

abort

v. Syn. failure; terminate
stop; terminate before completion; terminate a pregnancy

abound

v.
be full of; be plentiful

abrasion

n. Syn. scratch; friction
scratch; friction

abridge

v. Syn. condense; shorten
condense; shorten; reduce length of written text

abrupt

a. Syn. sudden; unforeseen
broken off; very steep; having sudden transitions from one subject to another

absorb

v. Syn. monopolize; receive
assimilate or incorporate; suck or drink up; occupy full attention

abstract

a. Syn. theoretical; abstruse
theoretical; not concrete; not applied or practical; difficult to understand

abundance

n. Syn. profusion; richness
great or plentiful amount; fullness to overflowing

accelerate

v. Syn. speed; hasten
move faster; cause to develop or progress more quickly; occur sooner than expected

accessory

n. Syn. adjunct; appendage
additional object; useful but not essential thing; subordinate or supplementary item

acclaim

v. Syn. applaud
applaud; announce with great approval

accommodate

v. Syn. adapt; oblige
do a favor or service for; provide for; supply with; make suitable; adapt; allow for

accommodation

n.
living quarters provided for public convenience; something that meets a need; convenience

accompany

v.
travel with; be associated with

accord

n. Syn. agreement; treaty
settlement or compromise of conflicting opinions; written agreement between two states

accountable

a.
liable to being called to account; answerable; responsible; something that can be explained

accumulate

v. Syn. collect
pile up; collect; mount up; increase

accuser

n.
one who accuses; one who brings a charge of crime or fault

achieve

v. Syn. accomplish; fulfill
gain with effort; accomplish; fulfill

acquaint

v. Syn. Inform

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

acquire

v. Syn. obtain; gain

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

acquisition

n. Syn. acquirement; attainment

act of contracting or assuming or acquiring possession of something

activate

v. Syn. encourage; stimulate

make active or more active; stimulate; make radioactive

acute

a. Syn. keen; sharp

quickly perceptive; keen; having a sharp point or tip; extremely sharp or severe

adapt

v. Syn. alter; modify

make fit for; change to suit a new purpose

addict

v.

cause someone to become dependent; indulge in; be devoted to

adept

a. Syn. competent; proficient

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

adequate

a. Syn. sufficient; enough

sufficient; enough to meet a purpose

adhere

v. Syn. stick; bond

stick fast; stick to firmly; be compatible or in accordance with

adjacent

a. Syn. adjoining; neighboring

adjoining; neighboring; close to; lying near

adjoin

v. Syn. attach

be next to; be contiguous to; border on

administer

v. Syn. govern; supervise
govern; supervise; give or apply medications

administrate

v.
administer; supply; supervise or be in charge of

admission

n. Syn. admittance; entrance; access
act or practice of admitting; power or permission to enter

adolescence

n. Syn. youth; juvenescence
state of growing up from childhood to manhood or womanhood; transitional period between youth and maturity

advent

n. Syn. arrival
coming or arrival, especially of something extremely important

adverse

a. Syn. unfavorable; hostile
in opposing direction; harmful or unfavorable; acting or serving to oppose

advertise

v. Syn. notify
give notice to; inform or apprise; make known; give public notice of

advocate

v. Syn. urge; support
speak, plead, or argue in favour of; plead for; push for something

aerial

a.
of the air or atmosphere; produced by or found in the air; performed in the air

aesthetic

a. Syn. artistic; elegant
elegant or tasteful; of or concerning appreciation of beauty or good taste

affiliate

v. Syn. associate; incorporate
associate; incorporate

affirm

v. Syn. assert; confirm
assert; confirm

affix

v. Syn. fasten; attach
fasten; append; add on; secure to something

afflict

v. Syn. plague; suffer; torment
cause pain, suffering or distress

aggregate

v. Syn. gather; accumulate
gather into a mass, sum, or whole; amount to

agitation

n. Syn. anxiety; disturbance
anxiety; extreme emotional disturbance

agony

n.
extreme pain of mind or body; anguish; last struggle of life; death struggle

agreeable

a. Syn. pleasing; acceptable
ready to consent or submit; acceptable

airing

a.
exposure to air for freshening or drying; exposure to public attention; radio or television broadcast

albeit

ad.
even though; although; notwithstanding

alienate

v. Syn. estrange; transfer; separate
cause to become unfriendly or hostile; transfer property or ownership; isolate or dissociate emotionally

allege

v. Syn. affirm
state without proof; assert to be true

allegiance

n. Syn. loyalty; fidelity
loyalty to a nation, sovereign, or cause; fidelity to any person or thing; devotion

alleviate

v. Syn. relieve; moderate; reduce
provide physical relief, as from pain; make easier; remove in part

allocate

v. Syn. assign
assign; distribute according to plan

allot

v. Syn. distribute
parcel out in parts or portions; distribute to each individual concerned; assign as a share or lot

allowance

n. Syn. authorization; permission
approval; act of allowing, granting, or admitting

alloy

v. Syn. combine; mix
combine; mix; make less pure; lessen or moderate

alongside

ad.
along or by the side; side by side with

alphabetical

a.
arranged in customary order of the letters of a language

alter

v. Syn. modify; change; convert
modify; cause to change; make different; convert

alternate

a. Syn. substitute
happening or following in turns; succeeding each other continuously; substitute

altitude

n. Syn. elevation; height
elevation especially above sea level; height

amateur

a. Syn. nonprofessional; inexpert
nonprofessional; lacking the skill of a professional, as in an art

amaze

v. Syn. stun; astonish; shock
astonish; affect with wonder

ambiguity

n.
state of being ambiguous; doubtfulness or uncertainty

ambiguous

a.
unclear or doubtful in meaning

ambitious

a. Syn. aspiring; enterprising
aspiring; having a strong desire for success or achievement

amend

v. Syn. correct; improve
change for the better; improve; remove faults or errors

amends

n.
compensation for a loss or injury; recompense; reparation

amid

ad. Syn. among
in the middle of; among; surrounded by

amidst

ad. Syn. amid; among
amid; in the middle of; among

ammunition

n. Syn. weapon
military stores or provisions; articles used in weapons, as powder, balls, shot, shells

amphibian

a.
able to live both on land and in water

ample

a. Syn. abundant
more than enough in size or scope or capacity; fairly large

amplify

v. Syn. intensify; increase
broaden or clarify by expanding; intensify; make larger or more powerful; increase

amuse

v. Syn. absorb; distract; bewilder
occupy in an agreeable, pleasing, or entertaining fashion; cause laughter or be funny; delude or deceive

analogy

n. Syn. similarity; parallelism
similarity in some respects; comparison based on similarity

analyse

v.

resolve anything complex into its elements; separate into parts for purpose of examination of each separately

analytical

a.

of analysis; resolving into elements or parts

ancestor

n. Syn. forefather; forebear

forefather; forebear; forerunner or predecessor

anchor

v. Syn. fasten

secure or fasten firmly; be fixed in place; narrate or coordinate

anecdote

n. Syn. episode; story

short account of amusing or interesting event; short narrative; secret story of history or biography

annihilate

v. Syn. destroy

destroy completely; reduce to nonexistence

annoy

v. Syn. disturb; irritate

disturb, especially by minor irritations; irritate

annuity

n.

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

antagonism

n. Syn. hostility; enmity

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

antarctic

a.

opposite to the northern or arctic pole; relating to the southern pole or to the region near it

anthem

n. Syn. song; hymn

song of praise or patriotism; song of devotion or loyalty

anthology

n. Syn. collection

book of literary selections by various authors

anthropology

n.
social science that studies origins and social relationships of human beings

antibiotic

a. Syn. antibacterial
of or relating to chemical substance that kills microorganisms and cures infections

anticipate

v. Syn. expect; predict
act in advance of; deal with ahead of time; predict

anticipation

n. Syn. expectation
something expected; pleasurable expectation; wishing with confidence

antonym

n.
word of opposite meaning; counter term

apologetic

a.
offering or expressing an apology or excuse; serving as or containing a formal justification or defense

apparatus

n. Syn. equipment
a group of parts that work together to perform given function; appliance or device for particular purpose

apparent

a. Syn. visible
capable of being seen, or easily seen; open to view; visible to eye

append

v. Syn. attach
attach; add as supplement or appendix

appendix

n. Syn. appendage; adjunct; concomitant
something appended or added

applaud

v. Syn. clap; acclaim
acclaim; express approval, especially by clapping the hands

appliance

n.
durable goods for home or office use; device or instrument for household use

applicant

n. Syn. candidate
candidate

appraisal

n. Syn. assessment; evaluation
assessment; evaluation; the classification of someone or something with respect to its worth

appreciable

a. Syn. considerable; perceptible
considerable; perceptible

apprentice

n.
works for an expert to learn a trade; beginner; learner

approximate

v. Syn. approach
approach; come near

apt

a. Syn. appropriate; suitable
likely; exactly suitable; appropriate; quick to learn or understand

aptitude

n. Syn. intelligence; talent
inherent ability; quickness in learning and understanding

aquarium

n.
tank or pool or bowl filled with water for keeping live fish and underwater animals

aquatic

a. Syn. watery
consisting of, relating to, or being in water

arbitrary

a. Syn. capricious; impulse
randomly chosen; determined by chance or impulse, and not by reason or principle

arc

n.
continuous portion of a circle; something curved in shape

arch

n.
any part of a curved line

archaic

a. Syn. antiquated

no longer current or applicable; antiquated

architect

n.

one who designs and supervises the construction of buildings or other large structures

archives

n.

public records; place where public records are kept

ardent

a. Syn. intense; passionate; zealous

displaying or by strong enthusiasm or devotion; passionate

arduous

a. Syn. hard; strenuous

demanding great effort or labor; difficult

arena

n.

playing field where sports events take place; large structure for open-air sports or entertainments

arise

v. Syn. spring

come up from a lower to a higher position; come above the horizon; spring up; come into action

armour

n.

defensive covering, as of metal, wood, or leather, worn to protect the body against weapons

arouse

v. Syn. excite; stimulate; awake

excite; stimulate; awaken from or as if from sleep

array

v. Syn. marshal

set out for display or use; place in orderly arrangement

articulate

a. Syn. effective; distinct

expressing oneself easily in clear and effective language

artificial

a. Syn. unreal

made by humans; produced rather than natural.

artillery

n.
large weapons, such as cannon and missile launchers operated by crews; branch of army in use of large weapons

ascend

v. Syn. climb; mount
climb; mount

ascent

n.
upward slope or grade; movement upward

ascertain

v. Syn. discover; insure
find out for certain; discover with certainty; make sure of

ascribe

v. Syn. refer; attribute; assign
inscribe or dedicate; attribute to a specified cause, source, or origin; assign as a quality

aspect

n. Syn. respect; facet
distinct feature or element in a problem; a way in which something can be viewed by the mind

aspiration

n. Syn. ambition; longing
ambition; longing

aspire

v. Syn. dream; seek
seek to attain; long for; strive toward an end

assassination

n.
act of assassinating; killing by treacherous violence; murder of public figure by surprise attack

assemble

v. Syn. gather
put together; bring or call together into a group or whole

assert

v. Syn. declare
declare or state with confidence; put oneself forward boldly

assess

v. Syn. estimate; judge
estimate value; judge worth of something

asset

n. Syn. properties; advantage
properties; advantage; useful or valuable quality

assign

v. Syn. appoint; allot
appoint; allot; make over; point out authoritatively or exactly

assorted

a. Syn. varied; miscellaneous
varied; miscellaneous

assumption

n. Syn. hypothesis; supposition
something taken for accepted as true without proof; taking over or taking possession of

assurance

n. Syn. certainty; confidence; insurance; guaranty
promise or pledge; certainty; self-confidence; freedom from doubt

astound

v. Syn. surprise; shock
affect with wonder; surprise; shock

astronomy

n.
branch of physics that studies celestial bodies and universe as a whole

asylum

n. Syn. protection
place of refuge or shelter; protection

athlete

n.
sports man; one who contended for prize in public games

atlas

n.
a bound volume of maps, charts, or tables

attach

v. Syn. fasten; annex
fasten; annex; be in contact with

attain

v. Syn. gain
achieve or accomplish; gain

attendance

n.
act of being present

attendant

n. Syn. aide; servant
aide; servant; accompanying; person who participates in a meeting

attribute

n. Syn. trait
essential quality; reputation; honor

audible

a. Syn. perceptible; discernible
perceptible; heard or perceptible by the ear

audit

n.
examination of accounts; adjustment or correction of accounts

auditorium

n.
area of theater or concert hall where audience sits

augment

v. Syn. increase
make greater, as in size, extent, or quantity

authentic

a. Syn. genuine; real; valid; trustworthy
not counterfeit or copied; valid; trustworthy

author

n.
beginner, former, or first mover of anything; creator; originator; one who composes or writes book or composer

authoritative

a.
having weight of authority; peremptory and dictatorial

authorize

v. Syn. empower; sanction
empower; give permission for; sanction

automate

v.
replace or enhance human labor with machines

automatic

a. Syn. automated; mechanized; involuntary
mechanized; operating with minimal human intervention; independent of external control

automation

n.
act or process of converting the controlling of a machine or device to a more automatic system, such as computer or electronic controls

automobile

n.
self-propelled vehicle suitable for use on street or roadway

autonomy

n. Syn. independence; liberty
independence; self-government or the right of self-government; self-determination

auxiliary

a. Syn. aiding; supplementary
helper, additional or subsidiary

avail

v. Syn. profit; promote
turn to advantage of; be of service to; profit; promote

avalanche

n.
great mass of falling snow and ice

avert

v. Syn. prevent
prevent; turn or cause to turn off or away

aviation

n. Syn. flying; flight; aeronautics
art or science of flying; flight; aeronautics

axis

n. Syn. shaft; pivot
the center around which something rotates; pivot

backward

a.
directed to the back or rear; unwilling; averse; reluctant; hesitating; undeveloped

bacterium

n.
single celled organism with no nucleus

badminton

n.
game played on a court with light long-handled rackets

baffle

v. Syn. frustrate; perplex
frustrate as by confusing or perplexing; impede force or movement of

ballot

n.
printed or written ticket used in voting; act of voting; whole number of votes cast at an election

bamboo

n.
plant of the family of grasses, and genus Bambusa, growing in tropical countries

ban

n. Syn. Prohibition
official prohibition; decree that prohibits something

bandage

n.
strip of woven material, used in dressing and binding up wounds

banish

v. Syn. dispel
drive out; drive away; compel to depart; dispel

bankrupt

a.
penniless, without any money; financially ruined

banquet

n. Syn. feast
feast; entertainment of eating and drinking

bark

n. Syn. yelp; howl
sound made by a dog; harsh sound uttered by a dog

barometer

n.
instrument for determining the weight or pressure of the atmosphere

barren

a. Syn. desolate
desolate; fruitless and unproductive; lacking

barricade

n. Syn. **obstacle**
hastily put together defensive barrier; obstacle

barrier

n. Syn. **obstacle**; **hindrance**; **hurdle**
obstacle; structure built to bar passage; boundary or limit

barter

v. Syn. **trade**; **exchange**
trade goods or services without the exchange of money

batch

n.
quantity of bread baked at one time; a collection of things or persons to be handled together

bathe

v. Syn. **lave**; **immerse**
wash by immersion, as in a bath; subject to bath; lave; immerse or cover one's self

batter

v.
beat with successive blows; beat repeatedly and with violence

bead

n. Syn. **pearl**; **drops**; **droplet**
small piece of material, such as glass, plastic, or wood, that is pierced for stringing

beautician

n.
one skilled in giving cosmetic treatments; one who does hair styling, manicures, and other beauty treatments

beforehand

ad. Syn. **previously**; **aforetime**
in state of anticipation; in advance; by way of preparation

beneficial

a. Syn. **helpful**; **useful**
helpful; tending to promote physical well-being

berth

n.
space for ship to dock or anchor; allotted place; place to sleep or stay; appointment or job

beset

v. Syn. **harass**; **attack**
attack from all sides; trouble persistently; hem in

beverage

n. Syn. refreshment

liquids for drinking, usually excluding water; refreshment

bewilder

v. Syn. confuse

lead into perplexity or confusion; perplex with mazes

bias

n. Syn. prejudice; preference

preference or inclination, especially one that inhibits impartial judgment; influence in unfair way

bibliography

n.

list of works of a specific author or publisher; list of writings relating to a given subject

bilateral

a. Syn. mutual; lateral

two-sided; mutual

bilingual

n.

using or able to use two languages, especially with equal or nearly equal fluency

bind

v. Syn. contract; cohere; stick

tie, or confine with a cord, band, or chain; make fast; contract; cohere or stick together

biography

n.

an account of the series of events making up a person's life; accounts of people's life

bitumen

n.

mineral pitch; black, tarry substance, burning with a bright flame

blaze

n. Syn. flame

brilliant burst of fire; destructive fire; flame

bleach

v. Syn. whiten; blanch

make white or colorless; blanch

bleak

a. Syn. cold; cheerless

cold or cheerless; unlikely to be favorable

blend

n. Syn. combination; mixture
combination; mixture; forming uniform mixture

blink

v. Syn. wink
shut eyes briefly; wink

bloc

n.
a group of nations, parties, or persons united for common action

bloom

n. Syn. flower; blossom
flower; blossom; best time of youth; period of greatest prosperity or productivity

blossom

n.
reproductive organ of plants, especially one having showy or colorful parts

blot

n.
spot or stain, as of ink on paper; blur; weak point or failing

blunder

n. Syn. error
serious mistake typically caused by ignorance or confusion

blunt

a. Syn. insensitive
having a dull edge or end; not sharp; lacking in feeling; insensitive

blur

n. Syn. stain; dim
something that is hazy and indistinct to the sight or mind; dim, confused appearance; moral stain or blot

blush

v.
become rosy or reddish; turn red, as if in embarrassment or shame

boast

v. Syn. brag; vaunt
show off oneself; speak of with excessive pride

boil

v.
be agitated; pass from a liquid to vapor when heated; be excited with passion; heat in water

bookcase

n.
case with shelves for holding books, especially one with glazed doors

bookkeeper

n.
one who keeps accounts; one who has charge of keeping books and accounts in an office

bookstall

n.
stall where books are sold, as on a street; table with enclosed sides, for displaying books for sale

boost

v. Syn. raise; advance
raise; advance; push or shove upward

boundary

n. Syn. border; frontier
dividing line; border; frontier

bounty

n. Syn. kindness; virtue
goodness, kindness; virtue; liberality in giving

bouquet

n. Syn. bunch
small cluster or arrangement of flowers; an arrangement of flowers that is usually given as a present

bowel

n.
a part or division of intestine; interior of something; any internal organ of the body, as the stomach, liver, brain

boycott

v.
refrain from buying or using

brace

n.
something which holds anything tightly or supports it firmly, as bandage, cord, or rod;

brake

n.
a piece of mechanism for retarding or stopping motion by friction

brashness

n.
characteristic of being brash; trait of being rash and hasty; tasteless showiness

breach

n. Syn. violation; infringement
breaking of contract or duty

breakthrough

n.
act of overcoming or penetrating an obstacle or restriction

breed

v. Syn. raise; hatch; mate
raise; produce offspring; give birth to or hatch; mate

brew

v. Syn. boil; cook
boil or seethe; cook; be in a state of preparation; be mixing, forming, or gathering

brink

n. Syn. verge; border
edge, margin, or border of a steep place verge

brisk

a. Syn. energetic; swift
marked by speed, liveliness, and vigor; energetic; swift; keen or sharp in speech or manner

brochure

n. Syn. pamphlet
pamphlet; small book usually having paper cover

bronze

n.
an alloy of copper and tin and sometimes other elements

brood

v.
think long and anxiously; be in a state of gloomy, serious thought

browse

v. Syn. graze
graze; skim or glance at casually

bruise

v.
injure, as by a blow or collision; contuse; fight with the fists

buckle

v. Syn. fold; fasten; distort
fold or collapse; bend out of shape, as under pressure or from heat

buffet

n.
table with food set out for people to serve themselves; meal at which people help themselves to food that's been set out

bulb

n.
rounded part of a cylindrical structure; electric lamp consisting of a glass ball

bulge

v.
cause to curve outward; swell up; stick out; protrude

bulk

n. Syn. majority; mass
majority; main part; volume; mass

bulletin

n.
brief statement of facts; any public notice or announcement; a periodical publication

bumper

n.
something as bars at edges to absorb shock and prevent serious damage

bundle

n. Syn. packet; parcel
packet; a package of things tied together; a large sum of money

bungalow

n.
small house or cottage usually having a single story and attic

buoyant

a.
able to float; cheerful and optimistic

bureaucracy

n.
over-regulated administrative system

burgeon

v. Syn. thrive; mushroom
grow forth; send out buds; grow or develop rapidly

burial

n. Syn. grave
grave or tomb; ritual placing of a corpse in a grave; concealing something under the ground

burrow

n. Syn. tunnel; den

tunnel; hole in the ground made by an animal for shelter; dig; move through by or as by digging

bustle

v. Syn. teem

move or cause to move energetically and busily; teem

butcher

n. Syn. slaughterer

one whose job is to kill animals for food; one who kills in large numbers, or with unusual cruelty; vendor, especially on train or in theater

butterfly

n.

insect typically having a slender body with broad colorful wings

bypass

n.

channel used to conduct gas or liquid around another pipe or a fixture; conductor having low resistance in parallel