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abandon

A (A's or As) noun 1. (also a or an) the last letter of the English alphabet. 2. music a note in Western music. This concerto is in the key of A major.

MARKS 3. on or under a mark in an examination or for a piece of work that shows that your work is considered excellent: Sophie got an A for English. She got a straight A (i.e., all her marks were A). ELECTRICITY 4. written abbreviation for amp.

Use an in front of words which begin with a vowel sound:

Don't say 'a animal' or 'a old building', say an animal or an old building.

Warning: do not use an or a to refer to uncountable nouns:

• have an exciting news for you
• have some exciting news for you

A year later, which together make a full A level qualification.

See also A level, AS level

AA /eɪdiˈeɪ/ noun [C] an A-level (describes) paper that is a standard European size of 23 centimetres by 29.5 centimetres: a sheet of A4 or A3 paper.

AA /eɪdiˈeɪ/ noun (British) (informal) an Associate in Arts: a degree given by an American college to someone after they have finished a two-year course, or a person who has this degree.

ALCOHOL 2. [ˈɔlkoʊl] noun (British) alcohol: an alcoholic drink.

ABBREVIATION FOR AND (British): an abbreviation for and.

ABBREVIATION FOR THE Automobile Association: a British organization which gives help and information to drivers who are members of it.

Aah [ə ə] exclamation another spelling of ah.

A.A.E. /eɪˈeɪ.ɛ/ (abbreviation) noun (US) the A.A.E. (American Automobile Association): an American organization which gives help and information to drivers who are members of it.

Aback (verb) be taken aback to be very shocked or surprised: I was rather taken aback by her honesty.

Abacus /əˈbæsəs/ noun (maths) a small frame with a rectangular frame holding an arrangement of small balls on metal rods or wires, which is used for counting, adding and subtracting.

Abalone /æˈbæloʊn/ noun (Plur. abalone) a small sea animal that can be eaten and which lives inside a shell that is the shape of an ear with a white shiny inside.

Abandon /əˈbændən/ verb

1. to leave a place, thing or person forever: We had to abandon the car.

2. to stop doing an activity before you have finished it: The match was abandoned once it was clear that the players were not going to win.
abandoned at half-time because of the poor weather conditions. • They had to abandon their attempt to climb the mountain. • The party has now abandoned its policy of unilateral disarmament. • abandoned [ˈæbəndɔd] adjective An abandoned baby was found in a box on the hospital steps. • abandonment [ˌæbəndɔːmənt] noun [U]
  ▶ phrase verb abandon yourself to sth [K] to allow yourself to be controlled completely by feeling or way of living. He abandoned himself to his emotions.
  ▶ noun literary with (gay/wild) abandon in a completely uncontrolled way: We danced with wild abandon.
abase yourself [əˈbeɪs] verb [I] formal to make yourself seem less important or not to deserve respect • abasement [əˈbeɪsmənt] noun [U] The pilgrims knelt in self-abasement.
abate (əˈbeɪt) verb [T] formal to become less strong; The storm wind/rain has started to abate. • The fighting in the area shows no sign of abating. • abatement [əˈbeɪmənt] noun [U]
abattoir [əˈbætɔ:ər] noun [C] mainly UK (specially a slaughterhouse) a place where animals are killed for their meat.
abess [əˈbes] noun [C] a woman who is in charge of a convent.
abbot [əˈbɒt] noun [C] a man who is in charge of a monastery.
abbreviate (əˈbɛvɪət) verb [I (usu. passive)] to make a word or phrase shorter by using only the first letters of each word: Dictionary is often abbreviated to Dict. • Chief Executive Officer is abbreviated as CEO. • abbreviated [əˈbɛvɪətɪd] adjective [adj] • abbreviation [əˈbɛvɪəʃn] noun [C] a short form of a word or phrase; TV is the abbreviation for Television.
ABC [æbˈsiːθi] noun alphabet 1 [S] usu. US ABCs (ˈæbˌsiːθiz) informal the alphabet: He’s learning his ABC at school.
  ▶ abbreviation formal information based on or about a subject: What I need is a book that contains the ABC of carpentry. • US TVO 3 [ˌæbˈsiːθi ˌvəʊ] abbreviation for American Broadcasting Company: an organization that broadcasts on television in the US • Australian TVO 4 the ABC 3 [ˌæbˈsiːθi ˌvəʊ] abbreviation for Australian Broadcasting Corporation: an organization that broadcasts on radio and television in Australia and is paid for by the government.
abdicate (əˈbɪdɪkɪt) verb king/queen 1 [I or T] If a king or queen abdicates, they make a formal statement that they no longer want to be king or queen: King Edward VIII abdicated (the British throne) in 1936 so that he could marry Mrs Simpson, a divorced woman. • not noo 2 abdicate responsibility formal disciplinary stop controlling or managing something that you are in charge of: She was accused of abdicating all responsibility for the project. • abdication [əˈbɪdɪkʃn] noun [U] The council denied that their decision represented any abdication of responsibility.
abdomen [ˌæbəˈdəmən] noun [C] specialized the lower part of the body, which contains the stomach, bowels and other organs, or the end of an insect's body • abdominal [ˌæbəˈdəməl] adjective abdominal pains
abdominals [ˌæbəˈdəmlənz] plural noun (anatomical) muscles in the abdomen.
abduct (əˈbʌkt) verb [T] to force someone to go somewhere with you, often using threats or violence: The company director was abducted from his car by terrorists • abductor [əˈbʌktər] noun [C or U]
aberrant [ˈæbərant] adjective formal different from what is typical or usual, especially in an unacceptable way; aberrant behaviour/sanity
aberration [ˌæbərˈreɪʃn] noun [C or U] formal a temporary change from the typical or usual way of behaving; In a moment of aberration, she agreed to go with him.
  ▶ I’m sorry I’m late - I had a mental aberration and forgot we had a meeting today.
abet (əˈbet) verb [T (inf.)] to help or encourage someone to do something wrong or illegal: His accountant had advised and abetted him in the fraud.
abeyance [əˈbeɪəns] noun [U] formal a state of not happening or being used at present: Moonshine between the two groups has been in abeyance since last June. • The project is being held in abeyance until agreement is reached on funding it.
abhor (əˈbɒhər) verb [T] (usu. continuous) (to) formal to hate a way of behaving or thinking, often because you think it is wrong; I abhor all forms of racism.
abhorrence [əˈbɒhərns] noun [C or U] abhor, avoid formal a feeling of hating something or someone: She looked at him in abhorrence. • She has an abhorrence of change.
abhorrent [əˈbɒhərnt] adjective formal morally very bad: an abhorrent crime. • Racism of any kind is abhorrent to me.
abide (əˈbaɪd) verb [I (usu. passive)] old use 1 can’t abide sb/sb if you can’t stand someone or something, you dislike them very much: I can’t abide her. • He couldn’t abide laziness.
above 2 to live or stay somewhere: He abided in the wilderness for forty days.
abysmal (əˈbaɪzməl) adjective formal to accept or obey an agreement, decision or rule: Competitors must abide by the judge’s decision.
abiding (əˈbaɪdɪŋ) adjective [before noun] describes a feeling or memory that you have for a long time: My abiding memory is of him watering his plants in the garden.
ability (əˈbɪləti) noun [C or U] 1 the physical or mental power or skill needed to do something: There’s no doubting her ability. • She had the ability to explain things clearly and concisely. • She’s a woman of considerable abilities. I have children in my class of very mixed abilities (different levels of skill or intelligence) • a mixed ability class
Common mistake: ability
Remember that ability is never followed by ‘of’. Don’t say ‘ability of doing something’, say ability to do something.
  ▶ admire people who have the ability of being positive. • admire people who have the ability to be positive.
ability [əˈbɪləti] suffix (also -ability) used to form nouns from adjectives ending in ‘able’ or ‘ible’, to mean the quality of being the stated adjective: suitability
abound /əˈbɔːnd/ (also abundant) noun [C] (plural abundances) 1 to exist in large numbers: Theories abound about how the Earth began. 2 plural verb abound in/with sth If something abounds in/with other things, it has a lot of them: The coasts abound with rare plants.
about

about (adverb)

1. CONNECTED WITH 1 on the subject of; connected with. What's that book about? 2. a film about the Spanish Civil War. We were talking/talking about Sophie. He's always talking about a new job he's got/was got./is got. 3. I really don't know what all the fuss is about. He wishes you'd do something about (take action to solve the problem of) your bedroom. It's a real mess. 4. You worry. Could you make me a coffee too while you're about it? 5. while you are making one for yourself? 6. What didn't you like about the play? 7. There's something about (in the character of, the attitude/tone towards) that worries me. 8. There's something special about (in his character). 9. Is that your car? 10. Yes, what about (why are you asking me) this? 11. USAGE: This is sometimes said in an angry or threatening way.

- NO ORDER 2 (in around) positioned around a place, often without a clear purpose or order. Their belongings were flung about the room.

- POSITION 3 UK SLIGHTLY FORMAL in a particular place. Do you have such a thing as a pen about you/your person? (Have you got a pen?)

- idiom How/What about? 3 used when suggesting or offering something to someone. How about going to the zoo this afternoon? 4. Coffee, Sarah! "No, thanks." What about you, Kate?

- Common mistake: about or regarding?

- Warning: about is usually only used to introduce a topic in informal styles. In formal writing, don't use About ..., use Regarding ...

- With regard to ...

- approximately 1 a little more or less than the stated number or amount, approximately; about six feet tall; about two months ago; about time are you leaving work today?; about five o'clock; about (almost) ready to leave. If I think that's about it, no (we have almost finished what we are doing for the present). ALL DIRECTIONS 2 (in around) in many different directions. They heard someone moving about outside. 3. I've been running about all morning trying to find you. NO ORDER 3 (in around) positioned around a place, often without a clear purpose or order. She always leaves her clothes hanging about the floor. PLACED 4 in or near a place. Is John about (somewhere near) town? 5. There's a lot of flu about (many people have it) at the moment.

Other ways of saying alike

- Common alternatives to about are approximately or around:

- The job will take approximately three months.

- The accident happened around 4 o'clock.

- When you are talking about an approximate number, you can use roughly or the phrase somewhere in the region of:

- There were roughly two hundred people at the meeting.

- She was somewhere in the region of £20,000.

- If you want to say about and possibly more than a particular number, you can use the phrase or the suffix -odd:

- They raised £200 or so for charity.

- Her son must be forty-odd by now.

- adjective INTENDING be about to do sth (1) to be going to do something very soon. I was about to leave when Mark arrived. 2. She looked as if she was about to cry.

about-turn (adverb) 1 a change of direction. I'd only gone a little way down the street when I remembered I hadn't locked the door, so I made/did a quick about-turn and ran back to the house. 2. a complete change of opinion or behaviour. This is the Government's second about-turn on the issue.

above (adverb)

1. PREPOSITION HIGHER POSITION in or to a higher position than something else. There's a mirror above the washbasin. He waved the letter excitedly above his head. She's renting a room above a shop. 2. Her name comes above mine on the list. The helicopter was hovering above the building. 3. It's on the shelf just above your head. A crack had started to appear just above the light fitting. MENDED 2 (more than an amount or level). It says on the box it is for children aged three and above. 4. Rates of pay are above average. 5. Temperatures rarely rise above two in winter. spring. 6. She values her job above her family. 7. They value their freedom above (and beyond) all else. 8. above all a most importantly. Above all, I'd like to thank my family. 9. Above all, I'd say I value kindness. RANKED 4 in a more important or advanced position than someone else. Sally's a grade above me. 10. too important to be important. No one is above suspicion in this matter. 11. He's not above lying (he sometimes lies) to protect himself.

- adjective ON PAGE 1. When used in a piece of writing, above means higher on the page, or on a previous page. Please send the articles to the address given above. 2. The above 3 all the people or things listed earlier: All of the above should be invited. 3. Once we've finished all of the above we can start on the next project.

- above-mentioned (adjective) formal refers to things or people in a document or book that have been mentioned earlier: All of the above-mentioned films won Oscars. 2. Compare undermentioned.

- abracadabra (noun) magic, an exclamation said by someone who is performing a magic trick, in order to help them perform it successfully.

- abrade (verb) specialise to remove a part of the surface of something by rubbing.

- abrasion (noun) the process of rubbing away the surface of something. There seems to have been some abrasion of the surface. 2. a place where the surface of something, such as skin, has been rubbed away. She had a small abrasion on her knee.

- abrasive (adj) unpleasant 1 rude and unfriendly. She has a rather abrasive manner. 2. He can be quite abrasive in meetings. CLEANING SUBSTANCES 3 An abrasive substance is slightly rough. 4. An abrasive substance is slightly rough, and is often used for cleaning surfaces: an abrasive cleaner/powder/liquid; abrasively, abrasively /ʃəˈbrɪvli/ (adv) • abrasiveness/ɪˈbrɪvniːs/ (noun) (U) • noun (U) a substance used for rubbing away the surface of something, usually to clean it or make it shiny. You'll need a strong abrasive for cleaning this sink.

- abreact (verb) describes two or more people who are next to each other and moving in the same direction: We were running/cycling two abreast. 2. The motorcyclist came abreast of her car and shouted abuse at her.KEEP ABREAST OF sth (1) to make sure you know all the most recent facts about a subject or situation: I try to keep abreast of all developments.

- abridgment (noun) (U) a summary of a book that is not important: The book was abridged for children. 2. abridged (adjective) I've only read the abridged edition/version of her novel.
Let’s Talk: Conversation

The purpose of the next 11 pages is to show you the type of English that is usually used in conversation. Although your English is now advanced enough so that you can speak in different situations, you may feel that you want to use more natural-sounding English. The language in the following pages will help you to say what you think and feel more exactly, more politely and in a way that sounds more natural.

These pages are in two parts. The first, ‘Conversations at work’, gives you phrases that are slightly formal and right for when you are at work. The second, ‘Conversations with friends’, gives you phrases to use with people that you know socially and can talk to more informally.

1 Conversations at work

The language you use at work is often different from the language of everyday conversation. It is often, though not always, more formal, and it includes phrases that you do not usually hear in informal conversations. Below are phrases that are often used when people have meetings in order to discuss work. These phrases will help you to speak clearly and professionally, in a way that is both confident and polite.

Opinions

Speaking up

Use these phrases when other people have been speaking and you want to say something:

- Could / can I (just) say something here?
- Could / can I (just) add something here?
- Could / can I (just) come in here?
- Could / can I (just) make a point here?

Giving an opinion

Use these phrases when you want to give your opinion. In meetings, a speaker will often introduce their opinion with one of these phrases. This ‘softens’ the statement, making it sound less direct and more polite.

- The way I see things...
- I tend to think that...
- It seems to me that...
- It’s my feeling that...
- In my experience...
- It’s my experience that...

Examples:

- I tend to think that it’s the marketing department’s responsibility to sort this out.
- It seems to me that we’re going to waste a lot of money taking this approach.
- It’s my feeling that enough time has been spent on this project already.

Asking for an opinion

Use these phrases to ask someone else what they think about something:

- James, what’s your opinion of/about/on...?
- James, what do you think of/about...?
- James, what’s your feeling about...?
- James, could we have your input here?

Example:

- James, what’s your feeling about staffing levels in the department?
### Agreeing

**Agreeing**

Use these phrases to agree with what someone has said:

- *I agree (with you).*
- *(I think) you’re right.*
- *I tend to agree. / I tend to agree with Anna.*
- *I’m with Anna on this one.*

**Agreeing strongly**

Use these phrases when you agree strongly with someone and want to show it:

- *Absolutely!*
- *Exactly!*
- *I quite agree!*
- *I totally agree with you.*
- *I’m in complete agreement with you.*
- *I couldn’t agree more!*

### Disagreeing

**Disagreeing**

Use these phrases when you disagree with what someone has said:

Note: In a work meeting, people often disagree in an indirect way. They usually avoid very strong, definite phrases, such as ‘I completely disagree,’ as these can sound rude.

- *I’m afraid I don’t / can’t agree with you there.*
- *I’m sorry, I don’t agree with you there.*
- *I have to say, I disagree with you there.*
- *I’m not sure I agree with you.*
- *I’m not sure about that.*
- *I’m not sure that’s true.*
- *I take a (slightly) different view on this.*
- *I don’t know. I tend to think that the opposite is true.*

**Examples:**

*A: Money spent on training is always a good investment.*
*B: I’m not sure about that. I think it depends on the quality of the training.*

*A: In my experience, customers are looking for quality in a product and they’ll pay extra for it.*
*B: I take a different view on this. I think the lower price is mainly what sells the product.*
**Clothes**

**Trousers**
- bootlegs
- drainpipes
- flares
- cargo pants
- combat trousers/combats
- cropped trousers
- leggings
- tracksuit bottoms/sweatpants

**Parts of clothes**
- lapel
- single-breasted
- buttonhole
- collar
double-breasted
- turn-up (UK) cuff (US)
- fly
- waistband
- sleeve
- cuff

**Types of clothing material**
- cloth made from cotton: calico, chenille, corduroy, denim, flannel, gingham, linen, moleskin, muslin, oilskin, poplin, seersucker, twill
- cloth from other plants: hemp, jute
- clothing materials made from the hair or skin of animals: alpaca, angora, astrakhan, camel, cashmere, felt, fleece, gabardine, jersey, lambswool, leather, mohair, sealskin, wool, worsted

**Silk** is made from a thread produced by **silkworms**
- cloth made from silk: crepe (US crape), chiffon, gauze, satin, taffeta
- man-made clothing materials: lamé, Lurex™, Lycra™, nylon, polyester, rayon, sharkskin, Spandex™, velour, viscose

**Fasteners**
- belt
- buckle
- button
- cuff link
- zip (UK) zipper (US)
- press stud (UK), snap (US)
- toggle
- hook and eye
- Velcro™
Cakes

- sponge cake
- Swiss roll (UK)
- jelly roll (US)
- cheesecake
- fairy cake (UK)
- cupcake (US)
- tart
- doughnut
- Danish pastry
- mince pie
- hot cross bun

Describing food

The five basic tastes of food are: bitter, salty, sour, sweet and umami.

food that tastes good is: appetizing, delicious, flavourful, juicy, lip-smacking, luscious, moreish, mouth-watering, palatable, scrumptious, succulent, tangy, tasty, tempting, toothsome, yummy

food that tastes bad is: bitter, bland, inedible, insipid, rancid, sharp, stodgy, tasteless, unpalatable

food that is too old is: bad, curdled, mouldy, off, overripe, rotten, sour, stale

Amounts of food

- a spoonful of sugar
- a pinch of salt
- a blob of cream
- a sprinkling of chocolate
- a dash of milk
- a drop of olive oil
- a hunk of cheese
- chunks of vegetables
- a bunch of grapes
- a bar of chocolate
The Cambridge International Corpus (CIC) is a collection of over 1 billion words of real spoken and written English. The texts are stored in a database that can be searched to see how English is used. The CIC also includes the Cambridge Learner Corpus, a unique collection of over 30 million words taken from student exam papers from Cambridge ESOL. It shows real mistakes students make and highlights the parts of English which cause problems for students.

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