

Navneet English Dictionary

Pocket Edition



UNITED KINGDOM



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NAVNEET EDUCATION LIMITED



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Introduction

In recent years our everyday vocabulary has been vastly extended through the rapid evolution of the Internet, instant messaging and e-mail as vehicles of communication. In combination with broadcasting, television, travel, continued scientific discovery, and the wider spread of education, never has our experience of the world been wider.

New dictionaries are always needed and the *Navneet English Dictionary – Pocket Edition* attempts to include as many words as possible which are now in common use, including many which have been borrowed from foreign languages, in a world ever more closely interlinked by modern means of communication.

This dictionary contains over 100,000 clear and accurate definitions. The compilers' aim is that everything has been included that is likely to be met with in the normal course of reading, listening and viewing.

The *Navneet English Dictionary – Pocket Edition* provides IPA pronunciation of each headword (with stress marks and alternative pronunciation where appropriate) parts of speech, plural forms, subject labels, homographs, variant forms and cross-references.

This book is an invaluable reference tool for all who wish to use and understand the English language, and especially for anyone who is learning the language. It is a great companion to help build vocabulary.

How to Use This Dictionary

A dictionary is a useful tool to help you find the spelling, meaning and pronunciation of a word, quickly and easily. It will also help you to be confident and sure about using words correctly when speaking and writing. This modern dictionary provides over 100,000 concise, up-to-date definitions.

Headword

The **headword** is what we call the word in bold at the beginning of each entry in a dictionary. This is the word that is being explained in the **definition** (see below). The headword is set out further in the margin than the other parts of the entry so it is easy to find. The words indicated below by arrows are headwords.

- **acquittance** /ə'kwɪtəns/ *n* a discharge or release from debt or other liability; a receipt barring a further demand.
- **acre** /'eɪkər/ *n* land measuring 4840 square yards.
- **acreage** /'eɪkərɪdʒ/ *n* area measured in acres.

Definition

Definition is the name for the meaning of a word. The area indicated by an arrow below shows the definition of “**avocado**”.

definition → **avocado** /,ævə'kɒdɔː/ *n* (*pl* **avocados**) a thick-skinned, pear-shaped fruit with yellow buttery flesh.

Homographs

Words of different origins but with the same spelling are given separate, numbered entries.

e.g.:

bank¹ /bæŋk/ *n* a mound or pile; the sloping side of a river; elevated ground in a lake or the sea; a row or series of objects, as of dials, switches. • *v* **ti** to

form into a mound; to cover (a fire) with fuel so that it burns more slowly; (*aircraft*) to curve or tilt sideways.

bank² *n* an institution that offers various financial services, such as the safekeeping, lending and exchanging of money; the money held by the banker or dealer in a card game; any supply or store for the future, such as a *blood bank*. • *vti* (*cheques, cash, etc*) to deposit in a bank; to work as a banker.

Alphabetical Order

Strict alphabetical order is followed. All compound words and hyphenated words are alphabetized as if they are one word.

Headwords that contain contractions, such as *St*, are alphabetized as you would the whole word; thus *St* is alphabetized just as *Saint* would be.

Abbreviations and acronyms are alphabetized as if the abbreviation is a whole word.

Capitalized headwords come before lower case headwords.

Numerals take precedence over letters.

Variations

Variant spellings appear in bold type and in brackets next to the headword.

Other terms, of a different part of speech, that are related to the headword are given at the end of an entry in bold preceded by a dash.

Inflected forms of verbs and plural forms of nouns appear in bold and in brackets following the headword.

e.g.:

eat /i:t/ *vt* (**eating, ate, pp eaten**) to take into the mouth, chew and swallow as food; to have a meal; to consume, to destroy bit by bit; (*also with into*) to corrode; (*inf*) to bother, cause anxiety to; (*with up*) to consume completely; (*inf*) to listen or absorb avidly; (*inf*) to preoccupy. • *vi* (*with out*) to eat away from home, *esp* in a restaurant. • *n* (*pl: inf*) food. —**eater** *n*.

Abbreviations and Acronyms

Headwords which are abbreviations or acronyms appear with the label *abbr* and are followed by an equals sign (=). Where

doubt arises over how the abbreviation might be pronounced – for example if it could be pronounced as an acronym would, as a word – pronunciation is given.

e.g.:

HC *abbr* = Holy Communion; House of Commons.

HCF *abbr* = highest common factor.

HIV /'eɪtʃ'aɪ'viː/ *abbr* = human immunodeficiency virus, the virus that causes AIDS.

Pronunciation

Pronunciation is given using the International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA) between oblique strokes (/ /).

Where pronunciation differs from foreign pronunciation of some foreign words this pronunciation is also given and labelled.

e.g.:

hors d'oeuvre /,ɔː'dɔːvɜː/, *Fr.* /ɔː'dɔːvr/ *n* (*pl* **hors d'oeuvre**, **hors d'oeuvres**) an appetizer served at the beginning of a meal.

Where variations occur, for example on the end syllable of a word, this is indicated by a hyphen followed by the variation.

e.g.:

hopeful /'hoːpfʊl/ *adj* filled with hope; inspiring hope or promise of success. • *n* a person who hopes to or looks likely to be a success.—**hopefulness** *n*.
hopefully /-li/ *adv* in a hopeful manner; it is hoped.

Pronunciation is not given for compound word headwords if the words appear elsewhere in the dictionary.

Primary and secondary stress marks precede the relevant symbols, *see* Key to Phonetics section on page 11.

Syllables and stresses

Words are made up of syllables. These are the different blocks of sound within the word. Stressed syllables have a ¹ symbol in front of them. Secondary stresses are preceded by a ₂ symbol.

Senses and Definitions

Within entries, synonyms are separated by commas (,). Different senses are separated by semicolons (;). Parts of speech are separated by full points (.)

Parts of Speech

Parts of speech are indicated in *italic* by the abbreviations shown on page 13, and follow the bold headword and pronunciation.

Other parts of speech after the main headword are indicated by a full point (.) and •.

e.g.:

bang¹ /bæŋ/ *n* a hard blow; a sudden loud sound. • *vt* to hit or knock with a loud noise; (*door*) to slam. • *vi* to make a loud noise; to hit noisily or sharply. • *adv* with a bang, abruptly; successfully; (*inf*) precisely.

These words tell us what **part of speech** the headword is. That is, what **function** the word has in English. Is the word the name of a thing (**noun**)? Does the word name an action (**verb**)? Does the word describe a thing (**adjective**)? Does the word describe what an action was like (**adverb**)? Does it refer to the position of a thing (**preposition**)?

Noun

A noun is used to refer to a person, thing or quality. It is sometimes referred to as “**a naming word**”.

A **common noun** refers to something of which there are many examples, words like **boy, bread, coin, tiger, tree**. Nouns can refer to concepts and ideas as well as things that you can touch: **honesty, love, rebellion, science, trust, hope**.

A **proper noun** is often a name. It refers to something of which there is only one example. Proper nouns begin with a **capital letter**. Examples are: **France, French, Antarctica, Elizabeth, the Pope**.

A **plural** refers to more than one thing. With nouns this is usually shown by adding an “-s”, “-es”, or “-ies” (after y) to the end of a noun, but some words break this rule. These are **irregular plurals** such as: **women, men, children, oxen, die** (plural of dice), **media**. In the dictionary these irregular plurals appear in bold, within brackets, following the part of speech.

man /mæn/ *n* (*pl men*) a human being, *esp* an adult male; the human race; an adult male with manly qualities, *eg* courage, virility; a male servant; an individual person; a person with specific qualities for a task, etc; an ordinary soldier, as opposed to an officer; a member of a team, etc; a piece in games such as chess, draughts, etc; a husband. • *vt* (**manning, manned**) to provide with men for work, defence, etc.

Pronoun

A pronoun is a word that takes the place of a noun or noun phrase in a sentence. Examples are: **I, we, you, he, she, it, they, him, her** and **them**.

Adjective

An adjective is a word that describes or gives more information about **nouns** or **pronouns**. Adjectives usually tell us something about the colour, size, quantity, quality or classification. Examples are **nice, suitable, good, bad, red, blue, dangerous**.

If you use more than one adjective then the order is important: general opinion, specific opinion, size, shape, age, colour, nationality, material.

a beautiful, varnished oak door

a ghastly, uncomfortable, yellow dress

Determiner

A determiner is a word that is used in front of a noun or pronoun to give some information about it. The **definite article, the**, is a determiner and it refers to specific things.

the first train, the road into town

The **indefinite article** is either **a** or **an** and gives information about nouns or pronouns that are not specific.

a hope for a cure, a lovely smell, an expensive gift

Other examples of determiners include: **this, that, these** and **those**; **all, any, both, each, either, every, few, little, less, many, much, more, neither, no, several, some** and **neither**; and **numbers** are sometimes classified as determiners.

Verb

The verb is the word in a sentence that is most concerned with the action – a **doing word** – and without it you cannot make an acceptable sentence. Verb endings change according to how they are used, this is called **inflection**, and this shows **tense** and whether the action is by one person or more. In this book we show **past tense** and **past and present participles (regular and irregular forms)** in bold, within brackets, following the part of speech:

mean³ *vb* (**meaning, meant**)

outgrow /'eʊt¹gro:/ *vt* (**outgrowing, outgrew, pp outgrown**)

throw /θro:/ *vb* (**throwing, threw, pp thrown**)

Adverb

An adverb gives more information about a verb. It limits the word it describes in some way. Adverbs often (but not always) end in “-ly”. Some examples include: **quickly, happily, suddenly, exactly**.

Preposition

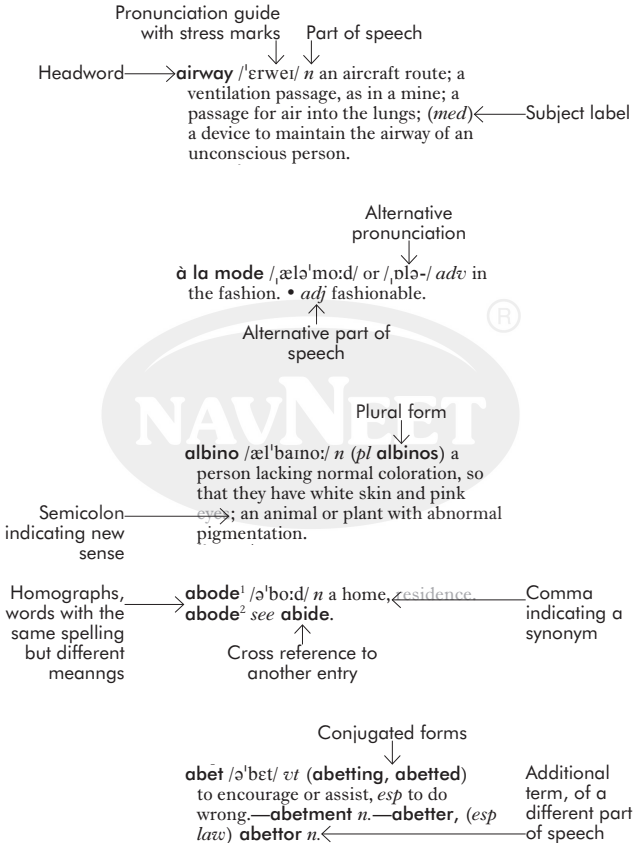
A preposition shows the position of a noun or pronoun. A preposition usually comes before the noun it refers to.

They are often very short words, such as **at, by, in, of, off, on, to** and **up**, but also include such words as **among, before, behind, during** and **through**.

Conjunction

A conjunction is a linking word used to join words, word groups or clauses. They include **and, but, or, yet** and, in pairs and often for emphasis, **both ... and, either ... or, neither ... nor**.

Elements of the Dictionary



Key to Phonetic Symbols

Vowels

i:	as in	see /si:/
i	as in	cosy /kɔ:zi/
ɪ	as in	pit /pɪt/
ɛ	as in	ten /tɛn/
æ	as in	absence /æbsəns/
ɑ	as in	arm /ɑrm/
ɒ	as in	hot /hɒt/
ɔ	as in	abort /ə'bɔrt/
o:	as in	roam /rɔ:m/
ʊ	as in	put /pʊt/
u:	as in	root /ru:t/
ə	as in	ago /ə'gɔ:/
ɜ	as in	cup /kɜp/
eɪ	as in	page /peɪdʒ/
əɪ	as in	light /laɪt/
aɪ	as in	my /maɪ/
aʊ	as in	now /naʊ/
ɪʊ	as in	house /haʊs/
ɔɪ	as in	oil /ɔɪl/

Consonants

p	as in	pet /pɛt/
b	as in	black /blæk/
t	as in	teak /ti:k/
d	as in	den /dɛn/
k	as in	cat /kæt/
g	as in	got /gɒt/
tʃ	as in	chin /tʃɪn/
dʒ	as in	juice /dʒu:s/
f	as in	foil /fɔɪl/
v	as in	voice /vɔɪs/
θ	as in	thick /θɪk/
ð	as in	them /ðɛm/
s	as in	so /sɔ:/
z	as in	zoo /zu:/
ʃ	as in	she /ʃi:/

ʒ	as in	vision / ^l vɪʒən/
h	as in	how /həʊ/
m	as in	man /mæn/
n	as in	no /no:/
ŋ	as in	ring /rɪŋ/
l	as in	lip /lɪp/
r	as in	red /rɛd/
j	as in	yes /jɛs/
w	as in	wet /wɛt/

Foreign Sounds

ʏ as in French *couture* /ku'tyʁ/. Pronounce /i:/ with the lips rounded as for English /u:/.

ø as in French *berceuse* /₁bɛr'søz/. Pronounce /ø/ as the initial sound /e/ in /eɪ/ with the lips rounded as in English /u:/.

œ as in French *chef-d'œuvre* /ʃɛf'dœvr/. Pronounce /eɪ/ with the lips rounded, like /o:/.

a as in French *cabochon* /kaboʃɔ̃/. Pronounce /a/ with the tongue between the positions of English /æ/ and /ɑ/.

ɔ̃ as in French *agent provocateur* /a'ʒɑ̃: prɔvɔka'tœr/. It is pronounced with the tongue a little forward, with lips rounded as in /ɔ/.

x as in Gaelic *loch* /lɔx/. Pronounce /k/ without closing the air passage completely, so that the air comes out with friction.

ʀ as in French *rouge* /ʀu:ʒ/. It resembles the German *ach* but is produced further back in the throat.

r as in Spanish *banderilla* /₁bande'ri:lja/. Pronounce R by trilling the tip of the tongue.

/:/ denotes a long vowel as in *peak* /pi:k/

/~/ denotes a vowel is nasalized as in French *bon* /bɔ̃:/

/'/ denotes a primary stress preceding the relevant syllable as in *about* /ə'bəʊt/

/ɪ/ denotes secondary stress preceding the relevant syllable as in *abattoir* /₁æbətwaɪr/

(ə) The “ə” in parenthesis denotes optional pronunciation as is heard in some varieties of English.

/-/ Hyphens preceding and/or following parts of a repeated transcription indicate that only the transcribed part changes.

Abbreviations

<i>abbr</i>	abbreviation	<i>geog</i>	geography
<i>adj</i>	adjective	<i>geol</i>	geology
<i>adv</i>	adverb	<i>geom</i>	geometry
<i>anat</i>	anatomy	<i>gram</i>	grammar
<i>approx</i>	approximately	<i>her</i>	heraldry
<i>arch</i>	archaic	<i>hist</i>	history
<i>archit</i>	architecture	<i>ie</i>	<i>id est</i> , that is
<i>astrol</i>	astrology	<i>imper</i>	imperative
<i>astron</i>	astronomy	<i>incl</i>	including
<i>Austral</i>	Australia, Australasia	<i>inf</i>	informal
<i>aux</i>	auxiliary	<i>interj</i>	interjection
<i>biol</i>	biology	<i>math</i>	mathematics
<i>bot</i>	botany	<i>mech</i>	mechanics
<i>Brit</i>	Britain, British	<i>med</i>	medicine
<i>c</i>	circa, about	<i>mil</i>	military
<i>cap</i>	capital	<i>mus</i>	music
<i>cent</i>	century	<i>myth</i>	mythology
<i>chem</i>	chemical, chemistry	<i>n</i>	noun
<i>compar</i>	comparative	<i>naut</i>	nautical
<i>comput</i>	computing	<i>neut</i>	neuter
<i>conj</i>	conjunction	<i>news</i>	news media
<i>demons</i>	demonstrative	<i>nf</i>	noun feminine
<i>derog</i>	derogatory, derogatorily	<i>npl</i>	noun plural
<i>dimin</i>	diminutive	<i>n sing</i>	noun singular
<i>econ</i>	economics	<i>NT</i>	New Testament
<i>eg</i>	<i>exempli gratis</i> , for example	<i>obs</i>	obsolete
<i>elect</i>	electricity	<i>orig</i>	original, originally, origin
<i>esp</i>	especially	<i>OT</i>	Old Testament
<i>fig</i>	figuratively	<i>p</i>	participle
<i>Fr</i>	French	<i>pers</i>	person, personal
		<i>philos</i>	philosophy

<i>photog</i>	photography	<i>theat</i>	theatre
<i>pl</i>	plural	<i>TV</i>	television
<i>poet</i>	poetical	<i>TM</i>	trademark
<i>poss</i>	possessive	<i>UK</i>	United Kingdom
<i>pp</i>	past participle	<i>US</i>	United States
<i>prep</i>	preposition	<i>USA</i>	United States of America
<i>pres t</i>	present tense		
<i>print</i>	printing	<i>usu</i>	usually
<i>pron</i>	pronoun	<i>var</i>	variant
<i>pr p</i>	present participle	<i>vb</i>	verb
<i>psychol</i>	psychology	<i>vb aux</i>	auxiliary verb
<i>pt</i>	past tense	<i>vi</i>	intransitive verb
<i>RC</i>	Roman Catholic	<i>vt</i>	transitive verb
<i>reflex</i>	reflexive	<i>vti</i>	transitive or intransitive verb
<i>Scot</i>	Scotland		
<i>sing</i>	singular	<i>vulg</i>	vulgar, vulgarly
<i>sl</i>	slang	<i>zool</i>	zoology
<i>superl</i>	superlative		

NAVNEET

A /eɪ/ *abbr* = ampere(s).

Å *abbr* = ångström(s).

a /ə/ or /eɪ/ *adj* the indefinite article; one; any; per.

A¹ *adj (inf)* in perfect condition; physically fit; excellent.

AA *abbr* = Alcoholics Anonymous; anti-aircraft; Automobile Association.

AAA *abbr* = Automobile Association of America; Amateur Athletics Association.

aardvark /'ɑ:dvɑ:k/ *n* a nocturnal African mammal with a long snout that feeds on termites.

aardwolf /'ɑ:dwʊlf/ *n* (*pl* **aardwolves** /'ɑ:rd,wʊlvz/) the earth wolf, a South African carnivore like a hyena.

ab- /əb/ or /æb/ *prefix* away, from, apart.

ab /æb/ *prep* from, as in *ab initio*.

abaca /'æbəkə/ *n* Manila hemp.

aback /ə'bæk/ *adv* taken aback startled.

abacus /'æbəkəs/ *n* (*pl* **abaci**, **abacuses**) a frame with sliding beads for doing arithmetic.

Abaddon /ə'bædɔ:n/ *n* a destroying angel, the devil; hell.

abaft /ə'bæft/ *adv, prep (naut)* behind.

abalone /'æbɔ:'ləʊni/ *n* an edible mollusc having an ear-shaped shell lined with mother-of-pearl.

abandon /ə'bændən/ *vt* to leave behind; to desert; to yield completely to an emotion or urge. • *n* freedom from inhibitions.—**abandonment** *n*.

abandoned /ə'bændənd/ *adj* (*behaviour*) showing abandon, unrestrained.—**abandonedly** *adv*.

abase /ə'beɪs/ *vt* to degrade, humiliate.—**abasement** /ə'beɪsmənt/ *n*.

abash /ə'bæʃ/ *vt* to cause a feeling of shame, embarrassment or confusion.—**abashment** /-mənt/ *n*.

abashed /ə'bæʃt/ *adj* ashamed, embarrassed.

abate /ə'beɪt/ *vti* to make or become less; (*law*) to end.—**abatement** *n*.

abatıs /'æbətıs/ *n* (*pl* **abatıs**, **abatısıs** /'æbətı:s/) a defence work of fallen trees with the branches towards the enemy.

abattoir /'æbɔ:'twɑ:/ *n* a slaughterhouse.

abbacy /'æbəsi/ *n* (*pl* **abbacies** /'æbəsi:s/) the office or rights of an abbot.

abbatial /ə'beɪʃəl/ *adj* of an abbey or abbot.

abbé /æ'beɪ/ *n* a French ecclesiastic.

abbess /'æbəs/ *n* the woman who heads a convent of nuns.

abbey /'æbi/ *n* a building occupied by monks or nuns; a church built as part of such a building; the community of monks or nuns.

abbot /'æbət/ *n* the head of an abbey of monks.

abbreviate /ə'bri:vɪ,eɪt/ *vt* to make shorter, *esp* to shorten (a word) by omitting letters.

abbreviation /ə'bri:vɪ'eɪʃən/ *n* the process of abbreviating; a shortened form of a word.

ABC¹ /,eɪbi:'si:/ *n* the alphabet; the basic facts of a subject.

ABC² *abbr* = American Broadcasting Corporation; Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

abdicare /'æbdɪ,ket/ *vti* to renounce an official position or responsibility, etc.—**abdication** *n*.

abdomen /'æbdəmən/ *n* the region of the body below the chest containing the digestive organs; the belly;

(*insects, etc*) the section of the body behind the thorax.—**abdominal** /æb,dəmənəl/ *adj*.—**abdominally** *adv*.

abducent /æb'du:sənt/ or /əb-, /-¹dju:s/ *adj (anat)* (*limb, etc*) drawn from its natural position.

abduct /əb'dʌkt/ *vt* to carry off (a person) by force; (*anat*) to draw (a limb, etc) from its natural position.—**abduction** *n*.—**abductor** *n*.

abeam /ə'bi:m/ *adv (naut)* at right angles to a ship's length, abreast.

abecedarian /eɪbi:'si:dəriən/ *adj* of the ABC, elementary; arranged alphabetically. • *n* one learning the ABC, a beginner, a learner.

abed /ə'bed/ *adv* in bed.

abelmosk /'eɪblmɔ:sk/ *n* an Asian herb of the mallow family yielding musk.

aberrant /ə'berənt/ *adj* deviating from that regarded as normal or

right.—**aberrance, aberrancy** /æ'berənsi/ *n.*
aberration /'æbə'reiʃən/ *n* a deviation from the normal; a mental or moral lapse.
abet /ə'bet/ *vt* (**abetting, abetted**) to encourage or assist, *esp* to do wrong.—**abetment** *n.*—**better**, (*esp law*) **abettor** *n.*
abeyance /ə'beɪəns/ *n* (*usu preceded by in*) (*law, etc*) suspended temporarily.
abhor /əb'hɔːr/ *vt* (**abhorring, abhorred**) to detest, despise.
abhorrence /əb'harəns/ *n* detestation.
abhorrent /əb'harənt/ *adj* detestable.
abide /ə'baɪd/ *vt* (**abiding, abode or abided**) to endure; to put up with.
abiding /ə'baɪdɪŋ/ *adj* permanent.—**abidingly** *adv.*
abigail /'æbɪgeɪl/ *n* a lady's maid.
ability /ə'bɪlɪti/ *n* (*pl abilities*) the state of being able being able; power to do; talent; skill.
ab initio /,æbɪ'nɪʃɪoː/ (*Latin*) from the beginning.
abiogenesis /,eɪbɪoː'dʒɛnəʊsɪs/ *n* spontaneous generation.—**abiogenetic** *adj.*
abject /'æbdʒɛkt/ *adj* wretched; dejected.—**abjection** *n.*—**abjectly** *adv.*
abjure /əb'dʒʊr/ *vt* to renounce.—**abjuration** *n.*—**abjurer** *n.*
ablactation /,æblæk'teɪʃən/ *n* the act of weaning a child from the breast.
ablate /æb'leɪt/ (**ablating, ablated**) *vb* to remove surgically; (*astrophysics*) to melt or vaporize when entering the earth's atmosphere; (*geol*) to erode, to waste or wear away.—**ablation** *n.*
ablative /'æblətɪv/ *adj* (*gram*) expressing source, instrumentality, etc; (*astrophysics*) ablating. • *n* one of the cases of Latin nouns, expressing chiefly separation and instrumentality and sometimes place.
ablative absolute *n* a particular construction in Latin of a noun and a participle in the ablative case, agreeing in gender and number, and forming a clause by themselves, but unconnected grammatically with the rest of the sentence.
ablaut /'æbləʊt/ *n* (*linguistics*) a vowel permutation, the change of a root vowel in the derivation of a word, as *do, did* or *sing, sang, sung, song*.
ablaze /ə'bleɪz/ *adj* burning, on fire.
-able /əbəl/ *adj suffix* capable of, as in suitable.
able /'eɪbəl/ *adj* having the competence

or means (to do); talented; skilled.—**ably** *adv.*
able-bodied /'eɪbəl'bɒdiːd/ *adj* fit, strong.
able-bodied seaman *n* a trained seaman in the (merchant) navy.—*also* **able seaman**.
abloom /ə'bluːm/ *adv* in bloom, blooming.
ablution /ə'bluːʃən/ *n* (*usu pl*) a washing or cleansing of the body by water; the ritual cleansing of vessels or hands.—**ablutionary** *adj.*
ably /'eɪbli/ *adv* in an able manner.
ABM /,eɪbi:'em/ *abbr* = antiballistic missile.
abnegate /'æbnə'geɪt/ *vt* to deny oneself (a right, etc); to renounce.—**abnegation** *n.*
abnormal /æb'nɔːrml/ *adj* unusual, not average or typical; irregular.—**abnormality** *n.*—**abnormally** *adv.*
abnormality /,æbnɔːr'mælɪti/ *n* (*pl abnormalities*) deformity; irregularity; difference or departure from a regular type or rule.
aboard /ə'bɔːrd/ *adv* on or in an aircraft, ship, train, etc.—*also prep.*
abode¹ /ə'boːd/ *n* a home, residence.
abode² *see* **abide**.
abolish /ə'bɒlɪʃ/ *vt* to bring to an end, do away with.—**abolisher** *n.*—**abolishment** *n.*
abolition /,æbɒ'lɪʃən/ *n* the act of abolishing; (*with cap*) in UK, the ending of the slave trade (1807) or slavery (1833), in US, the emancipation of the slaves (1863).
abolitionist /,æbɒ'lɪʃənɪst/ *n* one who is in favour of the repeal or abolition of some existing law or custom; (*often with cap*) one in favour of abolition.
abomasum /,æbɒ'meɪsəm/ *n* (*pl abomasa*) the fourth stomach of a ruminant animal.—**abomasal** *adj.*
A-bomb /'eɪbɒm/ *n* atomic bomb.
abominable /ə'bɒmɪnəbl/ *adj* despicable, detestable; (*inf*) very unpleasant.—**abominably** *adv.*
abominable snowman *n* a huge creature of legend resembling a man or an animal, said to be found in the Himalayas.—*also yeti*.
abominate /ə'bɒmɪ'neɪt/ *vt* to abhor; to regard with feelings of disgust or hatred.—**abominator** *n.*
abomination /ə'bɒmɪ'neɪʃən/ *n* detestation; a loathsome person or thing.

aboriginal /ˌæbəˈrɪdʒənəl/ *adj* existing in a place from the earliest times; of aborigines. • *n* the species of animals or plants presumed to have originated within a given area.

aborigine /ˌæbəˈrɪdʒɪni/ *n* any of the first known inhabitants of a region; (*with cap*) one of the original inhabitants of Australia before the arrival of European settlers.

abort /əˈbɔːrt/ *vti* to undergo or cause an abortion; to terminate or cause to terminate prematurely. • *n* the premature termination of a rocket flight, etc.

abortion /əˈbɔːrʃən/ *n* the premature expulsion of a foetus, *esp* if induced on purpose.

abortionist /əˈbɔːrʃənɪst/ *n* a person who performs abortions, *esp* illegally.

abortive /əˈbɔːrtɪv/ *adj* failing in intended purpose; fruitless; causing abortion.—**abortively** *adv*.

aboulia /əˈbuːliə/ or /-ˈbjuː-/ *see* **abulia**.

abound /əˈbaʊnd/ *vi* to be in abundance; to have in great quantities.

about /əˈbɔːt/ *prep* on all sides of; near to; with; on the point of; concerning. • *adv* all around; near; to face the opposite direction.

about-turn, **about-face** *n* a complete reversal in direction or opinion, etc. • *vi* to make an about-turn.

above /əˈbʊv/ *prep* over, on top of; better or more than; beyond the reach of; too complex to understand. • *adv* in or to a higher place; in addition; (*text*) mentioned earlier.

aboveboard /əˈbʊv bɔːrd/ *adj*, *adv* without trickery; in open sight.

abracadabra /ˌæbrəkəˈdæbrə/ *n* a cabbalistic word used as a charm, a spell; gibberish.

abradant /æˈbreɪdənt/ *adj* having the property of rubbing away. • *n* a substance employed for abrading or scouring.

abrade /əˈbreɪd/ *vt* to wear or rub away; to remove as by friction or abrasion; to corrode, as by acids.—**abrader** *n*.

abbranchiate /eɪˈbræŋkiːt/ or /-kiət/, **abbranchial** *adj* (*zool*) devoid of gills. • *n* an animal without gills.

abrasion /əˈbreɪʒən/ *n* the act or process of rubbing away by friction, etc; a scraped area, *esp* on the body.

abrasive /əˈbreɪsɪv/ *adj* causing abrasion; harsh, irritating. • *n* a substance or tool used for grinding or polishing, etc.—**abrasively** *adv*.

abreact /ˌæbrɪˈækt/ *vt* (*psychoanal*) to remove (a complex) by acting it out or talking it out.—**abreaction** *n*.—**abreactive** *adj*.

abreast /əˈbreɪst/ *adv* side by side and facing the same way; informed (of); aware.

abridge /əˈbrɪdʒ/ *vt* to shorten by using fewer words but keeping the substance.

abridgment, **abridgement** /əˈbrɪdʒmənt/ *n* the state of being contracted or curtailed; a shortened version of a text; an epitome.

abroach /əˈbrɔːtʃ/ *adj*, *adv* letting out; broached, pierced so as to let the liquor run.

abroad /əˈbrɔːd/ *adv* in or to a foreign country; over a wide area; out in the open; in circulation, current.

abrogate /ˈæbrəˌgeɪt/ *vt* to repeal, cancel.—**abrogator** *n*.

abrogation /ˌæbrəˈgeɪʃən/ *n* the act of abrogating; the repeal or annulling of a law.

abrupt /əˈbrʌpt/ *adj* sudden; unexpected; curt.—**abruptly** *adv*.—**abruptness** *n*.

abruption /æbˈrʌpʃən/ or /əb-/ *n* a separation with violence; a sudden or abrupt termination.

abscess /ˈæbses/ *n* an inflamed area of the body containing pus.

abscissa /əbˈsɪsə/ *n* (*pl* **abscissas**, **abscissae**) (*geom*) one of the two coordinates fixing the position of a point.

abscission /əbˈsɪʒən/ *n* the act of severance; (*bot*) the shedding of parts; the breaking off in a sentence, leaving the rest to be implied.

abscond /əbˈskɒnd/ *vi* to hide, run away, *esp* to avoid punishment for a wrongdoing.

abseil /ˈæbsɛɪl/ or /-zail/ *vi* to descend a rock face by means of a double rope attached to a higher point.—**abseiling** *n*.

absence /ˈæbsəns/ *n* the state of not being present; the time of this; a lack; inattention.

absent¹ /ˈæbsənt/ *adj* not present; not existing; inattentive.—**absently** *adv*.

absent² /æbˈsɛnt/ *vt* to keep (oneself) away.

absentee /ˌæbsənˈtiː/ *n* a person who is absent, as from work or school.

absenteeism /ˌæbsənˈtiːzəm/ *n* persistent absence from work, school, etc.

absently /'æbsəntli/ *adv* in an abstracted manner.

absent-minded /'æbsənt'maɪndəd/ *adj* inattentive; forgetful.

absinth, **absinth** /'æbsɪnθ/ *n* a potent, green, brandy-based liqueur flavoured with wormwood.

absit omen /'æbsɪt'ɔ:mən/ *interj* (*Latin*) may the foreboding caused by some unlucky word or event not come to pass.

absolute /'æbsəlu:t/ or /'æbsə'lʊ:t/ *adj* unrestricted, unconditional; complete; positive; perfect, pure; not relative; (*monarch, ruler, etc*) authoritarian, despotic; (*inf*) utter, out-and-out.

absolutely /'æbsəlu:tli/ or /'æbsə'lʊ:tli/ *adv* completely; unconditionally; (*inf*) I completely agree, certainly.

absolution /'æbsə'lʊ:ʃən/ *n* forgiveness; remission of sin or its penalty.

absolutism /'æbsəlu:tɪzəm/ *n* the state of being absolute; the principle or system of absolute government.—**absolutist** *n, adj*.

absolve /əb'zɒlv/ or /- 'sɒlv/ *vt* to clear from guilt or blame; to give religious absolution to; to free from a duty, obligation, etc.

absolver /əb'zɒlvər/ or /- 'sɒl-/ *n* one who absolves, or pronounces absolution.

absorb /əb'zɔ:rb/ *vt* to take in; to soak up; to incorporate; to pay for (costs, etc); to take in (a shock) without recoil; to occupy one's attention or interest completely.—**absorber** *n*.—**absorptive** *adj*.

absorbable /əb'zɔ:rbəbəl/ *adj* capable of being absorbed.—**absorbability** *n*.

absorbefacient /əb'zɔ:rbɪ'feɪsɪənt/ or /-sənt/ *adj* inducing or causing absorption. • *n* something that causes absorption.

absorbent /əb'zɔ:rbənt/ *adj* capable of absorbing moisture, etc.—**absorbency** *n*.

absorbent cotton *n* raw cotton that has been bleached and sterilized for use as a dressing, etc.—*also* **cotton wool**.

absorbing /əb'zɔ:rbɪŋ/ *adj* engrossing.—**absorbingly** *adv*.

absorption /əb'zɔ:rpʃən/ *n* the process or act of absorbing; the state of being absorbed; entire preoccupation of the mind.—**absorptive** *adj*.

absorption lines *npl* dark lines in the spectrum produced by the absorption of cool vapours through which the light has passed.

absorptivity /əb'zɔ:rp'tɪvɪti/ *n* the power of absorption; (*physics*) the rate of absorption of radiation by a material.

abstain /əb'steɪn/ *vi* to keep oneself from some indulgence, *esp* from drinking alcohol; to refrain from using one's vote.

abstainer /-əɪ/ *n* one who abstains, especially from intoxicants.

abstemious /əb'sti:mɪəs/ *adj* sparing in consuming food or alcohol.—**abstemiously** *adv*.—**abstemiousness** *n*.

abstention /əb'stenʃən/ *n* the act of holding off or abstaining; the withholding of a vote.—**abstentious** *adj*.—**abstentionist** *n*.

abstergent /əb'stɜ:dʒənt/ *adj* possessing cleansing or purging properties. • *n* that which cleanses or purges; a detergent.

abstinence /'æbstɪnəns/ *n* an abstaining or refraining, *esp* from food or alcohol.

abstinent /'æbstɪnənt/ *adj* refraining from over-indulgence, *esp* with regard to food and drink. • *n* an abstainer.—**abstinently** *adv*.

abstract /'æbstrækt/ *adj* having no material existence; theoretical; (*art*) non-representational. • *n* (*writing, speech*) a summary or condensed version. • *vt* to remove or extract; to separate; to summarize.

abstract noun /-naʊn/ *n* the name of a state or quality considered apart from the object to which it belongs.

abstracted /əb'stræktəd/ *adj* not paying attention.—**abstractedly** *adv*.—**abstractedness** *n*.

abstraction /əb'strækʃən/ *n* preoccupation, inattention; an abstract concept.—**abstractive** *adj*.

abstractionism /əb'strækʃənɪzəm/ *n* the theory and art of the abstract, *esp* non-representational painting.—**abstractionist** *adj, n*.

abstruse /əb'stru:s/ *adj* obscure; hidden; difficult to comprehend; profound.—**abstrusely** *adv*.—**abstruseness** *n*.

absurd /əb'sɜ:d/ or /- 'zɜ:d/ *adj* against reason or common sense; ridiculous.—**absurdly** *adv*.

absurdity /əb'sɜ:dɪti/ or /- 'zɜ:d-/ *n* (*pl* **absurdities**) the state of being absurd; that which is absurd.

abulia *n* /ə'bu:lɪə/ *n* (*psychol*) loss of willpower.—*also* **aboulia**.—**abulic** *adj*.

abundance /ə'bʌndəns/ *n* a plentiful supply; a considerable amount.
abundant /ə'bʌndənt/ *adj* plentiful; rich (in).—**abundantly** *adv*.
abuse /ə'bjuz/ *vt* to make wrong use of; to mistreat; to insult, attack verbally. • *n* misuse; mistreatment; insulting language; immoderate or illegal use of drugs or other stimulants.—**abuser** *n*.
abusive /ə'bjʊ:sɪv/ *adj* insulting.—**abusively** *adv*.—**abusiveness** *n*.
abut /ə'bʌt/ *vi* (**abutting**, **abutted**) to adjoin, border or lean (on, against).
abutment /-mənt/, **abuttal** /-əl/ *n* that which borders upon something else; the solid structure that supports the extremity of a bridge or arch.
abutter /ə'bʌtər/ *n* (*law*) the owner of an adjoining property.
abuzz /ə'bʌz/ *adv* filled with buzzing sounds; active, alive.
abysm /ə'bɪzəm/ *n* (*arch*) an abyss, a gulf.
abysmal /ə'bɪzməl/ *adj* extremely bad, deplorable.—**abysmally** *adv*.
abyss /ə'bɪs/ *n* a bottomless depth; anything too deep to measure; hell.
abyssal /ə'bɪsəl/ *adj* pertaining to oceanic depths.
AC, ac *abbr* = alternating current.
Ac (*chem symbol*) actinium.
a/c *abbr* = account; account current.
ac- /ək/ *prefix* the form of *ad-* before *c, k, g*.
acacia /ə'keɪʃə/ *n* a genus of shrubby or arboreal leguminous plants of warmer regions with white or yellow flowers, several species of which yield gum.
academic /,ækə'demɪk/ *adj* pertaining to a school, college or university; scholarly; purely theoretical in nature. • *n* a member of a college or university; a scholarly person.
academically /'ækədemɪkəli/ *adv* theoretically, unpractically.
academician /,ækədə'mɪʃən/ or /ə'kədə'mɪʃən/ *n* a member of an Academy.
academy /ə'kædəmi/ *n* (*pl academies*) a school for specialized training; (*Scot*) a secondary school; (*with cap*) a society of scholars, writers, scientists, etc.
Acadian /ə'keɪdiən/ *n* one of the settlers in the former French colony of Acadia in Canada, or a descendant in the Maritime Provinces of Canada, southeast Quebec, or eastern Maine.

• *adj* of Acadia, a region of Canada, Nova-Scotian.
acanthine /ə'kænθɪn/ or /-θaɪn/, /θɪ:n/ *adj* pertaining to or resembling the plant acanthus. • *n* ornamentation in the shape of the acanthus leaf.
acanthus /ə'kænθəs/ *n* (*pl acanthuses, acanthi*) a genus of herbaceous plants with sharp-toothed leaves; (*archit*) ornamentation adopted in the capitals of the Corinthian and Composite orders, and resembling the foliage of the acanthus.
a cappella /,pəkə'pɛlə/ or /,ækə-/ *adv* (*mus*) after the style of church or chapel music, without accompaniment.
acarid /'ækərɪd/ *n* a tick or mite of the *Acarina* order of insects, etc, in which the divisions of head, thorax and abdomen are not apparent.—*also* *adj*.
acarpellous, acarpelous /eɪ'kɑrpələs/ *adj* (*bot*) without carpels.
acarpous /eɪ'kɑrpəs/ *adj* (*bot*) not producing fruit; sterile or barren.
acatalectic /eɪ,kætəlek'tɪk/ *adj* (*verse*) with a complete number of syllables, not catalectic.—*also* *n*.
acaudal /eɪ'kəʊdəl/, **acaudate** /eɪ'kəʊdeɪt/ *adj* (*zool*) without a tail.
acaulescent /eɪ,kəʊ'lesənt/ *adj* (*bot*) stemless or with a very short stem.—**acaulescence** *n*.
acc. *abbr* = according; account; accusative.
Accadian /ə'keɪdiən/ *see* Akkadian.
accede /æk'si:d/ *vi* to take office; to agree or assent to (a suggestion).
accelerando /ək,sɛlə'rændo:/ or /ə,tʃɛl-/ *adv, adj* (*mus*) with gradual increase of speed. • *n* (*pl accelerandos*) a piece of music played in this way.
accelerate /ək'sɛlə'reɪt/ *vti* to move faster; to happen or cause to happen more quickly; to increase the velocity of (a vehicle, etc).—**accelerative, acceleratory** *adj*.
acceleration /ək,sɛlə'reɪʃən/ *n* the act of accelerating or condition of being accelerated; the rate of increase in speed or change in velocity; the power of accelerating.
accelerator /ək'sɛlə'reɪtər/ *n* a device for increasing speed; a throttle; (*physics*) an apparatus that imparts high velocities to elementary particles.
accent /'æksənt/ *n* emphasis on a syllable or word; a mark used to indicate this; any way of speaking

characteristic of a region, class, or an individual; the emphasis placed on something; rhythmic stress in music or verse. • *vt* to express the accent, or denote the vocal division of a word by stress or modulation of the voice; to pronounce; to mark or accent a word in writing by use of a sign; to dwell upon or emphasize, as a passage of music.

accentuate /æk'sentʃu,eɪt/ *vt* to emphasize.

accentuation /æk,sentʃu'eɪʃən/ *n* the act of accentuating by stress or accent; speaking or writing with emphasis or distinction.

accept /ək'sept/ *vt* to receive, *esp* willingly; to approve; to agree to; to believe in; to agree to pay.

acceptable /ək'septəbəl/ or *adj* satisfactory; welcome; tolerable.—**acceptability** *n*.—**acceptably** *adv*.

acceptance /ək'septəns/ *n* the act of accepting; the act of being accepted or received with approbation; agreement; the subscription to a bill of exchange; the bill accepted or the sum contained in it.

acceptation /æksep'teɪʃən/ *n* the act of accepting or state of being accepted or acceptable; the meaning or sense of a word or statement in which it is to be understood.

accepter, acceptor /ək'septər/ *n* one who accepts; the person who accepts a bill of exchange.

access /'ækses/ *n* approach, or means of approach; the right to enter, use, etc. • *vt* (*comput*) to retrieve (information) from a storage device; to gain access to.

accessible /ək'sesəbəl/ *adj* able to be reached; open (to).—**accessibility** *n*.—**accessibly** *adv*.

accession /ək'seɪʃən/ *n* the act of reaching or assuming a rank or position.—**accessional** *adj*.

accessory /ək'sesəri/ *adj* additional; extra. • *n* (*pl accessories*) a supplementary part or item, *esp* of clothing; a person who aids another in a crime.—**accessorial** *adj*.

acciaccatura /ə'tʃækə'tʊrə/ *n* (*pl acciaccaturas, acciaccature*) a half-note or grace note below the principal note, struck at the same time as the principal note and immediately released while the latter is held.

accidence /'æksɪdəns/ *n* (*linguistics*)

the part of grammar that deals with the inflections of words, which are accidents, not essentials; a book containing the rudiments of grammar; the rudiments themselves.

accident /'æksɪdənt/ *n* an unexpected event; a mishap or misfortune, *esp* one resulting in death or injury; chance.

accidental /,æksɪ'dentəl/ *adj* occurring or done by accident; non-essential; (*mus*) a sign prefixed to a note indicating a departure from the key signature.—**accidentally** *adv*.

accidie /'æksɪ,di/ *n* sloth, torpor, apathy.

accipiter /ək'sɪpɪtər/ *n* a generic name for birds of prey, as the common hawk.

accipitrine /-aɪn/ *adj* hawk-like, rapacious.

acclaim /ə'kleɪm/ *vt* to praise publicly (the merits of a person or thing); to welcome enthusiastically. • *vi* to shout approval. • *n* a shout of welcome or approval.

acclamation /,æklə'meɪʃən/ *n* a shout of applause or other demonstration of hearty approval, loud united assent; an outburst of joy or praise; the adoption of a resolution *viva voce*; a mode of papal election.—**acclamatory** *adj*.

acclimatize /ə'klaɪmə,tʌɪz/ *vt* to adapt to a new climate or environment. • *vi* to become acclimatized.—**acclimatization** *n*.

acclivity /ə'klɪvɪti/ *n* (*pl acclivities*) an ascent or upward slope of the earth; the talus of a rampart.—**acclivitous** *adj*.

accolade /'ækə,leɪd/ *n* praise; approval; an award; a ceremonial touch on the shoulder with a sword to confer knighthood.

accommodate /ə'kɒmə,deɪt/ *vt* to provide lodging for; to oblige, supply; to adapt, harmonize.

accommodating /-ɪŋ/ *adj* obliging, willing to help.—**accommodatingly** *adv*.

accommodation /ə'kɒmə,deɪʃən/ *n* lodgings; the process of adapting; willingness to help.

accommodation bill *n* a bill or note endorsed by one or more parties to enable the drawer to raise money upon it.

accommodation ladder *n* a ladder or stairway suspended at the gangway of a ship.

accommodative /ə'kɒmə,deɪtɪv/ *adj*

disposed or tending to accommodate.

accompaniment /ə'kæmpənɪmənt/
n an instrumental part supporting a solo instrument, a voice, or a choir; something that accompanies.

accompanist, accompanyist
 /ə'kæmpənɪst/ *n* one who plays a musical accompaniment.

accompany /ə'kæmpəni/ *vt*
 (**accompanying, accompanied**)
 (*person*) to go with; (*something*) to supplement.

accomplice /ə'kɒmplɪs/ *n* a partner, *esp* in committing a crime.

accomplish /ə'kɒmplɪʃ/ *vt* to succeed in carrying out; to fulfil.

accomplished /-plɪʃd/ *adj* done; completed; skilled, expert; polished.

accomplishment /-plɪʃmənt/ *n* a skill or talent; the act of accomplishing; something accomplished.

accord /ə'kɔ:d/ *vi* to agree; to harmonize (with). • *vt* to grant. • *n* consent; harmony.

accordance /ə'kɔ:dəns/ *n* agreement; conformity.

accordant /ə'kɔ:dənt/ *adj*
 corresponding; of the same mind.

according /ə'kɔ:dɪŋ/ *prep* as stated by or in; (*with to*) in conformity with; (*with as*) depending on whether. • *adj* agreeing, harmonious.

accordingly /-li/ *adv* consequently; therefore; suitably.

accordion /ə'kɔ:diən/ *n* a portable keyboard instrument with manually operated folding bellows that force air through metal reeds.—**accordionist** *n*.

accost /ə'kɒst/ *vt* to approach and speak to, often to accuse of crime or to solicit sexually.

account /ə'kaʊnt/ *n* a description; an explanatory statement; a business record or statement; a credit arrangement with a bank, department store, etc; importance, consequence. • *vt* to think of as; consider. • *vi* to give a financial reckoning (to); (*with for*) to give reasons (for); (*with for*) to kill, dispose of.

accountable /ə'kaʊntəbəl/
adj liable; responsible;
 explainable.—**accountability**
n.—**accountably** *adv*.

accountancy /ə'kaʊntənsi/ *n*
 the profession or practice of an accountant.

accountant /ə'kaʊtənt/ *n* one whose profession is auditing business accounts.

account book *n* a book for the entering of accounts, or in which particulars of sales, purchases, etc, are kept.

accounting /ə'kaʊntɪŋ/ *n* the maintaining or auditing of detailed business accounts; accountancy.

accoutre, accouter /ə'ku:tər/ *vt*
 to dress; to equip; to array in military dress; to furnish with accoutrements.—**accoutrement, accouterment** *n*.

accoutrements, accouterments
 /ə'ku:tərmənts/ or /-ku:tərə-/
npl equipage; dress; military equipment.

accredit /ə'krɛdɪt/ *vt* to give credit or authority to; to have confidence in; to authorize; to stamp with authority; to believe and accept as true.—**accreditation** /-teɪʃən/ *n*.

accredited /-əd/ *adj* authorized officially; accepted as valid; certified as being of a prescribed quality.

acrescent /ə'kresənt/ *adj* (*bot*)
 increasing; growing.

accrete /ə'kri:t/ *vi* to adhere, to grow together; to be added. • *vt* to cause to grow or unite. • *adj* (*bot*) grown into one.

accretion /ə'kri:ʃən/ *n* an increase by natural growth; the addition of external parts; the growing together of parts or members naturally separate.—**accretive, accretionary** *adj*.

accrue /ə'kru:/ *vi* (**accruing, accrued**) to come as a natural increase or addition; (*money, etc*) to accumulate or be added periodically.—**accrual, accrument** *n*.

accumbent /ə'kʌmbənt/ *adj* (*bot*)
 reclining or recumbent; (*hist*) of the Roman style of reclining on a couch at meals.—**accumbency** *n*.

accumulate /ə'kju:mju:leɪt/ *vti*
 to collect together in increasing quantities, to amass.

accumulation /ə'kju:mju:leɪʃən/ *n* the act of accumulating or amassing; the addition of interest to principal; the mass accumulated.

accumulative /ə'kju:mju:lətɪv/ *adj*
 cumulative; acquisitive.

accumulator /ə'kju:mju:leɪtər/ *n* a rechargeable battery; (*horseracing*) a bet that accumulates in value over successive races; (*comput*) a storage register.

accuracy /'ækjʊərəsi/ *n* (*pl accuracies*)
 the quality of being accurate;
 exactness or correctness.

accurate /'ækjʊrət/ *adj* conforming with the truth or an accepted standard; done with care, exact.—**accurately** *adv*.

accursed /ə'kɜrsəd/ or /ə'kɜrst/ *adj* under or subject to a curse; ill-fated, doomed to destruction; detestable; execrable.

accusation /'ækju:'zeɪʃən/ *n* the act of accusing or being accused; an allegation; the charge of guilt brought against a person.

accusative /ə'kju:zətɪv/ *n* (*gram*) the case expressing the direct object of a word.

accusatorial /ə'kju:zə'tɔriəl/, **accusatory** /ə'kju:zə'tɔri/ *adj* accusing, or containing an accusation; (*of legal procedure*) in which prosecutor and judge are not the same (opposite to inquisitorial).

accuse /ə'kju:z/ *vt* to charge with a crime, fault, etc; to blame.—**accuser** *n*.—**accusingly** *adv*.

accused /ə'kju:zd/ *n* (*law*) (*with the*) the defendant in court facing a criminal charge.

accuser /-zər/ *n* one who accuses; one who formally charges an offence against another.

accustom /ə'kʌstəm/ *vt* to make used (to) by habit, use, or custom.

accustomed /ə'kʌstəmd/ *adj* usual, customary; used to.

ace /eɪs/ *n* the one spot in dice, playing cards, dominoes, etc; a point won by a single stroke, as in tennis; an expert. • *adj* (*inf*) excellent.

-acea /'eɪʃə/ *n* *suffix* forming the plural names for orders of animals, *eg* Crustacea, Crustaceae.

-aceae /'eɪsi:i:/ *n* *suffix* forming plural names for families of plants, *eg* Rosaceae.

acedia /ə'si:diə/ *n* an abnormal condition of the mind, characterized by lassitude, listlessness, and general indifference.

acentric /eɪ'sentrɪk/ *adj* away from the centre; having no centre.

acephalous /ə'sefələs/ *adj* headless; without a leader; an ovary of a plant that has its style springing from the base instead of the apex.

acerbic /ə'sərbɪk/ *adj* bitter and harsh to the taste; astringent.

acerbity /ə'sərbɪti/ *n* (*pl* **acerbities**) sharpness of speech or manner; (*of taste*) bitterness.

acerose /'æsə,rə:z/ *adj* (*bot*) like

a needle, very narrow, rigid, and tapering to a point.

acervate /əsə,rɪvɪt/ or /-veɪt/ *adj* growing in closely compacted clusters.

acet-, **aceto-** /ə'si:t/ or /'set/, /'æset/ *prefix* vinegar.

acetabulum /'æsə'tæbjʊləm/ *n* (*pl* **acetabula**, **acetabulums**) the cavity of the hip bone into which the femur fits; one of the cup-like suckers on the arms of the cuttlefish; the posterior sucker of the leech; the saucer-shaped fructification of certain lichens; the receptacle of various fungi; a cup to hold vinegar.

acetanilide /'æsət'ænɪlaɪd/, **acetanilid** /-lɪd/ *n* a pungent white powder, formed by the action of acetyl chloride on aniline, used in medicine as an antipyretic.

acetate /'æsə'teɪt/ *n* a salt or ester of acetic acid; a fabric made from cellulose acetate.

acetic /ə'si:tɪk/ *adj* of acetic acid or vinegar.

acetic acid *n* a clear liquid with a strong acid taste and sharp smell, present in a dilute form in vinegar.

acetify /ə'setə'faɪ/ or /-'sɪt-/ *vt* (**acetifying**, **acetified**) to turn into vinegar.—**acetification** *n*.—**acetifier** *n*.

acetometer /'æsi,təmətər/ *n* an instrument for gauging the strength or purity of vinegar or acetic acid.

acetone /'æsə,tə:n/ *n* a clear flammable liquid used as a solvent.

acetous /'æsətəs/, **acetose** /-,tə:s/ *adj* of the nature of vinegar; sour; causing acetification.

acetylene /ə'set'li:n/ *n* a gas that burns with a hot flame, used for welding, etc.

Achates /ə'kɔti:z/ *n* a faithful friend, from Aeneas's friend in Virgil's *Aeneid*.

ache /eɪk/ *n* a dull, continuous pain.

• *vi* to suffer a dull, continuous mental or physical pain; (*inf*) to yearn.—**achy** *adj*.

achieve /ə'tʃi:v/ *vt* to perform successfully, accomplish; to gain, win.—**achievable** *adj*.—**achiever** *n*.

achievement /ə'tʃi:vmənt/ *n* a thing achieved, *esp* by great effort, courage, determination, etc; accomplishment; (*her*) an escutcheon in memory of a distinguished feat.

Achilles' heel *n* a person's vulnerable or weak point.

Achilles' tendon *n* a tendon attaching the heel to the calf muscles.

achlamydeous /'ækli'di:mi:əs/ *adj* having neither calyx nor corolla.

achromatic /'ækro:'mæti:k/ *adj* colourless; transmitting light without decomposing it.—**achromatically** *adv.*—**achromaticity, achromatism** *n.*

achromatize /ə'krə:mə'taɪz/ *vt* to deprive of the power of transmitting colour; to render achromatic.—**achromatization** *n.*

acicula /ə'sɪkjʊ:lə/ *n* (*pl* aciculæ) a spine or prickle.

acicular /ə'sɪkjʊlə'r/ *adj* needle-shaped.

aciculate /ə'sɪkjʊ,lɪt/ or /-leit/, **aciculated** /-ɪd/ *adj* in the shape of a needle; acicular.

acid /'æsid/ *adj* sharp, tart, sour; bitter. • *n* a sour substance; (*chem*) a corrosive substance that turns litmus red; (*sl*) LSD.—**acidly** *adv.*

acid house /-,həʊs/ *n* a party where people dance to House music; the style of popular music played.

acidic /ə'sɪdɪk/ *adj* containing a large proportion of the acid element; opposed to basic.

acidifier /b'sɪdɪ'faɪər/ or /-faɪr/ *n* a substance having the property of imparting an acid quality.

acidify /ə'sɪdɪ'faɪ/ *vi* (**acidifying, acidified**) to make or become acid.—**acidification** *n.*

acidimeter /,æsə'dɪmɪtər/ *n* an instrument for measuring the strength of acids.—**acidimetric** /'æ'sɪdɪ'metrik/ *adj.*—**acidimetrically** /-,kəli/ *adv.*—**acidimetry** *n.*

acidity /ə'sɪdɪti/ *n* (*pl* acidities) the quality or condition of being acid.

acidosis /,æsi'do:sis/ *n* an acid condition of the blood.—**acidotic** *adj.*

acid rain /-,reɪn/ *n* rain made acidic by air pollution from power stations, etc.

acid test /-,tɛst/ *n* a crucial or conclusive test.

acidulate /ə'sɪdju,lɪt/ *vt* to render slightly acid. • *adj* acidulous.—**acidulation** *n.*

acidulous /ə'sɪdjʊləs/, **acidulent** /'æ'sɪdjʊlənt/ *adj* somewhat acid; tart; peevish.

acierate /æ'si:ərɪt/ *vt* (**acierating** /-ɪŋ/, **acierated** /-ɪd/) to change into steel.—**acieration** *n.*

acinaciform /æ,sə'næsə,fɔ:m/ *adj* (*bot*) resembling a scimitar in shape, as an acinaciform leaf or pod.

aciniform /ə'sɪnə,fɔ:m/ *adj* grape-like; clustered like grapes.

-acious /'eɪʃəs/ *adj* *suffix* forming adjectives meaning full of, inclined to, as mendacious.

-acity /'æsɪti/ *n* *suffix* forming corresponding nouns of quality, as mendacity.

acknowledge /ə'kɒnlɪdʒ/ *vt* to admit that something is true and valid; to show that one has noticed or recognized.

acknowledgment, acknowledgement /-mənt/ *n* the act of acknowledging; the admission or recognition of a truth; confession; the expression of appreciation of a favour or benefit conferred; a printed recognition by an author of others' works used or referred to; a receipt.

acclinic line /ə'kli:nɪk/ *n* the imaginary point near the equator where the magnetic needle has no dip, the magnetic equator.

acme /'ækmi/ *n* the peak or highest point; the height of perfection.

acne /'ækni/ *n* inflammation of the skin glands producing pimples.

acolyte /'ækə,ləɪt/ *n* an assistant or follower, *esp* of a priest.

aconite /'ækə,nəɪt/, **aconitum** /-nɪtəm/ *n* the plant wolf's-bane or monk's-hood; the drug prepared from the plant.—**aconitic** *adj.*

acorn /eɪ'kɔ:n/ *n* the nut of the oak tree.

acotyledon /eɪ,kɒt'li:dn/ *n* (*bot*) a plant with seeds (spores) that have no cotyledons (seed lobes).—**acotyledonous** *adj.*

acoustic /ə'ku:stɪk/, **acoustical** /-kəl/ *adj* of the sense of hearing or sound; of acoustics; (*mus*) not amplified, *eg* a guitar.—**acoustically** *adv.*

acoustician /,ækus:'ti:ʃən/ *n* one skilled in the study of acoustics.

acoustics /ə'ku:stɪks/ *npl* (*room, concert hall, etc*) properties governing how clearly sounds can be heard in it; (*in sing*) the physics of sound.—**acoustician** *n.*

acquaint /ə'kweɪnt/ *vt* to make (oneself) familiar (with); to inform; (*with with*) to introduce (to).

acquaintance /ə'kweɪntəns/ *n* a person whom one knows only slightly.

acquainted /ə'kweɪntəd/ *adj* having personal knowledge; (*with of, with*) familiar, known.

acquiesce /,æ'kwɪ:əs/ *vi* (*with in*) to

comply with readily, or put up no opposition to.

acquiescence /ˌæˈkwɪːsəns/ *n* compliance; assent.—**acquiescent** *adj.*

acquire /əˈkwɪər/ *vt* to gain by one's own efforts; to obtain.—**acquirable** *adj.*

acquirement /ˌæˈkwɪər,mənt/ *n* the act of acquiring; that which is acquired; mental attainment.

acquisition /əˈkwɪːzɪʃən/ or /ˈækwəˌzɪʃən/ *n* the act of gaining, acquiring; someone or something that is acquired, often of special worth or talent.

acquisitive /əˈkwɪzətɪv/ *adj* eager or greedy for possessions.—**acquisitively** *adv.*—**acquisitiveness** *n.*

acquit /əˈkwɪt/ *vt* (**acquitting, acquitted**) to free from an obligation; to behave or conduct (oneself); to declare innocent.

acquittal /əˈkwɪtl/ *n* the act of releasing or acquitting, the state of being acquitted; a judicial discharge from accusation; the performance (of duty).

acquittance /əˈkwɪtəns/ *n* a discharge or release from debt or other liability; a receipt barring a further demand.

acre /ˈeɪkər/ *n* land measuring 4840 square yards.

acreage /ˈeɪkərɪdʒ/ *n* area measured in acres.

acid /ˈækrɪd/ *adj* sharp and bitter of taste or smell; caustic, critical in attitude or speech.—**acridity** *n.*—**acridly** *adv.*

acrimony /ˈækrɪ,məːni/ *n* (*pl* **acrimonies**) bitterness of manner or language.—**acrimonious** *adj.*—**acrimoniously** *adv.*

acro- /ˈækrə:/ or /ˈækrə/ *prefix* topmost, extreme.

acrobat /ˈækrəbæt/ *n* a skilful performer of spectacular gymnastic feats.—**acrobatic** *adj.*—**acrobatically** *adv.*

acrobatics /ˌækrəˈbætɪks/ *npl* acrobatic feats.

acrocarpous /ˌækrəˈkɑːpəs/ *adj* (*bot*) having (like the mosses) the fruit at the end of the primary axis.

acrogen /ˌækrəˌdʒən/ *n* (*bot*) a nonflowering plant increasing by growth from the top, as ferns and mosses.—**acrogenic, acrogenous** *adj.*

acrolith /ˈækrəˌlɪθ/ *n* a sculptured figure, with head and extremities of stone and the rest of wood.

acromegaly /ˌækrəˈmegəli/ *n* a hormonal disease resulting in overdevelopment of the extremities.—**acromegalic** *adj.*

acronycal, acronical /əˈkrɒnə,kəl/ *adj* (*astron*) (*stars*) rising at sunset and setting at sunrise.

acronym /ˈækrənɪm/ *n* a word formed from the initial letters of other words (as *laser*).

acrophobia /ˌækrəˈfəʊːbɪə/ *n* dread of heights.—**acrophobe** *n.*—**acrophobic** *adj, n.*

acropolis /əˈkrɒːpələs/ *n* the highest part or citadel of a Grecian city; the citadel itself.

acrospire /ˈækrəspɪrɪ/ *n* (*bot*) the sprout of a seed.

across /əˈkrɒs/ *prep* from one side to the other of; on or at an angle; on the other side of. • *adv* crosswise; from one side to the other.

across-the-board /-ðəˌbɔːrd/ *adj* (*wage increase, cut, etc*) applying equally to all; (*horseracing*) winning a bet if the horse comes first, second or third.

acrostic /əˈkrɒstɪk/ *n* a poem or word puzzle in which certain letters of each line spell a complete word, etc.—**acrostically** *adv.*

acrylic /əˈkrɪlɪk/ *adj* of or derived from acrylic acid. • *n* an acrylic fibre or resin.

act /ækt/ *vi* to perform or behave in a certain manner; to perform a specific function; to have an effect; to perform on the stage; (*with up*) (*inf*) to misbehave; to malfunction. • *vt* to portray by actions, *esp* on the stage; to pretend, simulate; to take the part of, as a character in a play. • *n* something done, a deed; an exploit; a law; a main division of a play or opera; the short repertoire of a comic, etc; something done merely for effect or show.

act of God *n* a direct and unforeseeable act of nature that could not reasonably have been guarded against.

acting /-ɪŋ/ *n* the art of an actor. • *adj* holding an office or position temporarily.

actinia /ækˈtɪniə/ *n* (*pl* **actiniae, actinias**) any of a genus of sea anemones that resemble flowers when the tentacles of the mouth are spread out.

actiniform /ækˈtɪnɪfɔːrm/, **actinoid** /ækˈtɪnɔɪd/ *adj* having the form of rays; star-shaped.

actinism /æk'tɪnɪzəm/ *n* the property of light by which chemical changes are caused, as in photography.—**actinic** *adj.*—**actinically** *adv.*

actinium /æktɪ'niəm/ *n* a radioactive element occurring as a decay product of uranium.

actinozoan /æk,tɪno:'zo:ən/ *see* **anthozoan**.

action /'æksjən/ *n* the process of doing something; an operation; a movement of the body, gesture; a land or sea battle; a lawsuit; the unfolding of events in a play, novel, etc; (*inf*) (*with the*) the centre of (social) activity.

actionable /-əbəl/ *adj* providing grounds for legal action.—**actionably** *adv.*

action painting *n* expressionist art produced by daubing, dribbling, splashing, throwing, etc, paint on to the canvas.

activate /'æktɪ'veɪt/ *vt* to make active; to set in motion; to make radioactive.—**activation** *n.*—**activator** *n.*

active /æk'tɪv/ *adj* lively, physically mobile; engaged in practical activities; energetic, busy; (*volcano*) liable to erupt; capable of producing an effect; radioactive; (*armed forces*) in full-time service. • *n* (*gram*) the verb form having as its subject the doer of the action.—**actively** *adv.*—**activeness** *n.*

active service, active duty *n* full-time service in a military force, *esp* during a war.

activist /'æktɪvɪst/ *n* an advocate of direct or militant action, *esp* in politics.—**activism** *n.*

activity /æk'tɪvɪti/ *n* (*pl* **activities**) the state of being active; energetic, lively action; specific occupations (*indoor activities*).

actor /'æktər/ *n* a person who acts in a play, film, etc.—**actress** *nf.*

actual /æk'tʃʊwəl/ *adj* real; existing in fact or reality.

actuality /æk,tʃʊ'wæliɪti/ or /-ʃu:-/ *n* (*pl* **actualities**) the state of being real or actual; that which is in full existence; reality

actualize /æk'tʃʊwə'laɪz/ or /-ʃu:-/ *vt* to realize in action; to describe realistically; to make actual.—**actualization** *n.*

actually /'æktʃʊəli/ or /'ækfəli/ *adv* as an existing fact, really; strange though it seems.

actuary /'æktʃʊəri/ *n* (*pl* **actuaries**

/-rɪz/) a person who calculates insurance risks, premiums, etc.—**actuarial** *adj.*

actuate /'æktʃʊeɪt/ *vt* to move or incite to action; to put in motion; to impel, influence.—**actuation** *n.*—**actuator** *n.*

acuity /ə'kju:əti/ *n* sharpness of thought or vision.

aculeate /ə'kju:lɪət/ *adj* pointed; (*zool*) equipped with a sting; (*bot*) having aculei or sharp prickles.

aculeus /ə'kju:lɪ:əs/ *n* (*pl* **aculei**) a prickle.

acumen /ə'kju:mən/ or /'ækjəmən/ *n* sharpness of mind, perception.

acuminate /ə'kju:mɪnət/ *adj* ending in a sharp point. • *vt* /-,neɪt/ (**acuminating, acuminated**) to sharpen.—**acumination** *n.*

acupuncture /'ækjʊ:pʌŋktʃər/ *n* the insertion of the tips of fine needles into the skin at certain points to treat various common ailments.—**acupuncturist** *n.*

acute /ə'kju:t/ *adj* perceptive; sharp-witted; (*hearing*) sensitive; (*pain*) severe; very serious; (*angles*) less than 90 degrees; (*disease*) severe but not long lasting.—**acutely** *adv.*—**acuteness** *n.*

acute accent *n* a mark (´) over a vowel in certain languages to indicate emphasis or special quality.

-acy /əsi/ *n* *suffix* forming nouns of state or quality, *eg* piracy.

ad- /əd/ or /æd/ *prefix* to, as in *adhere*.

ad¹ /æd/ *abbr* = advertisement.

ad² *prep* to, as in *ad absurdum*.

AD, A.D. /,eɪ'di:/ *abbr* = *anno domini* (in the year of Our Lord) in dates of the Christian era, indicating the number of years since the birth of Christ.

ad absurdum /æd,æb'zɜ:dəm/ or /-sɜ:-/ (*Latin*) to absurdity.

adactylous /eɪ'dæktələs/ *adj* without toes or fingers.

adage /'ædɪdʒ/ *n* a proverb, old saying.

adagio /ə'dæʒɪo:/ or /-dʒɪo:/ *adv* (*mus*) slowly, gracefully. • *n* (*pl* **adagios**) a slow movement.

adamant /'ædəmənt/ *adj* inflexible, unyielding. • *n* adamantine, an extremely hard substance.

adamantine /'ædə'mæntaɪn/ *adj* made of adamantine; impenetrable, very hard. • *n* an extremely hard substance; the diamond (*also* **adamant**).

Adamite /'ædəm,ait/ *n* a child of Adam;

a member of a sect who went naked; a nudist.—**Adamic** *adj.*

Adam's apple /'ædəmz,æpəl/ *n* the hard projection of cartilage in the front of the neck.

Adam's needle /-ni:dəl/ *n* a popular name of the yucca.

adapt /ə'dæpt/ *vti* to make or become fit; to adjust to a new purpose or circumstances.—**adaptability** *n.*—**adaptable** *adj.*—**adapter** *n.*

adaptation /,ædəp'teɪʃən/ *n* the process or condition of being adapted; something produced by modification; a version of a literary composition rewritten for a different medium.

adaptor /ə'dæptər/ *n* a device that allows an item of equipment to be put to new use; a device for connecting parts of differing size and shape; an electrical plug using one socket for different appliances.

adaxial /æd'æksɪəl/ *adj* towards the axis.

ADC /,ɛɪdi:'si:/ *abbr* = aide-de-camp.

add /æd/ *vt* to combine (two or more things together); to combine numbers or amounts in a total; to remark or write further. • *vi* to perform or come together by addition.

addax /'ædæks/ *n* (*pl* **addaxes**, **addax**) a large North African antelope with twisted horns.

addendum /ə'dendəm/ *n* (*pl* **addenda**) a thing to be added; supplementary text appended to a book, etc.

adder /'ædər/ *n* the venomous viper.

adder's-tongue /'ædərz,tʌŋ/ *n* a kind of fern whose spike resembles the tongue of a snake.

addict /'ædɪkt/ *n* a person who is dependent upon a drug. • *vt* to devote or give oneself up to; to practise sedulously (*usu* pejorative).—**addiction** *n.*—**addictive** *adj.*

addition /ə'dɪkʃən/ *n* the act or result of adding; something to be added; an extra part.

additional /ə'dɪʃənəl/ *adj* added, extra; supplementary.—**additionally** *adv.*

additive /'ædɪtɪv/ *adj* produced by addition. • *n* a substance added (to food, etc) to improve texture, flavour, etc.

addle /'ædəl/ *vb* (**addling**, **addled**) *vt* to make corrupt, putrid or confused. • *vi* to become addled. • *adj* rotten.

addle-headed, **addle-pated** *adj*

stupid, weak-brained; muddled.

address /ə'dres/ *vt* to write directions for delivery on (a letter, etc); to speak or write directly to; to direct one's skills or attention (to); (*golf*) to adjust one's stance and aim before hitting the ball; • *n* a place where a person or business resides, the details of this on a letter for delivery; a speech, *esp* a formal one; (*comput*) a specific memory location where information is stored.—**addressable** *adj.*

addressee /,ædre'si:/ *n* a person or company to whom a letter is addressed.

Addressograph /ə'dresə,græf/ *n* (*trademark*) an addressing machine.

adduce /ə'dju:s/ *vt* to offer as an example or evidence.

adducent /æ'du:sənt/ or /ə-/ , /-dju:s-/ *adj* bringing forward or together.

adducible, **adduceable** /ə'dju:səbəl/ *adj* capable of being adduced.

adduct /ə'dekt/ *vt* to pull towards; (*of muscles*) to draw to a common centre.—**adduction** *n.*—**adductive** *adj.*

adductor muscle /ə'dɛktər/ *n* a muscle that draws certain parts to a common centre.

ademption /ə'dempʃən/ *n* (*law*) the revocation of a grant; the lapse of a legacy.

aden- /'ædən/, **adeno-** /'ædnə:/ *prefix* gland.

adenitis /,ædn'aɪtɪs/ *n* inflammation of a gland.

adenoids /'ædə,nɔɪdz/ *npl* enlarged masses of tissue in the throat behind the nose.—**adenoidal** *adj.*

adenoma /,æd'nɔ:mə/ *n* (*pl* **adenomas**, **adenomata**) a gland-like benign tumour.

adept /'ædept/ or /ə'dɛpt/ *adj* highly proficient. • *n* a highly skilled person.—**adeptly** *adv.*—**adeptness** *n.*

adequacy /'ædəkwəsi/ *n* adequateness; sufficiency for a particular purpose.

adequate /'ædəkwət/ *adj* sufficient for requirements; barely acceptable.—**adequately** *adv.*—**adequateness** *n.*

à deux /æ'dɔ:/ *Fr.* /adø/ for two; intimate.

adhere /əd'hɪr/ *vi* to stick, as by gluing or suction; to give allegiance or support (to); to follow.

adherence /əd'hɪ:rəns/ *n* the act or state of adhering; unwavering attachment.

adherent /əd'hɪ:rənt/ *adj* sticking,

attached. • *n* a supporter of a political party, idea, etc.

adhesion /əd'hi:zən/ *n* the action or condition of adhering; the attachment of normally separate tissues in the body.

adhesive /əd'hi:sv/ or /-zɪv/ *adj* sticky; causing adherence. • *n* a substance used to stick, such as glue, paste, etc.—**adhesiveness** *n*.

ad hoc /æd'hɒk/ *adj* for a particular purpose.

ad hominem /æd'hɒmɪ,nem/ (*Latin*) to the man, personal.

adiabatic /ɪ'erdɪə'bætɪk/ or /ɪ'erdə-/
adj (*physics*) not gaining or losing heat.—**adiabatically** *adv*.

adiaphorous /,ædi:'æfərəs/ or /,ædɑ:'æ-/
adj (*theol*) tolerant in nonessential points of religion; morally indifferent; (*med*) neither helping nor harming.

adieu /ə'dju:/ *n* (*pl adieux, adieus*) farewell, goodbye; good wishes at parting.

ad infinitum /ædɪ,ɪnfi'naitəm/ *adv* without end, forever.

ad interim /æd'ɪntərɪm/ *adv* (*Latin*) for the meantime.

adipocere /'ædɪpə,sɪ:r/ *n* a fatty substance resulting from decomposition of animal bodies in moist places.—**adipoceros** *adj*.

adipose /'ædɪ,pɔ:s/ or /-pɔ:z/ *adj* of, like or containing animal fat; fatty.—**adiposity** *n*.

adit /'ædɪt/ *n* an entrance or passage; an entrance to a mine more or less horizontal.

adjacent /ə'dʒeɪsənt/ *adj* nearby; adjoining, contiguous.—**adjacency** *n*.

adjective /'ædʒəktɪv/ *n* a word used to add a characteristic to a noun or pronoun.—**adjectival** *adj*.—**adjectivally** *adv*.

adjoin /ə'dʒɔɪn/ *vt* to unite or join. • *vi* to lie next to.

adjoining /-ɪŋ/ *adj* beside, in contact with.

adjourn /ə'dʒɔ:rn/ *vt* to suspend (a meeting) temporarily. • *vi* (*inf*) to retire (to another room, etc).—**adjournment** *n*.

adjournment /-mənt/ *n* the act of adjourning; the postponement of a meeting.

adjudge /ə'dʒɛdʒ/ *vt* (**adjudging, adjudged**) to decide or award judicially; to sentence; to determine in a controversy, to adjudicate.—**adjudgment, adjudgement** *n*.

adjudicate /ə'dʒu:dɪ,keɪt/ *vt* (*law*) to hear and decide (a case). • *vi* to serve as a judge (in or on).—**adjudicator** *n*.

adjudication /ə'dʒu:dɪ,keɪʃən/ *n* the act of determining judicially; a judicial sentence; a court's decision.

adjunct /'ædʒʊŋkt/ *n* something joined or added but inessential.—**adjunctive** *adj*.

adjuration /,ædʒə'reɪʃən/ *n* the solemn charging on oath; the oath used.

adjure /ə'dʒɔ:r/ or /ə'dʒɔ:r/ *vt* to command on oath under pain of a penalty; to charge solemnly, request earnestly.

adjust /ə'dʒʌst/ *vt* to arrange in a more proper or satisfactory manner; to regulate or modify by minor changes; to decide the amount to be paid in settling (an insurance claim). • *vi* to adapt oneself.—**adjustable** *adj*.—**adjuster** *n*.

adjustment /-mənt/ *n* the act of adjusting; arrangement.

adjutancy /'ædʒətənsɪ/ *n* (*pl adjutancies*) the office of an adjutant.

adjutant /'ædʒətənt/ *n* a military staff officer who assists the commanding officer.

adjutant general *n* (*pl adjutants general*) the chief staff officer of an army, through whom all orders, etc, are received and issued by the general commanding.

adjuvant /'ædʒʌvənt/ *adj* assisting, helpful. • *n* a helper, an auxiliary.

ad-lib /æd'lɪb/ *vti* (**ad-libbing, ad-libbed**) (*speech, etc*) to improvise. • *n* an ad-libbed remark. • *adv* spontaneously, freely.—**ad-libber** *n*.

adman /'ædmæn/ *n* (*pl admen*) (*inf*) a person who works in the advertising business.

admass /'ædmæs/ or /-məs/ *n* the public targeted by or influenced by advertising.

admeasure /əd'mɛzər/ *vt* (**admeasuring, admeasured**) to measure dimensions; to apportion.

admeasurement /-mənt/ *n* a measurement by a rule; adjustment of proportions; dimensions.

admin /,əd'mɪn/ *n* (*inf*) administration.

administer /əd'mɪnɪstər/ *vt* to manage, direct; to give out as a punishment; to dispense (medicine, punishment, etc); to tender (an oath, etc).

administrate /əd'mɪnɪstreɪt/ *vti* to manage or control the affairs of a business, institution, etc.

administration /əd,mɪnɪ'streɪʃən/
n management; the people who administer an organization; the government; (*with cap*) the executive officials of a government, their policies, and term of office.

administrative /əd'mɪnɪ'streɪtɪv/
adj of management;
 executive.—**administratively** *adv.*

administrator /əd'mɪnɪ'streɪtər/
n a person who manages or supervises;
 (*law*) one appointed to settle an estate.

admirable /'ædmərəbəl/
adj deserving of admiration or approval.—**admirably** *adv.*

admiral /'ædmərəl/
n the commanding officer of a fleet; a naval officer of the highest rank.

admiralty /-ti/
n (*pl* **admiralties**) the department of a government having authority over naval affairs; the building in which naval affairs are transacted; the office of an admiral.

admiration /,ædmɪ'reɪʃən/
n a feeling of pleasurable and often surprised respect or approval; an admired person or thing.

admire /əd'maɪr/
vt to regard with honour, approval and pleasure; to express admiration for.—**admirer** *n.*—**admiring** *adj.*—**admiringly** *adv.*

admissible /əd'mɪsɪbəl/
adj that may be admitted or allowed.—**admissibility**, **admissibility** *n.*

admission /əd'mɪʃən/
n an entrance fee; a conceding, confessing, etc; a thing conceded, confessed, etc.—**admissive** *adj.*

admit /əd'mɪt/
vb (**admitting**, **admitted**) *vt* to allow to enter or join; to concede or acknowledge as true.
 • *vi* to give access; (*with of*) to allow or permit.

admittance /əd'mɪtəns/
n the act of admitting; the right to enter.

admittedly /əd'mɪtədli/
adv acknowledged as fact, willingly conceded.

admix /æd'mɪks/
vt to mix with something else; to add as an extra ingredient.

admixture /-tʃər/
n a mixture, a compound of substances mixed together.

admonish /əd'mɒnɪʃ/
vt to remind or advise earnestly; to reprove gently.

admonition /,ædmə'niʃən/
n a friendly reproof or warning.—**admonitory** *adj.*

adnate /'æd,neɪt/
adj (*bot*) with organic cohesion of unlike parts.

ad nauseam /æd'nəʊzi,əm/ or /-zi,əm/
adv to a sickening degree.

ado /ə'duː/
n fuss, excitement, *esp* over trivial matters.

adobe /ə'doʊbi/
n a brick made of sun-dried clay; clay for making adobe bricks; a building using such bricks.

adolescence /,ædə'lesəns/
n the period of life between puberty and maturity; youth.

adolescent /,ædə'lesənt/
adj pertaining to the stage between childhood and maturity; (*inf*) immature. • *n* an adolescent person.

adopt /ə'dɒpt/
vt to take legally into one's family and raise as one's child; to select and pursue, *eg* a course of action; to take as one's own.—**adoption** *n.*

adoptive /ə'dɒptɪv/
adj made or related by adoption.

adorable /ə'dɔərəbəl/
adj worthy of being adored; extremely charming.—**adorably** *adv.*

adoration /,ædə'reɪʃən/
n worship, homage; profound regard.

adore /ə'dɔːr/
vt to worship; to love deeply.—**adoringly** *adv.*

adorn /ə'dɔːrn/
vt to decorate; to make more pleasant or attractive.—**adornment** *n.*

ad rem /æd'rem/
adj, adv to the point or purpose.

adrenal /ə'dri:nəl/
adj of or near the kidney. • *n* an adrenal gland.

adrenal gland *n* one of two glands situated above the kidneys that secretes adrenaline.

adrenaline /ə'drɛnəlɪn/
n a hormone that stimulates the heart rate, blood pressure, etc in response to stress and that is secreted by the adrenal glands or manufactured synthetically.

adrift /ə'drɪft/
adj, adv afloat without mooring, drifting; loose; purposeless.

adroit /ə'drɔɪt/
adj skilful and clever, sharp-witted.—**adroitly** *adv.*—**adroitness** *n.*

adscititious /,ædsɪ'tɪʃəs/
adj taken in addition; added from without; additional, supplementary.

adsorb /əd'sɔːrb/
vti to accumulate on a surface, to collect by adsorption.—**adsorbable** *adj.*

adsorbent /-ənt/
n an adsorbing substance.

adsorption /æd'sɔːrʃjən/
n the action of a solid in condensing and holding a gas upon it.

adulate /'ædʒʊleɪt/ *vt* to flatter excessively or basely.—**adulator** *n*.—**adulatory** *adj*.
adulation /'ædʒʊleɪʃən/ *n* excessive flattery.—**adulatory** *adj*.
adult /ə'dʌlt/ or /'ædʌlt/ *adj* fully grown; mature; suitable only for adults, as in pornography, etc. • *n* a mature person, etc.—**adulthood** *n*.
adulterant /ə'deltərənt/ *adj* adulterating. • *n* the person or thing that adulterates.
adulterate /ə'deltəreɪt/ *vt* to make impure or inferior, etc by adding an improper substance.—**adulteration** *n*.—**adulterator** *n*.
adulterer /ə'deltərə/ *n* a person who commits adultery.—**adulteress** *nf*.
adulterine /ə'deltəreɪn/ *adj* resulting from adulterous intercourse; fake, spurious; illegal.
adulterous /ə'deltərəs/ *adj* guilty of adultery.
adultery /ə'deltəri/ *n* (*pl* adulteries) sexual intercourse between a married person and someone other than their legal partner.
adumbral /'ædəmbrəl/ *adj* overshadowing; shady.
adumbrate /'ædəmbrɛɪt/ *vt* to foreshadow; to overshadow; to give a faint semblance of.—**adumbration** *n*.—**adumbrative** *adj*.
ad valorem /'ædvə'lɔrem/ *adj, adv* according to value; (*customs, duties*) levied on the value of goods as sworn to by the owner.
advance /əd'væns/ *vt* to bring or move forward; to promote; to raise the rate of; (*money*) to lend. • *vi* to go forward; to make progress; to rise in rank, price, etc. • *n* progress; improvement; a rise in value; payment beforehand; (*pl*) friendly approaches, *esp* to please. • *adj* in front; beforehand.
advanced /əd'vænst/ *adj* in front; old; superior in development or progress.
advancement /əd'vænsmənt/ or /-vɒns-/ *n* promotion to a higher rank; progress in development.
advantage /əd'væntɪdʒ/ *n* superiority of position or condition; a gain or benefit; (*tennis*) the first point won after deuce. • *vt* to produce a benefit or favour to.
advantageous /'ædvən'teɪdʒəs/ *adj* producing advantage, beneficial.—**advantageously** *adv*.
advent /'ædvɛnt/ *n* an arrival or

coming; (*with cap*) (*Christianity*) the coming of Christ; the four-week period before Christmas.
Adventist /'æd'ventɪst/ *n* a person who believes in Christ's second coming to set up a kingdom on earth.—**Adventism** *n*.
advertitious /'ædvɛn'tɪʃəs/ *adj* happening by chance; casual; fortuitous; accidental; produced out of normal and regular order; growing in an abnormal position.—**advertitiously** *adv*.—**advertitiouslyness** *n*.
Advent Sunday *n* the Sunday nearest (before or after) to St Andrew's Day (30 November).
adventure /əd'ventʃər/ *n* a strange or exciting undertaking; an unusual, stirring, often romantic, experience.
adventure playground *n* a children's playground equipped with materials and objects for building, climbing, hiding in, etc.
adventurer /-ə/ *n* a person who seeks adventure; someone who seeks money or power by unscrupulous means.—**adventuress** *nf*.
adventurous /-əs/ *adj* inclined to incur risk; full of risk; rash; enterprising; daring.—**adventurously** *adv*.
adverb /'ædvərb/ *n* a word that modifies a verb, adjective, another adverb, phrase, clause or sentence and indicates how, why, where, etc.—**adverbial** *adj*.—**adverbially** *adv*.
adversary /'ædvər'səri/ *n* (*pl* adversaries) an enemy or opponent.
adversative /əd'vərsətɪv/ *adj* (*words*) denoting opposition or contrariety; expressing opposition.
adverse /əd'vərs/ or /'æd-/ *adj* hostile; contrary or opposite; unfavourable.—**adversely** *adv*.
adversity /əd'vərsɪti/ *n* (*pl* adversities) trouble, misery, misfortune.
advert /'ædvɔrt/ *vt* to refer (to); to turn attention (to).
advert¹ /'ædvɔrt/ *n* (*inf*) an advertisement.
advertence /æd'vɔrtəns/, **advertency** /-sɪ/ *n* attention; heedfulness.—**advertent** *adj*.
advertently /æd'vɔrtəntli/ *adv* in an intentional manner.
advertise, advertize /'ædvər'taɪz/ *vt* to call public attention to, *esp* in order to sell something, by buying space or time in the media, etc. • *vi* to call public attention to things for

sale; to ask (for) by public notice.—**advertiser, advertizer** *n.*
advertisement, advertizement /ˌədˈvɜrtɪzmənt/ or /ˌədˈvɜrtɪzəmɔnt/ *n* advertising; a public notice, *usu* paid for by the provider of a good or service.
advertising, advertizing /ˌədˈvɜrtɪzɪŋ/ *n* the promotion of goods or services by public notices; advertisements; the business of producing adverts.
advice /ədˈvaɪz/ *n* recommendation with regard to a course of action; formal notice or communication.
advisable /ədˈvaɪzəbəl/ *adj* prudent, expedient.—**advisability** *n.*
advise /ədˈvaɪz/ *vt* to give advice to; to caution; to recommend; to inform. • *vi* to give advice.—**adviser, advisor** *n.*
advised /ədˈvaɪzd/ *adj* acting with caution; deliberate; judicious.—**advisedly** *adv.*
advisory /ədˈvaɪzəri/ *adj* having or exercising the power to advise; containing or giving advice.
advocaat /ˌædvəˈkɑt/ *n* a sweet egg-based liqueur.
advocacy /ˌædvəkəsi/ *n* (pl **advocacies**) the function of an **advocate** *adj.*
advocate /ˌædvəkət/ or /ædˈvəkeɪt/ *n* a person who argues or defends the cause of another, *esp* in a court of law; a supporter. • *vt* to plead in favour of, to recommend.
adynamia /ˌædaɪˈneɪmiə/ or /ˌædɪˈneɪ-/ *n* want of vital power, prostration, weakness.—**adynamic** *adj.*
adze, adz /ædz/ *n* a type of axe with a blade at right angles to the handle for cutting and shaping wood.
aedile, /iːˈdaɪl/ n a Roman magistrate who exercised supervision over the temples, public and private buildings, the markets, public games, sanitation, etc, hence a municipal officer.—*also* **edile.**
aegis /ˈiːdʒɪs/ *n* protection, sponsorship.—*also* **egis.**
Aeolian /eɪˈoʊliən/ *adj* pertaining to Aeolis in Asia Minor or to the Aeolic race; of Aeolus, the Greek god of winds.
aeolian harp *n* a stringed instrument, the wires of which are set in motion and sounded by the wind.
Aeolic /iˈbɒlɪk/ *adj* of Aeolis. • *n* the Aeolic dialect of ancient Greece.
aeon /iːən/ or /iːɒn/ *n* a period of

immense duration; an age.—*also* **eon.**
aeonian /iˈoʊniən/ *adj* everlasting.—*also* **eonian.**
aerate /ˈɛrɛɪt/ *vt* to supply (blood) with oxygen by respiration; to supply or impregnate with air; to combine or charge a liquid with gas.—**aeration** *n.*
aerator /-ət/ *n* an apparatus for making aerated waters.
aerial /ˈɛəriəl/ *adj* belonging to or existing in the air; of aircraft or flying. • *n* a radio or TV antenna.
aerialist /ˈɛəriəlɪst/ *n* a trapeze or high-wire artist.
aerie /ˈɛəri/ or /ˈiːri/ *see* **eyrie.**
aeriform /ˈɛərəfɔrm/ *adj* having the form of air; gaseous; like air; unsubstantial.
aerify /ˈɛərəfaɪ/ *vt* (**aerifying, aerified**) to combine with air.—**aerification** *n.*
aero- /ˈɛrɔː/ *prefix* aviation; air vessel.
aerobatics /ˌɛrəˈbætɪks/ *npl* stunts performed while flying an aircraft.
aerobe /ˈɛrɔːb/, **aerobium** /ɛrˈoʊbiəm/ *n* (pl **aerobes, aerobia**) a microbe that cannot live without air.
aerobic /ɛˈrɔːbɪk/ *adj* (*exercise*) that conditions the heart and lungs by increasing the efficient intake of oxygen by the body.
aerobics /-s/ *npl* aerobic exercises.
aerodrome /ˈɛrəˌdrɔːm/ *n* an airfield.
aerodynamics /ˌɛrəˈdaɪˌnæmɪks/ *n* the study of the forces exerted by air or other gases in motion, *esp* around solid bodies such as aircraft.—**aerodynamic** *adj.*—**aerodynamically** *adv.*
aerofoil /ˈɛrəˌfɔɪl/ *n* a wing, the lifting surface of an aeroplane.
aerogram, aerogram /ˈɛrəˌgræm/ *n* a radio telegraphic message.
aerolite /ˈɛrəˌləɪt/ *n* a stone falling from the air, a meteorite.
aerology /ɛˈrɒlədʒi/ *n* the science that deals with the air and the atmosphere.—**aerologic, aerological** *adj.*—**aerologist** *n.*
aerometer /ɛˈrɒmətər/ *n* an instrument for weighing the air.—**aerometric** *adj.*
aerometry /ɛrˈɒmətri/ *n* the branch of physics concerned with air, pneumatics.
aeronaut /ˌɛrəˈnɒt/ *n* an aviator; the pilot or navigator of an aircraft.
aeronautical /ˌɛrəˈnɒtɪkəl/, **aeronautic** /ˌɛrəˈnɒtɪk/ *adj* of or pertaining to aeronautics or an aeronaut.—**aeronautically** *adv.*
aeronautics /-ɪks/ *n* the science dealing

with the operation of aircraft; the art or science of flight.

aeroplane /'erəpleɪn/ *n* a power-driven aircraft.—*also* **airplane**.

aerosol /'erəʊsəl/ *n* a suspension of fine solid or liquid particles in gas, *esp* as held in a container under pressure, with a device for releasing it in a fine spray.

aerospace /'erəʊspeɪs/ *n* the earth's atmosphere and the space beyond. • *adj* technology for flight in aerospace.

aerostat /'erəstæt/ *n* a balloon; a balloonist.

aerostatics /-tɪks/ *n* (*used as sing*) the science that studies the equilibrium of bodies sustained in air; the science of air navigation.—**aerostatic**, **aerostatical** *adj*.

aerostation /'erəsteɪʃən/ *n* ballooning.

aeruginous /i'ru:dʒɪnəs/ *adj* of or like verdigris or copper rust.

aery /'eəri/ or /'iri/, /'eri/, /'tri/ *see* **eyrie**.

Aesculapian /i:skʉ'leɪpiən/ or /'e-/ *adj* of or pertaining to Aesculapius, the Roman god of medicine, or to medicine.

aesthete /'esθi:t/ *n* a person who is or pretends to be highly sensitive to art and beauty.—*also* **esthete**.

aesthetic /'es'tetɪk/, **aesthetical** /'es'tetɪkəl/ *adj* of or pertaining to aesthetics; concerned with beauty rather than practicality.—*also* **esthetic**, **esthetical**.—**aesthetically**, **esthetically** *adv*.

aestheticism /'es'tetɪsɪzəm/ *n* the cult of the beautiful, *esp* a fantastic art movement at the end of the 19th century.—*also* **estheticism**.

aesthetics /'es'tetɪks/ *n* the philosophy of art and beauty.—*also* **esthetics**.

aestival /'estɪvəl/ *adj* of or occurring in summer.—*also* **estival**.

aestivation /,estɪ'veɪʃən/ or /i:s-/ *n* (*bot*) the arrangement of petals in a flower bud; (*zool*) the spending of the dry season in a dormant state.—*also* **estivation**.

aet., **aetat.** *abbr* = *aetatis*, of, at, the age of.

aetiology /i:ti'ɒlədʒi/, **aetiological** /-kəl/, **aetiologist** /-ɪst/ *see* **etiology**.

af- /əf/ *prefix* the form of *ad-* before *f*.

afar /ə'fɑː/ *adv* at, to, or from a great distance.

affable /'æfəbəl/ *adj* friendly; approachable.—**affability** *n*.—**affably** *adv*.

affair /ə'fer/ *n* a thing done or to be done; (*pl*) public or private business; (*inf*) an event; a temporary romantic or sexual relationship.

affaire (de cœur) /æ'fer/ *n* a love affair.

affect /'æfekt/ *vt* to have an effect on; to produce a change in; to act in a way that alters or affects the feelings of.

affect ² *vt* to pretend or feign (an emotion); to incline to or show a preference for.

affect ³ /'æfekt/ *n* an emotion, feeling or desire associated with a certain stimulus.

affectation /,æfektɪ'eɪʃən/ *n* a striving after or an attempt to assume what is not natural or real; pretence.

affected /ə'fektəd/ *adj* (*manner, etc*) assumed artificially.—**affectedly** *adv*.—**affectedness** *n*.

affecting /ə'fektɪŋ/ *adj* having power to excite the emotions; moving; pathetic.—**affectingly** *adv*.

affection /ə'fektʃən/ *n* tender feeling; liking.—**affectional** *adj*.

affectionate /ə'fektʃənət/ *adj* showing affection, loving.—**affectionately** *adv*.

affective /ə'fektɪv/ *adj* arousing the emotions, emotional.—**affectivity**, **affectiveness** *n*.

afferent /'æfərənt/ *adj* conveying inwards or to a part.

affettuoso /ə'fetʉ'ɔ:so/ *adv* (*mus*) with feeling, tender, pathetic.

affiance /,æfi:'ɒns/ or /ə'faɪəns/ *vt* to promise in marriage, betroth. • *n* faith, trust; a marriage contract.

affiche /ə'fɪtʃ/ *n* a paper affixed to a wall, a poster.

affidavit /,æfi'deɪvɪt/ *n* a statement written on oath.

affiliate /ə'fɪli:,eɪt/ *vt* to connect as a subordinate member or branch; to associate (oneself with). • *vi* to join. • *n* an affiliated person, club, etc.—**affiliation** *n*.

affinity /ə'fɪnɪti/ *n* (*pl* **affinities**) attraction, liking; a close relationship, *esp* by marriage; similarity, likeness; (*chem*) a tendency in certain substances to combine.

affirm /ə'fɜːm/ *vt* to assert confidently or positively; to confirm or ratify; (*law*) to make an affirmation.

affirmation /,æfərə'meɪʃən/ *n* affirming; an assertion; a solemn declaration made by those declining to swear an oath, *eg* on religious grounds.

affirmative /ə'fɜːrmətɪv/ *adj* confirming; indicating agreement. • *n*

a positive word or statement, *eg yes*.—**affirmatively** *adv.*

affix /ə'fiks/ *vt* to fasten; to add, *esp* in writing; to attach.

afflatus /ə'fleɪtəs/ *n* a breath or blast of wind; poetic or divine inspiration; creative power.

afflict /ə'flikt/ *vt* to cause persistent pain or suffering to; to trouble greatly.—**afflictive** *adj.*

affliction /ə'fliktʃən/ *n* persistent pain, suffering; a cause of this.

affluence /'æfluəns/ *n* an abundant supply, as of thoughts, words, riches; wealth.

affluent /-ənt/ or *adj* rich, well provided for.—**affluently** *adv.*

affluenza /'æflu:wənzə/ *n* a psychological disease resulting from an excess of affluence.

afflux /'æfleks/ *n* a flowing towards; an increase; an influx.

afford /ə'fɔ:d/ *vt* to be in a position to do or bear without much inconvenience; to have enough time, money, or resources for; to supply, produce.

afforest /ə'fɔ:rɪst/ or /-fər-/ , /æ-/ *vt* to plant trees to cover with forest.—**afforestation** *n.*

affranchise /ə'fræntʃaɪz/ *vt* to free from an obligation or slavery; to enfranchise.—**affranchisement** *n.*

affray /ə'freɪ/ *n* a noisy fight.

affreightment /ə'freɪtmənt/ *n* the hire of a ship for the transportation of goods or freight.

affright /ə'fraɪt/ *vt* (*arch*) to frighten, to terrify; to alarm; to confuse.

affront /ə'frɒnt/ *vi* to insult or offend openly or deliberately. • *n* such an insult or offence.

affusion /ə'fju:zən/ *n* the act of pouring upon, *esp* in baptism.

Afghan /'æfgən/ *adj* pertaining to Afghanistan. • *n* a native of Afghanistan.—*also* **Afghani**.

aficionado /ə'fɪʃə'nɒdo:/ or /ə'fɪʃjə'nɒdo:/ *n* (*pl aficionados*) a devotee of a particular sport, activity, etc.

afield /ə'fi:ld/ *adv* far away from home; to or at a distance; astray.

afire /ə'faɪə/ *adj, adv* on fire.

affame /ə'fleɪm/ *adj, adv* flaming, ablaze, in a glow.

afloat /ə'flo:t/ *adj* floating; at sea, on board a ship; debt-free; flooded.—*also* *adv.*

affoot /ə'fʊt/ *adj, adv* on foot; astir; on the move; in operation.

afore /ə'fɔ:r/ *adv, prep* in front, before; previously.

aforementioned /ə'fɔ:r,mənʃənd/ *adj* mentioned previously.

aforesaid /-,sed/ *adj* referred to previously.

aforethought /-θɒt/ *adj* premeditated.

a fortiori /,eɪ'fɔ:ri'ɔ:ri/ (*Latin*) with stronger reason, more conclusively.

afraid /ə'freɪd/ *adj* full of fear or apprehension; regretful.

afreet /'æfri:t/ *n* (*Arabian myth*) an evil demon.

afresh /ə'freʃ/ *adv* anew, starting again.

African /'æfrɪkən/ *adj* pertaining to Africa. • *n* a native of Africa.

African violet *n* any of various African plants popular as houseplants, with purple, pink or white flowers and velvet-textured leaves.

Afrikaans /,æfrɪ'kɒns/ *n* a language derived from Dutch used in South Africa.

Afrikander, Africander /,æfrɪ'kɒndər/ *n* (any of) a breed of southern African beef cattle.

Afrikaner /,æfrɪ'kɒnər/ *n* a South African native white, *esp* of Dutch descent.

Afro /'æfro:/ *n* (*pl Afros*) a bushy hairstyle.

Afro- /'æfro:/ *prefix* Africa or African.

Afro-American /,æfro:ə'merɪkən/ *n* a Black American. • *adj* of or relating to Black Americans, or their culture, history, etc.

afromosia /,æfrɔ:'mɔ:zɪə/ *n* a hard wood similar to teak, used in furniture.

aft /æft/ *adv* at, near, or towards the stern of a ship or rear of an aircraft.

after /'æftər/ *prep* behind in place or order; following in time, later than; in pursuit of; in imitation of; in view of, in spite of; according to; about, concerning; subsequently. • *adv* later; behind. • *conj* at a time later than. • *adj* later, subsequent; nearer the stern of a ship or aircraft.

afterbirth /-,bərθ/ *n* the placenta expelled from the womb after giving birth.

afterbrain /-,breɪn/ *n* that portion of the brain behind the hind-brain, the medulla oblongata.

afterburner /-,bɜ:nər/ *n* a device in a jet engine used to provide extra thrust by igniting additional fuel.

aftercare /-,kɛr/ *n* care following hospital treatment, etc.

afterdamp /-,dæmp/ *n* the carbonic

acid found in coal mines after an explosion of fire damp; choke damp.

aftereffect /-ə, fɛkt/ *n* an effect that occurs some time after its cause.

afterglow /-, glɔ:/ *n* the glow in the sky after sunset.

afterimage /-, ɪmɪdʒ/ *n* the image that remains momentarily after the eye has been withdrawn from a bright object.

afterlife /-, laɪf/ *n* life after death.

aftermath /-, mæθ/ *n* the result, *esp* an unpleasant one.

aftermost /-, mo:st/ *adj* hindmost;

farthest aft, nearest to the stern.

afternoon /-, nu:n/ *n* the time between noon and sunset or evening.—*also adj.*

afternote /-, nɔ:t/ *n* the second or unaccented note, which takes its time from the first or accented note.

afterpains /-, peɪnz/ *npl* pains after childbirth.

aftershave /-, ʃeɪv/ *n* lotion for use after shaving.

aftertaste /-, teɪst/ *n* the taste that remains after eating or drinking.

afterthought /-, θɒt/ *n* a thought or reflection occurring later.

afterwards /-wɔ:rdz/, **afterward** /-, wɔ:rd/ *adv* at a later time.

afterwit /-, wɪt/ *n* wisdom that comes too late.

Ag (*chem symbol*) silver.

ag- /əg/ *prefix* the form of *ad-* before *g*.

aga /'ægə/ *n* in Turkey, a commander or chief officer; a title of respect.—*also agha.*

again /ə'geɪn/ or /ə'gen/ *adv* once more; besides; on the other hand.

against /ə'geɪnst/ or /ə'genst/ *prep* in opposition to; unfavourable to; in contrast to; in preparation for; in contact with; as a charge on.

agalloch /ə'gælɔʃ/ *n* a fragrant resinous heartwood.—*also eaglewood.*

agama /ə'geɪmə/ *n* a short-tongued lizard found in India and Africa.

agami /ə'gæmi/ *n* a South American bird allied to the cranes; a trumpeter bird.

agamic /ə'gæmɪk/ *adj* (*biol*) produced without sexual action, asexual.—**agamically** *adj.*

agamogenesis /, ægə, mo: dʒenə'sɪs/ *n* (*biol*) asexual reproduction.—**agamogenetic** *adj.*—**agamogenetically** *adv.*

agapanthus /, ægə'pænθəs/ *n* an ornamental plant with bright blue flowers.

agape /ə'geɪp/ *adj* open-mouthed.

Agape /'ægə, peɪ/ *n* the love feast of the early Christians at communion time.

agar /'eɪgər/ *n* a preparation of seaweed used for jelly, glue and bacteria culture.

agaric /'ægərɪk/ *n* a mushroom or other fungus of the genus *Agaricus*.

agate /'ægət/ *n* stone with striped or clouded colouring used as a gemstone.

agave /ə'geɪvi/ *n* a genus of plants of which the chief species is the century plant.

age /eɪdʒ/ *n* the period of time during which someone or something has lived or existed; a stage of life; later years of life; a historical period; a division of geological time; (*inf: often pl*) a long time. • *vti* (**ageing** or **aging**, **aged**) to grow or make old, ripe, mature, etc.

aged /eɪdʒd/ *adj* very old; of a specified age. • *n* (*with the*) the elderly.

ageism /'eɪdʒɪzəm/ *n* discrimination on grounds of age.—*also agism.*—**ageist**, **agist** *adj.*

ageless /'eɪdʒləs/ *adj* timeless; appearing never to grow old.

age-long /-lɒŋ/ *see* **age-old.**

agency /'eɪdʒənsɪ/ *n* (*pl agencies*) action; power; means; a firm, etc empowered to act for another; an administrative government division.

agenda /ə'dʒendə/, **agendum** /-dəm/ *n* (*pl agendas*, **agendums**) a list of items or matters of business that need to be attended to.

agenesis /eɪ'dʒenə'sɪs/ *n* imperfect development of the body.—**agenetic** *adj.*

agent /'eɪdʒənt/ *n* a person or thing that acts or has an influence; a substance or organism that is active; one empowered to act for another; a government representative; a spy.

agent general *n* the official representative of a Canadian province or Australian state in a foreign country or region.

agent provocateur *Fr.* /ə'ʒɑ: prɔ:vɔ:kə, tæ'r/ *n* (*pl agents provocateurs*) a person hired to tempt or provoke suspected persons into illegal acts so to incriminate themselves.

age-old /'eɪdʒ, o:ld/ *adj* ancient.—*also* **age-long.**

agglomerate /ə'glɒmə, reɪt/ *vti* to gather into a heap; to accumulate; to collect into a mass. • *n* a heap or mass; a rock consisting of volcanic

fragments.—**agglomeration** *n.*—**agglomerative** *adj.*
agglutinate /ə'glu:tɪ,neɪt/ *vti* to stick or fuse together; to form words into compounds. • *adj* glued together.—**agglutination** *n.*—**agglutinative** *adj.*
agglutination /-neɪʃən/ *n* the act or condition of being united or joined together; the formation of words by combination, not inflexion.
aggrandize /ə'grændaɪz/ *vt* to increase the power, rank, wealth, or reputation of.—**aggrandizement** *n.*
aggravate /'ægrə'veɪt/ *vt* to make worse; (*inf*) to annoy, irritate.—**aggravation** *n.*
aggravated /-ɪd/ *adj* (*law*) denoting a grave form of a specified offence.
aggravating /-ɪŋ/ *adj* making worse or more heinous; (*inf*) annoying, irritating.
aggregate /'ægrə'geɪt/ *vt*, /'ægrə'gət/ *adj* formed of parts combined into a mass or whole; taking all units as a whole. • *n* a collection or sum of individual parts; sand, stones, etc mixed with cement to form concrete. • *vt* to collect or form into a mass or whole; to amount to (a total).—**aggregation** *n.*
aggression /'ægrə'geɪʃən/ *n* an unprovoked attack; a hostile action or behaviour.
aggressive /ə'gresɪv/ *adj* boldly hostile; quarrelsome; self-assertive, enterprising.—**aggressively** *adv.*—**aggressiveness** *n.*
aggressor /ə'gresər/ *n* a person or country that attacks first.
aggrieve /ə'grɪ:v/ *vt* to pain; to injure; to have a grievance; to bear heavily upon; to oppress.—**aggrieved** *adj.*—**aggrievedly** *adv.*
aggro *n* /'ægrəʊ/ (*sl*) aggression.
agha /'æqə/ *see* **aga**.
aghost /ə'gæst/ *adj* utterly horrified.
agile /'ædʒaɪl/ or /'ædʒəl/ *adj* quick and nimble in movement; mentally acute.—**agility** /ə'dʒɪləti/ *n.*
agio /'ædʒiəʊ/ *n* (*pl* **agios**) the premium on changing paper money into cash or for exchanging one currency for another.—**agiotage** *n.*
agism /'eɪdʒɪzəm/ *see* **ageism**.
agitate /'ædʒɪ'teɪt/ *vt* to shake, move; to disturb or excite the emotions of. • *vi* to stir up public interest for a cause, etc.—**agitation** *n.*—**agitator** *n.*
agitato /,ædʒɪ'tɒtəʊ/ *adj, adv* (*mus*) in a hurried or agitated manner.

agitator /'ædʒɪ'teɪtər/ *n* one who starts or keeps up a political or other agitation; an implement for stirring.
aglet /'æglət/ *n* a tag (of a shoelace, etc); a spangle, a metallic ornament; a catkin.—*also* **aiglet**.
aglow /ə'gləʊ/ *adj* radiant with warmth or excitement.
AGM /'eɪ'dʒɪ:'em/ *abbr* = Annual General Meeting.
agnail /'ægneɪl/ *n* a sore under or near the nail, a hangnail.
agnate /'ægneɪt/ *adj* related by the father's side or with the same male ancestor. • *n* a relative by the father's side.—**agnatic** *adj.*
agnomen /æ'gnə:mən/ *n* (*pl* **agnomina**) the fourth name of a person in ancient Rome; an additional name or epithet, as *Milton, the poet.*—**agnominal** *adj.*
agnostic /æ'gnɒstɪk/ *n* one who believes that knowledge of God is impossible. • *adj* pertaining to the agnostics or their teachings; expressing ignorance.—**agnostically** *adv.*—**agnosticism** *n.*
Agnus Dei /,ægnəs'deɪi:/ or /,ænjəs-/ *n* a figure of a lamb bearing a banner or cross, symbolic of Christ and associated emblematically with St John the Baptist; the lamb and flag; a medal of wax or precious metal stamped with the figure of the Agnus Dei and blessed by the pope for distribution on Low Sunday.
ago /ə'gəʊ/ *adv* in the past. • *adj* gone by; past.
agog /ə'gɒg/ *adj, adv* in agitation or expectation; eager, on the lookout.
agonic /ə'gɒnɪk/ or /eɪ-/ *adj* making no angle.
agonistic /,ægə'nɒstɪk/ *adj* of athletic contests; athletic; polemic; melodramatic; strained; unnatural.
agonize /'ægə'naɪz/ *vti* to suffer or cause to suffer agony; to strive.—**agonizingly** *adv.*
agony /'æɡəni/ *n* (*pl* **agonies**) extreme mental or physical suffering.
agony aunt *n* a person who replies to readers' problem letters in an agony column.
agony column *n* the column of a newspaper devoted to advertisements relating to lost friends, etc; a column in a magazine containing readers' letters with helpful replies to problems.

agoraphobia /æɡərə'fə:biə/ *n*

abnormal fear of crossing open places.—**agoraphobic** *adj.*, *n.*

agouti /ə'ɡu:ti/ *n* (*pl* **agoutis**, **agouties**) a rodent similar to the guinea pig found in the West Indies and South America.

AGR *abbr* = advanced gas-cooled reactor.

agraphia /eɪ'græfiə/ *n* the inability to write due to mental illness.

agrarian /ə'ɡreɪriən/ *adj* of or relating to fields, or their cultivation; of or relating to farmers or agricultural life.
• *n* an advocate of redistribution of property in land.

agrarianism /-ɪzəm/ *n* the principle of a uniform division of land; agitation with respect to land tenure.

agree /ə'ɡri:/ *vb* (**agreeing**, **agreed**)
vi to be of similar opinion; to consent or assent (to); to come to an understanding about; to be consistent; to suit a person's digestion; (*gram*) to be consistent in gender, number, case, or person. • *vt* to concede, grant; to bring into harmony; to reach terms on.

agreeable /-əbəl/ *adj* likeable, pleasing; willing to agree.—

agreeableness *n.—**agreeably** *adv.**

agreement /-mənt/ *n* harmony in thought or opinion, correspondence; an agreed settlement between two people, etc.

agrestic /ə'ɡrestɪk/ *adj* rustic; uncouth.

agriculture /æɡrɪ'kʌltʃər/ *n* the science or practice of producing crops and raising livestock; farming.—**agricultural** *adj.*—**agriculturally** *adv.*—**agriculturist**, **agriculturalist** *n.*

agrimony /'ægrɪ,mə:ni/ *n* (*pl*

agrimonies) a yellow-flowered plant.

agronomics /æɡre'nɒmɪks/ (*used as sing*) the part of economics concerned with the management and distribution of farming lands.—**agronomic**, **agronomical** *adj.*

agronomy /ə'ɡrɒnəmi/ *n* the science of land cultivation and management, husbandry.—**agronomist** *n.*

agrostology /ægrəs'tɒlədʒi/ *n* the branch of botany that treats of the grasses.

aground /ə'graʊnd/ *adj.*, *adv* on or onto the shore.

aguardiente /,æɡwar'djenteɪ/ *n* an inferior Spanish brandy.

ague /'eɪɡju:/ *n* malaria, an intermittent

fever; the cold fit of the intermittent fever.—**aguish** *adj.*

ah /ɒ/ *interj* an exclamation of sudden emotion.

AH *abbr* = *anno Hegirae* (in the year of the Hegira) used in dates of the Muslim era.

aha /ɒ'hə/ or /ə'hə/ *interj* an exclamation of satisfaction, triumph or mockery.

ahead /ə'hed/ *adj* in or to the front; forward; onward; in advance; winning or profiting.—*also adv.*

ahem /ə'həm/ or /ə'hem/ *interj* an exclamation to call attention.

ahoy /ə'hɔɪ/ *interj* a term used in hailing a vessel.

A.I. *abbr* = artificial insemination; artificial intelligence.

ai /'aɪ/ *n* (*pl* **ais**) a South American three-toed sloth.

aid /eɪd/ *vti* to help, give assistance to. • *n* anything that helps; a specific means of assistance, *eg* money, equipment; a helper.

AID *abbr* = Agency for International Development; artificial insemination (by) donor.

aide /eɪd/ *n* an aide-de-camp; assistant.

aide-de-camp /,eɪddə'kɑː/ *n* (*pl* **aides-de-camp**) a military officer serving as an assistant to a senior officer.

aide-mémoire /,eɪdmɛ'mwɑː/, *Fr.* /ɛd meɪ'mwɑː/ *n* (*pl* **aides-mémoire**) a summarized document; a memorandum, etc, as an aid to the memory.

AIDS, Aids /eɪdz/ *n* (*acronym for* acquired immune deficiency syndrome) a condition caused by a virus, HIV, in which the body loses its immunity to infection.

AIDS-related complex /'eɪdzrɪ,leɪtɪd-/ *n* a condition in which mild symptoms of AIDS (*eg* fever, weight loss) precede development of the full-blown disease.

aiglet *see* **aglet**.

aigrette, **agret** /eɪ'ɡret/ or /eɪ'ɡret/ *n* a small white heron; a plume arranged in imitation of the feathers of the heron, worn on helmets and as a hat decoration.

aiguille /eɪ'ɡwi:l/ *n* a sharp peak of rock.

aiguillette /,eɪɡwi'let/ *n* an ornamental tag or lace worn on uniforms and liveries.

AIH *abbr* = artificial insemination (by) husband.

ail /eɪl/ *vt* to give or cause pain. • *vi* to feel pain; to be afflicted with pain.

aileron /'eɪləˌrɒn/ *n* a hinged section on the wing of an aircraft used for lateral control.

ailing /'eɪlɪŋ/ *adj* unwell.

ailment /-mənt/ *n* a slight illness.

ailurophobia /eɪˌlʊərə'fɔːbiə/ or /aɪ-/ *n* cat fear; a morbid dread of cats and a consciousness of their presence even when they are not in sight.—**ailurophobe** *n*.

aim /eɪm/ *vti* to point or direct towards a target so as to hit; to direct (one's efforts); to intend. • *n* the act of aiming; purpose, intention.

aimless /'eɪmləs/ *adj* without purpose or object.—**aimlessly** *adv*.—**aimlessness** *n*.

ain't /eɪnt/ (*inf*) = am not, is not, are not, has not, have not.

air /ɛr/ *n* the mixture of invisible gases surrounding the earth; the earth's atmosphere; empty, open space; a light breeze; aircraft, aviation; outward appearance, demeanor; a pervading influence; (*mus*) a melody; (*pl*) an affected manner. • *vt* to expose to the air for drying, etc; to expose to public notice; (*clothes*) to place in a warm place to finish drying.

airbag /'ɛrbæɡ/ *n* a safety device in a motor vehicle that automatically inflates to protect the occupants in the event of an accident.

air base *n* a base for military aircraft.

air bath *n* a lengthened exposure of the body to the action of the air and sun; an arrangement for drying articles by exposing them to air of any regulated temperature.

air bed *n* an inflatable mattress *usu* of plastic or rubber.

airborne /-bɔːn/ *adj* carried by or through the air; aloft or flying.

air box *n* a tube for conveying fresh air to a mine; a flue supplying air to a furnace; a chamber behind the fire box of a furnace to assist combustion by supply of air.

air brake *n* a brake operated by compressed air.

air brick *n* a brick with holes in the sides through which air for ventilation can pass.

airbrush /'ɛrbɹʃ/ *n* a device for spraying paint by compressed air.

airbus *n* a jet aircraft designed for short-distance intercity flights.

air conditioning *n* regulation of

air humidity and temperature in buildings, etc.

air-cooled /'ɛrkuːld/ *adj* cooled by having air passed over, into, or through.

air course *n* a ventilating passage in a mine.

air cover *n* protection for ground forces given by fighter aircraft; the aircraft giving this protection.

aircraft /'ɛrkræft/ *n* (*pl* **aircraft**) any machine for travelling through air.

aircraft carrier *n* a warship with a large flat deck, for the carrying, taking off and land of aircraft.

aircrew /'ɛrkrɜː/ *n* the crew of an aircraft.

air cushion *n* an inflatable cushion *usu* of plastic or rubber.

air drop /'ɛrdrɒp/ *n* a dropping by parachute of troops and supplies.

Airedale /'ɛrdeɪl/ *n* a large rough-coated terrier.

airfield /'ɛrfiːld/ *n* a field where aircraft can take off and land.

air force the aviation branch of a country's armed forces.

air gas *n* an illuminating gas made from air charged with the vapour of petroleum, naphtha, etc.

airgun /'ɛrgən/ *n* a gun that fires pellets by compressed air.

airhead /-hed/ *n* (*sl*) a stupid person.

air hostess *n* a stewardess on a passenger aircraft.

airing /'ɛɪɪŋ/ *n* exposure to the open air for drying or freshening; exercise in the open air; exposure to public view.

airless /'ɛrləs/ *adj* stuffy; sultry.—**airlessness** *n*.

air letter *n* a sheet of light writing paper that is folded and sealed for sending by airmail.

airlift /-lɪft/ *n* the transport of cargo, troops, passengers, etc by air, *esp* in an emergency.—*also vt*.

airline /-laɪn/ *n* a system or company for transportation by aircraft; a beeline.

airliner /-,laɪnər/ *n* a large passenger aeroplane.

airlock /-lɒk/ *n* a blockage in a pipe caused by an air bubble; an airtight compartment giving access to a pressurized chamber.

airmail /-meɪl/ *n* mail transported by aircraft.

airman /-mæn/ *n* (*pl* **airmen**) a male civilian or military pilot, etc.—**airwoman** *nf* (*pl* **airwomen**).

airmiss /-mɪs/ *n* the near collision of aircraft in flight.

airplane /-pleɪn/ *see* **aeroplane**.

air plant *n* a plant that derives its nourishment from the air, an epiphyte.

airplay /-pleɪ/ *n* the playing of a recording over radio or TV.

air pocket *n* a patch of rarefied air causing aircraft to drop abruptly.

airport /-pɔːrt/ *n* a place where aircraft can land and take off, with facilities for repair, etc.

air pump *n* a machine for exhausting the air from a receiver; the pump used to exhaust the water and gases from the condenser of a steam engine.

air raid *n* an attack by military aircraft on a surface target.

airs /^lerz/ *npl* affected behaviour for the purpose of impressing others.

airship /^lerʃɪp/ *n* a self-propelled steerable aircraft that is lighter than air.

airsick /-sɪk/ *adj* nauseated due to the motion of an aircraft.

airspace /-speɪs/ *n* the space above a nation over which it maintains jurisdiction.

airspeed /-spiːd/ *n* the speed of an aircraft relative to the outside air.

airstrip /-striːp/ *n* an area of land cleared for aircraft to land on; a runway.

airtight /-taɪt/ *adj* too tight for air or gas to enter or escape; (*alibi*, etc) invulnerable.

airtime /-taɪm/ *n* (*radio*, *TV*) the time allotted to a programme, item, commercial, etc; the time at which the broadcast begins.

air-to-air /^lertuːər/ *adj* (*weaponry*, *communications*, etc) activated between aircraft in flight.

air valve *n* a valve regulating the supply of air to a boiler or pipe.

air vesicle *n* a dilatation of the trachea of certain insects enabling them to ascend or descend by its inflation or expiration; a vesicle filled with air in certain fishes, connected with the swim bladder.

airway /^lerweɪ/ *n* an aircraft route; a ventilation passage, as in a mine; a passage for air into the lungs; (*med*) a device to maintain the airway of an unconscious person.

airworthy /-,wɔːðɪ/ *adj* safe to fly.—**airworthiness** *n*.

airy /^leri/ *adj* (**airier**, **airiest**) open to the air; breezy; light as air; graceful;

lighthearted; flippant.—**airily** *adv*.—**airiness** *n*.

aisle /aɪl/ *n* a passageway, as between rows of seats; a side part of a church.

ait /eɪt/ *n* a small island in a river or lake.—*also* **eyot**.

aitch /eɪtʃ/ *n* the letter H.

aitchbone /^leɪtʃboːn/ *n* the rump bone; the cut of meat lying over it.

ajjar /ə^ldʒɑːr/ *adv* partly open, as a door. **AK** *abbr* = Alaska.

aka, **a.k.a.** or **AKA** /,eɪ,kə^leɪ/ *abbr* = *also* known as.

akimbo /ə^lkɪmboː/ *adv* having the hands on the hips and the elbows bent outwards.

akin /ə^lkɪn/ *adj* related; essentially similar, compatible.

Akkadian /ə^lkæɪdiən/ *n* an ancient Babylonian language preserved in cuneiform inscriptions. • *adj* of Akkad or Accad, the Babylonian city.—*also* **Accadian**.

al- /æl/ or /əl/ *prefix* the form of *ad-* before *l*.

-al /əl/ *adj* *suffix* of, of the nature of, as in *mortal*, *colossal*. • *n* *suffix* esp of verbal action, as in *approval*.

AL *abbr* = Alabama.

Al (*chem symbol*) = aluminium.

Ala. *abbr* = Alabama.

à la /^lælə/ or /^lplə/ *prep* in the style of.

alabaster /^læləbæstər/ or /,æləbæstər/ *n* a type of soft, chalky stone used in ornaments.—**alabastrine** *adj*.

à la carte /,ælə^lkɑːrt/ or /,plə-/ *adj* (*menu*) with dishes listed and priced as separate items.

alack /ə^llæk/ *interj* an exclamation of blame, sorrow, or surprise.

alacrity /ə^llækrɪti/ *n* promptness, eager readiness.—**alacritous** *adj*.

alameda /,ælə^lmiːdə/ *n* a public promenade planted with trees.

à la mode /,ælə^lmoːd/ or /,plə-/ *adv* in the fashion. • *adj* fashionable.

alamode *n* a thin, light, glossy black silk.

alar /^leɪlə/ *adj* of wings; winged; winglike; wing-shaped.—*also* **alary**.

alarm /ə^llɑːm/ *n* a signal warning of danger; an automatic device to arouse from sleep or to attract attention; the fear arising from the apprehension of danger. • *vt* to give warning of danger; to fill with apprehension or fear.

alarm clock *n* a clock with an apparatus that can be set to ring loudly at a particular time.

alarming /-ɪŋ/ *adj* frightening, disconcerting.—**alarmingly** *adv*.

alarmist /-ɪst/ *n* one who keeps prophesying danger, a panic-monger.—**alarmism** *n*.

alarum /ə'larəm/ *n* (*arch*) an alarm.

alary /'eɪləri/ or /'æləri/ *see* **alar**.

alas /ə'læs/ *interj* expressive of misery, unhappiness, grief, etc.

alate /'eɪ,leɪt/ *adj* having wings or winglike side appendages.

alb /ælb/ *n* a white priestly vestment reaching to the feet, worn at the celebration of the Eucharist in the RC Church and in some Anglican churches.

albacore /'ælbə,kɔːr/ *n* a large species of mackerel or tunny found in the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

alбата an alloy imitating silver; German silver.

albatross /'ælbə,tɾɒs/ *n* any of various large web-footed seabirds; a heavy burden, as of debt, guilt, etc; (*golf*) a score of three under par.

albeit /ɒl'bi:t/ *conj* although, even though, notwithstanding.

albescent /æ'lbesənt/ *adj* shading into white; whitish; becoming white.—**albescence** *n*.

albino /æ'lbaɪnoː/ *n* (*pl* **albinos**) a person lacking normal coloration, so that they have white skin and pink eyes; an animal or plant with abnormal pigmentation.

Albion /'ælbɪən/ *n* (*arch*) Britain.

album /'ælbəm/ *n* a book with blank pages for the insertion of photographs, autographs, etc; a long-playing record, cassette, or CD.

albumen /æ'l'bjʊ:mɪn/ *n* the white of an egg.

albumenize /-,aɪz/ *vt* to coat (paper) with an albuminous solution.

albuminoid /-,nɔɪd/ *adj* like albumen.

• *n* a class of organic compounds that form the chief part of the organs and tissues of animals and plants; proteids.

albuminous /æ'l'bjʊ:mɪnəs/ *adj* like, or containing, albumin.

albuminuria /æ'l'bjʊ:mɪ'nɪəriə/ or /-'njʊr-/ *n* the presence of albumin in the kidneys and the urine.

alburnum /æ'l'bɜːnəm/ *n* the white and softer part of wood between the bark and the heartwood; sapwood.

alcahest *see* **alkahest**.

Alcaic /æ'l'keɪk/ *n* a kind of lyric verse form consisting of four lines of four feet devised by the 7th-century BC Greek poet Alcaeus.—*also adj.*

alcaide /æ'l'kaɪd/ or /-'keɪd/ *n* the commander of a castle in Spain; the warder of a Spanish jail.

alcalde /ɒl'kɔːldi/, **alcade** *n* a magistrate or justice in Spain or Portugal.

alcazar /'ælkə,zɑːr/ or /æ'l'kæzɑːr/ *n* a Spanish or Moorish palace or castle.

alchemist /'ælkəmɪst/ *n* one who studies or practises alchemy.

alchemize /-,maɪz/ *vt* to transmute.

alchemy /'ælkəmi/ *n* (*pl* **alchemies**)

chemistry as practised during medieval times, with the aim of transmuting base metals into gold.—**alchemic**, **alchemical** *adj.*—**alchemist** *n*.

alcohol /'ælkəhɒl/ *n* a liquid, generated by distillation and fermentation, that forms the intoxicating agent in wine, beer and spirits; a liquid containing alcohol; a chemical compound of this nature.

alcoholic /,ælkə'hɒlɪk/ *adj* of or containing alcohol; caused by alcohol.
• *n* a person suffering from alcoholism.

alcoholism /'ælkə'hɒlɪzəm/ *n* a disease caused by excessive consumption of alcohol.

alcoholize /-,aɪz/ *vt* to subject to the influence of alcohol; to rectify (spirits of wine).—**alcoholization** *n*.

alcoholometer /-,hɒləmɛtə/ *n* an instrument for determining the strength of spirits.

Alcoran /,ælkə'rɒn/ or /-'ræn/ *n* the Koran, the Muslim bible.

alcove /'ælkəv/ *n* a recess off a larger room.

aldehyde /'ældə'haɪd/ *n* a volatile fluid with a suffocating smell, obtained from alcohol.

al dente /æ'l'denteɪ/ or /æ'l-/ *adj* cooked but still firm to the teeth.

alder /'ɒldə/ *n* a genus of plants growing in moist land and related to the birch.

alderman /'ɒldərmən/ *n* (*pl* **aldermen**) in US, a member of certain municipal councils; (*formerly*) in England and Wales, a senior councillor.—**aldermanic** *adj.*

ale /eɪl/ *n* beer.

aleatory /'eɪliə,təri/ *adj* depending on dice or chance.

alee /ə'liː/ *adj*, *adv* (*naut*) on the lee, to leeward.

alegar /'æləgər/ or /'al-/ *n* vinegar made from ale.

alehouse /'eɪl'həʊs/ *n* a place where ale is sold.

alembic /ə'lembɪk/ *n* an apparatus formerly used in distilling.

Alençon /ə'len,sɒn/ or /sɒn/, *Fr.* /alā sō:/ *n* a fine lace made at Alençon in France.

alert /ə'lɜrt/ *adj* watchful; active, brisk.
• *n* a danger signal. • *vt* to warn of impending danger, put in a state of readiness.—**alertly** *adv.*—**alertness** *n.*

alexandrine /,alɔgzændrɪn/ or /-,dri:n/ *n* a heroic verse of six iambic feet, or twelve syllables.—**also** *adj.*

alexia /ə'leksɪə/ *n* the inability to read, due to mental illness.

alexin /ə'leksɪn/ *n* a disease-resisting protein in blood serum.

alfalfa /'ælfælfə/ *n* a deep-rooted leguminous plant grown widely for hay and forage.—**also** **lucerne**.

alfresco /æ'l'fresko:/ or /al-/ *adj* taking place outside in the open.—**also** *adv.*

alga /'ælgə/ *n* (*pl* **algae**) any of a group of chiefly aquatic lower plants classified according to colour.—**algal** *adj.*

algarroba, algaroba /,ælgə'ro:bə/ *n* the carob tree and bean; St John's bread.

algebra /'ældʒəbrə/ *n* the branch of mathematics dealing with the properties and relations of numbers; the generalization and extension of arithmetic.—**algebraic, algebraical** *adj.*—**algebraist** *n.*

Algerian /æ'l'dʒi:riən/ *adj* pertaining to Algeria or Algiers. • *n* a native of Algeria or Algiers.

Algerine /,ældʒə'ri:n/ *adj* Algerian.

-algia /'ældʒə/ or /-dʒiə/ *n* *suffix* pain.—**algic** *adj.*

algid /'ældʒɪd/ *adj* cold, chilly.

ALGOL /'æl,gɒl/ *acronym* (*comput*) a high-level programming language used for solving general problems in science and mathematics.

algology /æ'l'gɒlədʒɪ/ *n* the study of algae.—**algologist** *n.*

Algonquian /æ'l'gɔŋkwɪən/ or /-kiən/ *n* a group of eastern North American Indian languages; a member of a North American Indian people who speaks one of these languages. • *adj* of or pertaining to these peoples or their languages.

algor /æ'l'gɔr/ *n* the rigor or chill on the onset of fever.

algorism /'ælgɔrɪzəm/ *n* the arabic (decimal) numeration; arithmetic.—**algorismic** *adj.*

algorithm /'ælgɔrɪðəm/ (*n* (*math*))

any method or procedure for computation.—**algorithmic** *adj.*—**algorithmically** *adv.*

alias /'eɪliəs/ *adv* otherwise called. • *n* (*pl* **aliases**) an assumed name.

alibi /'æli,bai/ (*pl* **alibis**) (*law*) the plea that a person charged with a crime was elsewhere when it was committed; (*inf*) any excuse.

alien /'eɪliən/ *adj* foreign; strange; distasteful to, counter to. • *n* a person from another country, place, etc; a person of foreign birth who has not been naturalized; a being from outer space.

alienable /-əbəl/ *adj* (*law*) (*property*) that may be transferred.—**alienability** *n.*

alienage /'eɪliənɪdʒ/ *n* the state or legal status of an alien.

alienate /'eɪliəneɪt/ *vt* to render hostile or unfriendly; to make less affectionate or interested.

alienation /,eɪliən'eɪʃən/ *n* estrangement; transference; diversion to another purpose; mental derangement.

alienee /,eɪliən'i:/ *n* (*law*) one to whom property is transferred.

alienism /'eɪliənɪzəm/ *n* the study and treatment of mental alienation.—**alienist** *n.*

alienor /-ɔr/ or /-ər/ (*n* (*law*)) one who transfers property to another.

aliform /eɪ'lɪ'fɔrm/ *adj* wing-shaped.

alight /'ə'laɪt/ *vi* (**alighting, alighted or alit**) to come down, as from a bus; to land after a flight.

alight *adj* on fire; lively.

align /ə'laɪn/ *vt* to place in a straight line, to bring into agreement, etc. • *vi* to line up.—**alignment** *n.*

alignment /-mənt/ *n* the act of laying out or adjusting by a line; the ground plan of a railway or road.

alike /ə'laɪk/ *adj* like one another. • *adv* equally; similarly.

aliment /'æləmənt/ *n* food; the necessities of life generally; an allowance for support by decree of court. • *vt* to make provision for the maintenance of; to make provision for the support of parents or children respectively.—**alimental** *adj.*

alimentary /,æli'məntəri/ *adj* pertaining to nourishment, food.

alimentary canal *n* the tube extending within the body from the mouth to the anus through which food passes and is absorbed.

alimentation /ˌælmən'teɪʃən/ *n* the act of giving nourishment; the function of the alimentary canal.—**alimentative** *adj.*

alimony /'ælə,mə:nɪ/ *n* (*pl*

alimonies) an allowance for support made by one spouse to the other, *esp* a man to his wife or former wife, pending or after a legal separation or divorce.

aliped /'æli,pɛd/ *adj* having wing-like limbs, as the bat.

aliphatic /'ælɪfætɪk/ *adj* (*chem*) of fat.

aliquant /'ælikwənt/ or /-kwɒnt/ *adj* (*math*) being a part of a number that does not divide it without a remainder, as 8 is the aliquant part of 25.—*also n.*

aliquot /'ælikwət/ or /-kwɒt/ *adj* (*math*) being a part of a number of quantity that will divide it without a remainder, as 8 is the aliquot part of 24.—*also n.*

alive /ə'laɪv/ *adj* having life; active, alert; in existence, operation, etc.

alizarin /ə'lɪzərɪn/ *n* a red colouring matter found in madder but now produced from anthracene.

alkahest /'ælkə,hest/ *n* the supposed universal solvent of the alchemists.—*also alcahest.*

alkali /'ælkəlaɪ/ *n* (*pl* **alkalis**, **alkalies**) (*chem*) any salt or mixture that neutralizes acids.—**alkaline** *adj.*

alkalify /'ælkəli,faɪ/ *vb* (**alkalifying**, **alkalified**) *vt* to form or convert into alkali. • *vi* to become an alkali.

alkalimeter /'ælkə'lɪmɪtər/ *n* an instrument used to determine the relative strength of alkalis.

alkalimetry /-mɛtri/ *n* the process of determining the strength of an alkaline mixture or liquid.—**alkalimetric** *adj.*

alkaline /'ælkə,laɪn/ or /-laɪn/ *adj* pertaining to, or having the properties of, an alkali.—**alkalinity** *n.*

alkalize /-,laɪz/ *vt* to convert into an alkali or render alkaline.—**alkalizable** *adj.*

alkaloid /-,ləɪd/ *n* a body or substance containing alkaline properties; (*pl*) nitrogenous compounds met with in plants in combination with organic acids. • *adj* resembling an alkali in its properties.

alkanet /'ælkə,net/ *n* a rich red dye; the plant the root of which yields it.

all /ɒl/ *adj* the whole amount or number of; every one of. • *adv* wholly; supremely, completely; entirely. • *n*

the whole number, quantity; everyone; everything.

alla breve /,plə'brɛvɛ/ *adv* (*mus*) in quick time, with one breve to a measure.

Allah /'ælə/ or /'dlə/ *n* the Muslim name of God.

all along *adv* throughout.

allantoid /ə'læn,tɔɪd/ *adj* of or pertaining to the allantois; (*bot*) sausage-shaped. • *n* the allantois.—**allantoidal** *adj.*

allantois /ə'læn,tɔɪs/ *n* (*pl* **allantoides**) a membranous appendage of most vertebrate embryos.

alloy /'æleɪ/ or /ə-/ *vt* to lighten, alleviate; to pacify or make calm.

all but *adv* almost.

all clear /'ɒl,klɪr/ *n* a signal indicating that a danger has passed or that it is safe to proceed.

allegation /,ælə'geɪʃən/ *n* the act of alleging; assertion; declaration; that which is asserted or alleged; that which is offered as a plea, an excuse, or justification; the statement as yet unproved of a party to a suit.

allege /ə'ledʒ/ *vt* to assert or declare, *esp* without proof; to offer as an excuse.

allegedly /ə'ledʒədi/ *adv* asserted without proof.

allegiance /ə'li:dʒəns/ *n* the obligation of being loyal to one's country, etc; devotion, as to a cause.

allegorical /,ælə'gɔrɪkəl/ or /-gər-/ , **allegoric** *adj* pertaining to, consisting of, or in the nature of allegory; figurative.—**allegorically** *adv.*

allegorize /,ælə'gɔrɪz/ or /,ælə'gɔrɪz/ *vt* to put in the form of an allegory.—**allegorization** *n.*

allegory /'ælə'gɔri/ or /-,gəri/ *n* (*pl* **allegories**) a fable, story, poem, etc in which the events depicted are used to convey a deeper, *usu* moral or spiritual, meaning.—**allegorist** *n.*

allegretto /,ælə'gretto/ *adv* (*mus*) moderately fast. • *n* (*pl* **allegrettos**) a piece of music played in this way.

allegro /ə'legro/ *adv* (*mus*) fast. • *n* (*pl* **allegros**) a piece of music played in this way.

allele /æ'li:l/ *n* (*genetics*) either of a pair of contrasting characteristics one or the other of which is found unmixed in descendants of a cross between parental forms respectively possessing them.—*also* **allelomorph**.—**allelic** *adj.*—**allelism** *n.*

alleluia /ˌæləˈluːjə/ or /ˌplɛɪ-/ *see*
hallelujah.

allemande /ˌæləˈmænd/ or /-ˈmænd/
n a German national dance in three-
quarter time.

allergen /ˈælərdʒən/ *n* a substance
inducing an allergic reaction.

allergenic /-,dʒenik/ *adj* causing an
allergic reaction.

allergy /ˈælərdʒi/ *n* (*pl allergies*)
an abnormal reaction of the body to
substances (certain foods, pollen,
etc) normally harmless; antipathy.—
allergic *adj*.

allerion /əˈlɛrɪən/ *n* (*her*) an eagle
displayed without feet or beak.

alleviate /əˈliːviət/ *vt* to lessen or
relieve (pain, worry, etc).—**alleviation**
n.—**alleviator** *n*.

alleviative /əˈliːviːtɪv/ *adj* tending to
alleviate. • *n* that which alleviates.

alley /ˈæli/ *n* a narrow street between or
behind buildings; a bowling lane.

all fours *adv* on hands and knees.

All-hallowe'en /ˌɒlˈhæloʊːwɪn/ *n*
Hallowe'en.

All-hallows /ˌɒlˈhæloʊːz/ *npl* All Saints'
Day, celebrated on 1 November, in
honour of all the saints.

alliaceous /ˌæliˈeɪʃəs/ *adj* of the nature
or property of garlic or the onion.

alliance /əˈlaɪəns/ *n* a union by
marriage or treaty for a common
purpose; an agreement for this; the
countries, groups, etc in such an
association.

allied /æˈlaɪd/ or /əˈlaɪd/ *see* **ally**.

alligator /ˈæliˌɡeɪtər/ *n* a large reptile
similar to the crocodile but having a
short, blunt snout.

alligator pear *n* the avocado.

all in *adj* (*price, etc*) all-inclusive.

all-in *adj* (*inf*) exhausted.

all-inclusive /ˌɔlɪnˈkluːzɪv/ *adj*
including everything.

alliteration /əˌlɪtəˈreɪʃən/ *n* the
repetition of the same sound at the
beginning of two or more words in a
phrase, etc.—**alliterative** *adj*.

allocate /ˈæləˌkeɪt/ *vt* to distribute or
apportion in shares; to set apart for a
specific purpose.

allocation /ˌæləˈkeɪʃən/ *n* the act of
alloting, allocating, or assigning; an
allotment or assignment; an allowance
made on an account.

allocution /ˌæləkjuːʃən/ *n* a formal
address, *esp* as one delivered by the
Pope to his clergy or to the Church
generally.

allodial /ˈæˈloːdiəl/ *adj* freehold; not
feudal. • *n* land thus held.

allodium /-əm/, **allod** *n* (*pl allodia*,
allods) freehold estate; land that is
the absolute property of the owner.

allogamy /əˈlɒɡəmi/ *n* (*biol*) cross-
fertilization.—**allogamous** *adj*.

allograph /ˈæləˌɡræf/ *n* a signature
by one person on behalf of another,
opposite of autograph.—**allographic**
adj.

allomorphism /ˌæləˈmɔːfɪzəm/
n (*chem*) the property in certain
substances of assuming a different
form while remaining the same in
constitution.

all one *adj, n* in effect the same.

allopath /ˈæləpæθ/, **allopathist**
/əˈlɒpəθɪst/ *n* one who favours or
practises allopathy.

allopathy /əˈlɒpəθi/ *n* the orthodox
medical practice of treating disease
by inducing an action opposite to the
disease it is sought to cure, opposite
of homoeopathy.—**allopathic** *adj*.—
allopathically *adv*.

allophone /ˈæləˌfɒn/ *n* a phonetic term
describing any of various possible
contextual or environmental variants
of the same phoneme.—**allophonic**
adj.

allot /əˈlɒt/ *vt* (**allotting**, **allotted**) to
distribute, allocate.

allotment /-mənt/ *n* allotting; a share
allotted; a small area of land rented for
cultivation.

allotropy /əˈlɒtrəpi/, **allotropism**
n the capability shown by certain
chemical elements to assume
different forms, each characterized by
peculiar qualities, as the occurrence
of carbon in the form of the diamond,
charcoal and plumbago respectively.—
allotropic *adj*.—**allotropically** *adv*.

allottee /əˌlɒtˈiː/ *n* one to whom an
allotment or share is granted or
assigned; a plot-holder.

all out /ˈɔlˈaʊt/ *adv* with maximum
capacity.

all-out *adj* using maximum effort.

all-over /ˈɔlˈoʊvər/ *adj* covering the
whole surface.

allow /əˈlaʊ/ *vt* to permit; to
acknowledge, admit as true; (*money*)
to give, grant as an allowance at
regular intervals; to estimate as an
addition or deduction. • *vi* to admit
the possibility (of).

allowable /əˈlaʊəbəl/ *adj*
permissible.—**allowably** *adv*.

allowance /ə'laʊəns/ *n* an amount or sum allowed or given at regular times; a discount; a portion of income not subject to income tax; permission; admission, concession.

alloy /æ'loɪ/ *n* a solid substance comprising a mixture of two or more metals; something that degrades the substance to which it is added. • *vt* to make into an alloy; to degrade or spoil by mixing with an inferior substance.

all-purpose /'ɔ:l,pərpəs/ *adj* suitable for many uses.

all right *adv* good enough, acceptable; without doubt. • *adj* satisfactory; safe, well; agreeable. • *interj* (used to express consent).—also **alright**.

all-round /'ɔ:l,raʊnd/ *adj* efficient in all respects, *esp* sport.

All Saints' Day *n* (Christian Church) 1 November, a festival in honour of all the saints.

All Souls' Day /-so:lz-/ *n* (RC Church) the day, celebrated 2 November, in honour of the departed.

allspice /'ɔ:l,spais/ *n* an aromatic spice made from the berry of a West Indian tree.

all-star /'ɔ:l,star/ *adj* made up entirely of outstanding performers.

all there *adj* (sl) not mentally wanting.

all-time /'ɔ:l,taim/ *adj* unsurpassed until now.

all told *adv* with all counted; all in all.

allude /ə'lʊ:d/ *vi* to refer indirectly to.

allure /ə'lʊr/ *vt* to entice, charm. • *n* fascination; charm.—**allurement** *n*.

alluring /-ɪŋ/ *adj* attractive.

allusion /ə'lʊ:ʒən/ *n* alluding; an implied or indirect reference.—**allusive** *adj*.

allusive /ə'lʊ:sɪv/ *adj* having reference to something not definitely expressed.—**allusively** *adv*.—**allusiveness** *n*.

alluvion /ə'lʊ:vɪən/ *n* the wash of the sea or river against a shore; land added to a shore or riverbank by the action of the water; an overflow.

alluvium /ə'lʊ:vɪəm/ *n* (pl **alluviums**, **alluvia**) earth, sand, gravel, etc deposited by moving water.—**alluvial** *adj*.

ally /æ'lai/ *v*ti (**allying**, **allied**) to join or unite for a specific purpose; to relate by similarity of structure, etc. • *n* (pl **allies**) a country or person joined with another for a common purpose.

Almagest /'ælmə,dʒest/ *n* the great astronomical treatise of Ptolemy of the 2nd century ad; (*without cap*) other similar treatises.

alma mater /'ælmə'mɒtər/ or /'ɔ:l-, /-l'mɛr-/ *n* one's school, college, or university.

almanac /'ælmə,næk/ or /'ɔ:l-/ *n* a calendar with astronomical data, weather forecasts, etc.

almanack /'ælmə,næk/ or /'ɔ:l-/ *n* (*arch*) an almanac.

almandine /'ælmən,di:n/ or /-daɪn/ *n* a violet-red variety of garnet, tinged sometimes with blue or yellow.

almighty /ɔ'l'maɪti/ *adj* all-powerful. • *n* (*with cap*) God, the all-powerful.—**almightly** *adv*.—**almightiness** *n*.

almond /'ɒlmənd/ or /'ɔ:l-/ *n* the edible kernel of the fruit of a tree of the rose family; the tree bearing this fruit. • *adj* (*eyes, etc*) oval and pointed at one or both ends.

almoner /'ɒlmənər/ *n* (*formerly*) one who dispenses or distributes alms or charity; an alms purse; a pouch or purse which in early times was suspended from the girdle.

almost /'ɒlmo:st/ *adv* all but, very nearly but not quite all.

alms /ɒmz/ *npl* money, food, etc given to the poor.

almshouse /-hʊʊz/ *n* a house endowed by private or public charity and appropriated to the use of the poor.

aloe /'æ,lɔ: / *n* (pl **aloes**) a succulent plant with tall spikes of flowers.

aloes /'æ,lɔ:z/ *n* (*used as sing*) the bitter juice of the aloe plant used in medicine.

aloft /ə'lɒft/ *adv* in the air, flying; high up.

alone /ə'lɔ:n/ *adj* isolated; without anyone or anything else; unassisted; unique. • *adv* exclusively.

along /ə'lɒŋ/ *adv* onward, forward; over the length of; in company and together with; in addition. • *prep* in the direction of the length of; in accordance with.

alongside /-saɪd/ *prep* close beside. • *adv* at the side.

aloof /ə'lʊ:f/ *adv* at a distance; apart. • *adj* cool and reserved.—**aloofness** *n*.

alopecia /,ælə'peɪʃə/ *n* baldness; loss of hair through skin disease.

aloud /ə'ləʊd/ *adv* with a normal voice; loudly; spoken.

alow /ə'lɔ:/ *adv* (*naut*) to or in a lower part; below.

alp /ælp/ *n* a mountain peak.

alpaca /ælpækə/ *n* a Peruvian llama with long fine wool; a fabric made of this wool.

alpenglow /'ælpən,gləʊ/ *n* a peculiar purple glow on the snow on the Alps seen just before sunrise and after sunset.

alpenhorn /-,hɔrn/ *n* a long and nearly straight horn used by the mountaineers of the Alps.

alpenstock /-,stɔk/ *n* a stout staff with an iron spike, used by mountain climbers.

alpha /'ælfə/ *n* the first letter of the Greek alphabet.

alphabet /'ælfə,bet/ *n* the characters used in a language arranged in conventional order.

alphabetical /'ælfə,betikəl/,
alphabetical *adj* pertaining to an alphabet; in the order of the alphabet.—**alphabetically** *adv*.

alphabetize /'ælfəbə,təɪz/ *vt* to arrange in alphabetical order.—**alphabetization** *n*.

alphanumeric /,ælfənu:'mɛrɪk/ or /-,nju:-/,
alphameric /,ælfə'mɛrɪk/ *adj* containing letters of the alphabet and numerals.—**alphanumerically**,
alphanumerically *adv*.

alpha particle *n* a particle of helium given off by radium.

alpha ray *n* radiation of alpha particles.

alpine /ælpain/ *adj* (*with cap*) of the Alps; of high mountains. • *n* a mountain plant, *esp* a small herb.

alpinist /'ælpɪnɪst/ *n* a mountaineer who climbs in the Alps or in areas of similar mountains.—**alpinism** *n*.

Alps /ælpz/ *npl* a high mountain range in south central Europe.

already /ɒl'redi/ *adv* by or before the time specified; before the time expected.

alright /ɒl'raɪt/ *adv* a frequent spelling of all right.

Alsatian /ælsəɪʃən/ *n* a German shepherd; a native of Alsace.

also /'ɒlso:/ *adv* in addition, besides.

also-ran /-,ræn/ *n* a defeated contestant in a race, an election, etc.

alt /ælt/ (*mus*) the high notes above the treble staff.

Altaic /æltəɪk/ *adj* pertaining to the Altaic mountain regions, partly bounding Russia and China. • *n* the language of the region.

altar /'ɒltər/ *n* a table, etc for sacred purposes in a place of worship.

altarage *n* the offerings placed upon the altar to be devoted to the church, or appropriated by the priest as stipend.

altar cloth /-,klɔθ/ *n* a general term for the coverings of the altar.

altar ledge /-,ledz/ *n* a step or ledge behind the altar of a church, slightly raised above it for holding lights, flowers, and other symbolical ornaments; a retable.

altarpiece /-,pi:s/ *n* a painting, decorative screen, or other work of art, placed over or behind an altar.

altarscreen /-,skri:n/ *n* a screen or partition separating the altar from the choir; a reredos.

altar slab /-,slæb/ *n* the top of an altar; the consecrated part of an altar (the mensa).

altarwise /-,waɪz/ *adv* placed in the usual position of an altar, with the ends towards the north and south, and the front to the west.

altazimuth /,ælt'æzəməθ/ *n* an instrument for determining the altitudes and azimuths of the stars and planets.

alter /'ɒltər/ *vti* to make or become different in a small way; to change.—**alterable** *adj*.—**alterability** *n*.

alteration /,ɒltər'eɪʃən/ *n* the act of altering or changing; the change or modification effected.

alterative /'ɒltə'reɪtɪv/ or /-tərətɪv/ *adj* producing change; having the power to alter. • *n* a medicine that restores the healthy functions of the body.

altercate /'ɒltər,ket/ *vi* to contend in words; to wrangle; to dispute with anger or heat.

altercation /,ɒltər'keɪʃən/ *n* an angry or heated quarrel.

alter ego /'ɒltər,i:ɡo:/ or /'æɪ-/ *n* one's other self; a constant companion.

alternant /'ɒltərnənt/ *adj* alternating; composed of alternate layers.

alternate¹ /'ɒltərneɪt/ *vt* to do or use by turns. • *vi* to act, happen, etc by turns; to take turns regularly.—**alternation** *n*.

alternate² *adj* occurring or following in turns.—**alternately** *adv*.

alternate angles *npl* the internal angles made by two lines with a third on opposite sides of it.

alternating current *n* an electric current that reverses its direction at regular intervals.

alternation /,ɒltər'neɪʃən/ *n* the act of

alternating, or state of being alternate; reciprocal succession; antiphonal singing or reading.

alternative /ɒltər neɪtɪv/ *adj*
presenting a choice between two things. • *n* either of two possibilities.—**alternatively** *adv*.

alternative comedy *n* a form of comedy that avoids conventional humour (e.g. racist and sexist jokes), characterized by aggressively delivered and blackly humorous stand-up routines that *usu* challenge political and social orthodoxy.

alternative medicine *n* any technique of medical treatment without use of drugs, *eg* osteopathy, acupuncture, dieting.

alternator /ɔltər neɪtər/ or /æɪl-/ *n*
an electric generator that produces alternating current.

althaea, althea /æɪ'θi:ə/ *n* a genus of plants including the marshmallow and the hollyhock.

althorn /'ælt, hɔrn/ *n* a musical instrument of the saxhorn class, frequently used in military bands.

although /ɒl'ðəʊ/ or /ɒl'θəʊ/ *conj*
though; in spite of that.

altimeter /æɪ'lɪmɪtər/ *n* an instrument for measuring altitude.

altimetry /-tri/ *n* the art of measuring altitudes by the use of the altimeter.—**altimetric** *adj*.

altissimo /æɪ'lɪsɪmoː/ or /ɒl-/ *adj* (*mus*)
of the part or notes situated above F in alt.

altitude /'æltɪ,tu:d/ or /-tju:d/ *n* height, *esp* above sea level.—**altitudinal** *adj*.

alto /'æltəʊ/ or /'ɒltəʊ/ *n* (*pl* **altos**) the range of the highest male voice; a singer with this range; a contralto. • *adj* high.

alto clef /-klef/ *n* the C clef placed on the third line of the staff.

altogether /ɒltə'geðər/ or /'ɔltəgeðər/ *adv*
in all; on the whole; completely.

alto-relievo, alto-rilievo /,æltə:ɔ'li:vəʊ/ *n* (*pl* **alto-relievos, alto-rilievos**) high relief; figures or other objects that stand out boldly from the background, and having more than half their thickness projecting.

altruism /ɒl,tru:ɪzəm/ or /'æɪl-/ *n*
unselfish concern for or dedication to the interests or welfare of others.—**altruist** *n*.—**altruistic** *adj*.—**altruistically** *adv*.

aludel /'æɪju:del/ *n* one of the pear-shaped glass or earthenware

pots, open at both ends, used in sublimation.

alum /ɔ'lʌm/ *n* a double sulphate formed of aluminium and some other element, usually an alkali metal.

alumina /ɔ'lu:mɪnə/ *n* the single oxide of aluminium, the most abundant of the earths; a notable constituent of common clay, alumina is largely used in dyeing and calico printing as a mordant.

aluminiferous /ɔ,lu:mɪ'nɪfərəs/ *adj*
containing or yielding alum, alumina, or aluminium.

aluminium, aluminum /ɔ'lu:mɪnəm/ *n*
a silvery-white malleable metallic element notable for its lightness.

aluminous /ɔ'lu:mɪnəs/ *adj* of, containing or resembling alum or alumina.

alumna /ɔ'lʌmənə/ *n* (*pl* **alumnae**)
a female graduate or pupil of a university or college.

alumnus /ɔ'lʌmnəs/ *n* (*pl* **alumni**) a former pupil or student.—**alumna** *nf* (*pl* **alumnae**).

alum root /'æɪl,ru:t/ *n* a popular name given to certain astringent roots of saxifrages.

alum schist /-ʃɪst/ *n* a thin-bedded fissile rock from which alum is procured.

alunite /'æɪljə,naɪt/ or /-jə-/ *n*
subsulphate of alumina and potash.

alveolar /æɪ'viə:lər/ *adj* of tooth sockets.

alveolate /æɪ'viə:leɪt/ *adj* with deep pits or cells resembling the honeycomb.—**alveolation** *n*.

alveolus /æɪ'viə:ləs/ *n* (*pl* **alveoli**) a small pit, cell, cavity, or socket; the socket in which a tooth is fixed; the cell of a honeycomb.

alvine /æɪ'vaɪn/ *adj* pertaining or belonging to the intestines or belly.

always /'ɒlweɪz/ *adv* at all times; in all cases; repeatedly; forever.

Alzheimer's disease /'ɒlts,haɪmərz/ or /'ɒls-, 'æɪlts-, /'æɪls-/ *n* a degenerative disorder of the brain resulting in progressive senility.

am /æm/ *see* **be**.

a.m. /'eɪ'em/ *abbr* = *ante meridiem*, before noon.

amadou /'æmə,du:/ *n* a styptic and a tinder prepared by steeping the solid portions of a fungus affecting trees in a solution of saltpetre; German tinder.

amah /'ɒmə/ *n* an East Indian nurse or female servant.

amalgam /ə'mælgəm/ *n* an alloy of mercury and another metal; a mixture.

amalgamate /ə'mælgə'meɪt/ *vt* to combine, unite.

amalgamation /ə'mælgə'meɪʃən/ *n* the act or process of compounding mercury with another metal; the separation of precious metals from the mother rock by means of quicksilver; the blending or mixing of different elements or things; the union or consolidation of two or more companies or businesses into one concern, a merger.

amanuensis /ə'mænjʊ:əsɪnsɪs/ *n* (*pl* **amanuenses**) one who is employed to write at the dictation or direction of another; a secretary.

amaranth /'æmə,rænθ/ *n* an imaginary flower said by poets to be unfading; a plant of the genus *Amarantus*; a colour mixture in which magenta is the chief ingredient; red colouring added to some foods.

amaranthine /'æmə,rænθaɪn/ *adj* pertaining to the amaranth; never-fading, like amaranth; purplish.

amaryllis /'æmə'rɪlɪs/ *n* a genus of bulbous flowering plants to which the belladonna lily and narcissus belong.

amass /ə'mæs/ *vt* to bring together in a large quantity; to accumulate.—**amasser** *n*.—**amassment** *n*.

amateur /'æmətʃər/ or /-tər/ *n* one who engages in a particular activity as a hobby, and not as a profession.
• *adj* of or done by amateurs.—**amateurism** *n*.

amateurish /'æmətʃərɪs/ or /'æmə'tʃərɪʃ/, /-tərɪʃ/ *adj* lacking expertise.—**amateurishly** *adv*.—**amateurishness** *n*.

amatol /'æmə,tɒl/ or /-,tɒl/, /-,tɒ:l/ *n* a high explosive.

amatory /'æmə,tɔ:ri/, **amatorial** /-əl/ *adj* relating to or expressive of love.

amaurosis /'æmə'rɔ:sɪs/ *n* loss or decay of sight due to partial, periodic, or complete paralysis of the optic nerve.—**amaurotic** *adj*.

amaze /ə'meɪz/ *vt* to fill with wonder, astonish.—**amazing** *adj*.—**amazingly** *adv*.

amazement /ə'meɪzmənt/ *n* the state of being amazed; astonishment; perplexity arising from sudden surprise.

Amazon /'æmə,zɒn/ *n* (*Greek myth*) a race of women warriors; a tall strong athletic woman.—**Amazonian** *adj*.

amazon ant *n* a species of ant found in Europe and America, which seizes the neuters of other species in the pupa stage and brings them up with their own larvae.

amazonite /'æməzənaɪt/ *n* the amazon stone gemstone.

amazon stone *n* a beautiful green feldspar found near the Amazon.

ambary, ambari /'æm'bəri/ *n* (*pl* **ambaries, ambaris**) a plant of Asia that produces a jute-like fibre; the fibre.

ambassador /'æm'bæsədər/ *n* the highest-ranking diplomatic representative from one country to another; an authorized messenger.—**ambassadorial** *adj*.—**ambassadress** *nf*.

ambassador extraordinary *n* an ambassador sent on a special mission.

ambassador plenipotentiary *n* an ambassador sent with full powers to make a treaty.

amber /'æmbər/ *n* a hard yellowish fossil resin, used for jewellery and ornaments, etc; the colour of amber; a yellow traffic light used to signal "caution".

ambergris /-grɪs/ or /-,grɪs/ *n* a waxy substance found in tropical seas, which is secreted by sperm whales and is used in perfumery as a fixative.

amberoid, ambroid /-ɔɪd/ *n* pressed amber; synthetic amber.

amber tree *n* the common name for various species of African evergreen shrubs with fragrant leaves.

ambidextrous /'æmbɪ'dekstrəs/ *adj* able to use the left and the right hand equally well.—**ambidexterity** *n*.

ambience, ambiance /'æmbɪəns/ or /'æmbiās/, *Fr.* /'æmbi'ās/ *n* surrounding influence, atmosphere.

ambient /'æmbɪənt/ *adj* surrounding.

ambiguity /'æmbɪ'gju:ɪti/ *n* (*pl* **ambiguities** /-ɪz/) double or dubious significance; vagueness.

ambiguous /'æm'bɪgju:əs/ *adj* capable of two or more interpretations; indistinct, vague.—**ambiguously** *adv*.—**ambiguousness** *n*.

ambit /'æmbɪt/ *n* a circuit or compass; the line or sum of the lines by which a figure is bounded; the perimeter; sphere of action.

ambition /'æm'bɪʃən/ *n* desire for power, wealth and success; an object of ambition.

ambitious /-ʃəs/ *adj* having or

governed by ambition; resulting from or showing ambition; requiring considerable effort or ability.—**ambitiously** *adv.*

ambivalent /æm'bi:vələnt/ *adj* having mixed feelings toward the same object.—**ambivalence** *n.*

amble /'æmbəl/ *vi* to walk in a leisurely way. • *n* an easy pace.—**ambler** *n.*

amblyopia /,æmbi'ɔ:piə/ *n* dimness of vision; amaurosis.—**amblyopic** *adj.*

ambo /'æmbo:/ *n* (*pl* **ambos**, **ambones**) a pulpit; a reading desk.

amboyna, **amboina** /æm,bɔɪnə/ *n* a beautifully mottled and curled variegated wood used in cabinet work.

ambrosia /æm'bro:ʒə/ *n* (*Classical myth*) the food of the gods; anything exquisitely pleasing to taste or smell; a genus of weeds allied to wormwood.—**ambrosial**, **ambrosian** *adj.*

ambrotype /'æmbro:taɪp/ *n* (*photog*) a process by which the light parts of a photograph are produced in silver, the dark parts showing as a background through the clear glass.

ambry /'æmbri/ *n* (*pl* **ambries** /-i:z/) a recess in a church wall for sacred vessels; a repository for arms; a cupboard for money tools, etc.

ambace /'eɪmz,eɪtʃ/ or /'æmz-/ *n* two ones, the lowest throw at dice; bad luck.

ambulacrum /,æmbju'leɪkrəm/ *n* (*pl* **ambulacra**) a perforation in the shell of echinoderms through which the tube feet are protruded.—**ambulacral** *adj.*

ambulance /'æmbjʊləns/ *n* a special vehicle for transporting the sick or injured.

ambulance chaser /-,tʃeɪʒər/ *n* one who attempts to profit from disaster.

ambulant /'æmbjʊlənt/ *adj* (*patient*) able to walk, not bed-ridden; moving from place to place.

ambulate /'æmbju,leɪt/ *vi* to walk about; to move about; to wander.—**ambulation** *n.*

ambulatory /-lə,tɔ:ri/ *adj* of or pertaining to walking; movable; temporary; capable of walking. • *n* (*pl* **ambulatories**) a place for walking in; a covered way.

ambuscade /,æmbəs'keɪd/ *n* a strategic disposition of troops in ambush.

ambush /'æmbʊʃ/ *n* the concealment of soldiers, etc to make a surprise attack; the bushes or other cover in which they are hidden. • *vti* to lie in wait; to attack from an ambush.

ambush marketing *n* the practice of taking advantage of another's official event to advertise one's own products.—**also** **ambushing**.

ameba /ə'mi:bə/ *see* **amoeba**.

ameer /ə'mɪr/ *see* **amir**.

ameliorate /ə'mi:liə,reit/ *vti* to make or become better.—**ameliorative** *adj.*—**ameliorator** *n.*

amelioration /-iə,reitʃən/ *n* the making or growing better; improvement.

amen /v'men/ or /'eɪ-/ *interj* may it be so!

amenable /ə'menəbəl/ *adj* easily influenced or led, tractable; answerable to legal authority.—**amenability** *n.*—**amenably** *adv.*

amend /ə'mend/ *vt* to remove errors, esp in a text; to modify, improve; to alter in minor details.—**amendable** *adj.*—**amender** *n.*

amendatory /ə'mendə,tɔ:ri/ *adj* tending to amend; corrective.

amende honorable /ə,mɑ:ðnɔ'ræblə/ *n* (*pl* **amendes honorables**) a public apology and reparation; a punishment formerly inflicted in France on traitors and the sacrilegious.

amendment /ə'mendmənt/ *n* the act of amending, correction; an alteration to a document, etc.

amends /ə'mendz/ *npl* (*used as sing*) compensation or recompense for some loss, harm, etc.

amenity /ə'menɪti/ or /ə'mi:nɪti/ *n* (*pl* **amenities**) pleasantness, as regards situation, convenience, or service.

amenorrhoea, **amenorrhoea** /eɪ,mənə'ri:ə/ *n* abnormal absence of menstruation.

ament /ə'ment/, **amentum** /-əm/ *n* (*pl* **aments**, **amenta**) a catkin, as of the willow.

amentia /ə'menʃə/ *n* want of reason; mental deficiency.

amercé /ə'mɜ:s/ *vt* to punish by an arbitrary fine.—**amerceable** *adj.*—**amercement** *n.*

Amerenglish /'æmər,ɪŋlɪʃ/ or /,æmər'ɪŋlɪʃ/ *n* the English language as spoken in the United States.

American /ə'merɪkən/ *adj* belonging to or characteristic of America. • *n* an inhabitant of the US.

Americanism /ə'merɪkənɪzəm/ *n* a form of expression peculiar to the US; a custom peculiar to the US; attachment to the US.

Americanize /ə'merɪkən,naɪz/ *vt* to render American; to assimilate to the

political and social institutions of the US.—**Americanization** *n*.

americium /ˌæməˈrɪʃɪəm/ or /-ˈrɪs-/ *n*
a white radioactive metallic element
derived from plutonium.

Amerindian /ˌæməˈrɪndiən/, **Amerind**
/ˌæməˈrɪnd/ *n* an American Indian.—
Amerindic *adj*.

ametabolic /eɪˌmetəˈbɒlɪk/ *adj*
(*certain insects*) not undergoing
metamorphosis.

amethyst /ˈæməθɪst/ *n* a gemstone
consisting of bluish-violet quartz; the
colour of an amethyst.—**amethystine**
adj.

amiable /ˈeɪmiəbəl/ *adj* friendly in
manner, congenial.—**amiability** *n*.—
amiably *adv*.

amianthus /ˌæmiˈænθəs/ *n* earth or
mountain flax, a fibrous variety of
asbestos.—**amianthine**, **amianthoid**,
amianthoidal *adj*.

amicable /ˈæmɪkəbəl/ *adj* friendly;
peaceable.—**amicability**,
amicableness *n*.—**amicably** *adv*.

amice /ˈæmɪs/ *n* a square of white linen
formerly worn on the head but now
worn about the neck and shoulders by
celebrant priests while saying Mass; a
pilgrim's cloak.

amicus curiae /əˈmɪkʊsˈkjʊəriˌaɪ/
or /əˈmɪ:kʊsˈkjʊəriˌaɪ/ *n* (*pl*) **amici**
curiae (*law*) a friend of the court; a
disinterested adviser.

amid /əˈmɪd/, **amidst** /əˈmɪdst/ *prep* in
or to the middle of; during.

amide /ˈæmaɪd/ or /ˈeɪm-/ *n* any of
several compounds produced by the
replacement of a hydrogen atom of
ammonia by an acid radical or metal
atom.

amidships /əˈmɪdʃɪps/ *adv* in the
middle of a ship.

amine /æˈmiːn/ or /ə-/ *n* any of several
organic compounds formed by
replacing hydrogen atoms of ammonia
by one or more univalent hydrocarbon
radicals.

amino acid *n* any of a group of organic
acids that occur in proteins.

amir /əˈmɪr/ *n* (*formerly*) the Muslim
ruler of Afghanistan.—*also* **ameer**.

amiss /əˈmɪs/ *adj* wrong, improper. •
adv in an incorrect manner.

amity /ˈæmɪti/ *n* (*pl*) **amities**
friendship.

ammeter /ˈæmiːtər/ *n* an instrument
for measuring electric current in
amperes.

ammo /ˈæmoː/ *n* (*sl*) ammunition.

ammonal /əˈmɔːnəl/ *n* a highly
explosive compound.

ammonia /əˈmɔːniə/ or /-ˈmɔːniə/ *n* a
pungent colourless gas composed of
nitrogen and hydrogen.

ammoniac /əˈmɔːniˌæk/ *n* a gum
resin.—*also* **gum ammoniac**.

ammoniacal /ˌæməˈniəkəl/,
ammoniac² *adj* of, pertaining to, like
or containing ammonia.

ammonite /ˈæmoːnɪt/ *n* a fossil
shell, twisted like a ram's horn;
snakestone.—**ammonitic** *adj*.

ammonium /æˈmɔːniəm/ *n* the
hypothetical base of ammonia.

ammunition /ˌæmjʊˈnɪʃən/ *n* bullets,
shells, rockets, etc; any means of
attack or defence; facts and reasoning
used to prove a point in an argument.

amnesia /æmˈniːʃə/ *n* a partial or
total loss of memory.—**amnesiac**,
amnesic *n, adj*.

amnesty /ˈæmnəsti/ *n* (*pl*) **amnesties**
a general pardon, *esp* of political
prisoners; a pardon granted for a
limited time. • *vt* (**amnestying**,
amnestied) to pardon (an offence).

amniocentesis /ˌæmniːoːsɛnˈtiːsɪs/
n the extraction by hollow needle of
a sample of amniotic fluid from the
womb to test for foetal abnormalities.

amnion /ˈæmniən/ *n* (*pl*) **amnions**,
amnia the thin innermost membrane
surrounding the foetus in the womb
of mammals, birds, and reptiles.—
amniotic *adj*.

amoeba /əˈmiːbə/ *n* (*pl*) **amoebae**
/əˌmiːbaɪ/, **amoebas** /əˈmiːbəz/) a
unicellular microorganism found in
water, damp soil and the digestive
tracts of animals.—*also* **ameba**.—
amoebic, **amebic** *adj*.

amoebaeal, **amoebean** /ˈæmiːbiən/
adj (*verse form*) alternately answering.

amok /əˈmek/ *adj, adv* **run amok**
to run about armed, in a state of frenzy,
attacking all that come in the way;
indiscriminate slaughter; headstrong
violence.—*also* **amuck**.

among /əˈmɒŋ/, **amongst** /əˈmɒŋst/
prep in the number of, surrounded
by; in the group or class of; within a
group, between; by the joint efforts of.

amontillado /əˌmɒntɪˈlɒdoː/, *Sp.*
/əˌmɒntiːˈjɒdoː/ *n* (*pl*) **amontillados** a
dry kind of light-coloured sherry.

amoral /eɪˈmɔːrəl/ or /-ˈmɔːrəl/ *adj*
neither moral nor immoral; without
moral sense.—**amorality** *n*.—
amorally *adv*.

amoretto /,æmə'retəʊ/, **amorino** /,æmə'ri:nəʊ/ *n* (*pl* **amoretto**, **amorini**) (*art*) a figure of cupid and representations of children.—*also* **putto**.

amoris /'æmərist/ *n* an amateur in love, a philanderer.

amoroso /,æmə'rɔ:səʊ/ *adj* (*mus*) in a tender, amatory style.

amorous /'æmərəs/ *adj* displaying or feeling love or desire.—**amorously** *adv.*—**amorousness** *n.*

amor patriae /æ,mʊr'pætri:pi/ *n* love of one's country.

amorphous /ə'mɔ:rfəs/ *adj* lacking a specific shape, shapeless; unrecognizable, indefinable.—**amorphism** *n.*

amortization /,æmərti'zeɪʃən/ *n* the extinction of a debt by means of a sinking fund; the act of alienating lands to a corporation in mortmain.—**amortizement** *n.*

amortize /'æmərtəɪz/ or /ə'mɔ:r-/ *vt* to put money aside at intervals for gradual payment of (a debt, etc).—**amortization** *n.*

amount /ə'maʊnt/ *vi* to be equivalent (to) in total, quantity or significance.
• *n* the total sum; the whole value or effect; a quantity.

amour /æ'mʊr/ *n* a love affair; an intrigue.

amour propre /æ,mʊr'prɔ:pr/ *n* self-love, vanity; self-respect.

amp /æmp/ *n* an ampere; (*inf*) an amplifier.

ampelopsis /,æmpɪ'lɒpsɪs/ *n* kinds of vine creeper, incl the Virginia creeper.

amperage /'æmpərəɪdʒ/ or /æm'pɪr-/ *n* the strength of an electric current measured in amperes.

ampere /'æmpər/ *n* the standard SI unit by which an electric current is measured.

ampersand /'æmpər,sænd/ *n* the sign (&) meaning "and".

amphetamine /æm'fetəmi:n/ or /-mɪn/ *n* a drug used *esp* as a stimulant and to suppress appetite.

amphi- /'æmfɪ/ *prefix* of both kinds; on both sides; around.

amphibian /æm'fɪbiən/ *n* an animal living on land but breeding in water; an aircraft that can take off and land on water or land; a vehicle that can travel on land and through water.

amphibious /æm'fɪbiəs/ *adj* living on both land and in water; (*mil*) involving both sea and land forces.

amphibology /æm'fɪ'bɒlədʒi/, **amphiboly** /-li/ *n* (*pl* **amphibologies**, **amphibolies**) an ambiguous phrase, as a sentence that may be construed in two distinct ways, as "The duke yet lives that Henry shall depose"; a quibble.

amphibrach /'æmfəbræk/ *n* (*verse*) a foot of three syllables, the middle long, the first and last short.—**amphibrachic** *adj.*

amphimacer /æm'fɪmæsər/ *n* (*verse*) a foot of three syllables, the middle short, the first and last long.

amphimixis /,æmfə'mɪksɪs/ *n* (*pl* **amphimixes**) a mingling of male and female gametes in sexual reproduction.

amphioxus /,æmfɪ'ɒksəs/ *n* (*pl* **amphioxi**, **amphioxuses**) the name of the lancelet, a fish with a body tapering at both ends, the lowest in organization of the vertebrates.

amphipod /'æmfəpɒd/ *n* any of the *Amphipoda* order of crustaceans having feet for both walking and swimming, including the sandhoppers and sand fleas.

amphiprostyle /,æmfə'prəstail/ or /æmfɪ'prɔ:stail/ *adj* (*archit*) with a portico at both ends. • *n* a building of this kind, *esp* a temple.—**amphiprostyle** *adj.*

amphisbaena /,æmfɪs'bi:nə/ *n* (*pl* **amphisbaenae**, **amphisbaenas**) a fabled serpent with a head at each end; a kind of lizard or worm.—**amphisbaenic** *adj.*

amphitheatre, **amphitheater** /,æmfɪ'θi:ətər/ *n* an oval or circular building with rising rows of seats around an open arena.

amphora /'æmfərə/ *n* (*pl* **amphorae**, **amphoras**) a two-handled vessel of oblong shape, used by the ancients for holding wine, etc; a Greek and Roman liquid measure, the former 9 gallons, the latter 6 gallons.

ample /æmpəl/ *adj* large in size, scope, etc; plentiful.—**amply** *adv.*

amplification /'æmpləfə'keɪʃən/ *n* the act of amplifying or expanding; enlargement.

amplifier /'æmpləfaɪər/ *n* a device that increases electric voltage, current, or power, or the loudness of sound.

amplify /'æmpləfaɪ/ *vt* (**amplifying**, **amplified**) to expand more fully, add details to; (*electrical signals, etc*) to strengthen.

amplitude /'æmplɪtu:d/ or /-tju:d/
n largeness of extent, scope;
 abundance; the maximum deviation
 of an oscillation from the mean or
 zero.

amplitude modulation *n* (the
 transmitting of information by) the
 modulation of the amplitude of a radio
 carrier wave in accordance with the
 amplitude of the signal carried.

ampoule, ampul, ampule /'æm.pul/
 or /-pəl-/ *n* a small sealed glass vessel
 containing liquid, *esp* for injection.

ampulla /æm'pʊlə/ *n* (*pl* **ampullae**)
 an ancient vessel which contained
 unguents for the bath; a drinking
 vessel; a vessel for consecrated oil or
 chrism used in church rites and at the
 coronation of sovereigns.—**ampullar,**
ampullary *adj*.

amputate /'æmpju:teɪ/ *vt* to cut off,
esp by surgery.—**amputation** *n*.

amuck /ə'mæk/ *see* **amok**.

amulet /'æmjʊlət/ *n* something worn as
 a charm against evil.

amuse /ə'mju:z/ *vt* to entertain or
 divert in a pleasant manner; to cause
 to laugh or smile.—**amusing** *adj*.

amusement /-mənt/ *n* that which
 amuses; the state of being amused; an
 entertainment; a pastime.

amusement arcade *n* an indoor or
 roofed area with mechanical games for
 entertainment.

amusement park *n* an outdoor area
 with fairground entertainments.

amygdalate /ə'mɪgdələɪt/ *adj* of or
 belonging to the almond.

amygdalin /ə'mɪgdə,lɪn/ *n* a white
 crystalline substance obtained from
 the kernels of almonds.

amygdaloid /ə'mɪgdə,lɔɪd/ *adj*
 almond shaped. • *n* an igneous rock
 containing almond-shaped nodules of
 some mineral.

amyl /'eɪmaɪl/ or /'æmɪl/ *n* (*formerly*)
 the alcohol radical of many chemical
 compounds.

amylaceous /'æmɪ'leɪʃəs/ *adj* of starch,
 starchy.

amylase /'æmɪ'leɪz/ *n* an enzyme that
 breaks down starch and glycogen.

amylene /'æmɪ'li:n/ *n* a hydrocarbon
 obtained by the removal of water from
 amyl alcohol.

amyl nitrite *n* a drug inhaled to relieve
 spasms.

amyloid /'æmɪ'lɔɪd/ *n* a starchy food.

amylopsin /'æmɪ'lɒpsɪn/ *n* a pancreatic
 ferment converting starch into sugar.

an- /ən/ or /æn/ *prefix* the form of *ad-*
 before *n*.

-an /ən/, **-ain** /eɪn/, **-ane** /æn/ *adj suffix*
 of, of the nature of, as in *suburban,*
certain, humane.

an /æn/ *adj* the indefinite article (“a”),
 used before words beginning with the
 sound of a vowel except “u”.

ana- /'ænə/ *prefix* up, anew, again.

-ana /'ænə/, **-iana** *n suffix*
 sayings of, publications about, as
Shakespeariana, etc.

Anabaptist /,ænə'bæptɪst/ *n* one who
 believes in the rebaptizing of adults
 on their profession of faith; one
 who holds the invalidity of infant
 baptism; (*pl*) the sect of Baptists.—

Anabaptism *n*.

anabas /'ænəbəs/ *n* a genus of Indian
 fishes allied to the perch, remarkable
 for their power of living a long time
 out of water and of travelling on land.

anabasis /ə'næbəsɪs/ *n* (*pl*
anabases) the name given
 to Xenophon's account of the
 expedition of Cyrus the Younger
 (401bc); an inland military
 expedition.

anabatic /,ænə'bætɪk/ *adj* (*of wind*)
 caused by upward current of air.

anabiosis /,ænə'biə:sɪs/ *n* a coming to
 life again, resuscitation.

anableps /'ænəbleps/ *n* (*pl* **anableps**)
 a genus of the perch family found in
 Guiana, remarkable for the structure
 of its eye.

anabolic steroid /,ænə'bɒlɪk'stɪrɔɪd/
 or /'stɛrɔɪd/ *n* any of various synthetic
 steroid hormones that promote rapid
 muscle growth.

anabolism /ə'næbəlɪzəm/ *n*
 constructive metabolism, in which
 simple molecules synthesize into
 more complex ones.—**anabolic.**

anabranch /'ænəbræntʃ/ *n* a stream
 that leaves a river and rejoins it lower
 down.

anachronism /ə'nækrə'nɪzəm/
n a person, custom, or idea
 regarded as out of date or out of
 its period.—**anachronistic** *adj*.—
anachronistically *adv*.

anacoluthia /,ænəkə'lʊ:θiə/ *n* want
 of grammatical sequence, *esp* in a
 sentence.—**anacoluthic** *adj*.

anacoluthon /,ænəkə'lʊ:θɒn/ *n* (*pl*
anacolutha) a sentence in which
 one part belongs to a different
 construction from the other.

anaconda /,ænə'kɒndə/ *n* a large South

American semiaquatic snake that kills its prey by constriction.

Anacreontic /əˈnækrɪˈɒntɪk/ *adj* after the manner of Anacreon, the Greek poet (6th century BC); amatory, erotic.
• *n* a poem in praise of love and wine.

anacrusis /ˌænəˈkruːsɪs/ *n* (*pl* **anacrusis**) (*linguistics*) an unstressed syllable at the beginning of a verse.—**anacrusitic** *adj*.

anadiplosis /ˌænədɪˈplɔːsɪs/ *n* (*rhetoric*) the repetition of the last word of a line or clause at the beginning of the next.

anadromous /əˈnædrəməs/ *adj* (*fish*) ascending from the sea to freshwater rivers to deposit spawn, as the salmon, etc.

anaemia /əˈniːmiə/ *n* a condition in which the blood is low in red cells or in haemoglobin, resulting in paleness, weakness, etc.—*also* **anemia**.

anaemic /əˈniːmɪk/ *adj* suffering from anaemia; weak; pale; listless.—*also* **anemic**.

anaerobe /ˈænəˌroʊb/ or /əˌnɛrəʊb/, **anaerobium** /-biəm/ *n* (*pl* **anaerobes**, **anaerobia**) a microbe that can live without air.

anaerobiosis /ˌænrəʊˈbiːoʊsɪs/ *n* life devoid of oxygen.—**anaerobic** *adj*.—**anaerobically** *adv*.

anaesthesia /ˌænəsˈθiːziə/ or /-zə/ *n* a partial or total loss of the sense of pain, touch, etc.—*also* **anesthesia**.

anaesthetic /ˌænəsˈθetɪk/ *n* a drug, gas, etc used to produce anaesthesia, as before surgery. • *adj* of or producing anaesthesia.—*also* **anesthetic**.

anaesthetist /əˈnɛsθətɪst/ or /əˈniː-/ *n* a person trained to give anaesthetics.—*also* **anesthetist**.

anaesthetize /əˈnɛsθəˈtaɪz/ or /əˈniː-/ *vt* to administer an anaesthetic.—*also* **anesthetize**.—**anaesthetization**, **anesthetization** *n*.

anaglyph /ˈænəglɪf/ *n* an ornament or work of art carved in low relief, as distinguished from intaglio.—**anaglyphic**, **anaglyphical**, **anaglyptic**, **anaglyptical** *adj*.

anagnorisis /əˈnæɡnəˈrɪsɪs/ (*pl* **anagnorises**) the denouement in a drama.

anagoge, **anagogy** /ˌænəˈɡoʊdʒi/ *n* an allegorical or mystical interpretation, a hidden sense.—**anagogic**, **anagogical** *adj*.—**anagogically** *adv*.

anagram /ˈænəˌɡræm/ *n* a word or sentence formed by rearranging another word or sentence.—

anagrammatic, **anagrammatical** *adj*.—**anagrammatically** *adv*.

anagrammatize /ˌænəˈɡræməˈtaɪz/ *vt* to make into an anagram. • *vi* to construct anagrams.—**anagrammatism** *n*.—**anagrammatist** *n*.

anal /ˈeɪnəl/ *adj* of or situated near the anus.

analects /ˈænələkts/, **anelecta** /ˌænəˈlektə/ *npl* literary passages or extracts selected from published works by different authors.—**analectic** *adj*.

analeptic /ˌænəˈleptɪk/ *adj* restorative.
• *n* a restorative drug.

analgesia /ˌænəlˈdʒiːziə/ or /-siə/ *n* insensibility to pain without loss of consciousness.

analgesic /ˌænəlˈdʒiːzɪk/ or /-sɪk/ *adj* relieving pain. • *n* a pain-relieving drug.

analogism /ˌænəˈlɒdʒɪzəm/ *n* a reasoning from the cause to the effect; study and examination of matters and things by reference to their analogies.—**analogist** *n*.

analogize /əˈnæləˌdʒaɪz/ *vt* to reason or expound by reference to analogy, to draw comparisons. • *vi* to treat or investigate by use of analogy.

analogous /əˈnæləɡəs/ *adj* corresponding in certain respects (to).—**analogously** *adv*.

analogue, **analog** /ˈænəˌlɒɡ/ *n* a word or thing analogous to something else.

analogy /əˈnæləˌdʒi/ *n* (*pl* **analogies**) a similarity or correspondence in certain respects between two things.—**analogical**, **analogic** *adj*.

analysable, **analyzable** *adj* capable of being resolved by, or that may be subjected to, analysis.

analysand /əˈnæliˌsænd/ *n* anyone undergoing psychoanalysis.

analyse, **analyze** /ˈænəˌlaɪz/ *vt* to separate (something) into its constituent parts to investigate its structure and function, etc; to examine in detail; to psychoanalyse.

analysis /əˈnæləsɪs/ (*pl* **analyses** /-ɪsɪs/) the process of analysing; a statement of the results of this; psychoanalysis.

analyst /ˈænəlɪst/ *n* a person who analyses; a psychoanalyst.

analytic /ˌænəˈlɪtɪk/, **analytical** /-kl/ *adj* pertaining to analysis.—**analytically** *adv*.

anamnesis /ˌænəmˈniːsɪs/ (*pl*

- anamneses** /-si:z/) recollection; a patient's case history.—**anamnestic** *adj.*—**anamnestically** *adv.*
- anamorphosis** /æ'nə'mɔ:rfəʊsɪs/ *n* (*pl* **anamorphoses** /-si:z/) the irregular and distorted representation of an object as viewed directly, but which is corrected and reduced to its proper proportion when regarded from a different point of view, or reflected by a curved mirror; the abnormal or monstrous development of a portion of a plant or flower; a gradual progression from one type to another.
- ananas** /ə'nænəs/ *n* a genus of tropical plants to which the pineapple belongs.
- anandrous** /ə'nændrəs/ *adj* without stamens.
- ananthous** /ə'nænθəs/ *adj* without flowers.
- anapaest, anapest** /'æ'nə,pæst/ *n* a foot comprising two short syllables and one long syllable.—**anapaestic, anapestic** *adj.*
- anaphora** /ə'næfərə/ *n* (*rhetoric*) the repetition at the beginning of the succeeding clauses of sentences of the word or words used in beginning the first; that part of the Eucharistic service which starts with the Sursum Corda; the oblique ascension of a star.—**anaphoric** *adj.*—**anaphorically** *adv.*
- anaphrodisia** /æ'n,æfrə'di:ziə/ *n* impotence of the sexual organs; absence of venereal desire.
- anaphrodisiac** /æ'n,æfrə'di:zi,æk/ *adj* tending to diminish sexual desire.
• *n* a remedy that produces such an effect.
- anaphylaxis** /,æ'nəfi'læksɪs/ *n* excessive sensitivity to a substance or germ due to prior inoculation with it, an allergy.—**anaphylactic** *adj.*—**anaphylactically** *adv.*
- anaplasty** /,æ'nəplæsti/ *n* the repairing of wounds by the transplantation of adjacent healthy tissue, plastic surgery.—**anaplastic** *adj.*
- anarchism** /'æ'nər,kɪzəm/ *n* lawlessness; confusion; anarchy; the doctrines of the anarchists.
- anarchist** /'æ'nər,kɪst/ *n* a person who believes that all government is unnecessary and should be abolished.—**anarchistic** *adj.*
- anarchy** /'æ'nərki/ *n* the absence of government; political confusion; disorder, lawlessness.—**anarchic, anarchical** *adj.*
- anarthrous** /æn'arθrəs/ *adj* without the article; destitute of joints; without articulated limbs.
- anasarca** /æ'nə'sɑ:kə/ (*med*) dropsy.—**anasarcous** *adj.*
- anastigmat** /æ'næstɪg,mæt/ *n* a lens corrected of astigmatism.—**anastigmatic** *adj.*
- anastomosis** /ə'næstə'mo:sɪs/ *n* (*pl* **anastomoses**) a cross-connection of arteries, rivers, etc.—**anastomotic** *adj.*
- anastrophe** /ə'næstrəfi/ *n* (*rhetoric*) an inversion of the sequence of words in a sentence, as “echoed the hills”, for “the hills echoed”.
- anathema** /ə'næθəmə/ *n* (*pl* **anathemas**) anything greatly detested; an ecclesiastical curse or denunciation accompanied by excommunication.
- anathematize** /ə'næθəmə,təɪz/ *vt* to pronounce a decree of excommunication against. • *vi* to curse.—**anathematization** *n.*
- anatomist** /ə'nætəmɪst/ *n* one possessing a knowledge of anatomy by dissection.
- anatomize** /ə'nætə,məɪz/ *vt* to dissect; to study the structure of; to analyse.—**anatomization** *n.*
- anatomy** /ə'nætəmi/ *n* (*pl* **anatomies**) the science of the physical structure of plants and animals; the structure of an organism.—**anatomical** *adj.*—**anatomically** *adv.*
- anbury** /'ænbəri/ *n* (*pl* **anburies**) a soft wart or tumour on horses and cattle; a disease in turnips.
- ANC** /'eɪ'en'si:/ *abbr* = African National Congress.
- ance** /əns/ *n* *suffix* denoting quality or action, as in *arrogance, penance*.
- ancestor** /'æ'n,sɛstər/ or /-səs-/ *n* one from whom a person is descended, a forefather; an early animal or plant from which existing types are descended; something regarded as a forerunner.—**ancestress** *nf.*
- ancestral** /'æ'n'sɛstrəl/ *adj* belonging to, or connected with, one's ancestors; derived from one's progenitors; lineal.
- ancestry** /'ænsɛstri:/ *n* (*pl* **ancestries**) ancestors collectively; lineage.
- anchor** /'æŋkər/ *n* a heavy metal implement that lodges at the bottom of the sea or a river to hold a ship in position; something that gives support or stability. • *vt* to fix by an anchor; to secure firmly.
- anchorage** /'æŋkərɪdʒ/ *n* a safe

a anchoring place for ships; the charge for anchoring.

anchorite /'æŋkəraɪt/ *n* one who voluntarily secludes him or herself from society and lives a solitary life devoted to religious or philosophic meditation; a recluse; a hermit.—

anchoress *nf.*

anchorman /'æŋkə'mæn/ *n* (*pl* **anchormen**) (*sport*) the last man in a team to compete and whose contribution is vital; the compere of a television broadcast.

anchor stock *n* the crossbar at the top of the shank, at right angles to the arms.

anchor watch *n* the watch on board ship when at anchor; the seamen on this watch.

anchovy /'æŋ'tʃəʊvi/ or /'æntʃəʊvi/, /æŋ'tʃəʊvi/ *n* (*pl*

anchovies, anchovy) a small Mediterranean fish resembling a herring with a very salty taste.

anchovy pear *n* a West Indian fruit like the mango, used as a pickle.

anchylose /'æŋkə'ləʊs/ or /-ləʊz/ *see* **ankylose**.

ankylosis /-ləʊsɪs/ *see* **ankylosis**.

ancien régime /ɑːsjæ'reɪ'zi:m/, *Fr.* /ɑːsjæ'reɪ'zi:m/ *n* (*pl* **anciens régimes**) the old order, *esp* that ruling France before the Revolution.

ancient /'eɪnʃənt/ *adj* very old; dating from the distant past; of the period and civilizations predating the fall of the Roman Empire; old-fashioned.
• *n* a person who lived in the ancient period; (*pl*) the members of the classical civilizations of antiquity, *esp* of Greece and Rome.

Ancient of Days *n* (*Bible*) God, as described in the Book of Daniel.

ancillary /æŋ'sɪləri/ *adj* subordinate (to); auxiliary; supplementary. • *n* (*pl* **ancillaries**) a subordinate or auxiliary person or thing.

ancipital /æŋ'sɪpɪtəl/, **ancipitous** /-ɪtəʃ/ *adj* (*biol*) two-edged and sharp.

ancon, ancone /'æŋkən/ *n* (*pl*

ancones /æŋ'kəʊni:z/ or /æŋ-/) (*archit*) a bracket or projection for the support of a cornice; the elbow.—**anconal, anconal adj.**

and /ænd/ or /ænd/ *conj* in addition to; together with; plus; increasingly; as a consequence, afterwards; expressing contrast.

andalusite /ændə'lʊ:sart/ *n* a silicate of alumina.

andante /æŋ'dɒntə/ or /-dæntə/ *adj*

(*mus*) moderately slow; naturally and easily. • *n* a movement written and to be played in andante time.

andantino /æŋ'dɒn'ti:nəʊ/ or /ændæn-/ *adj* rather slower than andante. • *n* (*pl* **andantinos**) a movement slower than an andante.

andesite /'ændɪ,zəɪt/ *n* a silicate of alumina, soda, and lime.

andiron /'ændɪ,aɪrŋ/ *npl* metal standards used for open fires to support the logs; fire dogs.

androgen /'ændrədʒən/ *n* a male sex hormone.—**androgenic adj.**

androgenous /æŋ'drədʒənəs/ *adj* (*biol*) having only male offspring.

androgynous /æŋ'drədʒɪnəs/ *adj* combining both sexes or bearing both male and female organs; hermaphroditical.—**androgyny n.**—**androgyny n.**

android /'ændrɔɪd/ *n* (*science fiction*) a robot in human form.—*also adj.*

androsphinx /'ændrə'sfɪks/ *n* (*pl* **androsphinxes, androsphinges**) a sphinx with the body of a lion and the head of a man.

anecdotal /'æŋək,də:təl/ *adj* relating to anecdotes; (*evidence, etc*) obtained from experience, not scientific.

anecdote /'æŋək,də:t/ or /-ək-/ *n* a short entertaining account about an amusing or interesting event or person.

anemia /ə'ni:mɪə/ *see* **anaemia**.

anemic /ə'ni:mɪk/ *see* **anaemic**.

anemograph /ə'nemə'græf/ *n* an instrument for registering the force or direction of the wind.

anemography /ə'nemə'grəfi/ *n* the scientific description of winds, and the measurement and registration of their force and direction.—**anemographic adj.**—**anemographically adv.**

anemology /æŋə'mɒlədʒi/ *n* the science and literature of the winds.

anemometer /æŋə'mɒmətər/ *n* an instrument for measuring the force or speed of the wind.

anemone /ə'neməni/ *n* a plant of the buttercup family.

anemophilus /æŋə'mɒfɪləs/ *adj* (flowers etc) fertilized by pollen carried by the wind, wind-pollinated.—**anemophily n.**

anemoscope /ə'nemə'skə:p/ *n* an apparatus for exhibiting the direction of the wind.

anent /ə'nent/ *prep, adv* (*Scot*) with

regard or respect to; concerning.

aneroid /'ænəˌrɔɪd/ *adj* having no liquid, as quicksilver. • *n* a barometer shaped like a watch, the action depending on the varying pressure of the atmosphere on the top of an elastic metal box.

aneroid barometer *n* a barometer that measures air pressure by its effect on the flexible lid of a box containing a partial vacuum.

anesthesia /,ænəs'thi:zə/ or /-ziə/, *see* **anaesthesia**.

anesthetic /,ænəs'tetɪk/ *see* **anaesthetic**.

anesthetist /ə'nesθətɪst/ or /ə,nɪ:-/ *see* **anaesthetist**.

anesthetize /ə'nesθə,təɪz/ or /ə,nɪ:-/ *see* **anaesthetize**.

aneurysm, aneurism /'ænjʊ,rɪzəm/ *n* the permanent abnormal swelling of an artery.

anew /ə'nu:/ or /-ˈnju:/ *adv* afresh; again, once more; in a new way or form.

anfractuous /æn'fræktʃuəs/ *adj* winding, intricate.—**anfractuosity** *n* (*pl* **anfractuosit**ies).

angary /'æŋgəri/ *n* a belligerent's right to seize and use neutral property, for which it pays indemnity.

angel /'eɪndʒəl/ *n* a messenger of God; an image of a human figure with wings and a halo; a very beautiful or kind person; (*inf*) one who gives financial backing to an enterprise.

angel cake *n* a small round cake with a round fruit on the top.

Angeleno /,æŋdʒə'li:no:/ or *n* (*pl* **Angelenos**) (*inf*) an inhabitant of the city of Los Angeles.

angelfish /'eɪndʒəl,fɪʃ/ *n* (*pl* **angelfish, angelfishes**) a species of shark with large pectoral fins, which give to it a winged appearance.

angelic /'æŋdʒɛlɪk/, **angelical** /-əl/ *adj* belonging to or resembling an angel in nature or function.—**angelically** *adv*.

angelica /-ɪkə/ *n* the candied stalks of a fragrant plant used *esp* in cake decoration.

Angelus /'æŋdʒələs/ *n* (*RC Church*) a devotional exercise commemorating the Incarnation, during which the Ave Maria is twice repeated, said morning, noon, and night; the bell that is rung to announce the time of such devotions.

anger /'æŋgə/ *n* strong displeasure, often because of opposition, a hurt, etc. • *vti* to make or become angry.

angina /æn'dʒɪnə/ *n* sharp stabbing pains in the chest, *usu* caused by angina pectoris.

angina pectoris /'pektərɪs/ *n* a heart disease causing a spasmodic gripping pain in the chest.

angiology /,æŋdʒɪ'blɒdʒɪ/ *n* the branch of anatomy that deals with the blood vessels and lymphatics.

angioma /æŋdʒɪ'o:mə/ *n* (*pl* **angiomas, angiomas**) a tumour caused by the enlargement of a blood vessel.—**angiomatous** *adj*.

angiosperm /'æŋdʒɪə,spərm/ *n* (*bot*) a plant having its seeds protected by a covering.—**angiospermous** *adj*.

angle¹ /'æŋgəl/ *n* a corner; the point from which two lines or planes extend or diverge; a specific viewpoint; an individual method or approach (*eg* to a problem). • *vt* to bend at an angle; to move or place at an angle; to present information, news, etc from a particular point of view.

angle² *vi* to fish with a hook and line; to use hints or artifice to get something.—**angler** *n*.

angler /'æŋglər/ *n* one who fishes with rod and line; the name of a fish with filamentary appendage that attracts smaller fish on which it feeds.

Anglican /'æŋglɪkən/ *adj* belonging to or of the Church of England and other churches in communion with it. • *n* a member of the Anglican Church; a ritualist.

Anglicanism /-ɪzəm/ *n* the principles and ritual of the Anglican Church.

Anglicism /'æŋglɪ,sɪzəm/ *n* a form of speech, an English idiom, a principle or mannerism peculiar to England.

anglicize /'æŋglɪ,saɪz/ *vt* to make or to render into English; to accord with English manners and customs.—**anglicization** *n*.

angling /'æŋglɪŋ/ *n* the art or act of fishing with rod and line.

Anglo- /'æŋglə:/ or *prefix* English, British.

Anglo-American /'æŋglə:ə'merɪkən/ *adj* pertaining to England and the United States conjointly, as to commerce or population. • *n* an American citizen of English descent.

Anglo-Canadian *adj* pertaining to England and Canada, as to commerce or population.

Anglo-Catholic /'kəθɒlɪk/ *adj* Catholic according to the teachings and ritual of the English Church;

in the strictest Catholic sense; high church. • *n* a member of the English Church, popularly a ritualist or high churchman, who repudiates the term "Protestant".

Anglo-Catholicism /kə'θɒlɪsɪzəm/
n the principles and ritual of the Anglican Church interpreted in their strictest Catholic sense.

Anglo-French /'frɛntʃ/ *adj* English and French. • *n* the old French language introduced into England by the Normans.

Anglo-Indian /'ɪndiən/ *adj* pertaining to England and India conjointly. • *n* one of English descent born or residing in India.

Anglo-Irish /'aɪrɪʃ/ *adj* pertaining to England and Ireland, or to the English settled in Ireland and their descendants; having the father or mother of English or Irish race. • *npl* English born or resident in Ireland.

Anglomania /-'meɪniə/ *n* a predilection carried to excess for everything that is English, in the sense of being peculiar to England.

Anglo-Norman /-'nɔrmən/ *adj* common to England and Normandy. • *n* one of the Norman settlers in England after the Conquest (ad 1066).

Anglophile /'æŋɡlə'faɪl/ *n* a person who loves England or anything English.—*also* **Anglophil**.

Anglophobe /'æŋɡlə'fəʊb/ *n* one who hates or fears England and the English.

Anglophobia /,æŋɡlə'fəʊbiə/ *n* an intense aversion or fear of everything English.—**Anglophobe** *n*.

Anglo-Saxon /'æŋɡlə'sæksən/ *adj* pertaining to the Saxon settlers in England prior to the Conquest, or to their language. • *n* one of the Saxon settlers in England as distinguished from those on the Continent; Old English, the language of the settlers; (*pl*) the English race.

angora /æ'n'ɡɔrə/ *n* a long-haired variety of cat, rabbit or goat; fabric made from the hair of angora goats or rabbits.

angostura bark /,æŋɡə'stɔrə/ *n* a bitter aromatic bark used for medicinal purposes.

angostura bitters *npl* a bitter flavouring made from the bark of a South American tree.

angry /'æŋɡri/ *adj* (**angrier**, **angriest**)

full of anger; inflamed.—**angrily** *adv*.
angst /æŋɡst/ a feeling of anxiety, fear or remorse.

angstrom, **ångström** /'æŋstrəm/ or /'ɒŋ-/ *n* one hundred millionth of a centimetre, a unit used in measuring the length of light waves.

anguilliform /æ'n'ɡwɪlə'fɔrm/ *adj* shaped like an eel or a serpent.

anguine /'æŋɡwɪn/ *adj* snakelike.

anguish /'æŋɡwɪʃ/ *n* agonizing physical or mental distress.

angular /'æŋɡjʊlə/ *adj* having one or more angles; forming an angle; measured by an angle; stiff and clumsy in manner, thin and bony.

angularity /æŋɡjʊ'lærɪti/ *n* (*pl* **angularities**) the quality of being angular in any sense.

angulate /'æŋɡjʊlɪt/ *adj* constructed of angles; having the form of an angle.

angulation /,æŋɡjʊ'leɪʃən/ *n* the exact measurement of angles; an angular shape.

anhydride /æ'n'haɪdraɪd/ *n* an oxygen compound formed by substituting an acid radicle for the whole of the hydrogen in one or two molecules of water.

anhydrite /æ'n'haɪdrɪt/ *n* anhydrous sulphate of lime.

anhydrous /æ'n'haɪdrəs/ *adj* without water, applied to minerals in which the water of crystallization is not present.

ani /'æni/ *n* (*pl* **anis** /'æni:z/) a tropical American bird of the cuckoo family.

aniconic /,æni'kɒnɪk/ or /-kɒn-/ *adj* (*idols*) not of human or animal form.

anil /'æni/ *n* the indigo plant; a dye yielded by it.

anile /'ænaɪl/ *adj* resembling an old woman; aged.—**anility** *n*.

aniline /'æni,lɪn/ or /-,li:n/, /-,laɪn/ *n* a base used in the formation of many rich dyes obtained from coal tar but more extensively from benzole. • *adj* of or pertaining to aniline.

animadversion /,ænimæd'vɜ:ʒən/ *n* the act of observing; capacity for perception; censure; criticism; stricture.

animadvert /,ænimæd'vɜ:rt/ *vi* to give the mind to; to pass comment or stricture upon, to criticize.

animal /'æniməl/ *n* any living organism except a plant or bacterium, typically able to move about; a lower animal as distinguished from man, *esp*

mammals; a brutish or bestial person.
 • *adj* of or like an animal; bestial; sensual.

animalcule /ˌæniˈmælkju:l/,
animalculum *n* (*pl* **animalcules**,
animalcula) one of a class of minute
 or microscopic organisms abounding
 in water and infusions.—**animalcular**
adj.

animalism /ˌæniˈmɪzəm/ *n* the state
 of being animal, or actuated by animal
 instincts or appetites; the theory
 that regards humankind as merely
 animal; sensuality.—**animalist** *n*.—
animalistic *adj*.

animality /ˌæniˈmælti/ *n* the state
 or quality of being an animal, or
 possessing animal characteristics,
 animal nature.

animalize /ˌæniˈmaɪz/ *vt* to make
 animal; to impart animal life, form,
 and attributes; to sensualize or
 bestialize; to convert into animal
 substance by assimilation.—
animalization *n*.

animal kingdom *n* beings endowed
 with animal life and regarded
 collectively, one of the three great
 divisions of nature.

animal liberation *n* freeing animals
 from captivity and exploitation (*eg* in
 laboratories) by humans, action *esp*
 associated with organizations such as
 the Animal Liberation Front.

animal magnetism *n* another name
 for mesmerism; attractiveness, *esp* to
 the opposite sex.

animal rights *n* a movement that
 seeks to extend certain rights,
 such as freedom from captivity and
 exploitation by humans, to animals.

animal spirits *npl* vivacity; liveliness of
 disposition.

animal worship *n* the worship of
 animals as symbols of deities, as
 among the ancient Egyptians, Hindus,
 etc.

animate /ˌæniˈmeɪt/ *adj*, /ˌæniˈmeɪt/ *vt*
 to give life to; to liven up; to inspire,
 encourage. • *adj* alive; lively.

animated /ˌæniˈmeɪtəd/ *adj* lively, full
 of spirit.

animated cartoon *n* a film made by
 photographing a series of drawings,
 giving the illusion of movement.

animation /ˌæniˈmeɪʃən/ *n* liveliness;
 movement; the skill of making
 animated films.

animato /æˈniːmɒˌto/ *adv*, *adj* (*mus*)
 with vigour.

animator, animater /ˌæniˈmeɪtər/ *n*
 an artist who draws and produces
 animated cartoons.

animé /ˌæniˈmeɪ/ *n* an amber-coloured
 resin, resembling copal, obtained
 from a tropical American tree and
 used in varnish.

animism /ˌæniˈmɪzəm/ *n* in primitive
 religion, the belief that natural effects
 are due to spirits and that inanimate
 objects have spirits; the belief in a
 human apparitional soul, having the
 form and appearance of the body,
 existing after death as semi-human.—
animist *n*.—**animistic** *adj*.

animosity /ˌæniˈmɒsɪti/ *n* (*pl*
animosities) strong dislike; hostility.

animus /ˌæniˈmʌs/ *n* an actuating spirit;
 a bitter or hostile feeling (against);
 hostility.

anion /ˌæniˈɔɪn/ *n* the element in a
 body decomposed by voltaic action,
 which is evolved at the positive pole or
 anode.—**anionic** *adj*.

anise /ˌæniˈsɪ/ the common name for a
 plant (indigenous in Egypt) yielding
 the seeds used in aniseed.

aniseed /ˌæniˈsiːd/ *n* the seed of the
 anise plant, used as a flavouring.

anisetto /ˌæniˈset/ *n* a liqueur prepared
 from aniseed.

ankh /æŋk/ *n* an Egyptian cross with a
 loop or handle at the top, the symbol
 of life.—*also* **crux ansata**.

ankle /ˌæŋkəl/ *n* the joint between
 the foot and leg, the part of the leg
 between the foot and calf.

anklet /ˌæŋklət/ *n* an ornamental chain
 worn round the ankle.

ankylose /ˌæŋkiˈloːz/ *vt* to consolidate
 or join by bony growth; to stiffen as a
 joint. • *vi* to grow together; to become
 stiff.—*also* **anchylose**.

ankylosis /ˌæŋkiˈlɔːsɪs/ *n* (*zool*) the
 joining or consolidation of parts
 formerly or normally separate or
 movable by means of bony growth;
 (*med*) the stiffening of a joint by
 fibrous bands or union of bones.—
also **anchylosis**.—**ankylotic**,
anchylositic *adj*.

anna /ˌænə/ *n* an Indian coin, one
 sixteenth of a rupee.

annals /ˌænzəl/ *npl* a written account of
 events year by year; historical records;
 periodical reports or records of a
 society.—**annalist** *n*.—**annalistic** *adj*.

annates /əˈneɪts/ *npl* (*RC Church*)
 the sum paid to the pope by an abbot
 or bishop on his appointment to a

benefice or see and consisting of the first year's revenue of the living, now chiefly supplied by Peter's Pence.

anneal /ə'ni:l/ *vt* to fix by heat; to temper and render malleable; to bake or fuse.—**annealer** *n*.

annelid /'ænlɪd/ *n* any of a class of invertebrates which includes the worms, whose bodies are composed of numerous segments or ring-like divisions.—**annelidan** *adj*.

annex /'æneks/ *vt* to attach, *esp* to something larger; to incorporate into a state the territory of (another state).

annexation /,ænek'seɪʃən/ *n* the act of annexing; that which is annexed.—**annexational** *adj*.—**annexationism** *n*.—**annexationist** *n*.

annexe /'æneks/ *n* an extension to a main building; something added, a supplement.

annihilate /ə'naɪə,leɪt/ *vt* to destroy completely; (*inf*) to defeat convincingly, as in an argument.—**annihilable** *adj*.—**annihilative** *adj*.—**annihilator** *n*.

annihilation /ə,naɪə'leɪʃən/ *n* the act of annihilating; nonexistence.

anniversary /,æni'vɜ:səri/ *n* (*pl* **anniversaries**) the yearly return of the date of some event; a celebration of this.—*also* *adj*.

Anno Domini /,æno:'dɒmɪ,ni/ or /-,naɪ/ *adv* (*abbr* *ad*) in the year of our Lord, dating from the birth of Christ. • *n* (*inf*) advancing age.

annotate /'æno:,teɪt/ or /-nə-/ *vti* to provide with explanatory notes.—**annotative** *adj*.—**annotator** *n*.

annotation /,æno:'teɪʃən/ or /-nə-/ *n* the act of noting or commenting upon; a note, remark, or criticism made in a book.

announce /ə'naʊns/ *vt* to bring to public attention; to give news of the arrival of; to be an announcer for. • *vi* to serve as an announcer.

announcement /-mənt/ *n* the act of announcing; that which is announced; a proclamation.

announcer /-ər/ *n* a person who reads the news, etc on the radio or TV.

annoy /ə'noɪ/ *vt* to vex, tease, irritate, as by a repeated action.—**annoyingly** *adv*.

annoyance /ə'noɪəns/ *n* the act of annoying or causing vexation; the state of being annoyed; the thing or act that annoys.

annual /'ænjʊəl/ *adj* of or measured by a year; yearly; coming every year; living

only one year or season. • *n* a plant that lives only one year; a periodical published once a year.—**annually** *adv*.

annuitant /ə'nju:ɪtənt/ *n* one who is in receipt of, or is entitled to receive, an annuity.

annuity /ə'nju:əti/ or /ə'nu:-/ *n* (*pl* **annuities**) an investment yielding fixed payments, *esp* yearly; such a payment.

annul /ə'nəl/ *vt* (**annulling**, **annulled**) to do away with; to deprive of legal force, nullify.

annular /'æ'njʊlə/ or /-jə-/ *adj* ring-like; in the form of a ring or annulus. • *n* the ring of light surrounding the moon's body in an annular eclipse of the sun.

annulate /'ænjʊlət/ *adj* ringed; having ring-like bands or circles.

annulation /,ænjʊ'leɪʃən/ *n* a ring-like formation.

annulet /'æ'nju:lət/ *n* a small ring; (*archit*) a small fillet encircling a column.

annulment /ə'nɛlmənt/ *n* the act of reducing to nothing; abolition; invalidation.

annulose /'æ'njʊləs/ *adj* composed of a succession of rings; segmented.

annunciate /ə'nɛnsi,eɪt/ *vt* to make known officially or publicly; to announce, proclaim.—**annunciation** *n*.—**annunciative**, **annunciatory** *adj*.

annunciation /ə,nɛnsi'eɪʃən/ *n* (*Bible*) the intimation of the Incarnation made by the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary (Luke 1:28-33); the Church festival (Lady Day, 25 Mar) commemorating this.

annunciator /ə'nɛnsi,eɪtər/ *n* a signalling apparatus; an indicator connected with bells and telephones, to show where attendance is required.

anode /'æno:d/ *n* the positive electrode by which electrons enter an electric circuit.

anodyne /'æno,dəɪn/ *n* a drug that relieves pain; anything that relieves pain or soothes.

anoestrus /'æ'ni:stros/ *n* the period of sexual inactivity in mammals between periods of estrus.—*also* **anestrus**.—**anoestrous**, **anestrous** *adj*.

anoint /ə'noɪnt/ *vt* to rub with oil; to apply oil in a sacred ritual as a sign of consecration.—**anointment** *n*.

anomalous year /ə,nɒmə'lɪstɪk/ *n* the time occupied by the earth in

passing through its orbit (365 days, 6 hours, 13 minutes, 48 seconds), from perihelion to perihelion.

anomalous /ə'nomələs/ *adj* deviating from the common order, abnormal.

anomaly /ə'noməli/ *n* (*pl* **anomalies**) abnormality; anything inconsistent or odd.—**anomalously** *adj.*—**anomalistically** *adv.*

anon /ə'nɒn/ *adv* soon; at another time; (*arch*) anonymous.

anonym /'ænonɪm/ *n* an unnamed person; an assumed name.

anonymous /ə'nɒnɪməs/ *adj* having or providing no name; written or provided by an unnamed person; lacking individuality.—**anonymity** *n.*—**anonymously** *adv.*

anopheles /ə'nɒfə'li:z/ *n* (*pl* **anopheles**) any of a genus of mosquitos, which transmits the microbe of malaria.

anorak /'æno,ræk/ *n* a waterproof jacket with a hood.

anorexia /,æno'reksɪə/ *n* loss of appetite.—**anorexic** *adj.*

anorexia nervosa /nə'revɔ:sə/ *n* the psychological condition causing fear of becoming overweight and reluctance to eat even to the point of starvation and death.

anosmia /æn'o:zmiə/ *n* the inability to smell.—**anosmatic**, **anosmic** *adj.*

another /ə'nɒðə/ *adj* a different or distinct (thing or person); an additional one of the same kind; some other.—*also pron.*

ansate /'æn,seɪt/ *adj* with a handle, as a vase.

Anschluss /'ænlʃlʊs/ *n* the union of Nazi Germany with Austria in 1938; the annexation of one territory by another for the benefit of the more powerful.

anserine /'ænsə'reɪn/ or /-rɪn-/ , **anserous** /'ænsə'res/ *adj* of, relating to or resembling a goose; stupid as a goose.

answer /'ænsə/ *n* a spoken or written reply or response; the solution to a problem; a reaction, response. • *vt* to speak or write in reply; to satisfy or correspond to (*eg* a specific need); to justify, offer a refutation of. • *vi* to reply; to act in response (to); to be responsible (for); to conform (to).

answerable /'ænsərəbəl/ *adj* capable of being refuted; (*with for or to*) responsible, accountable.—**answerability** *n.*—**answerableness** *n.*

answering machine *n* an apparatus that records incoming telephone calls.

-ant /-ənt/ *adj* *suffix* as in *repentant*. • *n* *suffix* denoting agent, as in *celebrant*.

ant /ænt/ *n* any of a family of small, generally wingless insects of many species, all of which form and live in highly organized groups.

anta /'æntə/ *n* (*pl* **antæ**) (*archit*) a square pilaster at either corner of a building, or at either side of a door.

antacid /ænt'æsɪd/ *n* a substance that counters excessive acidity.

antagonism /æn'tægə'nɪzəm/ *n* antipathy, hostility; an opposing force, principle, etc.

antagonist /æn'tægənɪst/ *n* an adversary; an opponent.

antagonistic /æn'tægə'nɪstɪk/ *adj* acting in opposition; opposed.—**antagonistically** *adv.*

antagonize /æn'tægə'naɪz/ *vt* to arouse opposition in.—**antagonization** *n.*

antalkali /ænt'ælkəlaɪ/ *n* (*pl* **antalkalis**, **antalkalies**) a substance that counteracts the presence of alkali in the system; an acid.—**antalkaline** *adj*, *n.*

Antarctic /ænt'ɑrktɪk/ or /-l'ɑrktɪk/ *adj* of the South Pole or its surroundings. • *n* the Antarctic regions; the Antarctic Ocean.

ant bear *n* the aardvark.

ant bird *n* one of an extensive group of South American birds.

ant cow *n* an aphid or similar insect collected by ants for the sweet secretion in its body.

ante /'æntɪ/ *n* a player's stake in poker; (*inf*) money contributed as a share in a joint project.

ante- *prefix* in front of; earlier than.

anteater /'æntɪ'i:tə/ *n* an ant-eating animal, as the pangolin.

antecede /,æntɪ'si:d/ *n* to precede or go before in time or space.

antecedence /-l'si:dəns/ *n* precedence; going before; priority.

antecedent /-l'si:dənt/ *adj* prior in time, previous. • *n* a preceding event or happening; (*pl*) ancestry; (*pl*) the previous events of a person's life.

antechamber /'æntɪ,tʃeɪmbər/ *n* an anteroom.

antedate /,æntɪ'deɪt/ *vt* to carry back to an earlier period; to anticipate. • *n* a date *esp* on a document earlier than the actual date.

antediluvian /,æntɪdɪ'lʊ:vɪən/ *adj* of or pertaining to the world before the Flood; belonging to very ancient

- times; antiquated, primitive. • *n* one who lived before the Flood; an old-fashioned person.
- antelope** /'æntəˌlɔːp/ *n* (*pl antelopes, antelope*) any of the family of fast-running and graceful deer-like animals of Africa and Asia.
- ante meridiem** /,æntimə'ridiəm/ *n* (*abbr a.m.*) the period between midnight and noon.—**antemeridian** *adj.*
- antenatal** /,ænti'neɪtəl/ *adj* occurring or present before birth.
- antenna** /æn'tenə/ *n* (*pl antennae*) either of a pair of feelers on the head of an insect, crab, etc; (*pl antennae*) a metal device for transmitting and receiving radio waves.
- antennule** /æn'tenuːl/ *n* a little antenna.
- antependium** /,ænti'pendiəm/ *n* (*pl antependia*) a covering for the front of an altar.
- antepenult** /-pə'nɛlt/ *n* the last but two, *usu* of syllables.
- antepenultimate** /-pɪ'nɛltɪmət/ *adj* pertaining to the last but two. • *n* that which is last but two, antepenult.
- anterior** /æn'tiːriər/ *adj* at or towards the front; earlier; previous.
- anteroom** /'æntɪ,ruːm/ *n* an outer room leading into a larger or main room.
- anthelion** /æn'thiːliən/ *n* (*pl anthelia*) (*meteorol*) a luminous halo, opposite the sun, formed around the shadow of the head of the observer, as projected on a cloud or fog bank.
- anthem** /'ænthəm/ *n* a religious choral song; a song of praise or devotion, as to a nation.
- anther** /'ænthər/ *n* the part of a flower's stamen containing pollen.—**antheral** *adj.*
- anthill** /'ænthɪl/ *n* a mound thrown up by ants or termites in digging their nests.
- anthologize** /æ'nθɒləˌdʒaɪz/ *vt* to compile or include in an anthology.
- anthology** /æ'nθɒlədʒi/ *n* (*pl anthologies*) a collection of poetry or prose.—**anthological** *adj.*—**anthologist** *n.*
- anthozoan** /,ænthə'zɔːən/ *n* any of a class of radiated soft marine zoophytes, which includes the sea anemones, corals, etc.—*also actinozoan.*
- anthracene** /'ænthrəˌsiːn/ *n* a complex hydrocarbon obtained from coal tar, the source of a red dye.

- anthracite** /'ænthrəˌsɔɪt/ *n* a hard coal that gives off a lot of heat and little smoke.—**anthracitic** *adj.*
- anthrax** /'ænthræks/ *n* (*pl anthraxes*) a contagious bacterial disease of cattle and sheep, etc that can be transmitted to people.
- anthropo-** /'ænthrəpɔː/ or /-pə/ *prefix* man.
- anthropocentric** /,ænthrəpɔː'sentrik/ or /,ænthrəpɔː-/ *adj* centring in man.—**anthropocentrism** *n.*
- anthropoid** /'ænthrəˌpɔɪd/ *adj* resembling man. • *n* one of the higher apes resembling man.—**anthropoidal** *adj.*
- anthropology** /,ænthrə'pɒlədʒi/ *n* the scientific study of human beings, their origins, distribution, physical attributes and culture.—**anthropological** *adj.*—**anthropologist** *n.*
- anthropometry** /-'pɒmətri/ *n* the measurement of the human body; the branch of anthropology relating to such measurement of persons at various ages and in different tribes, races, occupations, etc.—**anthropometric, anthropometrical** *adj.*—**anthropometrist** *n.*
- anthropomorphism** /-pə'mɔːfɪzəm/ *n* the ascription of human behaviour to other animals or to things.—**anthropomorphic** *adj.*—**anthropomorphist** *n.*
- anthropomorphize** /-pə'mɔːfaɪz/ *vt* to invest with human qualities.
- anthropomorphous** /-pə'mɔːfəs/ *adj* in the form of a human being.
- anthrophophagi** /-'pɒfədʒi/ *npl* (*sing anthropophagus*) cannibals, men-eaters.
- anti-** /'ænti/ or /'æntaɪ/ *prefix* opposed to; against.
- anti-aircraft** /,ænti'erkræft/ *adj* for use against aircraft.
- antiar** /'ænti,ɑː/ *n* the upas tree of Java; a poison obtained from one species of it.
- antibiotic** /,æntibaɪ'ɒtɪk/ *n* any of various chemical, fungal or synthetic substances used against bacterial or fungal infections.
- antibody** /'ænti,bɒdi/ *n* (*pl antibodies*) a protein produced by an organism in response to the action of a foreign body, such as the toxin of a parasite, that neutralizes its effects.
- antic** /'æntɪk/ *n* a ludicrous action intended to amuse.

Antichrist /'æntɪ,kraɪst/ *n* (*Bible*) an opponent of Christ, *esp* the great personal opponent expected to appear before the end of the world (1 John 2:22).

Antichristian /'æntɪ,kraɪstʃən/ or /'æntɪ,kraɪstʃiən/ *n* one who is an opponent of the Christian religion.

• *adj* pertaining to Antichrist; opposed to the Christian religion.

anticipant /æ'n'tɪsɪpənt/ *adj* operating beforehand. • *n* one who looks forward.

anticipate /æ'n'tɪsɪpeɪt/ *vt* to give prior thought and attention to; to use, spend, act on in advance; to foresee and take action to thwart another; to expect. • *vi* to speak, act, before the appropriate time.

anticipation /æ'n'tɪsɪpeɪʃən/ *n* the act of taking beforehand; expectation; hope; preconception.

ant clerical /,æntɪ'kleɪkəl/ *adj* opposed to the power of the clergy or church, *esp* in secular affairs. • *n* a person opposed to the power of the church.—**ant clericalism** *n*.

anticlimax /,æntɪ'klaɪmæks/ or /'æntaɪ-/ *n* a sudden drop from the important to the trivial; an ending to a story or series of events that disappoints one's expectations.—**anticlimactic** *adj*.—**anticlimactically** *adv*.

anticlinal /,æntɪ'klaɪnəl/ *adj* (*strata*) inclining or folding with the convex side upwards; inclined in opposite directions.

anticlockwise /,æntɪ'klɒkwaɪz/ *see* **counterclockwise**.

anticoagulant /,æntɪko:'æɡjələnt/ *n* a substance that inhibits blood clotting.

anticyclone /,æntɪ'saɪklɒn/ *n* a body of air rotating about an area of high atmospheric pressure.—**anticyclonic** *adj*.

antidepressant /,æntɪdɪ'presənt/ *n* any of various drugs used to alleviate mental depression.—*also* *adj*.

antidote /'æntɪ,do:t/ *n* a remedy that counteracts a poison; something that counteracts harmful effects.

antifebrile /,æntaɪ'fɪbrəl/ or /- 'febrəl/, /,æntɪ:-/, /-tɪ-/ *adj* capable of allaying fever. • *n* a medicine for allaying fever.

antifreeze /'æntɪ,frɪ:z/ *n* a substance used, as in a car radiator, to prevent freezing up.

antigen /'æntɪdʒən/ or /- ,dʒən/ *n*

a substance introduced into the blood to stimulate production of antibodies.—**antigenic** *adj*.—**antigenically** *adv*.

antihero /'æntɪ,hɪrɔ:/ *n* (*pl* **antiheroes**) a leading character in a book, film, etc who lacks the conventional heroic attributes.

antihistamine /,æntɪ'hɪstəmi:n/ or /-mɪn/ *n* any of a group of drugs that inhibit the action of histamines, used in treating allergic conditions.

antilog /'æntɪ,lɒɡ/ *n* an antilogarithm.

antilogarithm /,æntɪ'lɒɡə,rɪðəm/ *n* a number which a logarithm represents.—**antilogarithmic** *adj*.

antilogy /æ'n'tɪlədʒi/ *n* (*pl* **antilogies**) a contradiction.

antimacassar /,æntɪməkəsər/ *n* an ornamental covering for chairbacks, etc, to prevent their being soiled (formerly by macassar oil, once used as a pomade).

antimasque /'æntɪ,mæsk/ *n* a droll or grotesque interlude between parts of a more serious nature in a masque.

antimatter /'æntɪ,mætər/ *n* matter composed of antiparticles.

antimere /'æntɪ,mɪr/ *n* (*biol*) one of two or more corresponding parts or organs on opposite sides of animals.—**antimeric** *adj*.—**antimerism** *n*.

antimonic /'æntɪ'mo:nɪk/, **antimonous** /'æntɪ'mo:nəs/ *adj* relating to, composed of, or obtained from antimony.

antimony /'æntɪ,mo:ni/ *n* (*pl* **antimonies**) a brittle metallic element used in making alloys.—**antimonial** *adj*, *n*.

antinomy /æ'n'tɪnəmi/ *n* (*pl* **antinomies**) contradiction in law or authorities or conclusions; the opposition of one law or part of a law to another.—**antinomic** *adj*.—**antinomically** *adv*.

antiparallel /,æntɪ'pærə,leɪl/ or /,æntɪ:-/, /-tɪ:-/ *adj* running parallel, but in an opposite direction. • *n* one of two or more lines making equal angles with two other lines, but in contrary order.

antiparticle /'æntɪ,partɪkəl/ *n* an elementary particle with the same mass as its corresponding particle but having an equal and opposite electric charge, resulting in mutual destruction when brought into contact.

antipathetic /,æntɪpə'θetɪk/, **antipathetical** /,æntɪpə'θetɪkəl/

adj possessing or causing a natural antipathy or aversion (to).—

antipathetically *adv.*

antipathy /æ'n'tɪpəθi/ *n* (*pl*

antipathies) a fixed dislike; aversion; an object of this.

antiperiodic /,æntɪ'pɪrɪ'bdɪk/ *adj*

preventive of a return in periodic or intermittent disease. • *n* a medicine for periodic diseases.

antipersonnel /,æntɪ'pɜːsə'nɛl/ *adj* (*weapon*) used to destroy people rather than objects.

antiperspirant /,æntɪ'pɜːspɪrənt/ *n* a substance used to stem excessive perspiration.

antiphlogistic /,æntɪflə'dʒɪstɪk/ *adj* efficacious in counteracting fever or inflammation. • *n* any remedy that checks inflammatory symptoms.

antiphon /'æntɪ'fɒn/ *n* a verse or sentence sung by one choir in response to another, as in church services; an anthem.

antiphonal /æ'n'tɪfə'nəl/ *adj* characterized by responsive singing; sung alternately. • *n* a collection of antiphons.—**antiphonally** *adv.*

antiphonary /æ'n'tɪfə'nɛrɪ/ *n* (*pl antiphonaries*) a book of responses used in church services; an antiphonal. • *adj* antiphonal or responsive.

antiphony /æ'n'tɪfə'nɪ/ *n* (*pl antiphonies*) the alternate or responsive rendering of psalms or chants by a dual choir; a musical setting of sacred verses arranged for alternate singing.

antiphrasis /æ'n'tɪfrə'sɪs/ *n* (*rhetoric*) the use of words in a sense opposite to the true one.

antipodes /æ'n'tɪpə'dɪz/ *npl* the regions on the earth's surface opposite each other; (*with cap preceded by the*) Australia and New Zealand.—**antipodean** *adj.*

antipope /'æntɪ'pə:p/ *n* one who usurps or is elected to the papal office in opposition to a pope canonically elected; a rival pope.

antipyretic /,æntɪ'pɪrɪ'tɪk/ *adj* preventive of, or remedial to fever. • *n* a fever-allaying drug.—**antipyresis** *n.*

antipyrine /-'paɪrɪ:n/ or /-'paɪrɪn/ *n* a drug obtained from coal tar and used to relieve neuralgia, etc, and to reduce heat in fevers.

antiquarian /,æntɪ'kwɛrɪən/ *adj*

connected with the study of antiquities. • *n* an antiquary.

antiquary /'æntɪ'kwɛrɪ/ *n* (*pl antiquaries*) a person who studies or collects antiquities.

antiquated /'æntɪ'kwɛɪtəd/ *adj* old-fashioned; obsolete.

antique /æ'n'tɪ:k/ *adj* from the distant past; old-fashioned. • *n* a relic of the distant past; a piece of furniture, pottery, etc dating from an earlier historical period and sought after by collectors.

antiquity /æ'n'tɪkwɪtɪ/ *n* (*pl antiquities*) the far distant past, *esp* before the Middle Ages; (*pl*) relics dating from the far distant past.

antirrhinum /,æntɪ'rɪnəm/ *n* snapdragon.

antisabbatarian /æntɪ'sæbə'tɛrɪən/ *adj* opposed to the observance of the Sabbath.—*also n.*

antiscorbutic /,æntɪskɔː'bjʊ:tɪk/ *n* a remedy against scurvy.—*also adj.*

anti-Semite /,æntɪ'seməɪt/ *n* one who is hostile toward or discriminates against Jews as a religious or racial group.—**anti-Semitic** *adj.*—**anti-Semitism** *n.*

antiseptic /,æntɪ'septɪk/ *n* a substance that destroys or prevents the growth of disease-producing microorganisms. • *adj* destroying harmful organisms; very clean; (*inf*) unexciting.—**antiseptically** *adv.*

antiserum /'æntɪ'sɪ:rəm/ *n* (*pl antisera*, *antisera*) blood serum containing antibodies.

antisocial /,æntɪ'soːʃəl/ *adj* avoiding the company of other people, unsocial; contrary to the interests of society in general.

antispasmodic /-spæz'mɒdɪk/ *adj* counteractive to or curative of spasms. • *n* a medicine having such an effect.

antistatic /-'stætɪk/ *adj* (*material, agent*) counteracting the effects of static electricity.

antistrophe /æ'n'tɪstrə'fɪ/ *n* a stanza or movement of a Greek chorus alternating with the strophe, sung in moving to the right.—**antistrophic** *adj.*

antithesis /æ'n'tɪθə'sɪs/ *n* (*pl antitheses*) a contrast or opposition, as of ideas; the exact opposite.—**antithetical, antithetic** *adj.*

antitoxin /,æntɪ'tɒksɪn/ *n* a substance that acts against a specific toxin in the body; a serum containing an antitoxin,

injected into a person to prevent disease.—**antitoxic** *adj.*

antitrade /'ænti'treɪd/ or /,ænti-/ *n* a tropical wind blowing steadily in an opposite direction to the trade wind.

antitrust /,ænti'trʌst/ *adj* (*laws, regulations*) restricting or opposing the activities of cartels and monopolies.

antitype /'ænti,təɪp/ *n* that which a type or symbol stands for; that which preceded the type and of which the type is the representation.

antivenin /,ænti'venɪn/ *n* an antidote to snake poison.

antivivisectionist /-,vɪvɪ'sekʃə,nɪst/ *n* a person who opposes scientific experimentation on live animals.

antler /'æntlər/ *n* the branched horn of a deer or related animal.—**antlered** *adj.*

antlion *n* a neuropterous insect whose larva constructs a pitfall for ants and other insects.

antonomasia /,æntənə'meɪzə/ *n* (*rhetoric*) the use of an attribute or epithet, or style of dignity or office, in place of the proper noun, *eg* “the Stagirite” for Aristotle, or the reverse, of a proper noun for a common noun, *eg* “some mute inglorious Milton”.—**antonomastic** *adj.*—**antonomastically** *adv.*

antonym /'æntənɪm/ *n* a word that has the opposite meaning to another.

antrum /'æntɾəm/ *n* (*pl* **antra**) (*anat*) a cavity, *esp* in the upper jawbone.

anurous /æn'ju:rəs/ *adj* (*zool*) tailless.

anus /'eɪnəs/ *n* the excretory orifice of the alimentary canal.

anvil /'ænvɪl/ *n* the heavy iron block on which metal objects are shaped with a hammer.

anxiety /æŋ'zaiəti/ *n* (*pl* **anxieties**) the condition of being anxious; eagerness, concern; a cause of worry.

anxious /'æŋkʃəs/ *adj* worried; uneasy; eagerly wishing; causing anxiety.—**anxiously** *adv.*—**anxiousness** *n.*

any /'eni/ *adj* one out of many, some; every.

anybody /-,bɒdi/ or /-,bɒdi/ *pron* any person; an important person.

anyhow /-,haʊ/ *adv* in any way whatever; in any case.

any more, anymore /-l'mɔː/ *adv* now; nowadays.

anyone /-,wen/ *pron* any person; anybody.

anything /-θɪŋ/ *pron* any object, event,

fact, etc. • *n* a thing, no matter what kind.

anyway /-,weɪ/ *adv* in any manner; at any rate; haphazardly.

anywhere /-,weɪ/ *adv* in, at, or to any place.

Anzac /'ænzæk/ *abbr* = Australian and New Zealand Army Corps. • *n* a member of this corps.—*also* *adj.*

aorist /'eɪərɪst/ *n* (*gram*) an indeterminate past tense of the verb expressing completed action. • *adj* indefinite; pertaining to the aorist tense.—**aoristic** *adj.*—**aoristically** *adv.*

aorta /eɪ'ɔːrtə/ *n* (*pl* **aortas, aortae**) the main artery that carries blood from the heart to be distributed through the body.—**aortic, aortal** *adj.*

oudad /'bʊ,dæd/ or /'aʊ,dæd/ *n* a wild sheep-like animal of North Africa, somewhat resembling the chamois.

ap- /æp/ *prefix* the form of *ad-* before *p*.

apace /ə'peɪs/ *adv* at a swift pace.

apache /ə'pæʃ/ *Fr.* /a'paʃ/ *n* a Parisian street ruffian, a hooligan.

Apache /ə'pætʃi/ *n* (*pl* **Apaches, Apaches**) a tribe of North American Indians.

apagoge /æpə'gɔːgi/ or /-l'gɔːg/ *n* (*logic*) the establishing of a proposition by demonstrating the untenability of its opposite.—**apagogic, apagogical** *adj.*—**apagogically** *adv.*

apanage /'æpənɪdʒ/ *see* **apanage**.

apart /ə'pɑːt/ *adv* at a distance, separately, aside; into two or more pieces.

apartheid /ə'pɑːtəɪt/ or /-teɪt/, /-taɪd/ *n* a policy of racial segregation implemented in South Africa.

apartment /ə'pɑːtmənt/ *n* a room or rooms in a building; a flat.

apathetic /,æpə'θetɪk/ *adj* devoid of or insensible to feeling or emotion.—**apathetically** *adv.*

apathy /'æpəθi/ *n* lack of feeling; lack of concern, indifference. —**apathetic** *adj.*—**apathetically** *adv.*

apatite /'æpə,təɪt/ *n* a crystalline phosphate of lime.

ape /eɪp/ *n* a chimpanzee, gorilla, orangutan, or gibbon; any monkey; a mimic. • *vt* to imitate.

apeak /ə'pi:k/ *adv* (*naut*) nearly vertical in position.

apeman /'eɪp,mæn/ *n* (*pl* **apemen**) an extinct creature supposedly intermediate in development between apes and man.

a
aperçu /ˌæpər'suː/, *Fr.* /apɛʁ'suː/ *n*
 a first view; a rapid survey; a brief outline.
aperient /ə'piəriənt/ *adj* gently laxative; opening the bowels. • *n* a mild laxative medicine.
aperiodic /ˌeɪpəriədɪk/ *adj* without periodicity.—**aperiodically** *adv.*—**aperiodicity** *n.*
apéritif, apéritif /ə'pɛrɪ'tiːf/, *Fr.* /apɛrɪ'tiːf/ *n* an alcoholic drink taken before a meal as an appetizer.
aperture /'æpər,tʃər/ *n* an opening; a hole; a slit; in optical instruments, the (diameter of the) opening allowing or controlling the amount of light or radiation to enter.
apery /'eɪpəri/ *n* (**pl** **aperies**) mimicry.
apetalous /eɪ'petələs/ *adj* without petals or corolla.—**apetaly** *n.*
apex /'eɪpeks/ *n* (**pl** **apexes, apices**) the highest point, the tip; the culminating point; the vertex of a triangle.
aphaeresis /ə'fɪərəsɪs/ or /-fɛ-/ *n* (**pl** **aphaeresses**) (*linguistics*) the removal of a letter or syllable from the beginning of a word.—*also* **apheresis**.
aphagia /ə'feɪdʒə/ *n* the inability to swallow.
aphasia /ə'feɪʃə/ or /-zi-/ *n* loss of the power of speech or the appropriate use of words due to disease or injury of the brain.—**aphasic** *adj.*
aphelion /æp'hɪliən/ or /ə'fɪ:liən/ *n* (**pl** **aphelia**) that point in the orbit of a planet or a comet which is farthest from the sun.
apheliotropic /ə'fɪ:liə'trɒpɪk/ *adj* (*bot*) turning from the sun.
apheresis /ə'fɛərəsɪs/ or /ə'fɪərəsɪs/ *see* **aphaeresis**.
aphesis /'æfɪsɪs/ *n* (*linguistics*) the gradual loss of an unaccented vowel at the beginning of a word, as in “squire” for “esquire”.—**aphetic** *adj.*—**aphetically** *adv.*
aphid /'eɪfɪd/ or /'æfɪd/ *n* any of various small insects, such as the greenfly, that suck the juice of plants.
aphis /'eɪfɪs/ or /'æfɪs/ *n* (**pl** **aphides**) an aphid.
aphonia /ə'fɒ:nɪə/, **aphony** /-i/ *n* dumbness, loss of voice.—**aphonic** *adj.*
aphorism /'æfə'ɹɪzəm/ *n* a brief, wise saying; an adage.—**aphoristic** *adj.*
aphrodisiac /ˌæfrɒ'di:ziæk/ or /ˌæfrə'dɪziæk/ *adj* arousing sexually. • *n* a food, drug, etc that excites sexual desire.

aphtha /'æfθə/ or /'æp-/ *n* (**pl** **aphthae**) the small round white ulcers infesting the interior of the mouth; thrush.
aphyllous /ə'fɪləs/ *adj* (*bot*) without leaves.—**aphylly** *n.*
apiarian /'eɪpiəriən/ *adj* of, pertaining to, or like bees.
apiarian /ˌeɪpi'eriən/ *adj* of or relating to beekeeping.
apiarist /'eɪpiəriɪst/ *n* a beekeeper.
apiary /'eɪpi,eri/ *n* (**pl** **apiaries**) a place with hives where bees are kept.
apical /'æpɪkəl/ or /'eɪpɪ-/ *adj* of, pertaining to, belonging to, or at the apex.—**apically** *adv.*
apices /'æpə,sɪz/, /'eɪpə-/ *see* **apex**.
apiculate /ə'pɪkjʊlət/ or /-leɪt/ *adj* terminated abruptly by a point, as leaves.
apiculture /'eɪpɪ,keltʃər/ *n* beekeeping.—**apicultural** *adj.*—**apiculturist** *n.*
apiece /ə'piːs/ *adv* to, by, or for each one.
apish /'eɪpɪʃ/ *adj* like an ape in manners; foolish; imitative.—**apishness** *n.*
apivorous /eɪ'pɪvərəs/ *adj* feeding on bees.
aplacental /ˌeɪplə'sentəl/ *adj* without a placenta.
aplanatic /ˌæplə'nætɪk/ *adj* (*physics*) free from, or correcting, spherical or chromatic aberration.—**aplanatically** *adv.*
aplastic /ə'plæstɪk/ *adj* without plasticity; not easily moulded.
aplomb /ə'plɒm/ *n* poise; self-possession.
apnea, apnoea /æp'niːə/ *n* partial suspension of breathing; suffocation.—**apnoeic** *adj.*
apo- /'æpə/ or /'æpɔː/ *prefix* off, from, away; un-; quite.
apocalypse /ə'pɒkəlɪps/ *n* a cataclysmic event, the end of the world; revelation, esp that of St John; (*with cap*) the last book of the New Testament.—**apocalyptic** *adj.*—**apocalyptically** *adv.*
apocarpous /ˌæpə'kɑ:pəs/ *adj* (*bot*) having the carpels of the ovary separate or distinct.
apochromat /'æpɒkrə,mæt/ or /ˌæpə-/ *n* a highly achromatic lens.—**apochromatic** *adj.*
apocope /ə'pɒkə,pert/ *vt* to cut off or drop the last letter or syllable of a word.—**apocopation** *n.*
apocope /ə'pɒkəpi/ *n* (*linguistics*) the

cutting off or deletion of the last letter or syllable of a word.

Apocrypha /ə'pɒkrɪfə/ *npl* (used as *sing*) books of the Old Testament, eg Ecclesiasticus, accepted as an authentic part of the Holy Scriptures by the RC Church but not by Protestants.

apocryphal /ə'pɒkrɪfəl/ *adj* doubtful; untrue; invented; (*with cap*) of the Apocrypha.—**apocryphally** *adv*.

apodal /'æpədəl/ *adj* without feet.

apodeictic, apodictic /,æpə'dɪktɪk/ *adj* clearly established, unquestionably true.—**apodeictically, apodictically** *adv*.

apodosis /ə'pɒdəsɪs/ *n* (*pl* **apodoses**) (*gram*) the latter portion, or consequent clause, of a conditional sentence.

apogamy /ə'pɒɡəmi/ *n* the absence of sexual reproduction; asexual reproduction.—**apogamic** *adj*.—**apogamous** *adj*.

apogee /'æpə,dʒi/ *n* the point in the orbit of the moon or any planet where it is most distant from the earth; the highest point.

apolitical /,eɪpə'lɪtɪkəl/ *adj* uninterested or uninvolved in politics.

Apollo /ə'pɒlɔ:/ *n* (Greek, Roman myth) a sun god and god of music; (*pl* **Apollos**) a young handsome man.

apologetic /ə,pɒlə'dʒɛtɪk/ *adj* expressing an apology; contrite; presented in defence.—**apologetically** *adv*.

apologetics /-ɪks/ *n* (used as *sing*) the defence and vindication of the principles and laws of Christian belief.

apologia /,æpə'lɔ:dʒɪə/ *n* a written defence of one's principles or conduct.

apologist /ə'pɒlədʒɪst/ *n* a person who makes an apology; a defender of a cause.

apologize /ə'pɒlə,dʒaɪz/ *vi* to make an apology.

apologue /'æpə,lɒɡ/ *n* a moral fable; a fiction or allegory embodying a moral application, as *Aesop's Fables*.

apology /ə'pɒlədʒɪ/ *n* (*pl* **apologies**) an expression of regret for wrongdoing; a defence or justification of one's beliefs, etc; (*with for*) a poor substitute.

apophthegm /'æpə,θem/ or /'æpəf,θem/ *n* a pithy saying embodying a wholesome truth or precept, a maxim.—*also* **apothegm**.

apophyge /ə'pɒfə,dʒɪ:/ *n* (archit) the small hollow curve of a column where it springs from the base or top of the shaft.

apoplectic /,æpə'plektɪk/ *adj* of, causing, or exhibiting symptoms of apoplexy; (*inf*) furious.

apoplexy /'æpə,pleksɪ/ *n* a sudden loss of consciousness and subsequent partial paralysis, *usu* caused by a broken or blocked artery in the brain.

aport /ə'pɔ:t/ *adv* (*naut*) on or towards the port or left side of a ship.

aposiopesis /,æpə,sɪə'pi:əsɪs/ *n* (*pl* **aposiopeses**) (*rhetoric*) a sudden breaking off in speech for effect, eg "Bertrand is —what I dare not name".—**aposiopetic** *adj*.

apostasy /ə'pɒstəsi/ *n* (*pl* **apostasies**) abandonment of one's religion, principles or political party.

apostate /-teɪt/ *n* a person who commits apostasy.

apostatize /-tə,təɪz/ *vi* to abandon one's faith, church or party; to change one's religion for another.

a posteriori /,eɪpə'stɪrɪ'ɔ:rɪ/ *adj* (*logic*) inductively, from effect to cause, founded on observation of facts, effects or consequences.

apostil /ə'pɒstɪl/ *n* a marginal note.

apostle /ə'pɒsəl/ *n* the first or principal supporter of a new belief or cause; (*with cap*) one of the twelve disciples of Christ.

apostle spoon *n* a spoon having a figure of one of the Apostles at the top of the handle.

Apostles' Creed *n* the shortest of the three creeds, so named as containing a summary of apostolic doctrine.

apostolate /ə'pɒstələt/ *n* the dignity or office of an apostle, now restricted to that of the pope.

apostolic /,æpə'stɒlɪk/ *adj* of or relating to the Apostles or their teachings; of or relating to the pope as successor to the Apostle St Peter.

Apostolic Church, Apostolic See *n* the Christian church as founded and governed by the Apostles on their doctrine and order. The name originally applied to the Churches of Rome, Antioch, Ephesus, Alexandria and Jerusalem.

Apostolic succession *n* the regular and uninterrupted transmission of ministerial authority by bishops from the Apostles.

apostrophe /ə'pɒstrəfi/ *n* a mark (')

showing the omission of letters or figures, *also* a sign of the possessive case or the plural of letters and figures; a breaking off in speech to appeal to someone dead or absent.—**apostrophic** *adj.*

apostrophe² *n* (*rhetoric*) a digression made in a speech or address, *esp* one directed at a person.

apostrophize /-,faɪz/ *vt* to address by apostrophe; to omit a letter or letters; to mark an omission by the sign (').
• *vi* to make an apostrophe or short digressive address in speaking.

apothecaries' weight *n* a system of weights used for dispensing drugs, comprising the pound (12 oz), the ounce (8 drachms), the drachm (3 scruples), the scruple (20 grains), and the grain.

apothecary /ə'pɒθə,kəri/ *n* (*pl* **apothecaries**) (*arch*) one who prepares and dispenses medicines and drugs, a pharmacist.

apothecium /,æpə'θi:ʃiəm/ *n* (*pl* **apothecia**) the shield-like receptacle of lichens.—**apothecial** *adj.*

apothegm /'æpə,θem/ *see* **apophthegm**.

apotheosis /ə,pθi'ɔ:sɪs/ *n* (*pl* **apotheoses**) deification; glorification of a person or thing; the supreme or ideal example.

apotheosize /ə'pθiə,satɪz/ *vt* to exalt to the rank of a god; to deify.

appal, **appall** /ə'pɒl/ *vt* (**appals** or **appalls**, **appalling**, **appalled**) to fill with terror or dismay.

appalling /-ɪŋ/ *adj* shocking, horrifying.—**appallingly** *adv.*

appanage /'æpənɪdʒ/ *n* provision for the younger sons of kings, etc; a perquisite; a dependency; an attribute.—*also* **apanage**.

apparatus /,æpə'rætəs/ or /-reɪt-/ *n* (*pl* **apparatus**, **apparatuses**) the equipment used for a specific task; any complex machine, device, or system.

apparel /ə'perəl/ or /-pær-/ *n* clothing, dress. • *vt* (**apparelling**, **apparelled** or **appareling**, **appareled**) to dress; to clothe.

apparent /ə'perənt/ or /-pær-/ *adj* easily seen, evident; seeming, but not real.—**apparently** *adv.*

apparition /,æpə'ɪʃən/ *n* an appearance or manifestation, *esp* something unexpected or unusual; a ghost.

appassionato /ə,pəʃiə'nɒtə:/ *adj*, *adv* (*mus*) with passion.

appeal /ə'pi:l/ *vi* to take a case to a higher court; to make an earnest request; to refer to a witness or superior authority for vindication, confirmation, etc; to arouse pleasure or sympathy. • *n* the referral of a lawsuit to a higher court for rehearing; an earnest call for help; attraction, the power of arousing sympathy; a request for public donations to a charitable cause.—**appealable** *adj.*—**appealer** *n.*—**appealing** *adj.*

appear /ə'pi:r/ *vi* to become or be visible; to arrive, come in person; to be published; to present oneself formally (before a court, etc); to seem, give an impression of being.

appearance /ə'pi:rəns/ *n* the act or occasion of appearing; that which appears; external aspect of a thing or person; outward show, semblance.

appease /ə'pi:z/ *vt* to pacify; to allay; to conciliate by making concessions.—**appeasement** *n.*

appellant /ə'pelənt/ *n* a person who makes an appeal to a higher court.

appellate /-lət/ *adj* pertaining to appeals; dealing with appeals. • *n* the person appealed against or called upon to appear.

appellation /,æpə'leɪʃən/ *n* the name, title or designation by which a person or thing is called or known; the act of appealing.

appellative /ə'pelətɪv/ *n* (*gram*) a common, as distinguished from a proper, name; the designation of a class. • *adj* serving to distinguish, as a name or denomination of a group or class; common, as a noun.

appellee /,æpə'li:/ or /ə,peli/ *n* the person appealed against; the defendant in an appeal.

append /ə'pend/ *vt* to attach; to add, *esp* to the end as a supplement, etc.

appendage /ə'pendɪdʒ/ *n* something appended; an external organ or part, as a tail.

appendant /ə'pendənt/ *adj* attached or annexed; attached in a subordinate capacity to another. • *n* that which is appended or added.

appendicectomy, **appendectomy** /,æpen'dektəmi/ *n* (*pl* **appendicectomies**, **appendectomies**) surgical removal

of the appendix that grows from the intestine.

appendicitis /əˌpɛndɪˈsaɪtɪs/ *n* inflammation of the appendix that grows from the intestine.

appendicle /əˈpɛndɪkəl/ *n* a small appendage.

appendix /əˈpɛndɪks/ *n* (*pl* **appendixes, appendices**) a section of supplementary information at the back of a book, etc; a small tube of tissue that forms an outgrowth of the intestine.—*also* **vermiform appendix**.

apperception /ˌæpəˈrɛpʃən/ *n* (*psychol*) perception with consciousness of self.—**apperceptive** *adj*.

appertain /ˌæpəˈteɪn/ *vi* to belong or pertain to, as by relation or custom.

appetence /ˌæpətəns/, **appetency** /ˌæpətənsɪ/ *n* (*pl* **appetences, appetencies**) desire, craving; affinity.

appetite /ˌæpəˈtaɪt/ *n* sensation of bodily desire, *esp* for food; (*with for*) a strong desire or liking, a craving.

appetizer /-ˌtaɪzər/ *n* a food or drink that stimulates the appetite; something that whets one's interest.

appetizing /-ˌtaɪzɪŋ/ *adj* stimulating the appetite.—**appetizingly** *adv*.

applaud /əˈplɒd/ *vt* to show approval, *esp* by clapping the hands; to praise.

applause /əˈplɒz/ *n* approval expressed by clapping; acclamation.

apple /ˈæpəl/ *n* a round, firm, fleshy, edible fruit.

apple brandy *n* a liqueur distilled from cider.

applecart *n* **upset the applecart** to spoil one's plans.

applejack /ˌæpəlˌdʒæk/ *n* apple brandy.

apple-pie bed *n* a bed made with the sheets folded so that one's legs cannot get down.

apple-pie order *n* perfect order.

apple sauce /ˌæpəlˌsɒs/ *n* a sauce of stewed apples *usu* served with pork; (*sl*) nonsense, flattery.

appliance /əˈplaɪəns/ *n* a device or machine, *esp* for household use.

applicable /əˈplɪkəbəl/ *adj* that may be applied; appropriate, relevant (to).—**applicability** *n*.

applicant /ˈæplɪkənt/ *n* a person who applies, *esp* for a job.

application /ˌæplɪˈkeɪʃən/ *n* the act of applying; the use to which something is put; a petition, request; concentration, diligent effort; relevance or practical value.

applicative /ˈæplɪˌkeɪtɪv/ *adj* capable of being applied.

applicator /ˈæplɪˌkeɪtər/ *n* a device for applying something.

applicatory /ˈæplɪkəˌtɔːri/ *adj* fit to be applied.

applied /əˈplaid/ *adj* practical.

appliqué /ˌæplɪˈkeɪ/ *n* ornamental fabricwork applied to another fabric. • *vt* (**appliquéing, appliquéd**) to decorate with appliqué.

apply /əˈplaɪ/ *vb* (**applying, applied**) *vt* to bring to bear; to put to practical use; to spread, lay on; to devote (oneself) with close attention. • *vi* to make a formal, *esp* written, request; to be relevant.

appoggiatura /əˌpɒdʒəˈtʊrə/ *n* (*pl* **appoggiaturas, appoggiature**) (*mus*) a grace note immediately preceding a principal note with which it is connected, and taking its time from the latter.

appoint /əˈpɔɪnt/ *vt* to fix or decide officially; to select for a job; to prescribe.

appointed /əˌpɔɪntəd/ *adj* equipped; furnished.

appointee /əˌpɔɪnˈtiː/ or /ˌæpɔɪnˈti/ *n* a person appointed.

appointment /əˈpɔɪntmənt/ *n* an appointing; a job or position for which someone has been selected; an arrangement to meet.

apportion /əˈpɔːʃən/ *vt* to divide into shares; allot.—**apportionable** *adj*.—**apportioner** *n*.—**apportionment** *n*.

oppose /əˈpɔːz/ *vt* to apply; to place opposite or in juxtaposition.

opposite /ˈæpəzɪt/ *adj* (*remarks*) especially pertinent, appropriate.—**oppositely** *adv*.

apposition /ˌæpəˈzɪʃən/ *n* the act of adding; addition by application, or placing together; (*gram*) the placing of a second noun in the same case in juxtaposition to the first, which it characterizes or explains, as St Mark, the Evangelist.—**appositional** *adj*.

appraisal /əˈpreɪzəl/, **appraisement** /əˈpreɪzmənt/ *n* the act of appraising or valuing, *esp* the putting of a price upon with a view to sale; a valuation.

appraise /əˈpreɪz/ *vt* to estimate the value or quality of.—**appraiser** *n*.

appreciable /əˈpriːjəbəl/ *adj* capable of being perceived or measured; fairly large.—**appreciably** *adv*.

appreciate /əˈpriːʃiːt/ *vt* to value highly; to recognize gratefully; to

- understand, be aware of; to increase the value of. • *vi* to rise in value.
- appreciation** /əˈpriːʃiˈeɪʃən/ *n*
gratitude, approval; sensitivity to aesthetic values; an assessment or critical evaluation of a person or thing; a favourable review; an increase in value.—**appreciative** *adj*.
- apprehend** /ˌæprɪˈhɛnd/ *vt* to arrest, capture; to understand, to perceive.
- apprehension** /ˌæprɪˈhɛnʃən/ *n* anxiety; the act of arresting; understanding; an idea.
- apprehensive** /ˌæprɪˈhɛnsɪv/ *adj*
uneasy; anxious.—**apprehensively** *adv*.
- apprentice** /əˈprɛntɪs/ *n* one being taught a trade or craft; a novice. • *vt* to take on as an apprentice.—**apprenticeship** *n*.
- apprise, apprise** /əˈpraɪz/ *vt* to give notice to; to inform.
- approach** /əˈprɔːtʃ/ *vi* to draw nearer.
• *vt* to make a proposal to; to set about dealing with; to come near to.
• *n* the act of approaching; a means of entering or leaving; a move to establish relations; the final descent of an aircraft.
- approachable** /əˈprɔːtʃəbəl/ *adj*
within approaching distance; easy to approach; inviting friendship.—**approachability** *n*.—**approachably** *adv*.
- approbation** /ˌæprəˈbeɪʃən/ *n* formal approval; sanction.
- appropriate** /əˈprɔːprɪət/ *adj*
fitting, suitable. • *vt* to take for one's own use, *esp* illegally; (*money, etc*) to set aside for a specific purpose.—**appropriately** *adv*.—**appropriateness** *n*.
- appropriation** /əˈprɔːprɪˈeɪʃən/ *n* the act of setting apart or reserving for one's own use; a sum of money set aside for a particular purpose.
- approval** /əˈpruːvəl/ *n* the act of approving; favourable opinion; official permission.
- approve** /əˈpruːv/ *vt* to express a good opinion of; to authorize. • *vi* (*with of*) to consider to be favourable or satisfactory.
- approx.** *abbr* = approximate(ly).
- approximate** /əˈprɒksɪmət/ *adj* almost exact or correct. • *vt* to come near to; to be almost the same as. • *vi* to come close.—**approximately** *adv*.
- approximation** /əˈprɒksɪˈmeɪʃən/ *n* a close estimate; a near likeness.

- appulse** /əˈpʊlz/ *n* a coming towards; (*astron*) the near approach of a planet to a conjunction with the sun or any fixed star.—**appulsive** *adj*.
- appurtenance** /əˈpɜːtməns/ *n* that which belongs or relates to something else; an adjunct or appendage; that which belongs to, is accessory to; an estate or property.—**appurtenant** *adj, n*.
- Apr.** *abbr* = April.
- APR.** *abbr* = annual percentage rate.
- après-ski** /ˌæpreɪˈski/, *Fr.* /aˈpre-/ *n*
social activity after skiing.—**also** *adj*.
- apricot** /ˈæprɪˌkɒt/ or /ˈeɪpri-/ *n* a small, oval, orange-pink fruit resembling the plum and peach.
- April** /ˈeɪprəl/ *n* the fourth month of the year, having 30 days.
- April Fool** *n* the victim of a trick played on 1 April, **April Fool's Day**.
- a priori** /ˌeɪpraɪˈɔːri/ (*Latin*)
deductively, from cause to effect.
- apron** /ˈeɪprən/ *n* a garment worn to protect clothing often tied at the waist; anything resembling the shape of an apron used for protection; the paved surface on an airfield where aircraft are parked, etc.
- apropos** /ˌæprəˈpɔː/ or /ˈæprəˌpɔː/
adv at the right time; opportunely; appropriately. • *adj* appropriate. • *prep* (*with of*) regarding, in reference to.
- apse** /æps/ *n* a domed or vaulted recess, *esp* in a church.
- apsis** /ˈæpsɪs/ (*pl* **apsides** /ˈæpsəˌdiːz/) (*astron*) one of two points in the orbit of a planet situated at the furthest or the least distance from the central body or sun; the imaginary line connecting these points.—**apsidal** *adj*.
- apt** /æpt/ *adj* ready or likely (to); suitable, relevant; able to learn easily.—**aptness** *n*.
- apteral** /ˈæptərəl/ *adj* (*archit*) without side columns.
- apterous** /ˈæptərəs/ *adj* without wings.
- apterygial** /ˌæptəˈrɪdʒiəl/ *adj* lacking wings or fins.
- apteryx** /ˈæptərɪks/ *n* the kiwi, a New Zealand bird with rudimentary wings and no tail.
- aptitude** /ˈæptɪˌtuːd/ or /-ˌtjuːd/ *n*
suitability; natural talent, *esp* for learning.
- apyretic** /ˌeɪpaɪˈrɛtɪk/ *adj* without fever, or with intermission of fever.
- aq** *abbr* = aqua.

aqua *n* /'ækwə/ or /ɒ-/ (*pl aquae* /'eɪkwɪ/, *aquas* /'ækwəz/) water as used in pharmacy.

aquaculture /-kɛltʃər/ or /ɒkwə-/ *n* the cultivation and breeding of fish and other marine organisms.—*also aquiculture.*
—**aquacultural** *adj.*—**aquaculturist** *n.*

aqua fortis *n* /-fɔrtɪs/ or /ɒkwə/ impure nitric acid.

aqualung /'ækwəlŋ/ *n* portable diving gear comprising air cylinders connected to a face mask.

aquamarine /'ækwəmərɪn/ *n* a variety of bluish-green beryl used as a gemstone; its colour.

aquaplane /'ækwəpleɪn/ *n* a plank towed at high speed. • *vi* to ride on one.

aqua regia /'ækwə'ri:dʒiə/ *n* a mixture of nitric and hydrochloric acids, capable of dissolving gold.

aquarelle /'ækwə'rel/ or /ɒkwə'rel/ *n* a style of painting in Chinese ink and thin watercolours; a painting so executed.—**aquarellist** *n.*

aquarium /ə'kwɛrɪəm/ *n* (*pl aquariums, aquaria*) a tank, pond, etc for keeping aquatic animals or plants; a building where collections of aquatic animals are exhibited.

Aquarius /ə'kwɛrɪəs/ *n* (*astrol*) the eleventh sign of the zodiac, the water-carrier, operative 20 January–18 February.—**Aquarian** *adj.*, *n.*

aquatic /ə'kwætɪk/ or /ɒ'kwɒtɪk/ *adj* of or taking place in water; living or growing in water.

aquatics /ə'kwætɪks/ or /ɒ'kwɒtɪks/ *npl* water sports.

aquatint /'ækwətɪnt/ *n* a style of etching resembling a watercolour drawing in Indian ink or in sepia; an engraving produced by this process. • *vt* to etch or engrave in aquatint.

aqua vitae /'ækwə'vɪtɑː/ *n* unrectified alcohol; brandy and other ardent spirits.

aqueduct /'ækwədɛkt/ *n* a large pipe or conduit for carrying water; an elevated structure supporting this.

aqueous /'eɪkwɪəs/ *adj* of, like, or formed by water.

aqueous humour *n* a limpid fluid of the eye, filling the space between the crystalline lens and the cornea.

aquiculture /'ækwɪkɛltʃər/ or /ɒk-/ *n* hydroponics; another name for aquaculture.—**aquicultural** *adj.*—**aquiculturist** *n.*

aquilegia /'ækwə'li:dʒə/ *n* columbine.

aquiline /'ækwɪ'lɪn/ *adj* of or like an eagle; (*nose*) hooked, like an eagle's beak.

ar- /ɔː/ *prefix* the form of *ad-* before *r*.
-ar /ɔː/ *adj suffix* of, belonging to, as in *angular*, *popular*.

Ar (*chem symbol*) argon.

Arab /'ærəb/ or /'erəb/ *n* a native of Arabia; one of the Arabic races spread over the African and Syrian deserts. • *adj* pertaining to Arabia or the Arabs.

arabesque /'ærə'bɛsk/ or /erə-/ *n* a decorative design incorporating organic motifs, such as leaves and flowers, in an intricate pattern; (*ballet*) a posture in which the dancer balances on one leg with one arm extending forwards and the other arm and leg extending backwards.

Arabian /ə'reɪbiən/ *adj* of Arabia, Arab. • *n* an Arab.

Arabian camel *n* a camel with a single hump.

Arabic /'ærəbɪk/ or /'erə-/ *n* the Arabian language. • *adj* of or pertaining to the Arabic language and the countries in which it is spoken.

Arabic numeral *n* one of the numbers 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, etc.

arable /'ærəbəl/ or /er-/ *adj* (*land*) suitable for ploughing or planting crops.—*also n.*

arachnid /ə'ærəknɪd/ *n* any of a class of animals including spiders, scorpions, mites and ticks.—**arachnidan** *adj.*, *n.*

arachnoid /-,nɔɪd/ *adj* pertaining to spiders; resembling the web of a spider. • *n* the enveloping membrane of the brain and spinal cord, between the dura mater and the pia mater.

aragonite /ə'ræɡə'nɔɪt/ or /'ærəɡə-/ *n* a variety of carbonate of lime.

arak /ə'ræk/ *see arack.*

Aramaic /'ærə'menɪk/ or /erə-/ *n* the language of Palestine at the time of Christ.

araneid /ə'reɪnɪd/ *n* a member of the Arachnida order, the spider family.

araucaria /'ærə'kerɪə/ *n* one of a genus of coniferous trees, found principally in South America and Australia, which includes the monkey puzzle.

arbalest /'arbəlɛst/ *n* a crossbow with a drawing mechanism.

arbiter /'ɑːbɪtər/ *n* a person having absolute power of decision or absolute control.

arbitrage /'ɑːbɪtrɪdʒ/ or /-trədʒ/ *n* the

rapid purchase and resale of stocks to maximize price discrepancy, often using confidential knowledge.—*also* **index arbitrage**.

arbitrament /'arbitrəmənt/ *n* an arbiter's judgment; an authoritative decision.

arbitrary /'arbətrəri/ *adj* not bound by rules; despotic, absolute; capricious, unreasonable.—**arbitrarily** *adv.*—**arbitrariness** *n*.

arbitrate /'arbitreit/ *vi* to act as an arbitrator. • *vt* to submit to an arbiter; to act as an arbiter upon.

arbitration /,arbi'treɪʃən/ *n* the settlement of disputes by arbitrating.

arbitrator /,arbi'treitər/ *n* a person chosen to settle a dispute between contending parties.

arbor¹ /'arbər/ *see* **arbour**.

arbor² *n* the main support of a machine; an axis, a spindle.

arboraceous /,arbə'reɪʃəs/ *adj* pertaining to, or of the nature of, a tree or trees; living on or among trees.

arboREAL /ar'bəriəl/ *adj* of or living in trees.

arboREOUS /æ'r'bəriəs/ *adj* wooded.

arboRESCENT /ar'bə'resənt/ *adj* growing or formed like a tree.—**arboRESCENCE** *n*.

arboRETUM /ar'bəri:təm/ *n* (*pl* **arboRETA**, **arboRETUMS**) a botanical tree garden where rare trees are cultivated and exhibited.

arboRICULTURE /'arbəri,kəlʃər/ *n* the cultivation of trees and shrubs, forestry.

arboRIZATION, **arboRISATION** /,ar'bəri'zeɪʃən/ *n* a tree-like appearance.

arboR VITAE /,arbər'vi:tai/ *n* an evergreen tree extensively cultivated in gardens, etc.

arboUR /'arbər/ *n* a place shaded by trees, foliage, etc; a bower.—*also* **arboR**.

arboTUS /ar'bju:təs/ *n* (*pl* **arboTUSES**) one of a genus of tree-like evergreen shrubs to which the strawberry tree belongs.

arc /ɑ:k/ *n* a portion of the circumference of a circle or other curve; a luminous discharge of electricity across a gap between two electrodes or terminals. • *vi* to form an electric arc.

ARC /,eɪ'ɑr'si:/ *abbr* = AIDS-related complex.

arcade /ar'keɪd/ *n* a series of arches

supported on columns; an arched passageway; a covered walk or area lined with shops.

Arcadia /ar'keɪdiə/, **Arcady** /ar'keɪdi/ *n* (*poet*) ideal countryside.

Arcadian /ar'keɪdiən/ *adj* of or pertaining to Arcadia, a department of Greece, or its inhabitants; rurally simple. • *n* an inhabitant of Arcadia.

arcANE /ar'keɪn/ *adj* secret or esoteric. **arcANUM** /ar'keɪnəm/ *n* (*pl* **arcANA**) a secret, a mystery; a valuable elixir.

arch¹ /ɑ:tʃ/ *n* a curved structure spanning an opening; the curved underside of the foot. • *vti* to span or cover with an arch; to curve, bend into an arch.

arch² *adj* (*criminal*, etc) principal, expert; clever, sly; mischievous.—**archly** *adv.*—**archness** *n*.

ArchaeAN /ɑr'ki:ən/ *adj* of the earliest geological period or strata.—*also* **ArcheAN**.

archaeology /,ɑrki'ɒlədʒi/ *n* the study of past human societies through their extant remains.—*also* **archeology**.—**archaeological**, **archeological** *adj.*—**archaeologist**, **archeologist** *n*.

archaeopteryx /,ɑrki'ɒptərɪks/ *n* oldest fossil bird.

archaic /ɑr'keɪk/ *adj* belonging to ancient times; (*language*) no longer in common use.

archaism /'ɑrkeɪzəm/ or /-ki:zəm/ *n* an archaic word or phrase.—**archaistic** *adj.*

archaize /'ɑrkaɪz/ *vti* to affect the archaic; to make archaic.—**archaizer** *n*.

archangel /'ɑrkeɪndʒəl/ *n* a principal angel.—**archangelic** *adj.*

archbishop /'ɑ:tʃ'bɪʃəp/ *n* a bishop of the highest rank.

archbishopric /-rɪk/ *n* the jurisdiction, office or see of an archbishop.

archdeacon /-'di:kən/ *n* a clergyman ranking next under a bishop.

archdeaconry /-'di:kənri/ *n* (*pl* **archdeaconries**) the office, rank, jurisdiction, or residence of an archdeacon.

archdiocese /-'daɪəsəsɪz/ or /-'daɪəsɪs/, /-'daɪəsɪz/ *n* the diocese of an archbishop.—**archdiocesan** *adj.*

archducal /-'du:kəl/ or /-'dju:kəl/ *adj* of or pertaining to an archduchess, an archduchy or an archduke.

archduchess /-'dætʃəs/ *n* a daughter of the emperor of Austria; the wife or widow of an archduke.

archduchy /-¹dətʃi/ *n* (*pl* **archduchies**)
the territory or rank of an archduke or an archduchess.

archduke /-¹du:k/ or /-¹dju:k/ *n* a prince of the imperial house of Austria.

Archean *see* **Archæan**.

archegonium /,ɑ:kə'gə:miəm/ *n* (*pl* **archegonia**) (*bot*) the pistillidium or female organ of the higher cryptogams (ferns, etc.).

archenemy /,ɑ:rtʃ'ɛnəmi/ *n* (*pl* **archenemies**) a principal enemy; Satan.

archeology *see* **archæology**.

archer /'ɑ:rtʃər/ *n* a person who shoots with a bow and arrow.

archerfish /'ɑ:rtʃər,fɪʃ/ *n* (*pl* **archerfish**, **archerfishes**) a scaly-finned fish of the Java seas, which catches insects by darting drops of water upon them.

archery /'ɑ:rtʃəri/ *n* the art or sport of shooting arrows from a bow.

archetype /'ɑ:kɪ,təɪp/ *n* the original pattern or model; a prototype.—**archetypal**, **archetypical** *adj.*

archfiend /'ɑ:rtʃ,fi:nd/ *n* a chief fiend; Satan.

archidiaconal /,ɑ:kɪdaɪ'ækənəl/ *adj* of or pertaining to an archdeacon or to his office.

archidiaconate /,ɑ:kɪdaɪ'ækənəɪt/ *n* the office of an archdeacon.

archiepiscopal /,ɑ:kɪə'pɪskəpəl/ *adj* of or pertaining to an archbishop or to his office.

archiepiscopate /,ɑ:kɪə'pɪskəpət/ or /-,pət/, /-sɪ/, **archiepiscopacy** /-sɪ/ *n* the rule or dignity of an archbishop.

archil /'ɑ:kɪl/ *see* **orchil**.

archimagus, **archimage** /'ɑ:kɪ,mɛɪdʒ/ *n* the high priest of the Persian magi or fire-worshippers; a chief magician.

archimandrite /,ɑ:kɪ'mænd,rɔɪt/ *n* (*Greek Orthodox Church*) the abbot of a monastery, or an abbot-general having the charge and superintendence of several monasteries.

Archimedean screw *n* an instrument for raising water, consisting of a flexible tube wound spirally around or within a cylinder in the form of a screw. When placed in an inclined position, with the lower end immersed in water, by the revolution of the screw the water is raised to the upper end.

archipelago /ɑ:kɪ'pɛlə,gə:/ *n* (*pl* **archipelagoes**, **archipelagos**) a sea filled with small islands; a group

of small islands.—**archipelagic**, **archipelagian** *adj.*

architect /'ɑ:kɪ,tɛkt/ *n* a person who designs buildings and supervises their erection; someone who plans something.

architectonic /,ɑ:kɪtɛk'tɒnɪk/ *adj* pertaining to design or construction; skilled in architecture; expert in constructing; of the systematizing of knowledge.—**architectonically** *adv.*

architectonics /-nɪks/ *n* (*used as sing*) the science of architecture; structure.

architecture /'ɑ:kɪ,tɛktʃər/ *n* the art, profession, or science of designing and constructing buildings; the style of a building or buildings; the design and organization of a computer's parts.—**architectural** *adj.*—**architecturally** *adv.*

architrave /,ɑ:kɪ'treɪv/ *n* an epistyle, the lowest division of an entablature, the part resting immediately on a column; the parts round a door or window.

archives /ɑ:'kaɪvz/ *npl* the location in which public records are kept; the public records themselves.—**archival** *adj.*

archivist /'ɑ:kɪvɪzɪst/ *n* a keeper of public records.

archivolt /'ɑ:kɪvə:lt/ *n* the undercurve of an arch or the moulding on it.

archpriest /'ɑ:rtʃ,pri:st/ *n* a chief priest; a rural dean.

archway /'ɑ:rtʃ,weɪ/ *n* an arched or vaulted passage, *esp* that leading into a castle.

arc light *n* light produced by a current of electricity passing between two carbon points placed a short distance from each other.

Arctic, **arctic** /'ɑ:ktɪk/ or /'ɑ:rtɪk/ *adj* of, near, or relating to the North Pole or its surroundings; (*inf*) very cold, icy.

• *n* (*usu cap with the*) the area north of the Arctic Circle; (*without cap*) an arctic boot.

Arctic char *n* a freshwater fish of northern North America, similar to salmon.

Arctic Circle *n* an imaginary circle around the Arctic regions parallel to the equator.

Arctic cotton *n* a northern sedge whose flower heads have long white cottony hairs.

Arctic fox *n* a small species of fox, whose fine fur is used for muffs, trimmings, etc.

Arctic hare *n* a large hare of northern Canada and Greenland, whose coat is brown in summer and white in winter.

Arctic Ocean *n* the ocean that washes the northern coasts of Europe, Asia and North America.

Arctic poppy *n* a northern plant with four-petalled golden flowers.

arcuate /'ɑ:kju:ət/ or /-eɪt/ *adj* bent or curved in the form of a bow.

arcuation /'ɑ:kju:'weɪʃən/ *n* the act of bending; the state of being bent or curved; a method of propagating trees by bending branches to the ground and covering portions of them with earth.

arc welding *n* welding using an electric arc.

ardent /'ɑ:dənt/ *adj* passionate; zealous.—**ardency** *n*.—**ardently** *adv*.

ardent spirits *npl* alcoholic beverages, as brandy, whisky, etc.

ardour, ardor /'ɑ:dər/ *n* warmth of feeling; extreme intensity.

arduous /'ɑ:du:əs/ *adj* difficult, laborious; steep, difficult to climb.—**arduously** *adv*.—**arduousness** *n*.

are¹ /ɑ:/, /ɛ:/ *see* **be**.

are² *n* a metric unit of measure equal to 100 square metres.

area /'ɛəriə/ *n* an expanse of land; a total outside surface, measured in square units; a specific part of a house, district, etc; scope or extent.

areca /'æəkə/ or /ə'ri:kə/ *n* a genus of lofty palms, including the tree from which the betelnut and the astringent juice Catechu are obtained.

arena /ə'ri:nə/ *n* an area within a sports stadium, etc where events take place; a place or sphere of contest or activity.

arenaceous /,æri'neɪʃəs/ or /-,ɛri-/ *adj* sandy; abounding in, or having the properties of, sand.

aren't /'ɑ:nt/ = **are** *not*.

areola /ə'ri:ələ/ *n* (*pl* **areolae, areolas**) a very small area; an interstice in tissue; the coloured circle or halo surrounding the nipple of the breast.—**areolar, areolate** *adj*.—**areolation** *n*.

arête /æ'ret/ *n* the sharp ridge or spur of a mountain.

argali /'ɑ:gəli/ *n* (*pl* **argalis, argali**) a large wild Asiatic sheep, remarkable for its huge curved horns.

argent /'ɑ:dʒənt/ (*her*) silver, represented in a drawing or engraving of a coat of arms by a plain white surface, symbolic of purity, beauty,

etc. • *adj* made of or resembling silver; silvery white; bright like silver.

argentiferous /'ɑ:dʒən'tɪfərəs/ *adj* producing or containing silver.

argentine /'ɑ:dʒən'taɪn/ or /-,ti:n/ *adj* pertaining to or resembling silver; silvery. • *n* a silvery-white slaty variety of calcite; white metal coated with silver, imitation silver.

argil /'ɑ:dʒɪl/ *n* clay, *esp* potter's clay or earth.

argillaceous /,ɑ:dʒɪ'lɪʃəs/ *adj* of or containing clay, clayey.

argilliferous /'ɑ:dʒɪləfərəs/ *adj* producing or containing clay.

argillite /'ɑ:dʒɪ,lɪt/ *n* clay-slate.—**argillitic** *adj*.

argol /'ɑ:gɒl/ *n* a deposit of crude tartar on the sides of wine vessels; crude tartar from which cream of tartar is prepared.

argon /'ɑ:gɒn/ *n* an inert gaseous element.

argosy /'ɑ:gəsi/ *n* (*pl* **argosies**) a large, richly laden merchant ship.

argot /'ɑ:ɡo:/ or /'ɑ:gət/ *n* the special vocabulary of any set of persons, as of lawyers, criminals, etc.—**argotic** *adj*.

arguable /'ɑ:gju:əbl/ *adj* debatable; able to be asserted; plausible.—**arguably** *adv*.

argue /'ɑ:gju:/ *vb* (**arguing, argued**) *vt* to try to prove by reasoning; to debate, dispute; to persuade (into, out of).

• *vi* to offer reasons for or against something; to disagree, exchange angry words.—**arguer** *n*.

argufy /'ɑ:gju:fai/ *vi* (**argufying, argufied**) (*sl*) to argue tediously, to wrangle.

argument /'ɑ:gju:mənt/ or /-ɡjə-/ *n* a disagreement; a debate, discussion; a reason offered in debate; an abstract, summary.

argumentation /,ɑ:gju:mən'teɪʃən/ *n* systematic reasoning; argument, discussion.

argumentative /,ɑ:gju'mentətɪv/ *adj* prone to arguing.—**argumentatively** *adv*.—**argumentativeness** *n*.

argy-bargy /'ɑ:gi'bɑ:gi/ (*pl* **argy-bargies**) *n* a tedious discussion. • *vi* to argue at length.

aria /'ɑ:riə/ *n* a song for one voice accompanied by instruments, *eg* in opera.

Arian /'ɛəriən/ or /'æ-/ *adj* pertaining to the doctrines of the Arian sect, which held that Christ is not divine.—**Arianism** *n*.

arid /'ærəd/ or /'æri:d/ *adj* very dry, parched; uninteresting; dull.—**aridity** *n*.—**aridly** *adv*.

Aries /'eri:z/ or /'æ-r-, /-i:z/ *n* (*astrol*) the first sign of the zodiac, the Ram, operative 21 March–21 April.—**Arian** *adj, n*.

arietta /,ari'etə/ or /,æri-, /,eri- *n* a short aria, song or air.

aright /ə'rait/ *adv* correctly.

aril /'ærərl/ *n* (*bot*) an accessory covering or appendage of certain seeds.

arioso /,ari'o:;so:/ *adj, adv* (*mus*) like an air; in a smooth melodious style.

arise /ə'raiz/ *vi* (**arising, arose, pp arisen**) to get up, as from bed; to rise, ascend; to come into being, to result (from).

arista /ə'rɪstə/ *n* (*pl aristae* /ə'rɪsti/) the awn or beard of grasses; a bristle.

aristate /ə'rɪstet/ *adj* bearded; having a beard or bristle, as certain grasses.

aristocracy /,æri'stɒkrəsi/ or /'eri- *n* (*pl aristocracies* /-si:z/) (a country with) a government dominated by a privileged minority class; the privileged class in a society, the nobility; those people considered the best in their particular sphere.

aristocrat /'ærəstə,kræt / or /ə'rɪstə,kræt/ *n* a member of the aristocracy; a supporter of aristocratic government; a person with the manners or taste of a privileged class.

aristocratic /,æ-rəstə,krætɪk/ or /ə,rɪstə'krætɪk/ *adj* relating to or characteristic of the aristocracy; elegant, stylish in dress and manners.—**aristocratically** *adv*.

Aristotelian /,æ-rɪstə'tɪliən/ or /ə,rɪstə-/ *adj* pertaining to, or characteristic of, Aristotle (384–322 BC) or his philosophy.

arithmetic /ə'rɪθ,məti:k/ or /ə'rɪ- *n* (*math*) computation (addition, subtraction, etc) using real numbers; calculation.—**arithmetic, arithmetical** *adj*.—**arithmetically** *adv*.

arithmetician /-tɪʃən/ *n* one skilled in the science of numbers.

ark /ɑ:k/ *n* (*Bible*) the boat in which Noah and his family and two of every kind of creature survived the Flood; a place of safety.

Ark, Holy Ark *n* (*Judaism*) an enclosure in a synagogue for the scrolls of the Torah.

Ark of the Covenant *n* (*Judaism*) the

most sacred symbol of God's presence among the Hebrew people.

arm¹ /ɑ:m/ *n* the upper limb from the shoulder to the wrist; something shaped like an arm, as a support on a chair; a sleeve; power, authority; an administrative division of a large organization.

arm² *n* (*usu pl*) a weapon; a branch of the military service; (*pl*) heraldic bearings. • *vt* to provide with weapons, etc; to provide with something that protects or strengthens, etc; to set a fuse ready to explode. • *vi* to prepare for war or any struggle.

armada /ɑ:'mɒdə/ *n* a fleet of warships or aircraft.

armadillo /,ɑ:rmə'dɪlə:/ *n* (*pl armadillos* /-z/) a small animal from South America with a body covering of small bony plates.

Armageddon /,ɑ:rmə'gɛdən/ *n* (*Bible*) the site of the last decisive battle between good and evil; any great decisive battle.

armament /'ɑ:rməmənt/ *n* (*often pl*) all the military forces and equipment of a nation; all the military equipment of a warship, etc; the process of arming or being armed for war.

armature /ɑ:rmətʃə:/ *n* a piece of iron connecting the poles of a magnet or electromagnet to preserve and increase the magnetic force; the revolving part of a dynamo; arms, armour, that which serves as a means of defence; iron bars or framework used to strengthen a building; a framework supporting clay, etc, in sculpture or modelling.

armchair /'ɑ:mtʃe:/ *n* a chair with side rests for the arms. • *adj* lacking practical experience.

armed forces *npl* the military forces of a nation.—*also* **armed services**.

armful /'ɑ:mfʊl/ *n* as much as the arms can hold.

armhole /'ɑ:rho:l/ *n* an opening for the arm in an item of clothing.

armiger /'ɑ:mi:dʒə:/ *n* one entitled to use heraldic bearings, an esquire.—**armigerous** *adj*.

armillary /'ɑ:mi:ləri/ *adj* of or resembling a bracelet; consisting of circles or rings.

armillary sphere *n* a skeleton celestial globe showing the relative positions of the stars, etc.

Arminianism /ɑ:'mɪniə,nɪzəm/ *n*

a Christian Protestant doctrine that denies Calvin's doctrine of predestination.—**Arminian** *adj.*, *n.*

armistice /'ɑ:mɪstəs/ or /'ɑ:rmɪtɪs/ *n* a truce, preliminary to a peace treaty.

armlet /ɑ:mlət/ *n* an ornamental or protective band worn around the arm; a badge worn on the arm; a small arm of the sea.

armorial /ɑ:'mɔ:riəl/ *adj* pertaining to armour or the arms or escutcheon of a family. • *n* a book or dictionary of heraldic devices and the names of persons entitled to use them.

armour, armor /'ɑ:rmə:/ *n* any defensive or protective covering.

armoured, armored /'ɑ:rməd/ *adj* covered or protected with armour; equipped with tanks and armour vehicles.

armourer, armorer /'ɑ:rmərə:/ *n* the custodian of the arms of a battleship, etc; (formerly) a maker of arms or armour; one who had charge of the armour of another.

armour plate, armor plate *n* a plate of iron or steel affixed to a ship or tank as part of a casing for protection against shellfire.

armoury, armory /'ɑ:rməri/ *n* (pl **armouries, armories**) an arsenal; a place where armour or ammunition is stored.

armpit /'ɑ:rm.pɪt/ *n* the hollow underneath the arm at the shoulder.

arms /ɑ:rmz/ *see* **arm**².

army /'ɑ:mi/ *n* (pl **armies** /'ɑ:mi:z/) a large organized body of soldiers for waging war, *esp* on land; any large number of persons, animals, etc.

army worm *n* the larva of a moth that devastates grain and other crops, *esp* destructive in North America; the larva of a European small two-winged fly.

arnica /'ɑ:rnɪkə/ *n* a genus of perennial herbs, *esp* mountain tobacco, whose roots and flowers are used to make a tincture for treating bruises.

aroma /ə'ɔ:romə/ *n* a pleasant smell; a fragrance.

aromatherapy /ə,ro:mə'θerəpi/ *n* the massage of fragrant oils into the skin to relieve tension and promote wellbeing.

aromatic /,erə'mætɪk/ *adj* giving out an aroma; fragrant, spicy; odoriferous. • *n* a plant, herb or drug yielding a fragrant smell.—**aromatically** *adv.*

aromatize /ə'ɔ:romə,təɪz/ *vt* to render

fragrant, to perfume, to scent.—**aromatization** *n.*

arose *see* **arise**.

around /ə'raʊnd/ *prep* on all sides of; on the border of; in various places in or on; approximately, about. • *adv* in a circle; in every direction; in circumference; to the opposite direction.

arousal /ə'raʊzəl/ *n* the act of awakening or stimulating; the state of being awakened or stimulated.

arouse /ə'raʊz/ *vt* to wake from sleep; to stir, as to action; to evoke.

arpeggio /ɑ:'pɛdʒio:/ *n* (pl **arpeggios** /-z/) (*mus*) the playing of notes of a chord in rapid succession, instead of simultaneously; a passage or chord so played.

arquebus /'ɑ:kwəbəs/ *n* an old-fashioned handgun fired from a forked rest.—*also* **harquebus**.

arack /'ærək/ *n* an alcoholic spirit distilled in some Asian countries from rice, molasses, the juice of the date palm, etc.—*also* **arak**.

arraign /ə'reɪn/ *vt* to put on trial; to indict, accuse; to censure publicly; to impeach.—**arraigner** *n.*—**arraignment** *n.*

arrange /ə'reɪndʒ/ *vt* to put in a sequence or row; to settle, make preparations for; (*mus*) to prepare a composition for different instruments other than those intended. • *vi* to come to an agreement; to make plans.—**arranger** *n.*

arrangement /ə'reɪndʒmənt/ *n* the act of putting in proper form or order; that which is ordered or disposed; the method or style of disposition; a preparatory measure; preparation; settlement; classification; adjustment; adaptation; (pl) plans.

arrant /'erənt/ *adj* notorious; unmitigated; downright, thorough; shameless.

arras /æ'rəs/ or /'erəs/ *n* a tapestry; hangings made of a rich figured fabric.

array /ə'reɪ/ *n* an orderly grouping, *esp* of troops; an impressive display; fine clothes; (*comput*) an ordered data structure that allows information to be easily indexed. • *vt* to set in order, to arrange; to dress, decorate.—**arrayal** *n.*

arrears /ə'reɪ:z/ *npl* overdue debts; work, etc still to be completed.

arrest /ə'rest/ *vt* to stop; to capture, apprehend *esp* by legal authority; to check the development of a disease; to catch and hold the attention of.

- *n* a stoppage; seizure by legal authority.

arrestee /ə'resti/ *n* one who has been arrested.

arrestor /ə'restər/ *n* one who or that which stops or seizes, or causes to be detained.

arresting /ə'restɪŋ/ *adj* striking or attracting to the mind or eye; impressive.—**arrestingly** *adv*.

arrière-pensée Fr. /'æ:ʒjɛʁ pɑ̃'seɪ/ *n* (*pl* **arrière-pensées**) a mental reservation.

arris /'æris/ or /'ɛris/ *n* (*pl* **arris, arrises**) (*archit*) the line or sharp edge in which two curved or straight surfaces, forming an exterior angle, meet each other.

arrival /ə'raɪvəl/ *n* arriving; a person or thing that has arrived.

arrive /ə'raɪv/ *vi* to reach any destination; to come; (*with at*) to reach agreement, a decision; to achieve success, celebrity.

arriviste /,æri:'vi:st/ *n* an ambitious person, a self-seeker.

arrogance /'ærəgəns/ or /'ɛr-/ *n* an exaggerated assumption of importance.

arrogant /'ærəgənt/ or /'æ-/ *adj* overbearing; aggressively self-important.—**arrogantly** *adv*.

arrogate /'ærəgeɪt/ *vt* to assume or lay claim to unduly or presumptuously.—**arrogation** *n*.—**arrogative** *adj*.—**arrogator** *n*.

arrondissement /æ,rɔ̃dis:'mɑ̃/ *n* a subdivision of a French department; a municipal subdivision of Paris, etc.

arrow /'æro:/ or /ɛ-/ *n* a straight, pointed weapon, made to be shot from a bow; a sign used to indicate direction or location.

arrowhead /-,hɛd/ *n* the head or barb of an arrow; an aquatic plant so named from the shape of its leaves.

arrowroot /-,ru:t/ or /-,rʊt/ *n* a starch obtained from the rootstocks of several species of West Indian plants.

arrowwood /-,wʊd/ *n* a wood once used for arrows by American Indians.

arroyo /ə'rɔɪo:/ *n* a watercourse or rivulet; the dry bed of a small stream.

arse /ars/ *n* (*vulg*) the buttocks.

arsenal /'arsənəl/ *n* a workshop or store for weapons and ammunition.

arsenate /'arsə,neɪt/ or /-,nɪt/ *n* a salt formed by combination of arsenic acid with any base.

arsenic /'arsə,nɪk/ *n* a soft grey metallic element, highly poisonous.

arsenical /ar'senɪkəl/ *adj* pertaining to or containing arsenic.

arsenious, arsenous /ar'siniəs/ *adj* pertaining to or containing arsenic.

arsenite /'arsə,nait/ *n* a salt of arsenious acid.

arsis /'arsɪs/ *n* (*poet*) the part of a metrical foot where the accent is placed.

arson /'arsən/ *n* the crime of using fire to destroy property deliberately.—**arsonist** *n*.

art /art/ *n* human creativity; skill acquired by study and experience; any craft and its principles; the making of things that have form and beauty; any branch of this, as painting, sculpture, etc; drawings, paintings, statues, etc; (*pl*) the creative and nonscientific branches of knowledge, *esp* as studied academically.

art² (*arch*) the second person singular indicative mood and present tense of the verb to be.

art deco /-'deko:/ *n* a style of design and architecture popular in the 1920s and 1930s and characterized by bold geometrical lines.

artefact /'artə,fækt/ *see* **artifact**.

artel /ar'tɛl/ *n* a workers' guild in the former USSR.

artemisia /artə'mi:ʒə/ or /-'mi:ʒə/, *n* a large genus of plants to which the common wormwood belongs, yielding a volatile oil (the chief ingredient of absinthe).

arterial /ar'ti:riəl/ *adj* pertaining to an artery or the arteries; contained in an artery; (*blood*) oxygenated, of a lighter red colour than venous blood; (*road*) major, with many branches.

arterialize /-,aɪz/ *vt* to convert as venous blood into arterial blood by exposure to oxygen in the lungs.—**arterialization** *n*.

arteriosclerosis /ar'ti:ri:ɔ:sklə'rɔ:səs/ *n* (*med*) hardening of the walls of the arteries due to the action of fatty deposits, which impairs blood circulation.—**arteriosclerotic** *adj*.

artery /'artəri/ *n* (*pl* **arteries**) a tubular vessel that conveys blood from the heart; any main channel of transport or communication.

artesian well /ar'ti:ʒən/ *n* a well in

- which water rises to the surface by internal pressure.
- artful** /'ɑ:tfʊl/ *adj* skilful at attaining one's ends; clever, crafty. —**artfully** *adv.* —**artfulness** *n.*
- arthritis** /ɑr'θraɪtɪs/ *n* painful inflammation of a joint. —**arthritic** *adj.*
- arthropod** /'ɑ:θrə,pɒd/ *n* a member of the largest group of invertebrate animals with jointed legs, such as the butterfly, spider, crab, centipede.
- artichoke** /'ɑ:ti,tʃo:k/ *n* a thistle-like plant with a scaly flower head, parts of which are eaten as a vegetable.
- article** /'ɑ:tɪkəl/ *n* a separate item or clause in a written document; an individual item on a particular subject in a newspaper, magazine, etc; a particular or separate item; (*gram*) a word placed before a noun to identify it as definite or indefinite.
- articled** /-d/ *adj* apprenticed to, as an articulated clerk to a solicitor.
- articular** /ɑr'tɪkjʊ:lər/ or /-jə-/ *adj* of a joint or structural components in a joint.
- articulate** /ɑr'tɪkjʊlət/ *adj* capable of distinct, intelligible speech, or expressing one's thoughts clearly; jointed. • *vti* to speak or express clearly; to unite or become united (as) by a joint. —**articulatedly** *adv.* —**articulateness** *n.*
- articulated lorry, articulated truck** *n* a large vehicle composed of a tractor and one or more trailers connected by flexible joints for greater manoeuvrability. —*also* **trailer truck.**
- articulation** /ɑr'tɪkjʊ:'leɪʃən/ *n* the act of jointing; the act of speaking distinctly; a distinct utterance; the state of being articulated; a joint or juncture between bones; the point of separation of organs or parts of a plant; a node or joint of the stem, or the space between two nodes. —**articulatory** *adj.*
- articulator** /ɑr'tɪkjʊ:'leɪtər/ or /-jə-/ *n* one who pronounces distinctly; any organ of the mouth, etc, that moves to produce speech sounds.
- artifact** /'ɑ:tə,fækt/ *n* a product of human craftsmanship, *esp* a simple tool or ornament. —*also* **artefact.**
- artifice** /'ɑ:tə,fɪs/ *n* a clever contrivance or stratagem; a trick, trickery.
- artificer** /ɑr'tɪfəsər/ or /'ɑ:təfə-/ *n* a skilled or artistic worker; a maker or constructor; an inventor.

artificial /,ɑ:tə'fɪʃəl/ *adj* lacking natural qualities; man-made. —**artificiality** *n.* —**artificially** *adv.*

artificial insemination *n* injection of semen into the womb by artificial means so that conception takes place without sexual intercourse.

artificial intelligence *n* (*comput*) the ability to imitate intelligent human behaviour.

artificial respiration *n* the forcing of air into and out of the lungs of somebody whose breathing has stopped.

artillery /ɑr'tɪləri/ *n* (*pl* **artilleries**) large, heavy guns; the branch of the army that uses these.

artisan /'ɑ:ti,zæn/ or /-,sæn/ *n* a skilled workman.

artist /'ɑ:tɪst/ *n* one who practises fine art, *esp* painting; one who does anything very well. —**artistic** *adj.*

artiste /ɑr'ti:st/ *n* a professional, *usu* musical or theatrical, entertainer.

artistic /ɑr'tɪstɪk/ *adj* pertaining to art or to artists; characterized by aesthetic feeling or conformity to the principles of a school of art or design. —**artistically** *adv.*

artistry /'ɑ:tɪstri/ *n* artistic quality, ability, work, etc.

artless /'ɑ:tɪləs/ *adj* simple, natural; without art or skill. —**artlessly** *adv.* —**artlessness** *n.*

art nouveau /,ɑ:t'nu:və:/ or /,ɑr-/ *n* a style of art and decoration that developed in the late 19th century, characterized by flowing curves and designs in imitation of nature.

arty /'ɑ:ti/ *adj* (**artier, artiest**) (*inf*) having a pretentious or affected interest in art.

arty-crafty, artsy-craftsy *adj* (*inf*) relating to arts and crafts, *esp* when affecting a simple, traditional style.

arum /'erəm/ *n* a genus of plants with small flowers within a hood-shaped leaf.

arundinaceous /ɔ,rʌndɪ'neɪʃəs/ *adj* pertaining to or resembling a reed or cane.

-ary /'eri/ or /əri/ *adj* *suffix, n* *suffix* connected with, as *dictionary*.

Aryan /'eriən/ *n* a member of the Indo-European race; according to Nazi belief, a Caucasian, *esp* of the Nordic type, with no Jewish blood. • *adj* pertaining to the Aryans, or to their language.

As (*chem* *symbol*) arsenic.

as¹ /æz/ *adv* equally; for instance; when related in a certain way. • *conj* in the same way that; while; when; because. • *prep* in the role or function of.

as² /æs/ *n* (*pl asses*) a Roman weight equivalent to the libra or pound; a Roman copper coin.

ASA /'eɪ'seɪ/ *abbr* = (*Brit*) Amateur Swimming Association; (*US*) American Standards Association.

asafœtida, asafetida /,æsə'fætədə/ or /-'fi:tədə/ *n* a foul-smelling gum resin obtained from the roots of several large umbelliferous plants and used in medicine.

ASAP, a.s.a.p. /eɪ'sæp/ or /'æsæp/ *abbr* = as soon as possible.

asbestos, asbestos /æs'bestəs/ or /æz-/ *n* a fine fibrous mineral used for making incombustible and chemical-resistant materials.

asbestosis /,æsbes'to:sɪs/ or /,æz-/ *n* (*med*) a disease of the lungs caused by the inhalation of asbestos fibres.

ascend /ə'send/ *vti* to go up; to succeed to (a throne).

ascendancy, ascendancy /ə'sendənsi/ *n* governing or dominating influence; power; sway.

ascendant, ascendent /-dənt/ *adj* rising upwards; dominant.

ascend /ə'sendər/ *n* one who ascends; the top part of letters such as b, d, h.

ascension /ə'senʃən/ *n* the act of ascending or rising.—**ascensional** *adj*.

Ascension *n* the ascent of Christ into heaven after the Resurrection.

Ascension Day *n* a movable feast commemorating the Ascension, celebrated on the Thursday next but one before Whit Sunday.—*also* **Holy Thursday**.

ascent /ə'sent/ *n* an ascending; an upward slope; the means of, the way of ascending.

ascertain /,æsər'teɪn/ *vt* to acquire definite knowledge of, to discover positively.—**ascertainable** *adj*.

ascetic /ə'setɪk/ *adj* self-denying, austere. • *n* a person who practises rigorous self-denial as a religious discipline; any severely abstemious person.—**ascetically** *adv*.—**asceticism** *n*.

ascidian /ə'sɪdiən/ *n* a type of mollusc with a leathery tunic resembling a double-necked bottle, a sea squirt.—*also* *adj*.

ascidium /-əm/ *n* (*pl ascidia*) (*bot*) a

pitcher-shaped or flask-shaped organ peculiar to certain plants, as the pitcher plants.

ASCII /'æski/ *acronym* (*comput*) = American Standard Code for Information Interchange, a standard code of 128 alphanumeric characters for storing and exchanging information.

ascomycete /,æsko:'maɪ,sɪt/ or /-,maɪ'sɪt/ *n* one of a family of the fungi, including most of the lichens, which form free spores within elongated spore cases.—**ascomyetous** *adj*.

ascorbic acid /ə'skɔrbɪk/ *n* vitamin C, found *esp* in citrus fruit and fresh green vegetables.

ascribe /ə'skraɪb/ *vt* to attribute, impute or refer; to assign.—**ascribable** *adj*.—**ascription, adscription** *n*.

ascus /'æskəs/ *n* (*pl asci*) the spore case of lichens and fungi.

asdic /'æzdɪk/ *n* an apparatus for locating submarines; an echo sounder; sonar.

asepsis /eɪ'sepsɪs/ or /ə-/ *n* an absence of disease or putrefaction; a surgical method aiming at this.—**aseptic** *adj*.

asexual /eɪ'sekʃu:əl/ *adj* lacking sex or sexual organs; (*reproduction*) produced without the union of male and female germ cells.—**asexuality** *n*.—**asexually** *adv*.

ash¹ /æʃ/ *n* a tree with silver-grey bark; the wood of this tree.

ash² *n* powdery residue of anything burnt; fine, volcanic lava.

ashamed /ə'ʃeɪmd/ *adj* feeling shame or guilt.—**ashamedly** *adv*.

ash can /'æʃ,kæn/ *n* a container for household refuse, a garbage can.

ashen /'æʃən/ *adj* like ashes, *esp* in colour; pale.

Ashkenazi /,æʃkə'nɒzi/ *n* (*pl Ashkenazim*) a Jew from Germany or eastern Europe.

ashlar, ashler /'æʃlɑr/ *n* a squared stone used in building; masonry of this; thin slabs of building stone squared for facing walls.

ashlaring /-ɪŋ/ *n* a wall faced with ashlar; a low wall of a garret, built close to where the rafters reach the floor.

ashore /ə'ʃɔr/ *adv* to or on the shore; to or on land.—*also* *adj*.

ashram /'æʃrəm/ *n* a Hindu religious retreat.

ashtray /'æʃtreɪ/ *n* a small receptacle for tobacco ash and cigarette stubs.

Ash Wednesday *n* the first day of Lent; a special day set apart for fasting.

ashy /'æʃi/ *adj* (**ashier**, **ashiest**) of ashes; ash-coloured, pale.

Asian /'eɪʒən/ *adj* of or relating to the continent of Asia, its inhabitants or languages.—*also n.*

Asiatic cholera *n* a virulent form of cholera.

aside /ə'saɪd/ *adv* on or to the side; in reserve; away from; notwithstanding.
• *n* words uttered and intended as inaudible, *esp* as spoken by an actor to the audience and supposedly unheard by the other actors on the stage.

asinine /'æsəˌnaɪn/ *adj* silly, stupid.—**asininity** *n.*

ask /æsk/ or /ɒsk/ *vt* to put a question to, inquire of; to make a request of or for; to invite; to demand, expect. • *vi* to inquire about.—**asker** *n.*

askance, **askant** /ə'skæns/ or /ə'skænt/ *adv* with a sideways glance; with distrust.

askew /ə'skjuː/ *adv* to one side; awry.—*also adj.*

aslant /ə'slænt/ *adv* not at right angles; obliquely. • *prep* slantingly across, athwart.

asleep /ə'sliːp/ *adj* sleeping; inactive; numb. • *adv* into a sleeping condition.

asocial /eɪ'soʊˌʃəl/ *adj* not capable of or avoiding social contact; antisocial.

asp /æsp/ *n* a small poisonous snake.

asparagus /ə'spærəgəs/ or /-spær-/ *n* a plant cultivated for its edible young shoots.

aspartame /'æspərˌteɪm/ *n* an artificial sweetener derived from an amino acid.

aspect /'æspɛkt/ *n* the look of a person or thing to the eye; a particular feature of a problem, situation, etc; the direction something faces; view; (*astro*) the position of the planets with respect to one another, regarded as having an influence on human affairs.

aspen /'æspən/ *n* a species of poplar with leaves that have tremble in the slightest breeze. • *adj* (*arch*) quivering.

aspergillus /,æspər'ɟɪlɪs/ *n* (*pl aspergilli*) a genus of microscopic fungi, to which several of the moulds belong.

asperity /ə'spɛrətɪ/ *n* (*pl asperities*)

hardship, severity; sharpness of temper.

asperser /ə'spɛrsər/ *vt* to slander; (*rare*) to besprinkle, to bespatter.—**asperser** *n.*—**aspersive** *adj.*

aspersions /ə'spɛrʒənz/ or /-ʃənz/ *n pl* slander; an attack on a person's reputation.

aspersorium /,æspər'sɔːrɪəm/ *n* (*pl aspersoria*, **aspersoriums**) a vessel containing holy water for sprinkling; a brush or metallic instrument used for sprinkling the water.

asphalt /'æsp, fɒlt/ or /'æʃ-/ *n* a hard, black bituminous substance, used for paving roads, etc. • *vt* to surface with asphalt.—**asphaltic** *adj.*

asphodel /'æsfəˌdɛl/ *n* one of several plants of the lily family; (*poet*) the daffodil; (*poet*) an immortal, unfading flower that bloomed in the meadows of Elysium (possibly the narcissus).

asphyxia /æ'sfɪksɪə/ *n* unconsciousness due to lack of oxygen or excess of carbon dioxide in the blood.

asphyxiate /-sɪˌeɪt/ *vt* to suffocate.—**asphyxiation** *n.*—**asphyxiator** *n.*

aspic /'æsp, pɪk/ *n* a savoury jelly used to coat fish, game, etc.

aspidistra /,æspɪ'dɪstrə/ *n* an Asian plant with broad leaves, grown as a house plant.

aspirant /'æspɪrənt/ or /ə'spaɪrənt/ *n* someone who aspires to something.

aspire¹ /'æspɛrət/ *n* the sound of *h*.

aspire² /'æspɛrɪt/ *vt* to pronounce with an *h*; to suck out using an aspirator.

aspiration /,æspɪ'reɪʃən/ *n* strong desire; ambition; the act of aspiring; the act of breathing; the withdrawal of air or fluid from a body cavity.—**aspiratory** *adj.*

aspirator /'æspɪrɪtɔːr/ *n* a device used to suck (air, fluid, etc) from a (body) cavity.

aspire /ə'spaɪr/ *vi* to desire eagerly; to aim at high things.—**aspirer** *n.*—**aspiring** *adj.*

aspirin /'æspɪrɪn/ or /-,prɪn/ *n* (*pl aspirin*, **aspirins**) acetylsalicylic acid, a pain-relieving drug.

asquint /ə'skwɪnt/ *adv*, *adj* with a squint, to or out of the corner of the eye; obliquely.

ass /æs/ *n* a donkey; a silly, stupid person; (*sl*) the arse, the buttocks.

assagai /'æsaˌgaɪ/ *see assegai.*

assai /æ'saɪ/ *adv* (*mus*) very, more, extremely.

assail /ə'seɪl/ *vt* to attack violently either physically or verbally. — **assailable** *adj.* — **assailer** *n.* — **assailment** *n.*

assailant /-ənt/ *n* an attacker.

assassin /ə'sæsmɪn/ *n* a murderer, *esp* one hired to kill a leading political figure, etc.

assassinate /-,eɪt/ *vt* to kill a political figure, etc; to harm (a person's reputation, etc). — **assassination** *n.*

assault /ə'sɔːlt/ *n* a violent attack; (*law*) an unlawful threat or attempt to harm another physically. • *vti* to make an assault (on); to rape. — **assaulter** *n.*

assault course *n* an obstacle course used for military training.

assay /ə'seɪ/ or /'æseɪ/ *n, vb* the analysis of the quantity of metal in an ore or alloy, *esp* the standard purity of gold or silver; a test. • *vt* (**assaying, assayed**) to subject to analysis; to determine the quantity or proportion of one or more of the constituents of a metal. — **assayable** *adj.* — **assayer** *n.*

assegai, assagai /'æsə'gɑɪ/ *n* (*pl* **assegais, assagais**) (*S Africa*) a light hardwood javelin or spear for casting or stabbing.

assemblage /ə'sembliːdʒ/ *n* a gathering of persons or things; (*art*) a form of collage.

assemble /-bəl/ *vti* to bring together; to collect; to fit together the parts of; (*comput*) to translate using an assembler.

assembler /-blər/ *n* (*comput*) a program that converts low-level mnemonic symbols into machine code.

assembly /-bli/ *n* (*pl* **assemblies**) assembling or being assembled; a gathering of persons, *esp* for a particular purpose; the fitting together of parts to make a whole machine, etc.

assembly line *n* a series of machines, equipment and workers through which a product passes in successive stages to be assembled.

assemblyman /ə'sembliːmən/ *n* (*pl* **assemblymen**) a member of a legislative assembly. — **assemblywoman** *nf* (*pl* **assemblywomen**)

assent /ə'sent/ *vi* to express agreement to something. • *n* consent or agreement. — **assenter, assenter** *n.*

assentation /'æsn'teɪʃən/ *n* compliance with the opinion of another, in flattery or obsequiousness.

assert /ə'sɔːrt/ *vt* to declare, affirm as true; to maintain or enforce (*eg* rights). — **assertible** *adj.*

assertion /ə'sɔːrʃən/ *n* an asserting; a statement that something is a fact, *usu* without evidence.

assertive /ə'sɔːrtɪv/ *adj* self-assured, positive, confident; dogmatic. — **assertively** *adv.* — **assertiveness** *n.*

assess /ə'ses/ *vt* to establish the amount of, as a tax; to impose a tax or fine; to value, for the purpose of taxation; to estimate the worth, importance, etc of. — **assessable** *adj.*

assessment /-mənt/ *n* the act of assessing or determining an amount to be paid; an official valuation of property, or income, for the purpose of taxation; the specific sum levied as tax, or assessed for damages.

assessor /-ər/ *n* a person appointed to assess property or persons for taxation; an expert appointed to assist a judge or magistrate as an adviser on special points of law. — **assessorial** *adj.*

asset /'æset/ *n* anything owned that has value; a desirable thing; (*pl*) all the property, accounts receivable, etc of a person or business; (*pl*) (*law*) property usable to pay debts.

asset-stripping *n* the practice of buying a company in order to sell off its assets at a profit. — **asset-stripper** *n.*

asseverate /ə'sevə'reɪt/ *vt* to declare solemnly; to affirm or aver positively. — **asseveration** *n.*

asshole /'æs,hə:l/ *n* (*sl*) a stupid person; (*vulg*) the anus.

assibilate /ə'sɪbəl'eɪt/ *vt* (*phonetics*) to pronounce with a hissing sound; to alter to a sibilant. — **assibilation** *n.*

assiduity /'æsrɪ'dʒu:ɪti/ or /-'dʒu:ɪti/ *n* (*pl* **assiduities**) close application, steady attention; diligence; (*usu pl*) constant attentions.

assiduous /ə'sɪdʒʊəs/ or /-dʒʊəs/ *adj* persistent or persevering; diligent. — **assiduously** *adv.* — **assiduousness** *n.*

assign /ə'saɪn/ *vt* to allot; to appoint to a post or duty; to ascribe; (*law*) to transfer (a right, property, etc). — **assignable** *adj.* — **assigner** *n.*

assignat /'æsgɪnət/ *n* a money or currency bond secured on state lands, issued by the French Revolutionary Government (1789–96).

assignation /'æsgɪneɪʃən/ *n* the act of assigning; a meeting, *esp* one made secretly by lovers.

assignee /ˌæsɑːniː/ *n* (*law*) one to whom an assignment of anything is made, either in trust or for his or her own use and enjoyment.

assignment /əˈsaɪnmənt/ *n* the act of assigning; something assigned to a person, such as a share, task, etc.

assignor /-ər/ *n* (*law*) one who assigns or transfers an interest.

assimilate /əˈsɪməˌleɪt/ *vt* to absorb; to digest; to take in and understand fully; to be ascribed; to be like.—

assimilable *adj.*—**assimilation** *n.*

assimilative /əˈsɪməˌleɪtɪv/,

assimilatory /-tɔːri/ *adj* having the power of assimilating, or causing assimilation, tending to produce assimilation.

assist /əˈsɪst/ *vti* to support or aid.—**assister** *n.*

assistance /əˈsɪstəns/ *n* help; furtherance; aid; succour; support.

assistant /-tənt/ *n* one who or that which assists; a helper; an auxiliary; a subordinate. • *adj* helping; lending aid; auxiliary.

assize /əˈsaɪz/ *n* (*pl* **assizes**) a court or session of justice for the trial by jury of civil or criminal cases; (*usu pl*) (*formerly*) the sessions held periodically in each county of England by judges of the Supreme Court; (*usu pl*) the time or place of holding the assize.

associable /əˈsəʊˌʃɪəbəl/ or /-ʃəbəl/ *adj* capable of being joined or associated; liable to be affected by sympathy with kindred parts or organs.

associate /əˈsəʊˌʃiːɪt/ or /-si-/ *vt*; /əˈsəʊˌʃət/ or /-siət/ *n*, *adj* to join as a friend, business partner or supporter; to bring together; to unite; to connect in the mind. • *vi* to combine or unite with others; to come together as friends, business partners or supporters. • *adj* allied or connected; having secondary status or privileges. • *n* a companion, business partner, supporter, etc; something closely connected with another; a person admitted to an association as a subordinate member.

association /əˈsəʊˌsiːʃən/ *n* an organization of people joined together for a common aim; the act of associating or being associated; a connection in the mind, memory, etc.

association football *n* football played with a round ball that is not handled, soccer.

associationism *n* (*psychol*) the mental connection existing between an object and the ideas related to it.

associative /əˈsəʊˌʃiːɪtɪv/ *adj* tending to or characterized by association; (*math*) having elements whose result is the same despite the grouping.

assonance /ˈæsnəns/ *n* a correspondence in sound between words or syllables.—**assonant** *adj*, *n.*—**assonantal** *adj.*

assort /əˈsɔːrt/ *vt* to arrange in groups according to kind. • *vi* to agree in kind.—**assortative**, **assortive** *adj.*—**assorter** *n.*

assorted /-ɪd/ *adj* distributed according to sorts; miscellaneous.

assortment /-mənt/ *n* a collection of people or things of different sorts.

asst *abbr* = assistant.

assuage /əˈswedʒ/ *vt* to soften the intensity of; to soothe.—**assuager** *n.*—**assuagement** *n.*—**assuasive** *adj.*

assume /əˈsuːm/ or /-ˈsjuːm/ *vt* to take on, to undertake; to usurp; to take as certain or true; to pretend to possess.—**assumable** *adj.*—**assumer** *n.*

assuming /əˈsuːmɪŋ/ or /-juː-/ *adj* presumptuous.

assumption /əˈsʌmpʃən/ *n* something taken for granted; the taking on of a position, *esp* of power; (*with cap*) the ascent of the Virgin Mary into heaven; (*RC Church*) the Christian feast in remembrance of this, celebrated 15 August.—**assumptive** *adj.*

assurance /əˈʃʊərəns/ *n* a promise, guarantee; a form of life insurance; a feeling of certainty, self-confidence.

assure /əˈʃʊər/ or /əˈʃʊər/ *vt* to make safe or certain; to give confidence to; to state positively; to guarantee, ensure.—**assurable** *adj.*—**assurer** *n.*

assured /əˈʃʊəd/ or /əˈʃʊəd/ *adj* certain; convinced; self-confident.—**assuredness** *n.*

assuredly /əˈʃʊədli/ or /əˈʃʊədli/ *adv* certainly.

assurgent /əˈsɔːrdʒənt/ *adj* ascending, rising; (*bot*) rising in a curve.

Assyrian /əˈsɪriən/ *adj* pertaining to Assyria, an ancient kingdom of Mesopotamia, or to its inhabitants or language. • *n* the language spoken in Assyria; an inhabitant of Assyria.

Assyriology /əˈsɪrɪˌplɒdʒi/ *n* the science or study of the extinct language and the antiquities of Assyria.—**Assyriologist** *n.*

astatic /eɪ'stætɪk/ or /ə-/ *adj* having a tendency not to stand still; unstable.—**astatically** *adv*.—**astaticism** *n*.
astatine /'æstə,tɪn/ *n* a radioactive element.
aster /'æstər/ *n* a kind of plant with round composite flowers; a Michaelmas daisy.
-aster /'æstər/ *n suffix* petty imitation, as in *poetaster*.
asteriated /'æs'tri:ɪətɪd/ *adj* (*crystal, etc*) radiated; having the form of a star.
asterisk /'æstərɪsk/ *n* a sign (*) used in writing or printing to mark omission of words, a footnote or other reference, etc. • *vt* to mark with an asterisk.
asterism /'æstə,rɪzəm/ *n* a group or cluster of stars; three asterisks placed in the form of a triangle (***) or (***) to direct attention to a particular passage; the star-like appearance in certain crystals.
astern /ə'stɜ:n/ *adv* behind a ship or aircraft; at or towards the rear of a ship, etc; backward.
asternal /eɪ'stɜ:nəl/ *adj* (*anat*) (*ribs*) not joined to the sternum or breastbone.
asteroid /'æstərɔɪd/ *n* any of the small planets between Mars and Jupiter. • *adj* star-like; star-shaped.—*also* **asteroidal**.
asthenia /'æst'θi:nɪə/ *n* debility, weakness.—**asthenic** *adj*.
asthma /'æzmə/ *n* a chronic respiratory condition causing difficulty with breathing.—**asthmatic** *adj*.—**asthmatically** *adv*.
asthmatic /æz'mætɪk/ *adj* of or suffering from or good for asthma. • *n* an asthmatic person.—**asthmatically** *adv*.
astigmatism /ə'stɪgmə,tɪzəm/ *n* a defective condition of the eye or lens causing poor focusing.—**astigmatic** *adj*.—**astigmatically** *adv*.
astir /ə'stɜ:/ *adv* moving or bustling about; out of bed.
astomatous /eɪ'stəmətəs/ *adj* (*biol*) lacking a mouth; without breathing pores.
astonish /ə'stɒnɪʃ/ *vt* to fill with sudden or great surprise.—**astonishing** *adj*.—**astonishment** *n*.
astound /ə'staʊnd/ *vt* to astonish greatly.—**astounding** *adj*.—**astoundingly** *adv*.
astraddle /ə'strædəl/ *adv* astride, straddling.

astragal /'æstrəgəl/ *n* (*archit*) a small moulding or bead of semicircular form; a ring of moulding round the top or bottom of a column.
astragalus /ə'strægələs/ *n* (*pl astragali*) the ball of the ankle joint; the lower bone into which the tibia articulates.
Astrakhan /'æstrə,kæn/ *n* the dark curly fleece of lambs from Astrakhan in Russia; a cloth with a curled pile made from or imitating this.
astral /'æstrəl/ *adj* of or from the stars.
astray /ə'streɪ/ *adv* off the right path; into error.
astride /ə'straɪd/ *adv* with a leg on either side. • *prep* extending across.
astringent /ə'strɪndʒənt/ *adj* that contracts body tissues; stopping blood flow, styptic; harsh; biting. • *n* an astringent substance.—**astringency** *n*.
astro- /'æstrə:/ *prefix* (*astrophysics*) of a star or stars.
astrodome /'æstrə,dɒm/ *n* a large sports stadium covered with a domed translucent roof.
astrolabe /'æstrə,lɛɪb/ or /-trə-/ *n* an instrument formerly used for taking altitudes of the sun and stars.
astrology /ə'strɒlədʒi/ *n* the study of planetary positions and motions to determine their supposed influence on human affairs.—**astrologer**, **astrologist** *n*.—**astrological** *adj*.—**astrologically** *adv*.
astrometry /ə'strɒmətri/ *n* the art by which the apparent relative magnitude of the stars is determined.—**astrometric**, **astrometrical** *adj*.
astronaut /'æstrə,nɒt/ *n* one trained to make flights in outer space.
astronautics /'æstrə'nɒtɪks/ *npl* (*used as sing*) the scientific study of space flight and technology.
astronomical, astronomic /'æstrə'nɒmɪkəl/ *adj* enormously large; of or relating to astronomy.—**astronomically** *adv*.
astronomical clock *n* a clock that keeps sidereal time.
astronomical year *n* a year the length of which is determined by astronomical observations.
astronomy /ə'strɒnəmi/ *n* the scientific investigation of the stars and other planets.—**astronomer** *n*.
astrophotography /'æstrə:fə'tɒgrəfi/ *n* photography of the heavenly bodies.—**astrophotographic** *adj*.

astrophysics /ˌæstrɒˈfɪzɪks/ *n* (used as *sing*) the branch of astronomy that deals with the physical and chemical constitution of the stars.—

astrophysical *adj.*—**astrophysicist** *n.*

astute /əˈstʊt/ or /-ˈstjuːt/ *adj* clever, perceptive; crafty, shrewd.—**astutely** *adv.*—**astuteness** *n.*

asunder /əˈsʌndər/ *adv* apart in direction or position; into pieces.

asylum /əˈsɪləm/ *n* a place of safety, a refuge; (formerly) an institution for the blind, the mentally ill, etc.

asymmetric /ˌeɪsəˈmɛtrɪk/, **asymmetrical** /ˌeɪsəˈmɛtrɪkəl/ *adj* lacking symmetry.—**asymmetrically** *adv.*

asymmetry /eɪˈsɪmɛtri/ or /æˈsɪm-/ *n* a lack of symmetry or proportion between the parts of a thing.

asymptote /ˈæsɪmp,tɔ:t/ or /ˈæsɪm,tɔ:t/ *n* (*geom*) the line that continually approaches nearer to a given curve without ever meeting it.—**asymptotic**, **asymptotical** *adj.*

asyndeton /əˈsɪndɛtən/ *n* (*pl asyndetons*, *asyndeta*) (*gram*) a figure of speech in which conjunctions are omitted, as “I came, I saw, I conquered”; such a figure.

At (*chem symbol*) astatine.

at- /æt/ *prefix* the form of *ad-* before *t*.

at /æt/ *prep* on; in; near; by; used to indicate location or position.

at. no. *abbr* = atomic number.

ataraxia /ˌætəˈræksɪə/, **ataraxy** /ˌætəˈræksɪ/ *n* impassivity; peace of mind.

atavism /ˌætəˈvɪzəm/ *n* the appearance in plants or animals of characteristics typical in more remote ancestors; reversion to a more primitive type.—

atavistic *adj.*—**atavistically** *adv.*

ataxia /əˈtæksɪə/ *n* irregularities in the functions of the body, *esp* muscular coordination, or in the course of a disease.—**ataxic**, **atactic** *adj.*

ate /eɪt/ *see eat*.

-ate /eɪt/ or /ət/ *adj suffix* having or furnished with, as *foliate*. • *n suffix* forming the equivalent of *pp*, as in *associate*.

atelier /ˌætəlˈjeɪ/ *n* a workshop; the studio of a painter or sculptor.

a tempo, **a tempo primo** /æˈtempo:/ *n* (*mus*) a direction to a musician to restore the original time after acceleration or retardation.

a tempo giusto *n* (*mus*) a direction to a performer to sing or play in strict time.

Athanasian Creed /ˌæθəˈneɪʃən/ *n* one of the three creeds thus named as containing an exposition of the doctrines of the Trinity and incarnation of Christ, which Athanasius, bishop of Alexandria (c.296–373), defended.

atheism /ˈeɪθiˌɪzəm/ *n* belief in the nonexistence of God.—**atheist** *n.*—**atheistic**, **atheistical** *adj.*

atheling /ˈæθəˌlɪŋ/ *n* an Anglo-Saxon title of honour conferred on royal children and young nobles.

atheneum, **atheneum** /ˌæθəˈniːəm/ or /-ˈneɪəm/ *n* a public institution, club or building devoted to the purposes or study of literature, science and art; a literary club; (*with cap*) the temple of Athena in ancient Athens, where scholars met.

Athenian /əˈθiːniən/ *adj* pertaining to Athens, the capital of Greece. • *n* a native or citizen of Athens.

athermanous /eɪˈθərmənəs/ *adj* resisting the passage of heat; nonconducting.—**athermany** *n.*

atherosclerosis /ˌæθəroːskləˈrɔːsɪs/ *n* (*pl atheroscleroses*) a degenerative disease of the arteries characterized by deposition of fatty material on the inner arterial walls.—**atherosclerotic** *adj.*

athirst /əˈθərst/ *adj* thirsty; eager (*for*).

athlete /ˈæθliːt/ *n* a person trained in games or exercises requiring skill, speed, strength, stamina, etc.

athlete's foot *n* a fungal infection of the feet.

athletic /æθˈletɪk/ *adj* of athletes or athletics; active, vigorous. —

athletically *adv.*—**athleticism** *n.*

athletics /æθˈletɪks/ *n* (used as *sing* or *pl*) running, jumping, throwing sports, games, etc.

athwart /əˈθwɔːt/ *prep* across, from side to side. • *adv* crosswise;

obliquely; across the course or direction of a ship; adversely (*to*).

atilt /əˈtɪlt/ *adv* in the position or with the action of a person making a thrust; tilted.

-ation /ˈeɪʃən/ *n suffix* denoting action or its result, as in *flirtation*, *vacation*.

atlantes /ətˈlæntiːz/ *see atlas*².

Atlantic /ətˈlæntɪk/ *adj* of, near or relating to the Atlantic Ocean.

Atlantic salmon *n* a salmon of the coastal North Atlantic Ocean and its tributaries.

atlas¹ /ˈætləs/ *n* a book containing maps, charts and tables.

atlas² *n* (*pl atlantes*) (*archit*) a figure or half-figure of a man, used in place of a column or pilaster to support an entablature.—*also telamon.*

ATM /ˌeɪti:em/ *abbr* = automated teller machine.

atmo- /ætmə/ or /ætma/ *prefix* vapour, air, atmosphere.

atmometer /æ'tməmətə/ *n* an instrument for measuring the rate and amount of evaporation from a moist surface.— **atmometry** *n.*

atmosphere /'ætməs,fi:r/ *n* the gaseous mixture that surrounds the earth or the other stars and planets; a unit of pressure equal to the pressure of the atmosphere at sea level; any dominant or surrounding influence; special mood or aura.—**atmospheric, atmospherical** *adj.*

atmospherics /'ætməs'fi:riks/ or /'fɛriks/ *n pl* interference in radio reception, etc caused by atmospheric disturbances.

atoll /'ætɒl/ *n* a coral reef enclosing a central lagoon.

atom /'ætəm/ *n* the smallest particle of a chemical element; a tiny particle, bit.

atomic /ə'tɒmɪk/ *adj* pertaining to or consisting of atoms; extremely minute.—**atomically** *adv.*

atomic bomb *n* a bomb whose explosive power derives from the atomic energy released during nuclear fission or fusion.—*also A-bomb.*

atomic energy *n* the energy derived from nuclear fission.

atomicity /ˌætə'mɪsɪti/ *n* the number of atoms in a molecule of an element; equivalence; the combining capacity of an element, valency.

atomic theory *n* the theory that elemental bodies consist of ultimate atoms of definite weight, and that atoms of different elements unite chemically with each other in fixed proportions.

atomic weight *n* the weight of the atom of any element as compared with another taken as a standard, *usu* hydrogen, taken as 1.

atomism /'ætə'mɪzəm/ *n* the doctrine of atoms, atomic theory.—**atomist** *n.*—**atomistic, atomistical** *adj.*

atomize /ˌætə'maɪz/ *vt* to reduce to a fine spray or minute particles.—**atomization** *n.*

atomizer /'ætə'maɪzə/ *n* a device for atomizing liquids, *usu* perfumes or cleaning agents.

atonal /eɪ'to:nəl/ *adj* (*mus*) avoiding traditional tonality; not written in any established key.—**atonality** *n.*—**atonally** *adv.*

atone /ə'to:n/ *vi* to give satisfaction or make amends (for).—**atonable, atoneable** *adj.*—**atoner** *n.*

atonement /ə'to:nmənt/ *n* satisfaction, reparation; (*Christianity: with cap*) the reconciliation of humankind with God through Christ's self-sacrifice.

atonic /ə'tɒnɪk/ *adj* (*word, etc*) unaccented; lacking tone, or vital energy. • *n* an unaccented word or syllable; a medicine to allay excitement.—**atonicity** *n.*

atony /'ætəni/ *n* lack of tone; debility; weakness of any organ.

atop /ə'tɒp/ *adv* on or at the top.

atrip /ə'trɪp/ *adv* (*naut*) (*anchor*) just clear of the ground.

atrium /'eɪtrɪəm/ *n* (*pl atria* /'eɪtrɪə/, *atriums* /'eɪtrɪəms/) an auricle of the heart; the unroofed courtyard of a Roman house; an entrance hall that rises up several storeys, often with a glass roof.

atrocious /ə'tro:ʃəs/ *adj* extremely brutal or wicked; (*inf*) very bad, of poor quality.—**atrociously** *adv.*

atrociousness /ə'tro:ʃɪs/ *n* (*pl atrocities*) a cruel act; something ruthless, wicked, repellent.

atrophy /'ætrəfi/ *n* (*pl atrophies*) a wasting away or failure to grow of a bodily organ. • *vi* (**atrophying, atrophied**) to cause or undergo atrophy.

atropine, atropin /'ætrə'pi:n/ or /'ætrə'pɪn/ *n* a crystalline alkaloid of a very poisonous nature extracted from the deadly nightshade (*belladonna*), having the singular property of producing dilatation of the pupil of the eye.

attacca /'ætəkə/ *n* (*mus*) a direction to a performer at the end of a movement to follow on with the next without pause.

attach /ə'tætʃ/ *vt* to fix or fasten to something; to appoint to a specific group; to ascribe, attribute. • *vi* to become attached; to adhere.—**attachable** *adj.*—**attacher** *n.*

attaché /æ'tæʃ'eɪ/ or /ˌætəʃ'eɪ/ *n* a technical expert on a diplomatic staff.

attaché case *n* a flat case for carrying documents, etc.

attached /ə'tætʃt/ *adj* fixed; feeling affection for.

attachment /ə'tætʃmənt/ *n* a fastening; affection, devotion; something attached; a device or part fixed to a machine, implement, etc; the act of attaching or being attached.

attack /ə'tæk/ *vt* to set upon violently; to assault in speech or writing; to invade, as of a disease. • *vi* to make an assault. • *n* an assault; a fit of illness; severe criticism; an enthusiastic beginning of a performance, task, undertaking, etc.—**attacker** *n*.

attain /ə'teɪn/ *vt* to succeed in getting or arriving at; to achieve. • *vi* to come to or arrive at by growth or effort.—**attainable** *adj*.—**attainability** *n*.

attainder /ə'teɪndə/ *n* loss of estate and civil rights following conviction for high treason.

attainment /ə'teɪnmənt/ *n* something attained; an accomplishment.

attaint /ə'teɪnt/ *vt* to subject to attainder; to infect; to stain, to disgrace.

attar /'ætɑː/ *n* a fragrant essential oil extracted from rose petals and used in making perfume.

attempt /ə'tempt/ *vt* to try to accomplish, get, etc. • *n* an endeavour or effort to accomplish; an attack, assault.—**attemptable** *adj*.—**attempter** *n*.

attend /ə'tend/ *vt* to take care of; to go with, accompany; to be present at. • *vi* to apply oneself (to); to deal with, give attention to.—**attender** *n*.

attendance /ə'tendəns/ *n* attending; the number of people present; the number of times a person attends.

attendant /ə'tendənt/ *n* a person who serves or accompanies another; someone employed to assist or guide. • *adj* accompanying, following as a result; being in attendance.

attention /ə'tenʃən/ *n* the application of the mind to a particular purpose, aim, etc; awareness, notice; care, consideration; (*usu. pl*) an act of civility or courtesy; (*usu. pl*) indications of admiration or love; (*mil*) a soldier's formal erect posture.

attentive /ə'tentɪv/ *adj* observant, diligent; courteous.—**attentively** *adv*.—**attentiveness** *n*.

attenuate /ətenu'eɪt/ *vt* to make thin; to weaken; to reduce the force or severity of. • *vi* to become thin; to weaken.—**attenuation** *n*.

attest /ə'test/ *vt* to state as true; to

certify, as by oath; to give proof of.

• *vi* to testify, bear witness (to).—**attestable** *adj*.—**attestation** *n*.—**attester**, **attestor** *n*.

attestation /,ætə'steɪʃən/ *n* the act of attesting; testimony or evidence given on oath or by official declaration; swearing in.

attic /'ætɪk/ *n* the room or space just under the roof; a garret.

Attic *adj* pertaining to Attica in Greece; classical; elegant. • *n* a dialect of ancient Athens.

Attic order *n* a square column of any of the five Greek orders of architecture.

atticism /'ætɪs, sɪzəm/ *n* an elegant expression; (*with cap*) a peculiarity of style or idiom characterizing the Attic rendering of the Greek language.

Attic salt, **Attic wit** *n* delicate wit.

attire /ə'taɪr/ *vt* to clothe; to dress up. • *n* dress, clothing.

attitude /'ætɪ,tju:d/ or /'ætɪ,tju:d/ *n* posture, position of the body; a manner of thought or feeling; behaviour; the position of an aircraft or spacecraft in relation to certain reference points.—**attitudinal** *adj*.

attitudinize /,ætɪ'tu:di,naɪz/ or /,ætɪ'tju:-/ *vi* to assume affected postures, to pose for effect.—**attitudinizer** *n*.

attorn /ə'tɔːn/ *vti* to transfer; to make legal acknowledgment of a new landlord.—**attornment** *n*.

attorney /ə'tɔːni/ *n* (*pl attorneys*) one legally authorized to act for another; a lawyer.

attorney general *n* (*pl attorneys general*, **attorneys generals**) the chief law officer of a state or nation acting as its legal representative and advising the chief executive on legal matters.

attract /ə'trækt/ *vt* to pull towards oneself; to get the admiration, attention, etc of. • *vi* to be attractive.—**attractable** *adj*.—**attractor** *n*.

attraction /ə'trækʃən/ *n* the act of attraction; the power of attracting, *esp* charm; (*physics*) the mutual action by which bodies tend to be drawn together.

attractive /ə'træktɪv/ *adj* pleasing in appearance, etc; arousing interest; able to draw or pull.—**attractively** *adv*.—**attractiveness** *n*.

attribute /ə'trɪbjʊ:t/ *vt* to regard as belonging to; to ascribe, impute (to).

• *n* a quality, a characteristic of.—**attributable** *adj.*
attribution /ˌætrɪˈbjʊ:ʃən/ *n* the act of attributing, *esp* a work of art, etc to a particular creator; a designation; a function.—**attributational** *adj.*
attributive /əˈtrɪbjʊtɪv/ *adj* expressing an attribute; (*gram*) qualifying. • *n* a word joined to and describing a noun; an adjective or adjective phrase.—**attributively** *adv.*
attributive *adj* pertaining to, of the nature of, or expressing, an attribute; (*gram*) qualifying. • *n* a word denoting an attribute; a word joined to and describing a noun; an adjective or adjectival phrase.
attrition /əˈtrɪʃən/ *n* a grinding down by or as by friction; a relentless wearing down and weakening; natural wastage or reduction of a workforce by not employing replacements for those who resign or leave.—**attritional** *adj.*—**attritive** *adj.*
attune /əˈtju:n/ or /əˈtu:n/ *vt* to bring (a person or thing) into harmony with; to adapt.
at. wt. *abbr* = atomic weight.
atypical /eɪˈtɪpɪkəl/ *adj* not according to type; without definite typical character.—**atypically** *adv.*
Au (*chem symbol*) gold.
aubade /o:ˈbɒd/ *n* a musical announcement of dawn; a sunrise song.
auberge *Fr.* /o:ˈbɛrʒ/ *n* an inn.
aubergine /ˈo:bɛrʒi:n/ *n* a plant producing a smooth, dark-purple fruit; this fruit used as a vegetable.—**also** **eggplant**.
aubretia, aubretia /əˈbri:ʃə/ *n* a small purple-flowered perennial plant.
auburn /ˈɒbɜ:n/ *adj* reddish brown.
au contraire *Fr.* /o: kɔ:ˈtrɛr/ *adv* on the contrary.
au courant *Fr.* /o: ku:ˈrɑ: / *adj* well-informed, *esp* in current affairs.
auction /ˈɔ:kʃən/ *n* a public sale of items to the highest bidder. • *vt* to sell by or at an auction.
auction bridge *n* a form of bridge in which the players contract to take a certain number of tricks, with extra tricks counting towards game.
auctioneer /ˌɔ:kʃəˈni:t/ *n* one who conducts an auction.
audacious /vˈdeɪʃəs/ *adj* daring, adventurous; bold; rash; insolent.—**audaciously** *adv.*—**audaciousness** *n.*

audacity /vˈdæsɪti/ *n* (*pl* **audacities**) boldness; daring; spirit; presumptuousness; impudence; effrontery.
audible /ˈɒdɪbəl/ *adj* heard or able to be heard.—**audibility** *n.*—**audibly** *adv.*
audience /ˈɒdiəns/ *n* a gathering of listeners or spectators; the people addressed by a book, play, film, etc; a formal interview or meeting, *esp* one in which one's views are heard.
audile /ˈɒdaɪl/ *adj* received through hearing.
audio /ˈɒdiə/ *n* sound; the reproduction, transmission or reception of sound.
audio frequency *n* a frequency audible to the human ear.
audiometer /ˌpɒdiˈɒmɪtər/ *n* an instrument for gauging the power of hearing.—**audiometric** *adj.*—**audiometrically** *adv.*—**audiometry** *n.*
audiotypist /ˌpɒdiəˈtaɪpɪst/ *n* a typist who works from a recording.
audiovisual /-vɪʒuəl/ *adj* using both sound and vision, as in teaching aids.
audit /ˈɒdɪt/ *n* the inspection and verification of business accounts by a qualified accountant. • *vt* to make such an inspection.
audition /vˈdɪʃən/ *n* a trial to test a performer. • *vti* to test or be tested by audition.
auditor /ˈɒdɪtər/ *n* a person qualified to audit business accounts.—**auditorial** *adj.*
auditorium /ˌpɒdiˈtɔ:riəm/ *n* (*pl* **auditoriums** /ˌpɒdiˈtɔ:riəms/, **auditoria**) the part of a building allotted to the audience; a building or hall for speeches, concerts, etc.
auditory /ˈɒdiˈtɔ:ri/ *adj* of or relating to the sense of hearing.
au fait /o:ˈfeɪ/ *adj* fully informed about; competent.
au fond *Fr.* /o:ˈfɔ: / *fundamentally*.
auf Wiedersehen *Ger.* /aufˈvi:dərˌzeɪən/ *interj*, *n* till we meet again.
Aug. *abbr* = August.
auger /ˈɒgər/ *n* a tool for boring holes, a large gimlet.
ought /ɒt/ *n* anything; any part. • *adv* (*arch*) in any degree, in any way; at all.—**also** **ought**.
augite /ˈɒdʒaɪt/ or /ˈɒg-/ *n* a variety of pyroxene of a black or dark green colour.—**augitic** *adj.*

augment /bʊɡ'ment/ *vti* to increase.—
augmentable *adj.*—**augmenter**,
augmentor *n.*

augmentation /bʊɡ'men'teɪʃən/ *n*
enlargement, addition, increase;
(*mus*) the increase in time value of the
notes of a theme; (*her*) an additional
charge to a coat of arms bestowed as a
mark of honour.

augmentative /bʊɡ'men'tətɪv/ *adj*
having the quality or power of
augmenting; (*gram*) increasing in
force the idea of a word. • *n* a word
or affix that expresses with greater
force the idea conveyed by the term
from which it is derived, opposite of
diminutive.

au gratin /,o:græ'tæ/ *adj* topped with
breadcrumbs and breadcrumbs and
cheese, and cooked until crisp.

augur /'bʊgər/ *vti* to prophesy; to be an
omen (of).—**augural** *adj.*

augury /'bʊdʒəri/ *n* (*pl* **auguries**) the
art or practice of foretelling events by
reference to natural signs or omens;
an omen; prediction; presage.

August /'bʊgəst/ *n* the eighth month of
the year, having 31 days.

august /'bʊgəst/ *adj* imposing; majestic.

Augustan /'bʊgəstən/ *adj* of or
pertaining to Augustus Caesar,
emperor of Rome, or his reign, during
which Roman literature gained its
highest point; of or pertaining to the
period of the highest stage of literary
excellence in other countries.

auk /bʊk/ *n* a northern sea bird with
short wings used as paddles.

au lait /o:'leɪ/ *adj* with milk.

auld lang syne /,o:ld læŋ'saɪn/ or /,pld
læŋ'saɪn/ *n* days of old; long ago.

au naturel /,o:nætʃə'reɪl/ *adj, adv* in
the natural state; cooked plainly; raw;
nude.

aunt /bʌnt/ or /ænt/ *n* a father's or
mother's sister; an uncle's wife.

auntie, **aunty** /'ænti/ or /'bʌnti/ (*pl*
aunties /'ænti:z/) (*inf*) aunt.

au pair /o:'peɪr/ *n* a person, *esp* a girl,
from abroad who performs domestic
chores, child-minding, etc in return
for board and lodging.

aura /'ɔ:rə/ *n* (*pl* **auras**, **auræ**) a
particular quality or atmosphere
surrounding a person or thing.

aural /'ɔ:rəl/ *adj* of the ear or the sense
of hearing.—**aurally** *adv.*

aural *adj* of the air or an aura.

au revoir /o:rə'vwa:r/ *n* goodbye for the
present.

aureate /'ɔ:riət/ *adj* golden; gilded;
golden yellow.

aureole /'ɔ:ri:əl/, **aureola** /'ɔ:ri:ələ/
n (*art*) a halo, radiance, or luminous
cloud encircling the figures of Christ,
the virgin and the saints in sacred
pictures; anything resembling an
aureole.

auric /o:'ri:k/ *adj* of or pertaining to
gold.

auricle /'ɔ:rikəl/ *n* the external part
of the ear; either of the two upper
chambers of the heart.

auricular /ɔ'r'ɪkjʊlə/ *n* (*pl* **auriculas**,
auriculæ) a species of primrose with
leaves the shape of a bear's ear.

auricular /ɔ'r'ɪkjʊlə/ *adj* of or received
by the ear; shaped like an ear; spoken
privately; relating to the auricles of
the heart.

auriculate /ɔ'r'ɪkjʊlət/ *adj* ear-shaped;
having ears or ear-like appendages.

auriferous /ɔ'r'ɪfərəs/ *adj* gold-bearing;
yielding or containing gold.

aurochs /'ɔ:rɒks/ *n* (*pl* **aurochs**) an
extinct wild ox of North Africa,
Europe and Asia.

aurora /ə'rɔ:rə/ *n* (*pl* **auroras** /ə'rɔ:rəs/,
auroræ /ə'rɔ:ri/) either of the
luminous bands seen in the night sky
in the polar regions.—*also* **northern
lights**.

aurora australis /-ð'stræɪlɪs/ *n* the
aurora seen at the South Pole.

aurora borealis /-,bɔ:ri'æɪlɪs/ *n* the
aurora seen at the North Pole.

aurous /'ɔ:rəs/ *adj* of or bearing gold.

auscultate /'ɔ:skəl'teɪt/ *vt* to examine
by auscultation.—**auscultator** *n.*—
auscultatory *adj.*

auscultation /,ɔ:skəl'teɪʃən/ *n* a
listening to the sounds of the heart,
lungs, etc in the chest for medical
diagnosis.

auspex /'ɔ:ps,peks/ *n* (*pl* **auspices**
/'ɔ:spɪsɪz/) one who divined by
observation of birds in ancient Rome.

auspice /'ɔ:spɪs/ *n* (*pl* **auspices**
/'ɔ:spɪsɪz/) an omen; (*pl*) sponsorship;
patronage.

auspicious /ɔ'spɪʃəs/ *adj* showing
promise, favourable.—**auspiciously**
adv.

Aussie /'bʌzi/ or /'bsi/ *n* (*sl*) an
Australian.

austere /ɔ'sti:t/ *adj* stern, forbidding
in attitude or appearance; abstemious;
severely simple, plain.—**austerely**
adv.—**austereness** *n.*

austerity /ɔ'steri:tɪ/ *n* (*pl* **austerities**

/'ɒspəsəs/) being austere; economic privation.

austral /'ɒstrəl/ *adj* southern; (*with cap*) Australian.

Australasian /'ɒstrə'leɪʒən/ *adj* of or pertaining to Australasia (Australia, New Zealand and adjacent islands). • *n* a native or inhabitant of Australasia.

Australian /ɒ'streɪliən/ *adj* of or pertaining to Australia. • *n* a native or inhabitant of Australia.

Australoid /'ɒstrə'ɔɪd/ *adj* of the variety of human population that includes the Australian aborigines. • *n* an Australoid person.

autarchy /'ɒtɑːki/ *n* (*pl* **autarchies** /'ɒtɑːki:z/) absolute or autocratic rule or sovereignty; a country governed in such a way; autarky.—**autarchic**, **autarchical** *adj*.

autarky /'ɒtɑːki/ *n* (*pl* **autarkies** /'ɒtɑːki:z/) self-sufficiency, *esp* in the economic sphere; the policy of encouraging economic self-sufficiency.—**autarkic**, **autarkical** *adj*.

authentic /ɒ'θentɪk/ *adj* genuine, conforming to truth or reality; trustworthy, reliable.—**authentically** *adv*.—**authenticity** *n*.

authenticate /ɒ'θentɪ'keɪt/ *vt* to demonstrate the authenticity of; to make valid; to verify.—**authentication** *n*.—**authenticator** *n*.

author /'ɒθər/ *n* a person who brings something into existence; the writer of a book, article, etc. • *vt* to be the author of.—**authoress** *nf*.—**authorial** *adj*.

authoritarian /ɒ'θɒrɪ'terɪən/ or /-θɔː-/ , /ɒ-/ *adj* favouring strict obedience; dictatorial. • *n* a person advocating authoritarian principles.—**authoritarianism** *n*.

authoritative /ɒ'θɒrɪ'teɪv/ or /-θɔː-/ , /ɒ-/ *adj* commanding or possessing authority; accepted as true; official.—**authoritatively** *adv*.

authority /ɒ'θɒrɪti/ or /-θɔː-/ , /ɒ-/ *n* (*pl* **authorities** /ɒ'θɒrətɪ:z/) the power or right to command; (*pl*) officials with this power; influence resulting from knowledge, prestige, etc; a person, writing, etc cited to support an opinion; an expert.

authorize /'ɒθə'raɪz/ *vt* to give authority to, to empower; to give official approval to, sanction.—**authorization** *n*.

Authorized Version

/'ɒθə'raɪz'd'vɔːzən/ *n* the version of the Bible published by the sanction of James I of England in 1611 and appointed to be read in churches.— *also* **King James Bible**, **King James Version**.

authorship /'ɒθərʃɪp/ *n* the writing profession; the origin (of book).

autism /'ɒtɪzəm/ *n* (*psychiatry*) a mental state, *usu* of children, marked by disregard of external reality.—**autistic** *adj*.

auto /'ɒtə:/ *n* (*pl* **autos** /'ɒtə:z/) (*inf*) an automobile.

auto- /'ɒtə:/ or /'ɒtə:/ *prefix* self; by oneself or itself.

autobahn /'ɒtə;bʌn/ *n* a German, Austrian or Swiss motorway.

autobiography /'ɒtə:bai'ɒgrəfi/ *n* (*pl* **autobiographies** /'ɒtə:bai'ɒgrəfi:z/) the biography of a person written by himself or herself.—**autobiographer** *n*.—**autobiographical** *adj*.

autocephalous /'ɒtə:'sefələs/ *adj* having its own head; independent.

autochondriac /'ɒtə:kɒndrɪ'æk/ *n* a person who is preoccupied with his or her car.

autochthon /ɒ'tɒkθən/ *n* (*pl* **autochthons**, **autochthones**) an earliest known inhabitant, an aboriginal.

autochthonous /-nəs/, **autochthonal** /-nəl/ *adj* pertaining to primitive inhabitants; indigenous, native to the soil.—**autochthonism**, **autochthony** *n*.

autoclave /'ɒtə'kleɪv/ *n* a strong container used for chemical reactions at high temperatures and pressures; a device for sterilizing implements using steam at high pressure.

autocracy /ɒ'tɒkrəsi/ *n* (*pl* **autocracies**) government by one person with absolute power.

autocrat /'ɒtə'kræt/ *n* an absolute ruler; any domineering person.—**autocratic** *adj*.—**autocratically** *adv*.

autocross /'ɒtə;krɒs/ *n* cross-country motor racing.

Autocue /'ɒtə:kju:/ *n* (*trademark*) a prompting device used in TV, etc, which provides speakers with a script that remains invisible to the audience.—*also* **Teleprompter**.

auto-da-fé /'ɒtə:dæ'feɪ/ or /'ɒtə:z-/ , *Fr.* /'ɒtədə'fe/ *n* (*pl* **autos-da-fé**) a public judgment by the Spanish Inquisition upon prisoners tried for heresy and other offences against the religious or civil law; the subsequent

execution of such sentences by burning.

autoeroticism /ˌptɔːəˈrɒtɪˌsɪzəm/,
autoerotism /-ˈɛrəˌtɪzəm/ *n*
 self-produced sexual emotion.—
autoerotic *adj.*

autogamy /ɒˈtɒɡəmi/ *n* self-
 fertilization.—**autogamous** *adj.*

autogenesis /ˌptɔːˈdʒɛnəsɪs/,
autogeny /ˌptɔːˈdʒɛni/ *n* spontaneous
 generation.—**autogenetic** *adj.*

autogenous /ɒˈtɒdʒənəs/ *adj* self-
 generated; produced independently.

autogyro, **autogiro** /ˌptɔːˈdʒaɪrɔː/ *n*
 (*pl* **autogyros**, **autogiros**) an aircraft
 like a helicopter but with unpowered
 rotor blades.

autograph /ˈɒtəˌɡræf/ *n* a pers on's
 signature. • *vt* to write one's signature
 in or on.—**autographic** *adj.*—
autographically *adv.*

autography /ɒˌtɒɡrəˈfi/ *n* one's own
 handwriting; a lithographic process by
 which copies of writings or drawings
 are reproduced in facsimile.

autolysis /ɒˈtɒlɪsɪs/ *n* the destruction of
 cells of a body by the action of its own
 serum.—**autolytic** *adj.*

automaker /ˈɒtəˌmeɪkə/ *n* a
 manufacturer of automobiles.

automat /ˈɒtəˌmæt/ *n* a vending
 machine; in US, a restaurant equipped
 with slot machines for dispensing food
 and drink.

automate /ˈɒtəˌmeɪt/ *vt* to control by
 automation; to convert to automatic
 operation.

automated telling machine *n* a device
 that provides cash and other banking
 services automatically when activated
 by a plastic card issued to customers;
 a cash dispenser.—*also* **autoteller**.

automatic /ˌptɔːˈmætɪk/ *adj* involuntary
 or reflexive; self-regulating; acting
 by itself. • *n* an automatic pistol or
 rifle.—**automatically** *adv.*

automatic pilot *n* a device that
 can maintain an aircraft or ship
 on a previously set course.—*also*
autopilot.

automatic transmission *n* a system
 in a motor vehicle for changing gears
 automatically.

automation /ˌptɔːˈmɛɪʃən/ *n* the use of
 automatic methods, machinery, etc in
 industry.

automatism /ɒˈtɒməˌtɪzəm/ *n*
 automatic action; involuntary action;
 mechanical routine; the doctrine that
 assigns all animal functions to the

active operation of physical laws.—
automatist *n.*

automaton /ɒˈtɒməˌtɒn/ *n* (*pl*
automatons, **automata**) any
 automatic device, *esp* a robot; a human
 being who acts like a robot.

automatous /ɒˈtɒmətəs/ *adj*
 spontaneous; of the nature of an
 automaton.

automobile /ˈɒtəməˌbiːl/ *n* a *usu*
 four-wheeled vehicle powered by an
 internal combustion engine.—*also*
motor car.

automotive /ˌptɔːˈmɔːtɪv/ *adj* relating to
 motor vehicles.

autonomy /ɒˈtɒnəmi/ *n* (*pl*
autonomies) freedom of self-
 determination; independence, self-
 government.—**autonomous** *adj.*

autopilot /ˈɒtəˌpaɪlət/ *n* automatic
 pilot.

autoplasty /-plæsti/ *n* the process of
 repairing lesions by application of
 tissue removed from another part of
 the same body.—**autoplastic** *adj.*

autopsy /ˈɒˌtɒpsi/ *n* (*pl* **autopsies**)
 a post-mortem examination to
 determine the cause of death.

autoroute /ˈɒtəˌruːt/ *n* a French
 motorway.

autostrada /ˈɒtəˌstrædə/ *n* an Italian
 motorway.

autosuggestion /ˌptɔːsəˈdʒɛstʃən/
 or /-səɡˈdʒɛst/ *n* (*psychoanal*) self-
 applied suggestion.—**autosuggestive**
adj.

autoteller *see* **automated telling
 machine**.

autotoxin /ˌptɔːˈtɒksɪn/ *n* a poisonous
 substance produced by changes within
 an organism.—**autotoxic** *adj.*

autumn /ˈɒtəm/ *n* the season between
 summer and winter.—*also* **fall**.

autumnal /ɒˈtɒmnəl/ *adj* belonging
 or peculiar to autumn; produced or
 gathered in autumn; pertaining to the
 period of life when middle age is past.
 • *n* a plant that flowers in autumn.

aux. /ɒks/ *abbr* = auxiliary.

auxiliary /ɒɡˈzɪljəri/ or /-ˈzɪljəri/
adj providing help, subsidiary;
 supplementary. • *n* (*pl* **auxiliaries**) a
 helper; (*gram*) a verb that helps form
 tenses, moods, voices, etc of other
 verbs, as *have*, *be*, *may*, *shall*, etc.

AV /ˈeɪˈviː/ *abbr* = ad valorem;
 audiovisual; Authorized Version.

avadavat /ˌævədəˈvæt/ *n* a small Asian
 finch-like bird, kept as a caged bird
 for its song.

avail /ə'veɪl/ *vt* to be of use or advantage to. • *n* benefit, use or help.

available /ə'veɪləbəl/ *adj* ready for use; obtainable, accessible. —**availability** *n.*—**availably** *adv.*

avalanche /'ævə,læntʃ/ *n* a mass of snow, ice, and rock tumbling down a mountainside; a sudden overwhelming accumulation or influx.

avalanche lily *n* a plant of the lily family with a large yellow flower found near the snow line on mountains.

avant-garde /,ævɒnt'gɑ:d/, *Fr.* /ævɑ'gɑ:d/ *n* (*arts*) those ideas and practices regarded as in advance of those generally accepted. • *adj* pertaining to such ideas and practices and their creators. —**avant-gardism** *n.*

avarice /'ævərɪs/ *n* greed for wealth.—**avaricious** *adj.*—**avariciously** *adv.*

avast /ə'væst/ *interj* (*naut*) stop! cease! hold!

avatar /'ævə,tɑ:r/ *n* (*Hinduism*) the descent to earth of a deity in an incarnate form; manifestation or embodiment; transference of personality.

avdp. *abbr* = avoidupois.

ave /'nveɪ/ *interj* hail; farewell. • *n* an Ave Maria; a salutation.

Ave, ave *abbr* = avenue.

Ave Maria /'nveɪmərɪ:ə/ *n* (*RC Church*) Hail Mary.

avenge /ə'vendʒ/ *vt* to get revenge for.—**avenger** *n.*

avens /'ævənz/ *n* (*pl avens*) the popular name of plants to which the herb bennet belongs.

aventurine /ə'ventʃə,rɪ:n/ *n* a brown, gold-spangled kind of Venetian glass; a variety of micaceous quartz or feldspar.

avenue /'ævə,nju:/ *n* a street, drive, etc, *esp* when broad; means of access; the way to an objective.

aver /ə'vər/ *vt* (**averring, averred**) to state as true; to assert. —**averment** *n.*

average /'ævrɪdʒ/ *n* the result of dividing the sum of two or more quantities by the number of quantities; the usual kind, amount, quality, etc. • *vt* to calculate the average of; to achieve an average number of.

averse /ə'vɔ:s/ *adj* unwilling; opposed (to).

aversion /ə'vɔ:rʒən/ or /-ʃən/ *n* antipathy; hatred; something arousing hatred or repugnance.

avert /ə'vɔ:t/ *vt* to turn away or aside from; to prevent, avoid. —**avertible, avertable** *adj.*

avian /'eɪvɪən/ *adj* of or pertaining to birds.

aviary /'eɪvɪ,eri/ *n* (*pl aviaries*) a building or large cage for keeping birds.

aviate /'eɪvɪət/ *vi* to pilot or travel in an aircraft.

aviation /,eɪvɪ'eɪʃən/ *n* the art or science of flying aircraft.

aviator /'eɪvɪ,eɪtər/ *n* a pilot, *esp* in the early history of flying.

aviculture /'eɪvɪ,kʌltʃər/ *n* the breeding and rearing of birds. —**aviculturist** *n.*

avid /'ævɪd/ *adj* eager, greedy.—**avidly** *adv.*

avidity /ə'vɪdɪti/ *n* greediness; eagerness; strong appetite.

avifauna /'eɪvɪ,fʌnə/ *n* (*pl avifaunae*) the birds of a region regarded collectively.—**avifaunal** *adj.*

avionics /,eɪvɪ'ɒnɪks/ *n* (*used as sing*) the application of electronics in aviation.—**avionic** *adj.*

avocado /,ævə'kɒdə/ *n* (*pl avocados*) a thick-skinned, pear-shaped fruit with yellow buttery flesh.

avocet /'ævə,seɪ/ *n* one of several species of wading birds, characterized by very long legs and an extremely slender curved bill.

avoid /ə'vɔɪd/ *vt* to keep clear of, shun; to refrain from.—**avoider** *n.*

avoidable *adj.* able to be avoided.

avoidance /ə'vɔɪdəns/ *n* the act of annulling or making void; the act of shunning; the state of being vacant.

avoidupois /,ævərdə'pɔɪz/ *n* the system of weights based on the pound of 16 ounces; (*inf*) excess weight.

avow /ə'vaʊ/ *vt* to declare confidently; to acknowledge.—**avowed** *adj.*—**avowedly** *adv.*—**avower** *n.*

avowal /ə'vaʊəl/ *n* an open declaration; a frank acknowledgment; a confession.

avulsion /ə'veʃən/ *n* a separation by violence; the sudden removal of land, without change of ownership, caused by a flood, etc.

avuncular /ə'veŋkjʊlə/ *adj* like an uncle.

await /ə'weɪt/ *vt* to wait for; to be in store for.

awake /ə'weɪk/ *vb* (**awaking, awoke or awaked, pp awoken or awaked**) *vi* to wake; to become aware. • *vt* to rouse from sleep; to rouse from

inaction. • *adj* roused from sleep, not asleep; active; aware.

awaken /ə'weɪkən/ *vt* to awake.

awakening /-ɪŋ/ *n* the act of rousing from sleep; a revival of religion, or activity of a particular religious sect. • *adj* rousing; exciting; alarming.

award /ə'wɔːd/ *vt* to give, as by a legal decision; to give (a prize, etc); to grant. • *n* a decision, as by a judge; a prize.

aware /ə'wɛr/ *adj* realizing, having knowledge; conscious; fully conversant with and sympathetic towards (*ecologically aware*).—

awareness *n*.

awash /ə'wɒʃ/ *adj* filled or overflowing with water.

away /ə'weɪ/ *adv* from a place; in another place or direction; off, aside; far. • *adj* absent; at a distance.

awe /ɒ/ *n* a mixed feeling of fear, wonder and dread. • *vt* to fill with awe.

aweather /ə'wɛðər/ *adv* (*naut*) on the weather side, or towards the wind. • *n* opposed to the lee.

aweigh /ə'weɪ/ *adj, adv* (*naut*) (*anchor*) atrip, just drawn out of the ground and hanging perpendicularly.

awesome /'ɒsəm/ *adj* inspiring awe; (*inf*) marvellous, terrific.

awestricken /'ɒstrɪkən/, **awestruck** /'ɒstrɛk/ *adj* struck with awe.

awful /'ɒfəl/ *adj* very bad; unpleasant. • *adv* (*inf*) very.—**awfulness** *n*.

awfulize *vt* to envisage a situation as being worse than it is.—*also* **catastrophize**.

awfully /'ɒfəli/ or /'ɒfli/ *adv* in an awful manner; excessively; (*inf*) very.

awhile /ə'waɪl/ *adv* for a short time.

awkward /'ɒkwɔːd/ *adj* lacking dexterity, clumsy; graceless; embarrassing; embarrassed; inconvenient; deliberately obstructive or difficult to deal with.—**awkwardly** *adv*.—**awkwardness** *n*.

awl /ɔːl/ *n* a small pointed tool for boring or piercing, used by shoemakers, etc.

awn /ɒn/ *n* the beard or bristle-like appendage of the outer glume of wheat, barley, and numerous grasses.

awning /'ɒnɪŋ/ *n* a structure, as of canvas, extended above or in front of a window, door, etc to provide shelter against the sun or rain.

awoke /ə'wɔːk/ *see* **awake**.

AWOL /'eɪwɒl/ *acronym* = absent without leave.

awry /ə'raɪ/ *adv* twisted to one side. • *adj* contrary to expectations, wrong.

axe, ax /æks/ *n* (*pl axes*) a tool with a long handle and bladed head for chopping wood, etc. • *vt* to trim, split, etc with an axe.

axial /'æksɪəl/ *adj* of, forming or round an axis.—**axially** *adv*.

axil /'æksɪl/ *n* (*bot*) the angle formed by the upper side of an organ or branch with the stem or trunk to which it is attached.

axile /'æksɪl/ or /-sɪəl/ *adj* (*bot*) of, lying or situated in, or attached to, an axis.

axilla /æksɪ'lɪə/ *n* (*pl axillae, axillas*) the armpit, or cavity in the junction of the arm and shoulder; the axil of a leaf.

axillary /æksɪ'lɪəri/ *adj* of or pertaining to the armpit; (*bot*) pertaining to, springing from, or situated in, the axil. • *n* (*pl axillaries*) a feather from the axilla of a bird.

axiom /'æksɪəm/ *n* a widely held or accepted truth or principle.

axiomatic /'æksɪə'mætɪk/ *adj* pertaining to, or of the nature of, an axiom.—**axiomatically** *adv*.

axis¹ /'æksɪs/ *n* (*pl axes*) a real or imaginary straight line about which a body rotates; the centre line of a symmetrical figure; a reference line of a coordinate system; (*with cap*) a partnership, alliance, *esp* of Germany and Italy, 1936 to the end of World War II.—**axial** *adj*.

axis² *n* (*pl axes*) a small deer of India and Asia with slender antlers.

axle /'æksəl/ *n* a rod on or with which a wheel turns; a bar connecting two opposite wheels, as of a car.

axletree /-ˌtri/ *n* a bar connecting the opposite wheels of a carriage, on the rounded ends of which the wheels revolve.

axolotl /'æksə'lɒtəl/ *n* a Mexican amphibian like the salamander, having gills.

aye¹, **aye**¹ /eɪ/ or /aɪ/ *adv* (*arch*) for ever, always; continually.

aye², **aye**² /aɪ/ *adv, interj* yes; even so; indeed. • *n* (*pl ayes*) an affirmative answer or vote in a parliamentary division; the members so voting.

ayah /'aɪjə/ *n* a native Indian nurse or lady's maid.

Ayatollah /,aɪjə'to:lə/ *n* a Shiite Muslim leader; a title of respect.

aye-aye /'aɪaɪ/ *n* a small nocturnal quadruped, native to Madagascar and allied to the lemurs.

azalea /ə'zɛɪliə/ *n* a flowering shrub-like plant.

azan /ɒ'zɒn/ *n* the call to public prayers in Islamic countries.

azedarach /ə'zɛdəræk/ *n* an Asian tree, the bark or root of which was formerly used as a drug.

Azilian /ə'zɪliən/ *adj* of a Mesolithic geological stage characterized by bone harpoon heads and painted stone pebbles.

azimuth /'æzɪməθ/ *n* (*astron*) a vertical arc from the zenith to the horizon; the angular distance of this from the meridian.—**azimuthal** *adj*.

azoic /ə'zɔ:ɪk/ or /eɪ-/ *adj* without life;

(*geol*) without fossils, older than the lowermost series of rocks containing traces of organic life.

azote /ə'zɔ:t/ or /æ-/ *n* an old name for nitrogen.

AZT /'eɪ'zɛd'ti:/ *abbr* = azidothymidine, a drug that has been effective in prolonging life and alleviating symptoms in some AIDS sufferers.—also called zidovudine.

Aztec /'æztek/ *adj* pertaining to the Aztec race that ruled Mexico before the Spanish conquest. • *n* a member of the Aztec race.

azure /'æzər/ or /-zjər/ *adj* sky-blue.

azurite /'æzərɪt/ *n* blue carbonate of copper; blue malachite or chessylite; lazulite.

azygous /'eɪzɪgəs/ *adj* (*anat*) single, as a muscle or vein; not one of a pair.





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