

**abbreviate** /ə'brɪviət/ *v.t.* (-ated, -ating) to make brief; make shorter by contraction or omission: *to abbreviate 'company' to 'co.'* [L] –**abbreviation**, *n.* –**abbreviator**, *n.*

**ABC**<sup>1</sup> /eɪ bi 'si/ *n.* 1. Also, *US*, **ABCs**. the alphabet. **2.** a handbook (on any subject), often arranged alphabetically. **3.** the main or the basic facts, principles, etc. (of any subject).

**ABC**<sup>2</sup> /eɪ bi 'si/ *n.* Australian Broadcasting Corporation; a statutory authority which operates a non-commercial, national television network, domestic and overseas radio services and online services; other activities include production of drama and music programs for television and radio, book publishing, and compact disc production. Formerly (1932–1983), **Australian Broadcasting Commission**.

**ABC**<sup>3</sup> /eɪ bi 'si/ *n.* 1. an Australian-born Chinese. **2.** (especially in Hong Kong) an American-born Chinese.

**abdicate** /ə'bɪdɪkət/ *v.* (-cated, -cating) –*v.i.* 1. to renounce a throne or some claim; relinquish a right, power, or trust. –*n.t.* **2.** to give up or renounce (office, duties, authority, etc.), especially in a voluntary, public, or formal manner. [L] –**abdication**, *n.* –**abdicable**, *adj.* –**abdication** /ə'bɪdɪkətɪv/, *adj.* –**abdicator**, **abdicator**, *n.*

**abdomen** /ə'bɒdəmən, əb'doʊməni/ *n.* 1. the part of the body of a mammal between the thorax and the pelvis; the visceral cavity containing most of the digestive organs; the belly. **2.** *Zool.* the posterior section of the body of an arthropod animal, behind the thorax or the crustacean cephalothorax. [L] –**abdominal** /ə'bɒdəmənəl/, *adj.*

**abduct** /əb'dʌkt, æb-/ *v.t.* 1. to carry off surreptitiously or by force, especially to kidnap. **2.** *Physiol.* to draw away from the original position (opposed to *adduct*). [L] –**abductor**, *n.* –**abduction**, *n.*

**Abdullah II** /əb'dʊlə/ *n.* born 1962, became king of Jordan in 1999; son of King Hussein.

**Abdullah ibn Abdul Aziz** /æb'dʊlə ɪbn əb'dʊlə a'zɪz/ *n.* born 1924, became king and prime minister of Saudi Arabia in 2005; had ruled as regent since 1996 during the illness of his half-brother King Fahd.

**Abel** /'eɪbəl/ *n.* *Bible* the second son of Adam and Eve, slain by his brother, Cain. [See Genesis 4]

**Abelard** /'æbələd/ *n.* **Peter**, 1079–1142, French scholastic philosopher, teacher, and theologian. His love affair with Héloïse is one of the famous romances of history.

**abelia** /ə'bɪliə/ *n.* any shrub of the genus *Abelia*, especially *A. grandiflora*, widely grown in gardens for its fragrant pink flowers.

**Aberdeen** /æbə'dɪn/ *n.* 1. a town in eastern central NSW, on the Hunter river. Pop. 1710 (2001). **2.** a city in north-eastern Scotland, on the North Sea; oil-processing industry. Pop. 184 788 (2001).

**Aberdeen Angus** /æbədɪn 'æŋɡəs/ *n.* one of a breed of hornless beef cattle with smooth black hair, originally bred in Scotland and now found in Australia, especially in higher rainfall areas.

**aberrant** /'æbərənt, ə'berənt/ *adj.* 1. straying from the right or usual course. **2.** deviating from the ordinary or normal type. [L] –**aberrance**, **aberrancy**, *n.*

**aberration** /ə'bɛrɪ'eɪʃən/ *n.* 1. the act of wandering from the usual way or normal course. **2.** deviation from truth or moral rectitude. **3.** lapse from a sound mental state. **4.** *Optics* any disturbance of the rays of a pencil of light such that they can no longer be brought to a sharp focus or form a clear image. [L] –**aberrational**, *adj.*

**abet** /ə'bet/ *v.t.* (**abetted**, **abetting**) to encourage or countenance by aid or approval (used chiefly in a bad sense): *to abet evildoers*; *to abet a crime or offence*. [ME, from OF] –**abetment**, *n.* –**abetter**; *Law*, **abettor**, *n.*

**abeyance** /ə'beɪəns/ *n.* 1. temporary inactivity or suspension. –*phr.* **2.** in **abeyance**, in an inactive or suspended state: *outraged feelings kept in abeyance*. [AF: expectation, from OF: gape after]

**abhor** /əb'hɔ/ *v.t.* (-horred, -horring) to regard with repugnance; loathe or abominate. [late ME, from L] –**abhorrer**, *n.*

**abhorrent** /əb'hɒrənt/ *adj.* exciting horror; detestable. –**abhorrence**, *n.* –**abhorrently**, *adv.*

**abide** /ə'baɪd/ *v.* (**abided** or, *Archaic*, **abode** /ə'bəʊd/, **abiding**) –*v.t.* 1. to put up with; tolerate: *I can't abide such*

*people*. **2.** *Archaic* to stand one's ground against; await or sustain defiantly. –*v.i.* **3.** *Archaic* or *Poetic* to remain; continue; stay: *abide with me*. **4.** *Archaic* to continue in a certain condition; remain steadfast or faithful. –*phr.* **5. abide by**, **a.** to accept and continue to observe (an undertaking, promise, agreement, rule, etc.). **b.** to stand by: *to abide by a friend*. **c.** to await or accept the consequences of: *to abide by the decision*. [ME, from OE *ābidan*. See A-<sup>3</sup>] –**abider**, *n.* –**abidance**, *n.* –**abiding**, *adj.*

**ability** /ə'bɪləti/ *n.* (*pl.* -ties) 1. power or capacity to do or act in any relation. **2.** competence in any occupation or field of action, from the possession of capacity, skill, means, or other qualification. **3.** (*pl.*) talents; mental gifts or endowments. [ME, from F, from L]

**abiogenesis** /ɪəbaɪəʊ'dʒenəsəs/ *n.* the theory, belief, or doctrine that living things can be produced from inanimate matter. [A-<sup>6</sup> + BIO- + GENESIS]

**abject** /'æbdʒɛkt/ *adj.* 1. utterly humiliating or disheartening: *abject poverty*. **2.** contemptible; despicable: *an abject liar*. **3.** humble; servile: *an abject apology*. [ME, from L] –**abjection** /æb'dʒɛkʃən/, *n.* –**abjectly**, *adv.* –**abjectness**, *n.*

**abjure** /əb'dʒʊə/ *v.t.* (-jured, -juring) 1. to renounce or repudiate; retract, especially with solemnity: *to abjure one's errors*. **2.** to forswear: *to abjure allegiance*. [L] –**abjuratory**, *adj.* –**abjuror**, *n.* –**abjuration**, *n.*

**ablate** /ə'bleɪt/ *v.* (-lated, -lating) –*v.t.* 1. *Med.* to remove by ablation. –*v.i.* **2.** *Chem.* to pass directly from a solid state to a gas with no liquid intermediary.

**ablation** /ə'bleɪʃən/ *n.* 1. *Med.* removal, especially of organs, abnormal growths, or harmful substances from the body by mechanical, physical or chemical means, as surgery or irradiation. **2.** *Physics* erosion of a solid body by a fluid. **3.** *Geol.* the removal of surface structures of the earth by wind or water, especially the wastage or removal of surface snow or ice. **4.** *Aerospace* the melting or wearing away of some expendable part of a space vehicle upon re-entry into earth's atmosphere. [L: a carrying away]

**ablative** /'æblətɪv/ *adj.* *Gram.* (in some inflected languages) denoting a case which has among its functions the indication of place from which, time when, place in which, manner, means, instrument, agent, etc. [L: expressing removal]

**ablaut** /'æbləʊt/ *n.* *Ling.* regular change in the internal structure of word roots, particularly in the vowel, showing alteration in function and meaning. [G, from *ab* off + *Laut* sound]

**ablaze** /ə'bleɪz/ *adj.*, *adv.* 1. on fire. **2.** gleaming as if on fire. **3.** excited; eagerly desirous. **4.** very angry.

**able** /'eɪbəl/ *adj.* (**abler**, **ablest**) 1. having sufficient power, strength, or qualifications; qualified: *she is ready, willing and able*. **2.** having unusual intellectual qualifications: *an able minister*. **3.** showing talent or knowledge: *an able speech*. –*phr.* **4. be able to**, to have the capability or capacity to: *I wasn't able to attend*; *a device able to bear heavy loads*. [ME, from L *habilis* easy to handle, fit]

–**able** a suffix used to form adjectives, especially from verbs, to denote ability, liability, tendency, worthiness, or likelihood. Also, –**ble**, –**ible**. [ME, from L]

*Usage:* Words ending in *e* often lose the *e* when *-able* is added to them (*note* becomes *notable*, *argue* becomes *arguable*). But some writers retain the *e*, especially where there may be confusion. For example, some prefer *rate-able* to *ratable*, to keep a clear visual connection with *rate* rather than *rat*. If a word ends in *ce* or *ge*, the *e* is retained in order to keep the *c* sounding as *s* and the *g* sounding as *j*, as in *traceable* and *manageable*.

**able-bodied** /'eɪbəl-bɒdɪd/ *adj.* physically competent.

**able-bodied seaman** /'eɪbəl-bɒdɪd 'sɪmən/ *n.* an experienced seaman who has passed certain tests in the practice of seamanship. Also, **able seaman**.

**Ablett** /'æblət/ *n.* **Gary** ('*God*', '*Gazza*'), born 1961, Australian Rules football player.

**ablution** /ə'bluʃən/ *n.* 1. a cleansing with water or other liquid, as in ceremonial purification. **2.** (*pl.*) the act of washing oneself: *do one's ablutions*. [ME, from L] –**ablutionary**, *adj.*

**ably** /'eɪblɪ/ *adv.* 1. competently; well. **2.** with a will; energetically.

**ABN** /eɪ bi 'en/ *n.* → **Australian Business Number**.