

aboard *adverb & preposition* on or into a ship or aircraft or train.

abode¹ *noun (old use)* the place where someone lives.

abode² *past tense & past participle* of **abide**.

abolish *verb* put an end to. **abolition** (*say* ab-uh-lish-uhn) *noun*

abominable *adjective* very bad; detestable. **abominably** *adverb*

abominate *verb (abominated, abominating)* detest. **abomination** *noun*

aboriginal¹ *adjective* 1 inhabiting or existing in a land from the earliest times. 2 (usually **Aboriginal**) of Australian Aboriginal people.

aboriginal² *noun* 1 an aboriginal inhabitant of a place. 2 (usually **Aboriginal**) a person belonging to one of the indigenous peoples of Australia. 3 (*informal*) (usually **Aboriginal**) any of the numerous Australian Aboriginal languages.

Aboriginality *noun* 1 the quality of being Aboriginal. 2 Aboriginal culture.

aborigine (*say* ab-uh-rij-uh-nee) *noun (plural aborigines)* 1 an original inhabitant of a place. 2 (usually **Aborigine**) an aboriginal inhabitant of Australia. [from Latin *ab origine* = from the beginning]

abort *verb* put an end to something before it has been completed, *They aborted the flight because of problems.*

abortion *noun* removal of a foetus from the womb before it has developed enough to survive.

abortive *adjective* unsuccessful; *an abortive attempt.*

abound *verb* 1 be plentiful or abundant, *Fish abound in the river.* 2 have something in great quantities, *The river abounds in fish.*

about¹ *preposition* 1 near in amount or size or time; approximately, *It costs about \$5; Come about two o'clock.* 2 on the subject of; in connection with, *Tell me about your holiday.* 3 all round; in various parts of, *They ran about the yard.*

about² *adverb* 1 approximately. 2 in various directions, *They were running about.* 3 not far away, *He is somewhere about.*

be about to be going to do something.

about-face *noun (also about-turn)* a reversal of previous actions or opinions.

above¹ *preposition* 1 higher than. 2 more than.

above² *adverb* 1 at or to a higher place. 2 earlier in a book or article, *mentioned above.*

above board *adjective & adverb* honest; without deception.

abrade *verb (abraded, abrading)* scrape or wear something away by rubbing it. **abrasion** *noun*

abrasive¹ *adjective* 1 that abrades things. 2 harsh, *an abrasive manner.*

abrasive² *noun* a rough substance used for rubbing or polishing things.

abreast *adverb* 1 side by side. 2 keeping up with something.

abridge *verb (abridged, abridging)* shorten, especially by using fewer words, *an abridged edition.* **abridgement** *noun* [from Old French *abregier* = shorten]

abroad *adverb* in or to another country.

abrupt *adjective* 1 sudden; hasty. 2 brief and rude. **abruptly** *adverb*, **abruptness** *noun* [from *ab-*, + Latin *ruptum* = broken]

ABS *abbreviation* 1 anti-lock braking system. 2 Australian Bureau of Statistics.

abs- *prefix* see *abs-*

abscess (*say* ab-ses-sus) *noun (plural abscesses)* an inflamed pocket where pus has formed in the body.

abscond *verb* go away secretly, *The cashier absconded with the money.*

abseil (*say* ab-sayl) *verb* descend a rock face using a doubled rope that is fixed at a higher point.

absence *noun* 1 being away; the period of time. 2 a lack of something.

absent¹ (*say* ab-suhnt) *adjective* not here; not present, *absent from school.*

absent² (*say* ab-sent) *verb* **absent yourself** stay away.

absentee *noun* a person who is absent. **absenteeism** *noun*

absent-minded *adjective* having your mind on other things; forgetful.

absolute *adjective* 1 complete. 2 not restricted. [same origin as *absolve*]

absolutely *adverb* 1 completely. 2 (*informal*) yes, I agree.

absolute majority *noun* a majority over all rivals combined; more than half.

absolution *noun* a priest's formal declaration that people's sins are forgiven.

absolve *verb (absolved, absolving)* 1 clear a person of blame or guilt. 2 release from a promise or obligation. [from *ab-*, + Latin *solvere* = set free]

absorb *verb* 1 soak up; take in. 2 receive something and reduce its effects, *The buffers absorbed most of the shock.* 3 take up a person's attention or time. **absorbent** *adjective*, **absorption** *noun*

abstain *verb* keep yourself from doing something (e.g. from voting); refrain. **abstainer** *noun*, **abstention** *noun*