REVISED AND UPDATED EDITION

Merriam-Webster's Intermediate Dictionary

A

[1]a \ˈā\ *n, pl* **a's** *or* **as** *often cap* **1 :** the first letter of the English alphabet **2 :** a musical note referred to by the letter A : the sixth tone of a C-major scale **3 :** a grade rating a student's work as superior

[2]a \ə, (ˈ)ā\ *indefinite article* **1 :** someone or something unspecified ⟨*a* man in the street⟩ ⟨*a* dozen⟩ **2 :** the same : ONE ⟨two of *a* kind⟩ ⟨birds of *a* feather⟩ **3 :** of whatever kind : ANY ⟨*a* person who is sick can't work well⟩ — used in all senses before words beginning with a consonant sound; compare AN [Old English *ān* "one"]

[3]a \ə, (ˈ)ā\ *prep* **:** in each : to each : for each ⟨twice *a* week⟩ ⟨one *a* piece⟩ [Old English *a-, an, on* "on"]

[1]a- \ə\ *prefix* **1 :** on : in : at ⟨abed⟩ **2 :** in a specified state or condition ⟨afire⟩ **3 :** in a specified manner ⟨aloud⟩ **4 :** in the act or process of ⟨gone *a*-hunting⟩ [Old English *a-* "on, in, at"]

[2]a- \(ˈ)ā\ *or* **an-** \(ˈ)an\ *prefix* **:** not : without ⟨asexual⟩ — *a-* before consonants other than *h* and sometimes before *h*, *an-* before vowels and usually before *h* ⟨anhydrate⟩ [Greek *a-, an-* "not"]

aard-vark \ˈärd-ˌvärk\ *n* **:** a large burrowing African mammal that feeds on insects and especially termites with its long sticky tongue [from obsolete Afrikaans, literally "earth pig"]

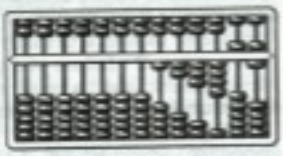
aardvark

ab- *prefix* **:** from : away : departing from ⟨*ab*normal⟩ [Latin *ab-* "from, away"]

ab-a-ca \ˌab-ə-ˈkä, ˈab-ə-ˌkä\ *n* **:** a strong fiber that comes from a banana plant native to the Philippines — called also *Manila hemp*

aback \ə-ˈbak\ *adv* **1** *archaic* **:** [2]BACK 1, BACKWARD **2 :** by surprise : UNAWARES ⟨taken *aback* by the turn of events⟩

aba-cus \ˈab-ə-kəs, ə-ˈbak-əs\ *n, pl* **aba-ci** \ˈab-ə-sī, -ˌkē; ə-ˈbak-ˌī\ *or* **aba-cuses** **:** an instrument for making calculations by sliding counters along rods or in grooves



abacus

[1]abaft \ə-ˈbaft\ *adv* **:** toward the stern : at the stern

[2]abaft *prep* **:** to the rear of; *esp* : toward the stern from

ab-a-lo-ne \ˌab-ə-ˈlō-nē, ˈab-ə-ˌ\ *n* **:** a mollusk with a flattened slightly spiral shell that has holes along the edge and is lined with mother-of-pearl

[1]aban-don \ə-ˈban-dən\ *vb* **1 :** to give up completely **2 :** to withdraw from often in the face of danger ⟨*abandon* ship⟩ **3 :** to withdraw protection, support, or help from ⟨*abandoned* the dog⟩ **4 :** to give oneself up to an emotion — **abandoner** *n* — **aban-don-ment** \-mənt\ *n*

synonyms ABANDON, DESERT, FORSAKE mean to leave without intending to return. ABANDON suggests that the person or thing left behind is helpless or needs protection ⟨the baby was *abandoned* on the steps of the church⟩. DESERT suggests the breaking of a promise, duty, or relationship ⟨*deserted* the cause when there was trouble⟩ ⟨mining towns that were *deserted* after the gold rush⟩. FORSAKE stresses leaving behind something known or loved well ⟨could not *forsake* her friends⟩.

[2]abandon *n* **:** a complete yielding to natural impulses; *esp* : ENTHUSIASM 1, EXUBERANCE

aban-doned \ə-ˈban-dənd\ *adj* **1 :** that has been deserted : left empty or unused ⟨an *abandoned* house⟩ **2 :** completely free from restraint ⟨*abandoned* laughter⟩

abase \ə-ˈbās\ *vb* **abased; abas-ing :** to lower in rank or position : HUMBLE, DEGRADE — **abase-ment** \-mənt\ *n*

abash \ə-ˈbash\ *vb* **:** to destroy the self-control or self-confidence of ***synonyms*** see EMBARRASS — **abash-ment** \-mənt\ *n*

abate \ə-ˈbāt\ *vb* **abat-ed; abat-ing :** to make or become less ⟨the wind *abated*⟩ ⟨*abated* their prices⟩ — **abat-er** *n*

abate-ment \ə-ˈbāt-mənt\ *n* **1 :** the act or process of abating : the state of being abated **2 :** an amount abated (as from a tax)

ab-at-toir \ˈab-ə-ˌtwär\ *n* **:** SLAUGHTERHOUSE

ab-bess \ˈab-əs\ *n* **:** the head of a convent of nuns

ab-bey \ˈab-ē\ *n, pl* **abbeys** **1 a :** MONASTERY **b :** CONVENT **2 :** a church that once belonged to an abbey ⟨Westminster *Abbey*⟩

ab-bot \ˈab-ət\ *n* **:** the head of a monastery for men

ab-bre-vi-ate \ə-ˈbrē-vē-ˌāt\ *vb* **-at-ed; -at-ing :** to make briefer : SHORTEN; *esp* : to reduce (as a word) to a shorter form intended to stand for the whole [Middle English *abbreviaten* "abbreviate," from Latin *abbreviatus* "made short," from *abbreviare* "to shorten," from earlier *ad-* "to" and *brevis* "short" — related to ABRIDGE, BRIEF]

ab-bre-vi-a-tion \ə-ˌbrē-vē-ˈā-shən\ *n* **1 :** the act or result of abbreviating : ABRIDGMENT **2 :** a shortened form of a written word or phrase used in place of the whole

Ab-di-as \ab-ˈdī-əs\ *n* **:** OBADIAH

ab-di-cate \ˈab-di-ˌkāt\ *vb* **-cat-ed; -cat-ing :** to formally give up sovereign power, office, or responsibility — **ab-di-ca-tion** \ˌab-di-ˈkā-shən\ *n*

ab-do-men \ˈab-də-mən, ab-ˈdō-mən\ *n* **1 a :** the part of the body between the chest and the hips **b :** the body cavity containing the chief digestive organs — called also *abdominal cavity* **2 :** the hind portion of the body behind the thorax in an arthropod — see INSECT illustration — **ab-dom-i-nal** \ab-ˈdäm-ən-ᵊl, -nᵊl\ *adj* — **ab-dom-i-nal-ly** \-ē\ *adv*

ab-duct \ab-ˈdəkt\ *vb* **1 :** to carry (a person) off by force **2 :** to draw (a part of the body) away from a middle plane or line that divides the body or a bodily part into right and left halves — **ab-duc-tion** \-ˈdək-shən\ *n*

ab-duc-tor \ab-ˈdək-tər\ *n* **:** one that abducts; *esp* : a muscle that draws a body part (as an arm or finger) away from a plane or a line that divides the body or a hand or foot into right and left halves

abeam \ə-ˈbēm\ *adv or adj* **:** at right angles to a ship or plane's length

abed \ə-ˈbed\ *adv or adj* **:** in bed

Ab-er-deen An-gus \ˌab-ər-ˌdē-ˈman-gəs\ *n* **:** ANGUS

ab-er-rant \ə-ˈber-ənt, ˈab-ə-rənt\ *adj* **:** being different from the usual or natural type

ab-er-ra-tion \ˌab-ə-ˈrā-shən\ *n* **1 :** the act of differing especially from a moral standard or normal state **2 :** unsoundness or disorder of the mind **3 :** a small regularly occurring change of apparent position in heavenly bodies

due to the combined effect of the motion of light and the motion of the observer

abet \ə-ˈbet\ *vb* **abet-ted; abet-ting** : to actively encourage or aid — **abet-ment** \-mənt\ *n* — **abet-tor** *also* **abet-ter** \-ˈbet-ər\ *n*

abey-ance \ə-ˈbā-ən(t)s\ *n* : a temporary interruption of activity ⟨plans held in *abeyance*⟩ — **abey-ant** \-ənt\ *adj*

ab-hor \əb-ˈhȯ(ə)r, ab-\ *vb* **ab-horred; ab-hor-ring** : to shrink from in disgust *synonyms* see HATE — **ab-hor-rence** \-ˈhȯr-ən(t)s, -ˈhär-\ *n* — **ab-hor-rer** \-ˈhȯr-ər\ *n*

ab-hor-rent \əb-ˈhȯr-ənt, -ˈhär-, ab-\ *adj* **1** : causing or deserving strong dislike **2** : not agreeable : CONTRARY ⟨a notion *abhorrent* to their beliefs⟩ — **ab-hor-rent-ly** *adv*

abide \ə-ˈbīd\ *vb* **abode** \-ˈbōd\ *or* **abid-ed; abid-ing** **1** : to wait for **2** : to bear patiently : TOLERATE **3** : ²LAST 1, ENDURE ⟨an *abiding* friendship⟩ **4** : to live or continue in a place : DWELL — **abid-ance** \ə-ˈbīd-ən(t)s\ *n* — **abid-er** *n* — **abide by** : to accept the terms of : be obedient to ⟨*abide by* the rules⟩

abil-i-ty \ə-ˈbil-ət-ē\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1 a** : the quality or state of being able : power to do something **b** : competence in doing : SKILL **2** : natural or learned skill

synonyms ABILITY, APTITUDE, TALENT mean the capacity for doing or achieving something. ABILITY suggests having from birth the power to do a thing especially well ⟨always has had the *ability* to run fast⟩. APTITUDE suggests a quickness to learn and a natural liking usually for a field or activity ⟨people with a natural *aptitude* for computers⟩. TALENT suggests a great ability to create things and one that needs to be developed ⟨you should work on your *talent* for writing short stories⟩.

-abil-i-ty *also* **-ibil-i-ty** \ə-ˈbil-ət-ē\ *n suffix, pl* **-ties** : ability, fitness, or likeliness to act or be acted on in (such) a way ⟨read*ability*⟩ [derived from Latin *-abilitas, -ibilitas* "-ability"]

abi-ot-ic \ˌā-bī-ˈät-ik\ *adj* : not living or composed of living things ⟨water and soil are *abiotic* parts of an environment⟩

ab-ject \ˈab-ˌjekt\ *adj* : very low in spirit or hope : WRETCHED ⟨*abject* misery⟩ ⟨an *abject* coward⟩ — **ab-ject-ly** \ˈab-ˌjek-(t)lē, ab-ˈjek-\ *adv* — **ab-ject-ness** \-ˌjek(t)-nəs, -ˈjek(t)-\ *n*

ab-jure \ab-ˈjù(ə)r\ *vb* **ab-jured; ab-jur-ing** : to give up, abandon, or reject solemnly ⟨*abjure* allegiance⟩

ab-late \a-ˈblāt\ *vb* **ab-lat-ed; ab-lat-ing** : to remove or become removed by cutting, wearing away, evaporating, or vaporizing

ab-la-tion \a-ˈblā-shən\ *n* : the process of ablating: as **a** : surgical cutting and removal **b** : removal of a part (as the outside of a nose cone) by melting or vaporization

ablaze \ə-ˈblāz\ *adj* **1** : being on fire **2** : radiant with light or bright color

able \ˈā-bəl\ *adj* **abler** \-b(ə-)lər\; **ablest** \-b(ə-)ləst\ **1 a** : having enough power, skill, or resources to do something ⟨*able* to swim⟩ **b** : not prevented ⟨*able* to vote⟩ **2** : SKILLFUL, COMPETENT ⟨an *able* editor⟩ [Middle English *able* "able," from early French *able* (same meaning), from Latin *habilis* "easily managed, skillful," from *habēre* "to have"]

-able *also* **-ible** \ə-bəl\ *adj suffix* **1** : capable of, fit for, or worthy of being ⟨collect*ible*⟩ **2** : tending, given, or likely to ⟨perish*able*⟩ ⟨agree*able*⟩ [derived from Latin *-abilis, -ibilis* "-able"]

able-bod-ied \ˌā-bəl-ˈbäd-ēd\ *adj* : having a healthy strong body : physically fit

abloom \ə-ˈblüm\ *adj* : being in bloom

ab-lu-tion \ə-ˈblü-shən, a-ˈblü-\ *n* : washing oneself especially as a religious rite

ably \ˈā-blē\ *adv* : in an able manner

ABM \ˌā-(ˌ)bē-ˈem\ *n* : ANTIBALLISTIC MISSILE

ab-ne-gate \ˈab-ni-ˌgāt\ *vb* **-gat-ed; -gat-ing** **1** : to give up a right or privilege ⟨*abnegate* her power⟩ **2** : to deny to oneself : RENOUNCE ⟨*abnegating* outdated beliefs⟩ — **ab-ne-ga-tion** \ˌab-ni-ˈgā-shən\ *n*

ab-nor-mal \(ˈ)ab-ˈnȯr-məl\ *adj* : differing from the normal or average : UNUSUAL — **ab-nor-mal-ly** \-mə-lē\ *adv*

ab-nor-mal-i-ty \ˌab-nȯr-ˈmal-ət-ē, -(ˌ)nȯr-\ *n, pl* **-ties** **1** : the state of being abnormal **2** : something abnormal

¹**aboard** \ə-ˈbȯrd, -ˈbȯrd\ *adv* : on, onto, or within a vehicle (as a car, ship, or airplane)

²**aboard** *prep* : on or into especially as a passenger ⟨go *aboard* ship⟩

abode \ə-ˈbōd\ *n* : the place where one stays or lives

abol-ish \ə-ˈbäl-ish\ *vb* : to do away with completely : put an end to — **abol-ish-able** \-ə-bəl\ *adj* — **abol-ish-er** *n* — **abol-ish-ment** \-mənt\ *n*

ab-o-li-tion \ˌab-ə-ˈlish-ən\ *n* **1** : the act of abolishing : the state of being abolished **2** : the abolishing of slavery — **ab-o-li-tion-ary** \-ˈlish-ə-ˌner-ē\ *adj*

ab-o-li-tion-ist \ab-ə-ˈlish-(ə-)nəst\ *n* : a person who is in favor of abolishing especially slavery — **ab-o-li-tion-ism** \-ˈlish-ə-ˌniz-əm\ *n*

A-bomb \ˈā-ˌbäm\ *n* : ATOMIC BOMB

abom-i-na-ble \ə-ˈbäm-(ə-)nə-bəl\ *adj* **1** : deserving or causing disgust : HATEFUL, DETESTABLE ⟨*abominable* behavior⟩ **2** : quite disagreeable ⟨*abominable* weather⟩ — **abom-i-na-bly** \-blē\ *adv*

abominable snow-man \-ˈsnō-man, -ˌman\ *n, often cap A&S* : a creature somewhat resembling a human being or ape that is reported to exist in the Himalayas

abom-i-nate \ə-ˈbäm-ə-ˌnāt\ *vb* **-nat-ed; -nat-ing** : HATE, LOATHE — **abom-i-na-tor** \-ˌnāt-ər\ *n*

abom-i-na-tion \ə-ˌbäm-ə-ˈnā-shən\ *n* **1** : something detestable **2** : extreme disgust and hatred : LOATHING

ab-orig-i-nal \ˌab-ə-ˈrij-nəl, -ən-ᵊl\ *adj* **1** : being the first of its kind in a region : INDIGENOUS **2** : of, relating to, or being aborigines — **ab-orig-i-nal-ly** \-ē\ *adv*

ab-orig-i-ne \ˌab-ə-ˈrij-ə-(ˌ)nē\ *n* **1** : a member of the original people to live in an area : NATIVE **2** *often cap* : a member of any of the native people of Australia [from Latin *aborigines* "original inhabitants," from *ab origine* "from the beginning," from *origin-, origo* "beginning, source," from *oriri* "to rise" — related to ORIGIN]

abort \ə-ˈbȯrt\ *vb* **1** : to bring forth premature or stillborn offspring **2** : to become checked in development **3** : to put an end to before completion ⟨*abort* a project⟩

abor-tion \ə-ˈbȯr-shən\ *n* **1** : a premature birth whether natural or caused artificially that occurs before the fetus can survive **2** : failure of a project or action to reach full development; *also* : a result of such failure

abor-tion-ist \ə-ˈbȯr-sh(ə-)nəst\ *n* : one who produces abortions

abor-tive \ə-ˈbȯrt-iv\ *adj* **1** : unsuccessful in achieving the desired conclusion or result ⟨an *abortive* escape attempt⟩ **2** : imperfectly formed or developed : RUDIMENTARY — **abor-tive-ly** *adv* — **abor-tive-ness** *n*

abound \ə-ˈbau̇nd\ *vb* **1** : to be present in large numbers or in great quantity ⟨wildlife *abounds*⟩ **2** : to be filled or abundantly supplied ⟨a stream *abounding* in fish⟩

¹**about** \ə-ˈbau̇t\ *adv* **1** : on all sides : AROUND ⟨wander *about*⟩ ⟨people standing *about*⟩ **2 a** : reasonably close to : APPROXIMATELY, NEARLY ⟨*about* three years⟩ ⟨*about* ready to go⟩ **b** : on the verge of ⟨is *about* to go home⟩ **3** : in the opposite direction ⟨face *about*⟩

²**about** *prep* **1** : on every side of : AROUND ⟨houses *about* the lake⟩ **2 a** : ²NEAR **b** : in the possession of ⟨had no pencil *about* her⟩ **c** : in the control of ⟨keeps her wits *about* her⟩ **3** : in the act or process of doing ⟨do it well while you're *about* it⟩ **4** : having to do with : CONCERNING ⟨tell me *about* it⟩ ⟨a book *about* birds⟩ **5** : over or in different parts of ⟨traveled *about* the country⟩

about-face \ə-ˈbau̇t-ˈfās\ *n* **1** : a reversal of direction **2** : a reversal of attitude or point of view — **about-face** *vb*

¹**above** \ə-ˈbəv\ *adv* **1** : in or to a higher place : OVERHEAD

2 : higher on the same or a preceding page **3 :** in or to a higher rank or number

[2]**above** *prep* **1 :** in or to a higher place than : OVER **2 :** superior to ⟨a captain is *above* a lieutenant⟩ ⟨*above* criticism⟩ **3 :** too proud or honorable to stoop to ⟨*above* such mean tricks⟩ **4 :** exceeding in number, quantity, or size : more than ⟨*above* the average⟩ **5 :** as distinct from and in addition to ⟨heard the bell *above* the roar of the crowd⟩

[3]**above** *adj* : written above

above-board \ə-ˈbəv-ˌbȯrd, -ˌbȯrd\ *adv or adj* : without concealment or deceit

above-ground \ə-ˈbəv-ˌgraůnd\ *adj* : located or happening on or above the surface of the ground ⟨an *aboveground* swimming pool⟩

ab·ra·ca·dab·ra \ˌab-rə-kə-ˈdab-rə\ *n* **1 :** a magical charm or word **2 :** unintelligible language : JARGON

abrade \ə-ˈbrād\ *vb* **abrad·ed; abrad·ing 1 :** to rub or wear away especially by friction **2 :** to irritate or roughen by rubbing — **abrad·er** *n*

abra·sion \ə-ˈbrā-zhən\ *n* **1 :** a rubbing, grinding, or wearing away by friction **2 :** a place where the surface has been rubbed or scraped off ⟨an *abrasion* on her knee⟩

[1]**abra·sive** \ə-ˈbrā-siv, -ziv\ *adj* : having the effect of abrading — **abra·sive·ly** *adv* — **abra·sive·ness** *n*

[2]**abrasive** *n* : a substance (as sand) used for grinding, smoothing, or polishing

abreast \ə-ˈbrest\ *adv or adj* **1 :** side by side with bodies in line ⟨lined up three *abreast*⟩ **2 :** up to a standard or level especially of knowledge ⟨keep *abreast* of the times⟩

abridge \ə-ˈbrij\ *vb* **abridged; abridg·ing 1 :** to make less : DIMINISH ⟨forbidden to *abridge* the rights of citizens⟩ **2 :** to shorten in duration or extent **3 :** to shorten by omission of words : CONDENSE [Middle English *abregen* "deprive, reduce," from early French *abreger* (same meaning), from Latin *abbreviare* "to shorten" — related to ABBREVIATE] — **abridg·er** *n*

abridg·ment *or* **abridge·ment** \ə-ˈbrij-mənt\ *n* **1 a :** the action of abridging **b :** the state of being abridged **2 :** a shortened form of a written work

abroad \ə-ˈbrȯd\ *adv or adj* **1 :** over a wide area **2 :** away from one's home ⟨doesn't go *abroad* at night⟩ **3 :** in or to foreign countries ⟨travel *abroad*⟩ **4 :** in wide circulation ⟨rumors were *abroad*⟩

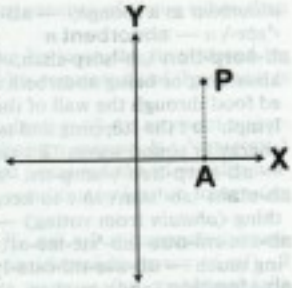
ab·ro·gate \ˈab-rə-ˌgāt\ *vb* **-gat·ed; -gat·ing :** to do away with or cancel by authority ⟨*abrogate* a law⟩ — **ab·ro·ga·tion** \ˌab-rə-ˈgā-shən\ *n*

abrupt \ə-ˈbrəpt\ *adj* **1 a :** SUDDEN 1a ⟨an *abrupt* change in the weather⟩ **b :** rudely brief : CURT ⟨an *abrupt* manner⟩ **2 :** [1]STEEP 1 ⟨the high *abrupt* bank of a stream⟩ — **abrupt·ly** \ə-ˈbrəp-(t)lē\ *adv* — **abrupt·ness** \ə-ˈbrəp(t)-nəs\ *n*

Word History If a person is rudely brief in speech or manner or stops you before you finish talking, you could say that that person is abrupt. If a road ends suddenly, you could say that the road comes to an abrupt end. In both of these cases you might think of something that is abrupt as "breaking off." *Abrupt* comes from the Latin word *abruptus*, meaning "broken off, ending suddenly." That word is formed (with the addition of the prefix *ab-*, meaning "from") from the Latin word *rumpere*, meaning "to break." Latin *rumpere* has given us several other English words that carry the idea of breaking: *interrupt, rupture,* and *corrupt*. [from Latin *abruptus* "abrupt," derived from *abrumpere* "to break off," from *ab-* "from" and *rumpere* "to break" — related to CORRUPT, INTERRUPT, RUPTURE]

ab·scess \ˈab-ˌses\ *n* : a collection of pus surrounded by inflamed tissue at some point in the body — **ab·scessed** \-ˌsest\ *adj*

ab·scis·sa \ab-ˈsis-ə\ *n* : the number in an ordered pair of numbers (as x in (x, y)) that gives the location of a point along the x-axis — called also *x-coordinate*; compare ORDINATE



abscissa: *A* is the abscissa of point *P*

ab·scis·sion \ab-ˈsizh-ən\ *n* **1 :** the act or process of cutting off **2 :** the natural separation of flowers, fruit, or leaves from plants

ab·scond \ab-ˈskänd, əb-\ *vb* : to leave secretly and hide oneself — **ab·scond·er** *n*

ab·sence \ˈab-sən(t)s\ *n* **1 :** the state of being absent **2 :** the time that one is absent **3 :** [2]WANT 1a, LACK ⟨*absence* of detail⟩

[1]**ab·sent** \ˈab-sənt\ *adj* **1 :** not present or attending : MISSING **2 :** not existing ⟨enthusiasm was *absent*⟩ **3 :** lost in thought : PREOCCUPIED — **ab·sent·ly** *adv*

[2]**ab·sent** \ab-ˈsent\ *vb* : to keep (oneself) away

ab·sen·tee \ˌab-sən-ˈtē\ *n* : a person who is absent — **absentee** *adj*

ab·sent·mind·ed \ˌab-sənt-ˈmīn-dəd\ *adj* : lost in thought and unaware of one's surroundings or actions — **ab·sent·mind·ed·ly** *adv* — **ab·sent·mind·ed·ness** *n*

ab·so·lute \ˈab-sə-ˌlüt, ˌab-sə-ˈlüt\ *adj* **1 a :** free from imperfection : PERFECT **b :** free or nearly free from mixture : PURE ⟨*absolute* alcohol⟩ **2 :** free from restraint or limitation ⟨*absolute* power⟩ ⟨an *absolute* monarch⟩ **3 :** having no exceptions ⟨an *absolute* requirement⟩ ⟨*absolute* freedom⟩ **4 :** free from doubt : CERTAIN ⟨*absolute* proof⟩ **5 a :** independent of standards of measurement that reflect individual choice : ACTUAL ⟨*absolute* brightness of a star⟩ ⟨*absolute* motion⟩ **b :** relating to or coming from the basic units of length, mass, and time ⟨*absolute* electric units⟩ **c :** relating to the absolute-temperature scale ⟨10° *absolute*⟩ — **ab·so·lute·ness** \-ˌlüt-nəs, -ˈlüt-\ *n*

ab·so·lute·ly \ˈab-sə-ˌlüt-lē, ˌab-sə-ˈlüt-\ *adv* : in an absolute way : completely or definitely ⟨you are *absolutely* right⟩

absolute temperature *n* : temperature measured on a scale that has absolute zero as the zero point

absolute value *n* : a nonnegative number that is equal to a given number with any negative sign removed ⟨the *absolute value* of -3 is 3⟩

absolute zero *n* : a hypothetical temperature that has never been reached, represents no heat at all, and is equal to approximately −273.15°C or −459.67°F

ab·so·lu·tion \ˌab-sə-ˈlü-shən\ *n* : the act of absolving; *esp* : a forgiving of sins

ab·solve \əb-ˈzälv, -ˈsälv, -ˈzȯlv, -ˈsȯlv\ *vb* **ab·solved; ab·solv·ing :** to set free from an obligation or punishment — **ab·solv·er** *n*

ab·sorb \əb-ˈsȯrb, -ˈzȯrb\ *vb* **1 :** to take in or suck or swallow up ⟨a sponge *absorbs* water⟩ ⟨plant roots *absorb* water⟩ **2 :** to hold the interest of : ENGROSS ⟨*absorbed* in thought⟩ **3 a :** to receive without giving back ⟨a sound-*absorbing* surface⟩ **b :** to transform (radiant energy) into a different form usually with a resulting rise in temperature ⟨the earth *absorbs* the sun's rays⟩ — **ab·sorb·abil·i·ty** \əb-ˌsȯr-bə-ˈbil-ət-ē, -ˌzȯr-\ *n* — **ab·sorb·able** \əb-ˈsȯr-bə-bəl, -ˈzȯr-\ *adj* — **ab·sorb·er** *n*

ab·sor·bent \əb-ˈsȯr-bənt, -ˈzȯr-\ *adj* : able to absorb ⟨as

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