

**LONGMAN**

# Basic Dictionary of American English

WITH COLOR ILLUSTRATIONS

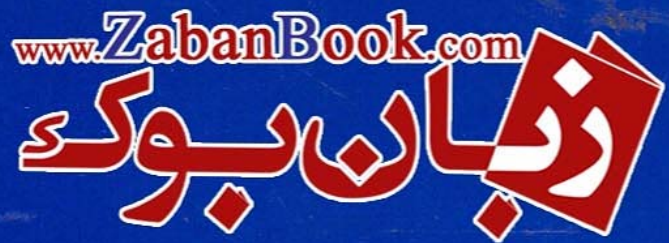
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# LONGMAN

## Basic Dictionary of American English



WITH COLOR ILLUSTRATIONS

Clear, highly illustrated, and easy to use, the *Longman Basic Dictionary of American English* is the ideal first monolingual dictionary. It gives clear, understandable definitions of all the words students at pre-intermediate level will need.

- 10,000 words and phrases
- 200 cartoon illustrations to make words easy to remember
- 12 full-page color pictures
- clear definitions written using the Longman American Defining Vocabulary
- Examples showing words in context
- usage notes to provide students with extra help
- an active guide to using the dictionary

Teachers		Intermediate	✓
Students	✓✓	Lower Intermediate	✓✓
General	✓✓	Beginner	

Looking up words in textbooks and reading	✓✓
Learning words from examples and pictures	✓✓



**B** RITISH **N** ATIONAL **C** ORPUS



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**LONGMAN**

*Basic*

**DICTIONARY  
OF AMERICAN  
ENGLISH**





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# What your dictionary tells you

**set-tle** /'setl/ verb (setting, settled)  
 1 to begin to live in a new place: *My son settled in Los Angeles.*  
 2 to end an argument by agreeing to do something: *We settled our disagreement without a fight.*  
 3 to rest on something in a comfortable position: *I settled back on the chair and relaxed.*  
 4 settle a bill to pay the money that you owe for something  
 5 **settle down** to become calmer and less noisy: *It took the children a while to settle down or job: How are you settling in at the school?*  
 6 **settle in** to become happier in a new place that is less than what you wanted: *Most of the tickets were gone, so we had to settle for what we could get.*  
**set-tle-ment** /'setlmnt/ noun  
 an official decision or agreement that ends an argument: *The two sides have reached a settlement.* (made an agreement)  
**fish<sup>1</sup> and fish<sup>2</sup> are**  
 separate even though they have the same spelling because one is a noun and the other is a verb. Look at **Which word?** on page vii.  
**fish<sup>1</sup>** noun  
 (plural fish or fishes) an animal that lives in water and can swim, and which people eat as food  
**fish<sup>2</sup>** verb  
 1 to try to catch a fish  
**freeze** /fri:z/ verb (freezing, froze, past participle frozen)  
 1 to become very cold and change from a liquid into a solid: *Water freezes to become ice.*  
**lit-tle** /less, leas-  
 1 only a small amount of something: *She eats very little.* | *I have very little money at the moment.*  
**wom-an** /'wumn/ noun (plural women)  
 an adult female person *compare MAN*  
**traf-fic** /'tra:fk/ noun (U)  
 1 the cars and people moving on a particular road: *The city streets are full of traffic.*  
**split<sup>1</sup>** /spllt/ verb (splitting, past tense split, past participle split)  
 2 (also split up) to divide something into parts: *We split the money between*

The meaning of the word is explained using simple words. Any difficult words are written in small capital letters and you will always find them in the dictionary. The examples show you how to use the word.

part of speech

pictures with labels for clarity

This is shown when a verb does not add -ed to form the past tense.

This is shown when the comparative and superlative is not formed with -er and -est.

This is shown when a noun does not add -s to form the plural.

The dictionary tells you when a noun is uncountable. They are not used with a or an.

You can find information about which prepositions to use with a word.

**happ-en** /'hæpən/ verb  
 1 to start or continue, usually without being planned: *The accident happened outside my house.*  
 2 happen to do something to do something by chance: *If you happen to see Susan, give her this message.*

**happ-en-ing** /'hæpənɪŋ/ noun  
 an event

**happ-ily** /'hæpəlɪ/ adverb  
 in a happy way: *They were laughing happily.*

**happ-i-ness** /'hæpɪnɪs/ noun (U)  
 the state of being happy or pleased: *They've had years of happiness together.*

**happy** /'hæpi/ adjective (happier, happiest)  
 1 feeling very pleased: *I am happy to see you again.* → opposite UNHAPPY  
 2 Happy Birthday!; Happy New Year! said to someone to wish him or her good luck on a special occasion

**chipped cups**

**chip**

**chip<sup>1</sup>** /tʃɪp/ noun  
 1 a small space or crack where a piece is missing from something: *My cup has a chip in it.*  
 2 a very small piece of metal or plastic used in computers to store information and make the computer work

**potato chips**

**computer chip**

There are notes to help you to use a word without making mistakes.

Sometimes it is useful or interesting to know about another word which is like the word you are looking at, or to know what the opposite of a word is. You can find this information in your dictionary.

There are pictures to help you understand the meanings of words.

Remember, there are also 12 color pictures in your dictionary which help you understand lots of words.

Now look at the next page for more information on how to use your dictionary.



# How to find the word you need in your dictionary

This is the English alphabet:

a b c d e f g h i j k l m n o p q r s t u v w x y z  
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V  
W X Y Z

A is the first letter in the alphabet and Z is the last.

Look at the letters below and put them in the correct order.

O D J B Q R Z T N A A

Now look at the alphabet above to see if you have the right answers.

In a dictionary, the words are in the same order as the letters of the alphabet (this is called alphabetical order), so that words which start with a are at the beginning of the dictionary and words which start with z are at the end.

Look at these words and then put them in alphabetical order.

alphabet      teacher  
aunt          orange  
afternoon    computer  
dog          school  
music        yellow

\_\_\_\_\_ *afternoon* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Now look in the main part of the dictionary to see if you have the right answers.

The word **afternoon** comes before the word **alphabet** in the dictionary. These words both begin with the letter a, so you must look at the second letters (f and j) to see which one comes first.

The following words all begin with the same letters. Put them in alphabetical order and then look to see if your answers are correct.

*fire*  
fire department  
firefighter  
fireworks  
fire engine  
fireplace

\_\_\_\_\_ *fire* \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

In this dictionary, **fire engine** and **fire department** are in alphabetical order in the same way as if they were one word instead of two, so that **fire department** comes before **fire engine** because **d** comes before **e** in the alphabet.

You can find phrasal verbs such as **pick up** and **sit down** by looking at the main verb (**pick up** is at **pick**, **sit down** is at **sit**). If you want to find an idiom or an expression in this dictionary, look at the most important word of the idiom (= a word which is NOT a, the, to etc.). For example, to find the idiom **give someone a hand**, look at **hand**.

Where would you look to find these expressions?

just a minute  
behind someone's back  
take your time

Look in the dictionary to find the answers.

## Which word?

Sometimes you will find that there are two or more words with the same spelling (look at **love**, for example).

**love<sup>1</sup>** /lav/ verb (loving, loved)

1 to care very much for someone, or have a strong romantic feeling for someone: *Mothers love their children.* → compare HATE<sup>1</sup>

2 to like something very much: *Maria loves to read.*

**love<sup>2</sup>** noun

1 [U] a strong romantic feeling for someone: *Her love for her husband is real.* → compare HATE<sup>2</sup>, HATRED

**Love<sup>1</sup>** and **love<sup>2</sup>** are separate because they are different types of words. **Love<sup>1</sup>** is a verb and **love<sup>2</sup>** is a noun. If you are using the dictionary to find information about a new word, you need to know what type of word it is.

The sentences below have a space where a word is missing. Look at the list of words and decide which words you can put in the first sentence. For example, you can say "Their house is beautiful", so **BEAUTIFUL** is one of the words which can go in the first sentence. Then look at the second and third sentences and choose suitable words. Remember that there is more than one word for each sentence.

- Their house is .....
- We ..... every day.
- I have a new .....

computer      hat      work  
eat            old      beautiful  
big            bicycle      sleep

The words which can be used in the first sentence are all **adjectives**. An **adjective** is a word which describes someone or something. The words which can be used in the second sentence are all **verbs**. A **verb** is a word which tells you what someone or something does. The words which can be used in the third sentence are all **nouns**. A **noun** is a word which is the name of a person, place, animal, or thing.

Now look at these words and say whether each one is a noun, a verb or an adjective (write N, V, or A after the word).

blue	A	see
mother		information
loud		understand
dictionary		boy

Find the words in the dictionary and see if your answers are correct. Write a sentence using each word.

## Finding the right part of the word

A word often has more than one meaning. Look at as below:

**as** /əz/ strong exz/ adverb, preposition  
1 used to say what someone's job is, or what something is used for: *She works as a teacher. | We can use this box as a table.*  
2 when; while: *We sang as we worked.*  
3 because: *I can't come, as I'm too busy.*  
4 as ... as used to compare two or more: *I'm not as old as you. | It's just as good as the other one.*  
5 as well also: *Can I have some milk as well?*

Which of the meanings of 'as' is being used in each of these sentences? Write the number of the meaning after each sentence.

- She isn't as smart as her sister. 4
- I spent 6 months as a student at that college.
- We watched as the car disappeared.
- He lived there as a young man.
- They used a piece of cloth as a curtain.

### How to say the word

Look at the phonetic symbols on the inside front cover. Now look at the words below and put the right word with the right sound.

cat law narrow shop father often dig hot hand car

/æ/ \_\_\_\_\_ cat  
 /ɑ:/ \_\_\_\_\_  
 /ɔ:/ \_\_\_\_\_

Notice that different spellings may have the same sound.

Now look at these words beginning with 'th' and see if you can find the pronunciation for each word.

this /θɪtər/  
 though /ðə/  
 these /θi:z/  
 theater /θi:z/  
 thought /ðɔ:/  
 their /ðɪz/

If you look again at the pronunciation for **theater** (/θɪtər/) you can see that there is a small mark like this ' ' in front of it. This is to tell you that you must say the first part of **theater** a little bit louder and with a little more force than the rest of the word (**THEater**). Making one part of a word more important when you say it is called **stress**. Stress isn't always at the beginning of a word.

Do you know where the stress should be for these words? Put a ✓ next to the one which is right and an X next to the one which is wrong. Say the words out loud to help you decide.

'affect           aca'demic           'accept  
 af'fect           a'cademic           ac'cept

Where should the stress be in these words? Put a ' in front of the part of the word where the stress should be.

ex plain           ex plan a tion           dic tion ary  
 pur pose           fire en gine

Look in the dictionary to see if you have the right answers.

Sometimes nouns and verbs which look the same have different stress, for example **record** (noun) is pronounced 'record', but the verb **record** is pronounced re'cord.

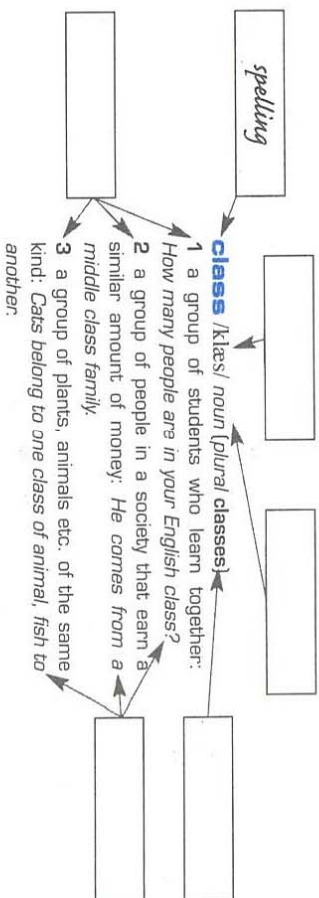
Look at these examples and say whether the stress is the same or different.

There has been an increase in the number of students at the school.  
 The number of students at the school will increase next year.

Our country exports oil.  
 What are America's main exports?

*Other ways your dictionary can help you*

Look at pages 4 and 5 to find more information about how this dictionary can help you. Then see if you can name the different parts of the dictionary entry below. The first one has already been done to help you.



# THE DICTIONARY A-Z





- a** /ɜː, strɒŋ eɪ/  
 1 one or any: *There's a man at the door.* | *She was wearing a red skirt.*  
 2 each or every: *The candy cost 75 cents a bag.* | *He visits twice a year.*

NOTE: **An** is used instead of **a** before a word that starts with the sound of **a**, **e**, **i**, **o**, or **u**  
 ➔ look at **AN**

**abandon** /ə'brændən/ verb  
 to leave someone or something that you are responsible for: *The baby was abandoned by its mother.*

**ab-brev-i-a-tion** /ə,bri:v'i:ʃən/ noun  
 a short way to write a word or name: *Mr. is the abbreviation for Mister.*

**ABCs** /'etbi:si:z/ noun  
 the letters of the English alphabet: *She's learning her ABCs.*

**ab-do-men** /'æbdəmən/ noun  
 the front part of your body between your chest and your legs

**ability** /ə'bi:lɪti/ noun (plural **abilities**)  
 when someone can do something successfully: *A teacher must have the ability to keep students interested.* | *She lost her ability to walk after a car accident.*

**able** /'eɪbəl/ adjective  
 if someone is able to do something, they can do it: *Is he able to swim?* | *I won't be able to come.*  
 ➔ opposite **UNABLE**

**aboard** /ə'bo:rd/ adverb, preposition  
 on or onto a ship or plane: *Are all the passengers aboard?*

**abolish** /ə'bəʊlɪʃ/ verb  
 to make a law to end something: *The government abolished slavery long ago.*

**ab-o-li-tion** /'æbəʊlɪʃən/ noun  
 when a law is made to end something or to make something illegal: *the abolition of slavery in the 1860s*

absorb

**ab-or-tion** /ə'brɔ:ʃən/ noun  
 when someone ends a PREGNANCY so that the baby is never born

**about** /ə'baʊt/ adverb, preposition  
 1 if one thing is about something else, that is what it describes or deals with: *She gave me a book about the local area.*  
 2 a little more or less than a particular number or amount: *Come at about six o'clock.*  
 3 almost: *Dinner is about ready.*

**be about to do something** to be going to do something very soon: *I was about to come and see you.*

**how about, what about** used when you are suggesting what to do: *How about going to the movies?*

**above** /ə'baʊv/ adverb, preposition  
 1 in or to a higher place or over something else: *The picture is on the wall above my desk.*

2 more than a particular number or amount: *The temperature went above 90 today.*  
 3 above all more than anything else: *I want you to remember this above all.*

**ab-broad** /ə'brɔ:d/ adverb  
 in or to a foreign country: *My brother is studying abroad.* | *Have you ever been abroad?*

**ab-rupt** /ə'brʌpt/ adjective  
 sudden: *There was an abrupt knock at the door.*

**ab-sen-ce** /'æbsəns/ noun  
 when someone or something is not there: *Her absence was noticed by her boss.* ➔ opposite **PRESENT**

**ab-sent** /'æbsənt/ adjective  
 not here: *He was absent from class last Tuesday.* ➔ compare **PRESENT**

**absent-minded** /'æbsənt'maɪnd/ adjective  
 not noticing things that are happening around you, and often forgetting things

**ab-sol-ute** /'æbsə'lju:t, 'æbsə'lju:t/ adjective  
 complete or exact: *Are you telling me the absolute truth?*

**ab-sol-u-te-ly** /'æbsə'lju:tli, 'æbsə'lju:tli/ adverb  
 1 very: *completely. It's absolutely beautiful. Are you absolutely sure?*  
 2 said to say that you completely agree with someone: *"Do you think I'm right?" "Absolutely!"*

**ab-sorb** /əb'sɔ:rb, -'zɔ:rb/ verb  
 1 to take in a liquid slowly



**2** to learn and understand something: *I haven't absorbed all the information yet.*

**absorbent** /əb'sɔ:bɪnt, -'zɔ:r-/ *adjective*

able to take in liquid: *You need a thick piece of absorbent material.*

**absorbing** /əb'sɔ:bɪŋ, -'zɔ:r-/ *adjective*  
very interesting: *An absorbing novel about the Wild West*

**absurd** /əb'sɜ:d, -'zɜ:d/ *adjective*  
extremely silly: *The story was so absurd that no one believed it. —absurdly adverb*

**abundant** /ə'ʒʌndənt/ *adjective*  
more than enough in quantity: *We have an abundant supply of water.*

**abuse** /ə'byu:s/ *noun*

1 wrong or harmful use of something: *We talked about the problem of drug abuse.*

2 bad or cruel treatment of someone

3 rude and bad things that are said to someone: *He shouted abuse at me.*

**abuse** <sup>1</sup> *verb* (abusing, abused)

1 to do cruel or violent things to someone

**academic** /ˌækəd'mɪk/ *adjective*  
about or relating to work done in schools, colleges, or universities: *The academic year begins in September.*

**accent** /'æksənt/ *noun*

a way of speaking that shows that someone comes from a particular place: *John speaks with a southern accent. | a French accent*  
➔ compare DIALECT

**accept** /ək'sept/ *verb*

1 to take something that is offered to you: *Will you accept my offer? | He would not accept any money from us.*

2 to agree that something is true, right, or should be done: *The mayor accepted that there had been some mistakes.*

**acceptable** /ək'septəbəl/ *adjective*  
of a good enough quality: *It wasn't your best work, but it was acceptable.*

**acceptance** /ək'septsəns/ *noun*  
when you agree to take something that is offered to you, or agree that something is true or right

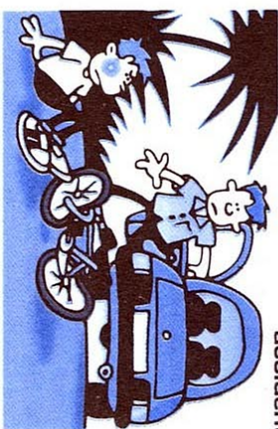
**access** /'ækses/ *noun*

1 a way of being able to use or do something: *Students need access to computers.*



accident

**access** /'ækses/ *noun*  
the right to use a place: *The school has access to the building for people in wheelchairs.*



**accident** /'æksədənt, -'dent/ *noun*

1 something bad, that happens by chance: *I didn't mean to break it — it was an accident!*

2 when a car, plane etc. hits something or gets damaged: *a car accident in which two people died | The number of accidents on roads is rising every year.*

3 by accident if something happens by accident, it is not planned but happens by chance: *Jill opened the letter by accident, thinking it was for her.*

**accidental** /'æksədəntəl/ *adjective*  
not planned, but happening by chance

**accidentally** /'æksədəntəlɪ, -'dentəlɪ/ *adverb*  
if you do something accidentally, you do it without intending to: *I accidentally left my keys in the car.*

**accommodate** /ə'kʌmə'deɪt/ *verb*  
(accommodating, accommodated)

1 to have enough space for something: *The room will accommodate fifty people.*

2 to give someone a place where they can live or stay

**accommodation** /ə'kʌmə'deɪʃən/ *noun*  
also accommodations a place where you can live or stay: *Accommodation is provided for all new students.*

**accompany** /ə'kʌmpəni/ *verb*  
(accompanying, accompanied)

1 to go somewhere with someone: *He accompanied me to the hospital.*

2 to play music with someone who is singing or playing another instrument: *Mania sang, and I accompanied her on the piano.*

**accomplish** /ə'kʌmplɪʃ/ *verb*

to do something successfully: *We accomplished a lot during the day.*

**accuse** /ə'kyuz/ *verb* (accusing, accused)  
to say that someone has done something wrong: *Sally accused Paul of cheating.*

**accustomed** /ə'kʌstəmd/ *adjective*  
be accustomed to something to think that something is normal or usual, especially because you do it a lot or know it well: *I'm not accustomed to getting out of bed this early.*

**ache** /eɪk/ *noun*  
a continuous pain: *I have a stomach ache.*

**ache** <sup>2</sup> *verb* (aching, ached)  
to hurt with a continuing pain: *Her head ached.*

**achieve** /ə'tʃi:v/ *verb* (achieving, achieved)  
to succeed in doing something, especially by working hard: *She's achieved a lot since she came to this school.*

**achievement** /ə'tʃi:vmənt/ *noun*  
something that you have worked hard for and done well

**acid** /'æsɪd/ *noun*  
a chemical substance that can burn things

**acid rain** /'æsɪd reɪn/ *noun* [U]  
rain which damages trees and plants because it contains acid put into the air by factory smoke

**acknowledge** /ək'noʊlɪdʒ/ *verb*  
(acknowledging, acknowledged)

1 to agree that something is true: *The hospital acknowledged that it made a mistake.*

2 to tell the person who sends you something that you have received it: *No, they didn't answer my letter. They didn't even acknowledge it.*

**acorn** /'eɪkɔ:n/ *noun*  
the nut of the OAK tree

**acquaintance** /ə'kwentɪns/ *noun*  
someone you know, but not very well ➔ compare FRIEND

**acquainted** /ə'kwentɪnd/ *adjective*  
be acquainted with someone to know someone: *Are you acquainted with Mr. Smith?*

**acre** /'eɪkə/ *noun*  
a measure of land that is equal to 4,840 square yards or 4,047 square meters

**acrobat** /'ækrə'bæt/ *noun*  
someone who performs in a CIRCUS and does difficult tricks with their body

**across** /ə'krɔ:s/ *adverb, preposition*  
1 from one side of a place to the other: *They swam across the river.*



**2** on the other side of something: *She lives across the street from me.*

**act<sup>1</sup>** /ækt/ verb

- 1 to do something or behave in a particular way: *You're acting like an idiot.*
- 2 to pretend to be someone else in a play or movie: *She's been acting since she was five years old.*

**3 act as** to do something or be used instead of someone or something else: *This room acts as her office.*

**act<sup>2</sup>** noun

- 1 something you do: *an act of bravery*
- 2 one of the parts that a play is divided into
- 3 something you pretend to feel or think: *She seems happy, but it's just an act.*

**acting** /'æktɪŋ/ noun [U]  
the work done by an ACTOR or ACTRESS

**action** /'æksjən/ noun

- 1 something that you do: *His quick action saved her life. | The police say they will not be taking any further action in the matter.*
- 2 out of action not working or broken: *My car is out of action.*

**active** /'æktɪv/ adjective

- 1 doing something or always ready or able to do things: *She is very active for her age. | He's over 80, but he's still pretty active.*
  - 2 an active verb is one that has one person or thing doing something: *In the sentence, "John kicked the ball," "kicked" is an active verb.*
- compare PASSIVE

**act-iv-i-ty** /'æktɪvɪti/ noun

- 1 [U] when people are moving around, doing things etc.: *The classroom was full of activity.*
- 2 [plural activities] something you do, especially to enjoy yourself: *Dancing is her favorite activity.*

**actor** /'æktə/ noun

someone who acts in a play or movie

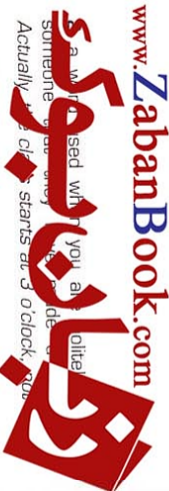
**act-ress** /'æktɪs/ noun [plural actresses]

a woman who performs in a play or movie

**act-u-al** /'æktʃuəl, 'æksjuəl/ adjective  
real and clear: *We think he stole the money, but we have no actual proof.*

**act-u-al-ly** /'æktʃuəli, -tʃuəli, 'æksjuəli, -ʃuəli/ adverb

1 a word used to show that you are giving real or true information about something: *I know who he is, but I've never actually met him. | Do you actually believe that?*



**A.D.** /,eɪ 'di/

after the birth of Christ, used in dates: *The document was dated A.D. 1471.* → compare B.C.  
**ad /æd/ noun**  
an advertisement

**adapt** /ə'dæpt/ verb

- 1 to change your behavior or ideas because of a new situation you are in: *The children have adapted to their new school.*
- 2 to change something so that it is suitable for a new situation: *This kitchen is adapted for blind people.*

**adapt-able** /ə'dæptəbəl/ adjective  
able to change and be successful in a new situation

**add** /æd/ verb

- 1 to put something into or onto something else: *To make the cake, mix butter and sugar, and then add flour.*
- 2 to put numbers or amounts together to produce a total: *If you add 3 and 4, you get 7. | Add up these numbers.* → compare SUBTRACT
- 3 to say more about something

**add-ict** /'ædɪkt/ noun

someone who cannot stop doing something harmful, especially taking drugs: *a clinic for treating drug and alcohol addicts*

**add-ic-tion** /ə'dɪkʃən/ noun

the need to have something such as drugs because you cannot stop taking it

**ad-di-tion** /ə'dɪʃən/ noun

- 1 [U] when numbers or amounts are added together → compare SUBTRACTION
- 2 someone or something that is added: *She was an important addition to the company.*
- 3 in addition to something and something else too: *In addition to English, the children also learn German and Spanish.*

**ad-dress<sup>1</sup>** /ə'dres/ noun [plural addresses]  
the name of the place where you live: *Please write your name and address.*

**ad-dress<sup>2</sup>** /ə'dres/ verb

- 1 to speak to someone: *The President will address the nation tonight.*
- 2 to write a name and address on something: *She addressed the letter to Mrs. Wilson.*

**ad-e-quate** /'ædəkweɪt/ adjective  
enough: *The information you gave us was not adequate.* → opposite INADEQUATE

**ad-jec-tive** /'ædʒektɪv, 'ædʒektɪv/ noun

a word that describes someone or something: *In the phrase, "a beautiful song," "beautiful" is an adjective.*

**ad-just** /ə'dʒʌst/ verb

to make a small change in something to make it better

**ad-min-is-tration** /əd'mɪnɪ'streɪʃən/ noun

the management or organization of a company, government etc.

**ad-mi-ral** /'ædmərəl/ noun

an important officer in the navy

**ad-mi-ra-tion** /'ædmə'reɪʃən/ noun

a feeling that someone or something is very good, beautiful, intelligent etc.

**ad-mire** /əd'maɪə/ verb [admiring, admired]

- 1 to respect and approve of someone or something: *I always admired his work.*
- 2 to look at something in an approving way: *I was just admiring your new car.*

**ad-mis-sion** /əd'mɪʃən/ noun

- 1 when you say that you have done something wrong or bad: *an admission of guilt*
- 2 permission to enter a place: *Admission was free for children.*

**ad-mit** /əd'mɪt/ verb [admitting, admitted]

- 1 to agree or say that something bad about yourself is true: *She admitted that she was lazy.* → opposite DENY
- 2 to let someone enter a place: *This ticket admits two people to the game.*

**ad-o-les-cent** /'ædlɪ'sent/ noun

someone who is between 13 and 17 years old, and is developing into an adult → compare TEENAGER

**ad-opt** /ə'dɒpt/ verb

to take someone else's child into your family and treat him or her as if they were your own

**ad-ore** /ə'dɔː/ verb [adoring, adored]

to love someone or something very much: *She adored her son. | I adore chocolate.*

**ad-ult** /ə'dʌlt, 'ædʌlt/ noun

a grown-up person: *We were in a group of 3 adults and 4 children.*

**ad-vance<sup>1</sup>** /əd'vens/ verb [advancing, advanced]  
to move forward: *The army advanced toward the town.* → compare RETREAT<sup>1</sup>

**advance<sup>2</sup>** noun

in advance before something happens or before you do something: *You must pay in advance.*

**ad-vanced** /əd'venst/ adjective

- 1 using the most modern ideas or equipment: *They sell the most advanced computers available.*
- 2 at a high or difficult level: *advanced learners of English*

**ad-van-tage** /əd'ventɪdʒ/ noun

something that helps you: *It is an advantage to speak several languages.* → opposite DISADVANTAGE

**ad-ven-ture** /əd'ventʃə/ noun

an exciting thing that happens to someone

**ad-ven-tur-ous** /əd'ventʃərəs/ adjective  
liking excitement and adventures

**ad-verb** /'ædvəb/ noun

a word that tells you how, when, or where something is done: *In the sentence, "She spoke loudly," "loudly" is an adverb.*

**ad-vert-ise** /'ædvə'taɪz/ verb

[advertising, advertised]  
to use notices, photographs, movies etc. to try to persuade people to buy, do, or use something: *It is illegal to advertise cigarettes on TV.*

**ad-vert-ise-ment** /'ædvə'taɪzmənt/ noun

a short movie, photograph, notice etc. that tries to persuade people to buy, do, or use something

**ad-vice** /əd'veɪs/ noun

a suggestion about what someone should do: *Let me give you a piece of advice. | Can I ask your advice about what classes to take?*

**ad-vice** /əd'veɪz/ verb [advising, advised]

to tell someone what you think he or she should do: *The doctor advised me to rest for a few days.*

**ae-ro-bics** /ə'roʊbɪks, e-/ noun

exercise done to music, usually in a class

**ae-ro-sol** /'erə'sɒl, -sɒl/ noun

a container from which a liquid can be sprayed (SPRAY<sup>1</sup>)





- affair** /ə'feɪr/ *noun*
- 1 a sexual relationship between two people, especially one which is secret: Her husband was **having an affair with his secretary**.
  - 2 something that happens: The party was a **noisy affair**.
  - 3 things connected with a particular subject: **government affairs**
- affect** /ə'fekt/ *verb*
- to produce a change in someone or something: The disease **affected his breathing**. → compare EFFECT
- affection** /ə'fekʃən/ *noun* [U]
- the feeling of liking and caring for another person
- affectionate** /ə'fekʃənɪ/ *adjective*
- showing that you like or love someone
- afford** /ə'fɔ:rd/ *verb*
- to have enough money to buy something: We **can't afford a new car**.
- afraid** /ə'freɪd/ *adjective*
- frightened of something: Are you **afraid of the dark**? → compare SCARED
- after** /'æftə/ *preposition, adverb*
- 1 later than something in time: Tomorrow is the day **after today**. | The watch broke three days **after I bought it**. → compare BEFORE!
  - 2 moving toward or behind someone or something else: The child ran **after her dog**.
  - 3 used to say how many minutes past the hour it is when you are telling the time: It's ten **after four**.
  - 4 **be after someone** to be looking for someone: Are the police still **after him**?
  - 5 **be after something** to be trying to get something: I think he's **after more money**.
  - 6 **after all** in spite of what you did or thought before: Don't worry about it. **After all, it's not your fault**.
- after-noon** /'æftə-'nu:n/ *noun*
- the time between the middle of the day and the evening: I saw Jim yesterday **afternoon**. → compare MORNING
- after-ward** /'æftə-'wɔ:d/ *adverb* [also afterwards]
- later, after something else has happened: We went to the dance and **walked home after-ward**.
- again** /ə'geɪn/ *adverb*
- 1 one more time: Can you say that **again**?
  - 2 **again and again** a lot of times

- against** /ə'geɪnst/ *preposition*
- 1 close to or touching something: He leaned **against the wall**.
  - 2 not agreeing with someone or something: I'm **against killing animals for their fur**.
  - 3 playing or competing for the other side in a game or competition: We're playing **against the blue team**.
  - 4 in order to try to stop something happening: a protest **against the war**
  - 5 **against the law** not allowed by the law: It's **against the law to drive too fast**.
- age** /eɪdʒ/ *noun*
- 1 the number of years someone has lived or something has existed: Pat is **ten years of age**.
  - 2 [U] when something has existed for a long time: The wine **improves with age**.
  - 3 **old age** when someone is old: Who will take care of me in **my old age**?
  - 4 a period of time in history
  - 5 **ages** a long time: We talked for **ages**.
- agency** /'eɪdʒənsi/ *noun* [plural agencies]
- a business that provides a particular service
- ages** /'eɪdʒɪz/ *plural noun*
- a long time: It's been **ages since I've seen her!**
- aggressive** /ə'gresɪv/ *adjective*
- forceful and ready to argue with people: Your child is **too aggressive with others**.
- ago** /ə'ɡoʊ/ *adverb*
- in the past: It happened **just a few minutes ago**.
- NOTE:** Ago is used with the past tense of verbs, but you cannot use it with past tenses which are formed with **have**. Compare these sentences: He arrived a month **ago**. He has **been here since last month**. → look at BEFORE, SINCE
- agony** /'æɡəni/ *noun* [U]
- very bad pain
- agree** /ə'ɡri:/ *verb* (agreeing, agreed)
- 1 to have the same opinion as someone else: I **agree with you**. → opposite DISAGREE
  - 2 **agree to something** to say that you will do or that you approve of something: He **agreed to the plan**.
  - 3 **agree with something** to believe that something is right: I **don't agree with hunting**.

- agreement** /ə'ɡri:mənt/ *noun*
- 1 an arrangement or promise between people or countries: a **trade agreement between the U.S. and Japan**
  - 2 [U] having the same opinion as someone else: Are we all **in agreement about the plan**? → opposite DISAGREEMENT
- agricultural** /,ægrɪ'kʌltʃərəl/ *adjective*
- used in farming or about farming: **agricultural machinery**
- agriculture** /,ægrɪ'kʌltʃə/ [U]
- the activity of growing crops and raising animals for people to eat: About 25% of the country's people work in **agriculture**. → compare FARMING
- ahead** /ə'heɪd/ *adverb*
- 1 in front of someone or something: I saw her **ahead of me**.
  - 2 before an event or a particular time: So far we are **ahead of schedule**.
  - 3 into the future: We need to plan **ahead if we are to succeed**.
- aid** /eɪd/ *noun*
- help, especially in the form of money, food, equipment etc.: American **aid to the earthquake victims**
- aid** /eɪd/ *verb*
- to help someone
- AIDS** /eɪdz/ *noun* [U]
- a very serious disease which destroys the body's ability to fight illnesses → compare HIV
- aim** /eɪm/ *verb*
- 1 to plan or want to do something: We **aim to win**.
  - 2 to get ready to throw or fire something toward a person or thing: He **aimed the gun at me**.
- aim** /eɪm/ *noun*
- 1 something that you want to do or get: Our **aim is to provide better schools for everyone**.
  - 2 **take aim** to put a weapon in the direction of someone or something
- air** /eɪ/ *noun*
- 1 [U] the gas surrounding the Earth, which people breathe
  - 2 the air the space above you: He threw his hat **into the air**.
  - 3 by **air** in a plane: We traveled by **air**.

- air** /eɪ/ *verb*
- air your views/opinions to tell someone what you think about something
- air-conditioner** /'eɪr'kɒndɪʃənər/ *noun*
- a machine that makes the air in a room or building stay cool
- air-conditioning** /'eɪr'kɒndɪʃənɪŋ/ *noun* [U]
- a system of machines that stops the air in a building from feeling too warm
- air-craft** /'eɪrkrɑ:ft/ *noun* [plural aircraft]
- an airplane, or another vehicle that can fly
- air-field** /'eɪrfɪld/ *noun*
- a place where small airplanes fly from
- air force** /'eɪr'fɔ:rs/ *noun*
- soldiers who fight in airplanes → compare ARMY, NAVY
- air-line** /'eɪrlaɪn/ *noun*
- a company that carries people or goods by airplane
- air-mail** /'eɪrmeɪl/ *noun*
- letters and packages sent in airplanes
- airplane**



- air-ports** /'eɪr'pɔ:rt/ *noun*
- a place that airplanes arrive at and leave from
- air-raid** /'eɪr'reɪd/ *noun*
- an attack by soldiers in airplanes, especially by dropping bombs
- air-y** /'eɪrɪ/ *adjective* (airier, airiest)
- having fresh air inside: We were given a nice **airy room**.
- aisle** /aɪl/ *noun*
- a long passage between rows of seats