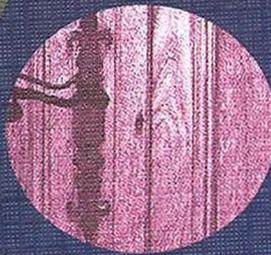


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A S Hornby

Ninth edition

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A /eɪ/ *noun, symbol, abbr.*

■ **noun** (also **a**) (pl. **As, A's, a's** /erz/) **1** [C, U] the first letter of the English alphabet: 'Apple' begins with (an) A/A'. **2** **A** [C, U] (music) the 6th note in the SCALE of C MAJOR **3** [C, U] the highest mark/grade that a student can get for a piece of work or course of study: She got (an) A in/for Biology. ◊ He had straight A's (= nothing but A's) all through high school. **4** **A** [U] used to represent the first of two or more possibilities: Shall we go for plan A or plan B? **5** **A** [U] used to represent a person, for example in an imagined situation or to hide their identity: Assume A knows B is guilty. ◊ SEE ALSO A-FRAME, A LEVEL, A-ROAD

IDM **from A to B** from one place to another: For me a car is just a means of getting from A to B. **from A to Z** including everything there is to know about sth: He knew his subject from A to Z.

■ **symbol** **1** used in Britain before a number to refer to a particular important road: the A34 to Newbury **2** used (but not in the US) before numbers which show standard METRIC sizes of paper: a sheet of A4 paper (= 297×210mm) ◊ A3 (= 420×297mm) ◊ A5 (= 210×148mm)

■ **abbr.** (in writing) AMP

a ① /ə; strong form eɪ/ (also **an** /ən; strong form æn/) *indefinite article* **HELP** The form **a** is used before consonant sounds and the form **an** before vowel sounds. When saying abbreviations like 'FM' or 'UN', use **a** or **an** according to how the first letter is said. For example, F is a consonant, but begins with the sound /e/ and so you say: an FM radio. U is a vowel but begins with /j/ and so you say: a UN declaration. **1** ① used before countable or singular nouns referring to people or things that have not already been mentioned: a man/horse/unit ◊ an aunt/egg/hour/X-ray ◊ I can only carry two at a time. ◊ There's a visitor for you. ◊ She's a friend of my father's (= one of my father's friends). **2** ① used before uncountable nouns when these have an adjective in front of them, or phrase following them: a good knowledge of French ◊ a sadness that won't go away **3** ① any; every: A lion is a dangerous animal. **4** ① used to show that sb/sth is a member of a group or profession: Their new car's a BMW. ◊ She's a Buddhist. ◊ He's a teacher. ◊ Is that a Monet (= a painting by Monet)? **5** used in front of two nouns that are seen as a single unit: a knife and fork **6** used instead of **one** before some numbers: A thousand people were there. **7** used when talking about prices, quantities and rates **SYN** per: They cost 50p a kilo. ◊ I can type 50 words a minute. ◊ He was driving at 50 miles an hour. **8** a person like sb: She's a little Hitler. **9** used before sb's name to show that the speaker does not know the person: There's a Mrs Green to see you. **10** used before the names of days of the week to talk about one particular day: She died on a Tuesday.

a- /eɪ/ *prefix* (in nouns, adjectives and adverbs) not; without: atheist ◊ atypical ◊ asexually ◊ MORE LIKE THIS 6, page R14

A1 /eɪ 'wʌn/ *adj.* (informal) very good: The car was in A1 condition.

A2 (level) /eɪ 'tu: lev/ *noun* [C, U] (until 2015) a British exam usually taken in Year 13 of school or college (= the final year) when students were aged 18. Students first studied a subject at AS level before taking an A2 exam. Together AS and A2 level exams formed the A-level qualification, which is needed for entrance to universities: A2 exams

AA /eɪ 'eɪ/ *abbr.* **1** (usually the **AA**) Automobile Association (a British organization which provides services for car owners) **2** ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

AAA /eɪ er 'eɪ/ *abbr.* **1** (especially NAmE) tripl 'eɪ/ American Automobile Association (an American organization which provides services for car owners) **2** (in the UK) Amateur Athletic Association

A & E /eɪ ənd 'i:/ *abbr.* ACCIDENT AND EMERGENCY ◊ WORD-FINDER NOTE AT HOSPITAL

A & R /eɪ ənd 'ɑ:(r)/ *abbr.* artists and repertoire (the department in a record company that is responsible for finding new singers and bands and getting them to sign a contract with the company)

aardvark /ɑ:dva:k; NAmE 'ɑ:rdvɑ:rk/ *noun* an animal from southern Africa that has a long nose and tongue and that eats insects

aargh /ɑ:; NAmE ɑ:r/ *exclamation* used to express fear, anger, or some other strong emotion: Aargh—get that cat off the table! ◊ MORE LIKE THIS 2, page R14

aback /ə'bæk/ *adv.*

IDM **be taken a'back** (by sb/sth) to be shocked or surprised by sb/sth: She was completely taken aback by his anger. ◊ SEE ALSO TAKE SB ABACK AT TAKE ◊ SYNONYMS AT SURPRISE

aba-cus /'æbəkəs/ *noun* (pl. **aba-cuses** /-kəsɪz/) a frame with small balls which slide along wires. It is used as a tool or toy for counting.

aba-lone /'æbə'ləuni; NAmE '-lou-/ *noun* [C, U] a SHELL-FISH that can be eaten and whose shell contains MOTHER-OF-PEARL

aban-don ① **AWL** /ə'bændən/ *verb, noun*

■ **verb** **1** ① to leave sb, especially sb you are responsible for, with no intention of returning: ~sb The baby had been abandoned by its mother. ◊ ~sb to sth The study showed a deep fear among the elderly of being abandoned to the care of strangers. **2** ① to leave a thing or place, especially because it is impossible or dangerous to stay **SYN** leave: ~sth Snow forced many drivers to abandon their vehicles. ◊ He gave the order to abandon ship (= to leave the ship because it was sinking). ◊ ~sth to sb/sth They had to abandon their lands to the invading forces. **3** ① ~sth to stop doing sth, especially before it is finished; to stop having sth: They abandoned the match because of rain. ◊ She abandoned hope of any reconciliation. **4** to stop supporting or helping sb; to stop believing in sth: ~sb The country abandoned its political leaders after the war. ◊ ~sth By 1930 he had abandoned his Marxist principles. **5** ~yourself to sth (literary) to feel an emotion so strongly that you can feel nothing else: He abandoned himself to despair.

■ **noun** [U] (formal) an uncontrolled way of behaving that shows that sb does not care what other people think: He signed cheques with careless abandon. **IDM** SEE GAY *adj.*

aban-doned ① **AWL** /ə'bændənd/ *adj.* **1** ① left and no longer wanted, used or needed: an abandoned car/house ◊ The child was found abandoned but unharmed. **2** (of people or their behaviour) wild; not following accepted standards

aban-don-ment **AWL** /ə'bændənmənt/ *noun* [U] (formal) **1** the act of leaving a person, thing or place with no intention of returning **2** the act of giving up an idea or stopping an activity with no intention of returning to it: the government's abandonment of its new economic policy

abase /ə'beɪs/ *verb* ~yourself (formal) to act in a way that shows that you accept sb's power over you ► **abase-ment** *noun* [U]

abashed /ə'bæʃt/ *adj.* [not before noun] embarrassed and ashamed because of sth that you have done **OPP** unabashed

abate /ə'beɪt/ *verb* [I, T] (formal) to become less strong; to make sth less strong: The storm showed no signs of abating. ◊ ~sth Steps are to be taken to abate pollution. ► **abate-ment** *noun* [U]

ab-at-toir /'æbətwa:(r)/ *noun* (BrE) = SLAUGHTERHOUSE

abaya /ə'beɪjə; NAmE ə'barjə/ *noun* a full-length piece of clothing worn over other clothes by Arab men or women

abba /'ʌbɑ/ (also **appa**) *noun* (IndE) (especially as a form of address) a father

ab-bess /'æbes/ *noun* a woman who is the head of a CONVENT

abbey /'æbi/ *noun* a large church together with a group of buildings in which MONKS or NUNS live or lived in the past: Westminster Abbey ◊ a ruined abbey

abbot /'æbət/ *noun* a man who is the head of a MONASTERY or an ABBEY

ab-bre-vi-ate /ə'bri:viət/ *verb* [usually passive] ~sth (to sth) to make a word, phrase or name shorter by leaving out letters or using only the first letter of each word **SYN** shorten: the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (usually abbreviated to JPL) ► **ab-bre-vi-ated** *adj.*: Where appropriate, abbreviated forms are used.

B /bi:/ noun, symbol

■ **noun** (also **b**) (pl. **Bs**, **B's**, **b's** /bi:z/) 1 [C, U] the second letter of the English alphabet: 'Butter' begins with (a) B / 'B'. 2 **B** [C, U] (music) the 7th note in the SCALE OF C MAJOR 3 **B** [C, U] the second highest mark/grade that a student can get for a piece of work: *She got (a) B in/for History.* 4 **B** [U] used to represent the second of two or more possibilities: *Shall we go for plan A or plan B?* 5 **B** [U] used to represent a person, for example in an imagined situation or to hide their identity: *Let's pretend A meets B in the park.* ⇨ SEE ALSO B-ROAD **IDM** SEE A n.

■ **symbol** used in Britain before a number to refer to a particular secondary road: *the B1224 to York*

b. abbr. (in writing) born: *Emily Clifton, b. 1800*

B2B /bi: tə 'bi:/ abbr. BUSINESS-TO-BUSINESS

B2C /bi: tə 'si:/ abbr. BUSINESS-TO-CONSUMER

BA (BrE) (NAMe usually **B.A.**) /bi: 'ei/ noun the abbreviation for 'Bachelor of Arts' (a first university degree in an ARTS subject): *to be/have/do a BA* ⇨ (BrE) *Darren Green BA*

baa /ba:/ noun the sound made by sheep or LAMBS ▶ **baa** verb [I] (**baa-ing**, **baaed**, **baa'd**) ⇨ MORE LIKE THIS 4, page R14

baba /'bɑ:bɑ:/ noun 1 a small cake, often with RUM poured over it 2 (IndE, EAfrE) a father (often also used as a title or form of address for any older man, showing respect) 3 (IndE) a holy man 4 (IndE) (used especially as a form of address) a small child

Babbitt /'bæbɪt/ noun (NAMe) a person who is satisfied with a narrow set of values and thinks mainly about possessions and making money **ORIGIN** From the name of the main character in the novel *Babbitt* by Sinclair Lewis.

babble /'bæbl/ noun, verb

■ **noun** [sing.] 1 the sound of many people speaking at the same time: *a babble of voices* 2 talking that is confused or silly and is difficult to understand: *I can't listen to his constant babble.* 3 the sounds a baby makes before beginning to say actual words ⇨ SEE ALSO PSYCHOBABBLE

■ **verb** 1 [I, T] ~ (away/on) (sth) to talk quickly in a way that is difficult to understand: *They were all babbling away in a foreign language.* ⇨ *I realized I was babbling like an idiot.* 2 [I] to make the sound of water flowing over rocks, like a stream: *a babbling brook*

babby /'bæbi/ noun (pl. -ies) (BrE, dialect) a baby

babe /beɪb/ noun 1 (old use) a baby 2 (slang) a word used to address a young woman, or your wife, husband or lover, usually expressing affection but sometimes considered offensive if used by a man to a woman he does not know: *What're you doing tonight, babe?* 3 (informal) an attractive young woman

IDM a **babe in 'arms** (old-fashioned) a very small baby that cannot yet walk ⇨ MORE AT MOUTH n.

babel /'beɪbəl/ noun [sing.] (formal) the sound of many voices talking at one time, especially when more than one language is being spoken **ORIGIN** From the Bible story in which God punished the people who were trying to build a tower to reach heaven (the tower of Babel) by making them unable to understand each others' languages.

'babe magnet noun (slang, especially NAMe) a man or something that a man owns that is considered to be attractive to women: *Bob's such a babe magnet.* ⇨ *A sports car like that is a complete babe magnet.*

'babes in the 'wood noun [pl.] innocent people who are easily tricked or harmed **ORIGIN** From a children's story about a boy and a girl who are left alone in a wood where they die and a bird covers them with leaves.

ba-boon /bɑ:'bu:n; NAMe bæ'b-/ noun a large African or Asian MONKEY with a long face like a dog's

babu /'bɑ:bu:/ noun (IndE) a person who works in an office

ba-bushka /bɑ:'buʃkɑ; 'bæbuʃkɑ/ noun (from Russian) 1 a Russian old woman or grandmother 2 a traditional Russian woman's HEADSCARF, tied under the chin

baby ③ /'beɪbi/ noun, adj., verb

■ **noun** (pl. -ies) 1 ① a very young child or animal: *The baby's crying!* ⇨ *a newborn baby* ⇨ *My sister's expecting a baby* (= she is pregnant). ⇨ *She had a baby last year.* ⇨ a

baby boy/girl ⇨ *baby food/clothes* ⇨ *a baby monkey/blackbird* ⇨ COLLOCATIONS AT CHILD

WORDFINDER birth, child, dummy, feed, incubator, nappy, pram, premature, teethe

2 (informal) the youngest member of a family or group: *He's the baby of the team.* 3 (disapproving) a person who behaves like a young child and is easily upset: *Stop crying and don't be such a baby.* 4 (slang, especially NAMe) a word used to address sb, especially your wife, husband or lover, in a way that expresses affection but that can be offensive if used by a man to a woman he does not know

IDM **be your/sb's baby** (informal) to be a plan or project that sb is responsible for and cares about because they have created it **leave sb holding the 'baby** (informal) to suddenly make sb responsible for sth important that is really your responsibility: *He changed to another job and we were left holding the baby.* **throw the baby out with the 'bathwater** (informal) to lose sth that you want at the same time as you are trying to get rid of sth that you do not want ⇨ MORE AT CANDY, SLEEP V.

■ **adj.** [only before noun] **baby vegetables** are a very small version of particular vegetables, or are vegetables that are picked when they are very small: *baby carrots*

■ **verb** (**ba-bies**, **baby-ing**, **ba-bied**, **ba-bied**) ~sb to treat sb with too much care, as if they were a baby

'baby 'blue **adj.** very pale blue in colour ▶ **'baby 'blue** noun [U] ⇨ MORE LIKE THIS 15, page R15

'baby blues noun [pl.] (informal) a depressed feeling that some women get after the birth of a baby **SYN** post-natal depression

'baby boom noun a period when many more babies are born than usual

'baby boomer (NAMe also **boomer**) noun a person born during a baby boom, especially after the Second World War

'baby bouncer noun (BrE) a type of seat that hangs from pieces of ELASTIC, in which a baby can sit and BOUNCE up and down

'baby buggy noun 1 **'Baby Buggy™** (BrE) = BUGGY 2 (old-fashioned, NAMe) = BABY CARRIAGE

'baby bump noun the round shape of a woman's stomach when she is pregnant

'baby carriage (NAMe) (also **baby buggy**) (BrE **pram**) noun a small vehicle on four wheels for a baby to go out in, pushed by a person on foot ⇨ PICTURE AT PUSHCHAIR

'baby daddy /'beɪbɪdædi/ (also **baby-father**) noun (informal) the father of a child, who is not married to or in a relationship with the child's mother

'baby-'doll **adj.** used to describe a style of women's dress or NIGHTDRESS that is short with a high waist and is similar to the type of dress traditionally worn by DOLLS

'baby-faced **adj.** with a face that looks young and innocent

'baby fat (NAMe) (BrE **'puppy fat**) noun [U] fat on a child's body that disappears as the child grows older

'babyfather /'beɪbɪfɑ:θə(r)/ noun ⇨ BABYDADDY

'baby 'grand noun a small GRAND PIANO

'Baby-gro™ /'beɪbɪgrəʊ; NAMe -grəʊ/ noun (pl. -os) (BrE) a piece of clothing for babies, usually covering the whole body except the head and hands, made of a type of cloth that stretches easily ⇨ COMPARE ONESIES™

ba-by-hood /'beɪbɪhʊd/ noun [U] the period of your life when you are a baby

'baby-ish /'beɪbɪʃ/ **adj.** (usually disapproving) typical of or suitable for a baby

'baby-mama /'beɪbɪmæmə/ (also **baby-mother** /'beɪbɪmʌθə(r)/) noun (informal) the mother of a child, who is not married to or in a relationship with the child's father

'baby shower noun (especially NAMe) a party given for a woman who is going to have a baby, at which her friends give her presents for the baby