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aback *ADVERB*➤ **taken aback**

He was clearly taken aback by my question.

- surprised, astonished, startled, shocked, disconcerted, dumbfounded

abandon *VERB*

① *He abandoned his family and went off to Australia.*

- desert, leave, leave behind, strand

(informal) dump, ditch

(old use) forsake

IDIOM turn your back on

② *The search for the missing climbers was abandoned after two days.*

- give up, scrap, drop, cancel, abort, discard, renounce

abbreviate *VERB*

Saint is often abbreviated to St.

- shorten, reduce, abridge, contract

abdomen *NOUN*

see **stomach**

abduct *VERB*

He claims he was abducted by aliens.

- kidnap, seize, capture, carry off *(informal)* snatch

ability *NOUN*

① *Tiredness affects your ability to concentrate.*

- capability, capacity, power, facility, means

② *She is a player of exceptional*

ability.

- talent, skill, aptitude, competence, expertise, proficiency

able *ADJECTIVE*

Penguins are very able swimmers.

- competent, capable, accomplished, expert, skilful, proficient, talented, gifted

OPPOSITE **incompetent**

➤ **able to**

Will you be able to play on Saturday?

- capable of, in a position to, up to, fit to, allowed to, permitted to

OPPOSITE **unable to**

abnormal *ADJECTIVE*

It is abnormal weather for this time of year.

- unusual, uncommon, atypical, extraordinary, exceptional, peculiar, odd, strange, weird, bizarre, unnatural, freak

OPPOSITES **normal, typical**

abolish *VERB*

Slavery was abolished in Britain in 1807.

- get rid of, do away with, put an end to, eliminate, eradicate, stamp out

OPPOSITE **create**

about *PREPOSITION*

① *The tour takes about an hour.*

- approximately, roughly, close to, around, in the region of

② *He was reading a book about the solar system.*

- regarding, relating to, on the subject of, on

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A > **be about something**

The film is about a teenage spy.

- B** • concern, deal with, involve, relate to

C **about** ADVERB

D ① *Rats were scurrying about in the attic.*

- E** • around, here and there, in all directions

F ② *There were not many people about.*

- G** • near, nearby, around, hereabouts

H **above** PREPOSITION

I ① *There was a window above the door.*

- J** • over, higher than

K ② *The temperature was just above freezing.*

- L** • more than, larger than, over

M **abroad** ADVERB

N *We spent a year abroad.*

- O** • overseas, in a foreign country

P **abrupt** ADJECTIVE

Q ① *The riders came to an abrupt halt.*

- R** • sudden, hurried, hasty, quick, rapid, unexpected

S **OPPOSITE** gradual

T ② *I was put off by his abrupt manner.*

- U** • curt, blunt, rude, brusque, terse, short, brisk, sharp, impolite, uncivil

V **OPPOSITE** polite

W **absence** NOUN

X ① *No one noticed his absence.*

- Y** • non-attendance, being away, leave

Z **OPPOSITE** presence

② *Outside there was a complete*

absence of birdsong.

- lack, want, non-existence, deficit, shortage, dearth

OPPOSITE presence

absent ADJECTIVE

She was absent from school yesterday.

- away, missing

– To be absent from school without a good reason is to **play truant**.

– Someone who is absent is an **absentee**.

OPPOSITE present

absent-minded ADJECTIVE

I'm sure Dad is getting more absent-minded.

- forgetful, inattentive, distracted, scatterbrained

IDIOM with a memory like a sieve

absolute ADJECTIVE

There was a look of absolute terror on her face.

- complete, total, utter, outright, pure, sheer

absolutely ADVERB

The stench was absolutely disgusting.

- completely, totally, utterly, thoroughly, wholly, entirely, quite

absorb VERB

Let the rice absorb all the water.

- soak up, suck up, take in, draw in, mop up

absorbed ADJECTIVE

> **be absorbed in**

I was so absorbed in my book that I forgot the time.

- be engrossed in, be interested