

## Aa

**a** *DETERMINER* (called the *indefinite article* and changing to **an** before most vowel sounds) ① one (but not any special one) ② each; per

**aback** *ADVERB* ► **taken aback** surprised and slightly shocked

**abacus** (say **ab**-a-kus) *NOUN* a frame with rows of beads that slide on wires, used for counting and adding

**abandon** *VERB* ① to stop doing something when it becomes impossible ② to leave someone or something without intending to return

**abandon** *NOUN* a careless and uncontrolled manner

**abashed** *ADJECTIVE* feeling guilty and embarrassed

**abate** *VERB* to become less or die down

**abattoir** (say **ab**-at-wahr) *NOUN* (*British*) a place where animals are killed for food; a slaughterhouse

**abbess** *NOUN* the head of a convent

**abbey** *NOUN* ① a monastery or convent ② a church that was once part of a monastery

**abbot** *NOUN* the head of an abbey of monks

**abbreviate** *VERB* to shorten a word or phrase

**abbreviation** *NOUN* a shortened form of a word or words, especially one using the initial letters, such as St. or USA

**abdicate** *VERB* a queen or king abdicates if they give up the

throne

**abdomen** (say **ab**-dom-en) *NOUN* ① the lower front part of a person's or animal's body, containing the stomach, intestines and other digestive organs ② the rear section of an insect's body

**abduct** *VERB* to take a person away by force and against their will; to kidnap someone

**abet** *VERB* to help or encourage someone to commit a crime

**abhor** *VERB* (*formal*) to hate or dislike something very much

**abhorrence** *NOUN* hatred or strong dislike

**abide** *VERB* **abides, abiding, abided** ① you can't abide something when you detest it or can't bear it ② to abide by a promise or agreement is to keep it and do what you said you would

**abiding** *ADJECTIVE* lasting or permanent

**ability** *NOUN* ① ability is being able to do something ② an ability is a special skill or talent

**abject** (say **ab**-jekt) *ADJECTIVE* ① hopeless or pitiful ② grovelling or humiliating

**ablaze** *ADJECTIVE* ① on fire and burning fiercely ② full of bright light or colours

**able** *ADJECTIVE* ① having the power or skill or opportunity to do something ② skilful or clever

**able-bodied** *ADJECTIVE* fit and healthy; not disabled

**abnormal** *ADJECTIVE* not normal; unusual

**aboard** *ADVERB & PREPOSITION* on or

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** into a ship or aircraft or train
- B** **abode** *NOUN (formal)* the place where someone lives
- C** **abolish** *VERB* to put an end to a law or custom
- D** **abolition** (say ab-ol-ish-on) *NOUN* getting rid of a law or custom
- E** **abominable** *ADJECTIVE* very bad or unpleasant
- F**
- G** **abomination** *NOUN* something that disgusts you
- H** **aborigine** (say ab-er-ij-in-ee) *NOUN* one of the original inhabitants of a country
- I**
- J** **abort** *VERB* to put an end to something before it has been completed
- K**
- L** **abortion** *NOUN* an operation to remove an unborn child from the womb before it has developed enough to survive
- M**
- N** **abound** *VERB* ① things abound when there are a lot of them ② a place abounds in things when there are a lot of them there
- O**
- P**
- Q** **about** *PREPOSITION* ① near in amount or size or time; approximately ② on the subject of; in connection with ③ all round; in various parts of
- R**
- S**
- T** **about** *ADVERB* ① in various directions ② not far away
- U** **above** *PREPOSITION* ① higher than ② more than
- V** **above** *ADVERB* at or to a higher place or point
- W** **above board** *ADJECTIVE & ADVERB* honest; without deception
- X**
- Y** **abrasion** *NOUN* an area of skin that has been scraped
- Z** **abrasive** *ADJECTIVE* ① something

abrasive rubs or scrapes things ② a person is abrasive when they are harsh or hurtful in what they say

**abreast** *ADVERB* ① side by side ② to keep abreast of a situation is to have all the most recent information about it

**abroad** *ADVERB (British)* in or to another country

**abrupt** *ADJECTIVE* ① sudden and unexpected ② rather rude and unfriendly

**abscess** (say ab-sis) *NOUN* an inflamed place where pus has formed in the body

**abseil** *VERB (British)* to lower yourself down a steep cliff or rock by sliding down a rope

**absence** *NOUN* not being in the place where you are expected

**absent** (say ab-sent) *ADJECTIVE* not in the place you should be; not present

**absent** (say ab-sent) *VERB* ► **absent yourself** to stay away from somewhere you should be

**absentee** *NOUN* a person who is not present when they are expected to be

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

**absolute** *ADJECTIVE* complete; not restricted

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

**absolute zero** *NOUN* the lowest possible temperature, calculated as -273.15°C

**absolve** *VERB* ① to clear a person of blame or guilt ② to release