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abide *verb* **1** to bear or stand, e.g. *I can't abide that song.* **2** **abide by** to act in accordance with (a rule or decision). > **abiding** *adjective* lasting.

ability **1** **abilities** *noun* intelligence or skill needed to do something.

abject *adjective* **1** very bad, e.g. *abject failure.* **2** lacking all self-respect. > **abjectly** *adverb*.

ablaze *adjective* burning fiercely.

able **1** **abler, ablest** *adjective* capable or competent.

-able *suffix* (forming adjectives) **1** capable of or susceptible to (an action), e.g. *enjoyable; breakable.* **2** causing (something), e.g. *comfortable.*

ably *adverb* skilfully and successfully.

abnormal *adjective* not normal or usual. > **abnormality** *noun* something that is not normal or usual. > **abnormally** *adverb*.

aboard *adverb, preposition* on, in, onto or into (a ship, train or plane).

abode *noun* (old-fashioned) home.

abolish **1** *verb* to do away with. > **abolition** *noun*: e.g. *the abolition of slavery.*

abominable *adjective* detestable or very bad. > **abominably** *adverb*.

Aborigine *noun* someone descended from the people who lived in Australia before Europeans arrived. > **Aboriginal** *adjective*.

abort *verb* **1** to cause (a fetus) to be deliberately expelled from the womb ending the pregnancy prematurely so that the baby does not survive. **2** to end (a plan or process) before completion.

abortion *noun* operation or medical procedure to end a pregnancy.

abortive *adjective* unsuccessful.

abound *verb* to exist in large numbers.

about **1** *preposition* **1** concerning or on the subject of. **2** in or near (a place). ▶ *adverb* **3** nearly, approximately. **4** nearby. **5** **about to** shortly going to. **6** **not about to** determined not to.

above **1** *adverb, preposition* **1** over or higher (than). **2** greater (than). **3** superior (to).

above board *adjective* completely open and legal.

abrasion *noun* scraped area on the skin.

abrasive *adjective* **1** unpleasant and rude. **2** rough and able to be used to clean or polish hard surfaces.

————— THESAURUS —————

ability *noun* capability, competence, expertise, skill, talent

able *adjective* accomplished, capable, efficient, expert, first-rate, skilled, talented

abolish *verb* annul, do away with, overturn, put an end to

about *preposition* **1** concerning, on, regarding, relating to ▶ *adverb* **2** almost, approximately, around, nearly, roughly

above *preposition* **1** higher than, over **2** beyond, exceeding

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abreast *adjective* **1** alongside and facing in the same direction. **2** **abreast of** up to date with, e.g. *He will be keeping abreast of the news.*

abroad *adverb* to or in a foreign country.

abrupt **1** *adjective* **1** sudden and unexpected. **2** not friendly or polite. > **abruptly** *adverb* > **abruptness** *noun*.

abscess *noun* painful swelling containing pus.

abseiling *noun* sport of going down a cliff or a tall building by sliding down ropes.

absent **1** *adjective* **1** not present. **2** lacking. **3** inattentive. ▶ *verb* **4** **absent yourself** (formal) to stay away. > **absence** *noun*.

absentee *noun* person who should be present but is not.

absent-minded **1** *adjective* inattentive or forgetful. > **absent-mindedly** *adverb* > **absent-mindedness** *noun* forgetfulness.

absolute **1** *adjective* **1** complete or perfect, e.g. *absolute honesty.* **2** not limited, unconditional, e.g. *the absolute ruler.* **3** pure, e.g. *absolute alcohol.* > **absolutely** *adverb* **1** completely. ▶ *interjection* **2** certainly, yes.

absolve *verb* to declare (someone) to be free from blame or sin.

absorb **1** *verb* **1** to soak up (a liquid). **2** to deal with or cope with (a shock, change or effect).

absorbent *adjective* able to absorb liquid.

absorption *noun* **1** soaking up of a liquid. **2** great interest in something.

abstain **1** *verb* **1** to choose not to do or have (something). **2** to choose not to vote. > **abstainer** *noun* **1** person who does not drink alcohol. **2** person who chooses not to vote. > **abstention** *noun* abstaining, especially from voting.

abstinence *noun* state or practice of choosing not to take or do something, especially not to drink alcohol.

abstract *adjective* **1** existing as a quality or idea rather than objects or events. **2** (Art) using patterns of shapes and colours rather than realistic likenesses. **3** (of nouns) referring to qualities or ideas rather than to physical objects, e.g. *happiness; a question.* ▶ *noun* **4** summary. **5** abstract work of art. ▶ *verb*

————— THESAURUS —————

abrupt *adjective* **1** sudden, unexpected, unforeseen **2** curt, rude, short, terse

absent *adjective* away, elsewhere, gone, missing

absent-minded *adjective* distracted, forgetful

absolute *adjective* **1** complete,

total, downright, pure, sheer, thorough, utter **2** dictatorial, supreme, tyrannical

absorb *verb* digest, soak up, take in

abstain *verb* avoid, deny oneself, forgo, give up, refrain