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A a

abandon verb

- 1 We will have to abandon the search after dark. ► to give up, to cancel, to discontinue
- 2 The villagers had abandoned their homes after the earthquake. ► to evacuate, to leave, to quit, to forsake
- 3 The children had been abandoned in the war. ► to desert, to forsake, to leave stranded

ability noun

Melissa has inherited her artistic ability from her father. ► a talent, a skill, an aptitude, a capability, a gift, a flair, a capacity, know-how

able adjective

Some of the more able pupils do extra reading. ► skilful, skilled, capable, accomplished, competent, gifted, proficient, talented

abnormal adjective

It's abnormal to have frost in the summer. ► unusual, exceptional, odd, peculiar, strange, funny

abolish verb

Some people would like to abolish television licences. ► to get rid of, to do away with, to end, to eliminate

about adverb

It costs about £100. ► approximately, roughly, almost, nearly

abroad adverb

The Potters are going abroad this year. ► overseas

abrupt adjective

- 1 His uncle often had abrupt changes of mood. ► sudden, unexpected, rapid
- 2 Her manner with the younger

children was rather abrupt. ► blunt, sharp, gruff, curt, rude, unfriendly, short

absent adjective

Jane's mother had been absent from work for three days. ► away, off, missing

absolute adjective

The holiday was absolute bliss. ► utter, complete, total, sheer

absorbed adjective

An old woman was absorbed in some needlework. ► engrossed, preoccupied

absurd adjective

It was absurd to blame the cat for the mess in the kitchen. ► silly, ridiculous, laughable, ludicrous, crazy, mad, preposterous, nonsensical

abundant adjective

(not an everyday word) The village had an abundant water supply from an old well. ► plentiful, ample, generous; (more formal) copious

abuse verb

- 1 The RSPCA reported an increase in the number of people abusing animals. ► to maltreat, to hurt
- 2 The losing side began to abuse the referee. ► to insult, to swear at, to curse, to be rude to

accelerate verb

► to go faster, to speed up

accent noun

She spoke good English but with a slight French accent. ► a pronunciation, an intonation

accept verb

- 1 Police officers are not allowed to accept gifts. ► to take, to receive
- 2 I accept that I may have been wrong. ► to admit, to acknowledge, to agree, to believe, to think

acceptable *adjective*

We found the holiday house more than acceptable. ► satisfactory, all right, adequate, pleasing, suitable, passable, tolerable

access *noun*

A narrow lane was the only access to the village. ► an approach, an entry

accident *noun*

1 There had been another accident further down the road. ► a crash, a disaster, a misfortune, a mishap
2 They only found out by accident.
► chance, coincidence

accidental *adjective*

The police said his death was accidental.
► unintentional, unplanned

accommodation *noun*

The council were looking for suitable accommodation for the refugees.
► housing, lodgings, a house, shelter, quarters, board

accompany *verb*

Shall I accompany you to the station?
► to go with, to come with, to escort

accomplish *verb*

The next task was accomplished very quickly. ► to achieve, to perform, to fulfil, to carry out, to complete, to do, to finish

accomplished *adjective*

In his spare time, Frank is an accomplished chef. ► gifted, expert, skilful, skilled, talented, able

account *noun*

We wrote a detailed account of our museum trip. ► a description, a record, a report, a narrative, a story

accumulate *verb*

A large pile of junk had accumulated in one corner. We seem to accumulate

more newspapers than we can read.

► to collect, to heap up, to pile up, to store up

accurate *adjective*

This is an accurate description of what happened. ► correct, exact, precise, right, true

accuse *verb*

The money had gone and Sarah was accused of taking it. ► to blame (for), to charge (with), to condemn (for)

NOTE: You **accuse** someone of something but **blame** someone for something and **charge** someone with something

accustomed *adjective*

We went home by our accustomed route.
► normal, usual, customary, habitual, conventional, ordinary, regular

ache *noun*

John felt an ache spreading through his left leg. ► pain, pang, soreness, twinge, discomfort

ache *verb*

His leg was aching quite badly now.
► to hurt, to be sore, to be painful

achieve *verb*

We achieved a lot in a short time. ► to accomplish, to do, to complete, to finish, to fulfil, to manage

achievement *noun*

It's a great achievement to get into the county team. ► a feat, an accomplishment, a success, an attainment

acid *adjective*

Lemons have an acid taste. ► sharp, sour, tangy, tart

acknowledge *verb*

I acknowledge that you may be right.
► to admit, to agree, to accept, to grant