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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