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ab-nor-mal-i-ty (ăb'nôr-măl'i-tē) *n.*, *pl.* **-ties** 1. The condition of being abnormal. 2. An abnormal phenomenon.

abnormal psychology *n.* The study of maladaptive behaviors, mental disorders, and certain mental phenomena such as dreams and hypnosis.

a-board (ə-bôrd') *adv.* [ME *abôrd* : *a-*, on + *bôrd*, ship.] 1. On board a passenger vehicle, as a ship, train, or aircraft. 2. At the side : ALONGSIDE. 3. In or into a group or business. —**a-board'** *prep.*

a-bode (ə-bôd') *n.* [ME *abod* < *abiden*, to wait. —see *ABIDE*.] 1. A dwelling place : HOME. 2. A sojourn.

ab-ohm (ă-bôhm') *n.* A centimeter-gram-second electromagnetic unit of resistance equal to one billionth of an ohm.

a-bol-ish (ə-bôl'ish) *vt.* **-ished, -ish-ing, -ish-es** [ME *abolishshen* < OFr. *abolir*, *aboliss-* < Lat. *abolere*.] 1. To put an end to : ANNUL. 2. To destroy completely : ANNIHILATE. —**a-bol'ish-a-ble** *adj.* —**a-bol'ish-er** *n.* —**a-bol'ish-ment** *n.*

ab-o-li-tion (ăb'ô-lish'ən) *n.* [Fr. < Lat. *abolitio* < *abolitus*, p.part. of *abolere*, to abolish.] 1. An act of abolishing or the state of being abolished : ANNULMENT. 2. The abolishment of slavery in the United States. —**ab'o-li-tion-ar'y** (ə-nēr'ē) *adj.*

ab-o-li-tion-ism (ăb'ô-lish'ə-niz'əm) *n.* Advocacy of the abolition of slavery in the United States. —**ab'o-li-tion-ist** *n.*

ab-o-ma-sum (ăb'ô-mă'səm) *n.*, *pl.* **-sa** (-sə) The fourth division of the stomach in ruminant animals, in which true digestion takes place. —**ab'o-ma'sal** (-səl) *adj.*

A-bomb (ă'bômb') *n.* An atomic bomb.

a-bom-i-na-ble (ə-bômb'ə-nə-bəl) *adj.* [ME *abominabile* < OFr. < Lat. *abominabilis* < *abominari*, to abhor. —see *ABOMINATE*.] 1. Utterly loathsome or detestable <abominable child abuse> 2. Thoroughly unpleasant or disagreeable <abominable manners> —**a-bom'i-na-bly** *adv.*

abominable snowman *n.* A hairy humanlike animal allegedly inhabiting the high Himalayas.

a-bom-i-nate (ə-bômb'ə-nāt') *vt.* **-nat-ed, -nat-ing, -nates** [Lat. *abominari*, *abominat-*, to deprecate as a bad omen : *ab-*, away + *omen*, omen.] To regard as abominable. —**a-bom'i-na-tor** *n.*

a-bom-i-na-tion (ə-bômb'ə-nā'shən) *n.* 1. Extreme dislike or abhorrence. 2. Something that elicits extreme dislike.

ab-o-ral (ă-bôr'al) *adj.* Opposite to or away from the mouth.

ab-o-rig-i-nal (ăb'ô-rīj'ə-nəl) *adj.* 1. Existing from the beginning or being the earliest of its type in an area : INDIGENOUS. 2a. Of or relating to aborigines. b. *often* **Aboriginal**. Of or relating to the indigenous peoples of Australia. —*n.* also **Aboriginal**. An aborigine. —**ab'o-rig'i-nal-ly** *adv.*

ab-o-rig-i-ne (ăb'ô-rīj'ə-nē) *n.* [*<* Lat. *aborigines*, original inhabitants : *ab-*, from + *origine*, ablative of *origo*, beginning.] 1a. A member of the indigenous or earliest known population of a region. b. *often* **Aborigine**. A member of any of the indigenous peoples of Australia. 2. *aborigines*. The flora and fauna that are native to a geographic area.

a-born-ing (ə-bôr'nīng) *adv.* While coming into being or getting started <research that nearly died *aborning*>

a-bort (ə-bôrt') *v.* **a-bort-ed, a-bort-ing, a-borts** [Lat. *abortare*, freq. of *aboriri*, to disappear, miscarry : *ab-*, away + *oriri*, to appear.] —*vi.*

1. To give birth prematurely or before term; miscarry. 2. To fail to reach full development or maturation, as a bodily organ. 3. To terminate an operation or procedure with a missile, space vehicle, or aircraft before completion, esp. because of equipment failure. —*vt.*

1a. To cause to terminate (a pregnancy) prematurely, esp. before the fetus is viable. b. To cause the expulsion of (an embryo or fetus) before it is viable. c. To give premature birth to (an embryo or fetus).

2. To interfere with the development of <abort plans for a corporate takeover> 3. To terminate before completion <abort a takeoff>

—*n.* 1. The act of terminating an operation or procedure before completion. 2. *Computer Sci.* A procedure to terminate execution of a program when an unrecoverable error or malfunction occurs.

a-bor-ti-fa-cient (ə-bôrt'ə-fā'shənt) *adj.* Inducing abortion. —**a-bor'ti-fa-cient** *n.*

a-bor-tion (ə-bôr'shən) *n.* 1a. Induced termination of pregnancy, involving expulsion and destruction of the embryo or fetus, esp. before it is capable of survival. b. A procedure that results in such termination. 2. Premature expulsion of a nonviable embryo or fetus from the womb : MISCARRIAGE. 3. Cessation of normal growth, esp. of an organ, prior to full development or maturation. 4. An aborted organism. 5. Something malformed or incompletely developed : MONSTROSITY.

a-bor-tion-ist (ə-bôr'shə-nist) *n.* One who performs abortions.

a-bor-tive (ə-bôr'tiv) *adj.* 1. Failing to accomplish an objective : FUTILE. 2. Imperfectly developed. 3. Causing or meant to cause abortion : ABORTIFACIENT. —**a-bor'tive-ly** *adv.* —**a-bor'tive-ness** *n.*

ABO system (ă'bê-ô') *n.* A classification system for human blood that identifies four major blood types, A, B, AB, and O, based on the presence or absence of two antigens, A and B, on red blood cells.

a-bound (ə-bound') *vi.* **a-bound-ed, a-bound-ing, a-bounds** [ME *abounden* < OFr. *abonder* < Lat. *abundare*, to overflow : *ab-*, from

+ *undare*, to flow < *unda*, wave.] 1. To be plentiful in number or amount. 2. To be fully supplied or filled : TEEM <lakes that *abound* with fish>

a-bout (ə-bout') *adv.* [ME < OE *onbūtan* : *on*, in + *būtan*, outside.]

1. Approximately <traveled *about* a year> 2. Almost <just *about* gone> 3. To a reversed position or direction. 4. In no particular direction <wandering *about*> 5. All around : on every side <looked all *about*> 6. In the area : NEAR <Flu is *about*> 7. In succession : one after another <Turn *about* is fair play> 8a. On the verge of doing something. —Used with the infinitive <The hand is *about* to play>

b. —Used to show determination or intention in negative constructions with an infinitive <was not *about* to concede the point>

—*prep.* 1. On all sides of : SURROUNDING. 2. In the vicinity of : AROUND. 3. Almost the same as : close to <a child *about* your age>

4. In reference to <an article *about* cooking> 5. In the possession of <kept my wits *about* me> 6. Engaged in <go *about* one's business>

—*adj.* *Astir* <be up and *about*>

a-bout-face (ə-bout'fās') *n.* 1. The act of pivoting to face in the opposite direction from the original. 2. A reversal of attitude or standpoint. —*vi.* **-faced, -fac-ing, -fac-es** To reverse direction.

a-bove (ə-būv') *adv.* [ME *aboven* < OE *abūfan* : *a-*, on + *būfan*, above.] 1. Overhead <the skies *above*> 2. In or toward heaven. 3. Upstairs <a noise from the apartment *above*> 4. To a degree that is over zero <15° *above*> 5. In or to a higher place. 6. In an earlier part of a given text. 7. In or to a higher rank or position. —*prep.* 1. Over or higher than <hills rising *above* the plain> 2. Superior to in rank, quality, or degree <honesty *above* profit> 3. Beyond the level or reach of <a siren heard *above* the traffic> 4. In preference to <takes water *above* wine> 5. Too proud or honorable to stoop to <*above* cheating> 6. More than <*above* average> 7. Upstream of <a dam positioned *above* the town> 8. North of <Utah is *above* Arizona> —*n.*

1. Something that is above. 2. The person or persons already referred to in a text. —*adj.* Appearing earlier in the same text. —**above all**. Of first importance.

a-bove-board (ə-būv'bôrd') *adv.* & *adj.* Without trickery or deceit.

■ **word history:** *Aboveboard* is a simple compound of the words *above* and *board*. It is recorded as early as the 17th century as a gambler's term. Presumably, a gambler whose hands were above the board or gaming table could not surreptitiously change the cards of indulgence in other forms of cheating.

a-bove-ground (ə-būv'grəund') *adj.* 1. Situated on or above the surface of the ground. 2. Existing or operating within the establishment or according to convention.

a-bove-men-tioned (ə-būv'mēn'shənd) *adj.* Mentioned previously. —*n.* The one or ones mentioned previously.

ab o-vô (ăb ô'vô) *adv.* [Lat., from the egg.] From the beginning.

ab-ra-ca-dab-ra (ăb'ră-kă-dăb'ră) *n.* [LLat.] 1. A word once held to possess magical powers to ward off disease or disaster. 2. Nonsensical talk : GIBBERISH.

a-bra-chi-a (ə-bră'kē-ə) *n.* [A- + Gk. *brachion*, arm.] Congenital absence of arms.

a-brad-ant (ə-brăd'ənt) *n.* An abrasive. —**a-brad'ant** *adj.*

a-brade (ə-brād') *vt.* **a-brad-ed, a-brad-ing, a-brades** [Lat. *abradere*, to scrape off : *ab-*, off + *radere*, to scrape.] To wear away by friction : ERODE.

a-bran-chi-ate (ă-brāng'kē-it, -āt') *also* **a-bran-chi-al** (-kē-əl) *or* **a-bran-chi-ous** (-kē-əs) *adj.* [Gk. *a-*, not + *brankhia*, gills.] Having no gills.

a-bra-sion (ə-bră'zhan) *n.* [Med. Lat. *abrasio* < Lat. *abradere*, to scrape off. —see *ABRADE*.] 1. A wearing away by friction. 2. A scraped or worn area, esp. on the skin that is a result of injury or irritation.

a-bra-sive (ə-bră'siv, -zīv) *adj.* 1. Causing abrasion : ROUGH. 2. Harsh and rough in manner <an *abrasive* personality> —**a-bra'sive** *n.*

ab-re-act (ăb'rē-ăkt') *vt.* **-act-ed, -act-ing, -acts** [Transl. of G. *abreagieren* : *ab-*, away + *reagieren*, to react.] Psychoanal. To release (repressed emotions) by acting out, as in words, action, or the imagination, the situation causing the conflict. —**ab're-ac-tion** *n.*

a-breast (ə-brēst') *adv.* [ME *abrest* < *on brest* : *on*, by + *brest*, breast.]

1. Side by side. 2. Up to date <*abreast* of the news>

a-bridge (ə-brīj') *vt.* **a-bridged, a-bridg-ing, a-bridg-es** [ME *abregen* < OFr. *abregier* < LLat. *abbreviare*, to shorten. —see *ABBREVIATE*.] 1. To reduce the length of (a written text) : CONDENSE. 2. To reduce or diminish <*abridge* civil rights> 3. To cut short : CURTAIL. —**a-bridg'er** *n.*

a-bridg-ment *also* **a-bridge-ment** (ə-brīj'mənt) *n.* 1. The act of abridging or the state of being abridged. 2. Condensation of a book.

a-broach (ə-brôch') *adj.* [ME *abroche* < *a-*, in + *broche*, a pointed object.] 1. Opened or positioned so that a liquid, as wine, can be let out. 2. Moving about : ASTIR.

a-broad (ə-brôd') *adv.* [ME *abrod*, wide < *on brod* : *on*, at + *brod*, broad.] 1. Out of one's own country. 2. In a foreign country or countries. 3. Away from one's home. 4. In circulation : at large <Revolutions are *abroad*> 5. Covering a large area : WIDELY. 6. In error : ASTRAY.