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# **CAMBRIDGE**

## **Dictionary of American English**

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**activate** /'æk.tə'veɪt/ *v* [T] **1** to cause something to start working ○ *Something activated the car alarm.* **2** In sports, to **activate** a player is to bring that player back to the regular team after an injury.

**activation** /'æk.tə'veɪ.ʃən/ *n* [U]

\* **active** <DOING SOMETHING> /'æk.tɪv/ *adj* **1** doing something as you usually do, or being able to do something physically or mentally ○ *He was still an active runner at 55.* ○ *She's active in state politics (= involved in it).* ○ *She intends to remain politically active.* ○ *His National Guard unit was put on active duty (= made part of the regular fighting force).* **2** An active VOLCANO is one that might begin to throw out hot gases, liquid, or rocks at any time.

**actively** /'æk.tɪv.li/ *adv* ○ *He isn't actively involved in the day-to-day management of the business anymore.*

\* **activity** /'æk.tɪv.ə.ti/ *n* [C/U] the doing of something, or something that you are doing, have done, or could do ○ [C] *There were lots of activities for children at the museum.* ○ [C] *Her favorite activity is visiting antique shops.* ○ [U] *Carbon dioxide is also produced by human activity.*

<GRAMMAR> /'æk.tɪv/ *adj* [not gradable] *specialized* describing a verb or sentence in which the subject is the person or thing that does what is stated ○ *In "Alex gave me a gift," the verb "give" is active, and in "I was given a gift by Alex," "give" is passive.* ○ Compare PASSIVE <GRAMMAR>

**activism** /'æk.tə.vɪz.əm/ *n* [U] the use of direct and public methods to try to bring about esp. social and political changes that you and others want ○ *political/social activism*

**activist** /'æk.tə.vɪst/ *n* [C] ○ *a civil-rights activist*

\* **actor** /'æk.tər/, *female actress* /'æk.trəs/ *n* [C] ○ See at ACT <PERFORM>

\* **actual** /'æk.tʃə.wəl, -fə.wəl/ *adj* [not gradable] real; existing in fact ○ *We expected 50 people, but the actual number was a lot higher.*

\* **actually** /'æk.tʃə.wə.li, -fə.wə.li/ *adv* [not gradable] **1** used to say that something is true, esp. when the true situation may not be known ○ *We actually had a hard time moving the sofa.* **2** *Actually* is often used when you want to emphasize that something is surprising or unusual: *He actually expected me to pay for his dinner.*

#### USAGE

##### actual or current ?

Use **actual** when you mean "real."

*His friends call him Jo-Jo, but his actual name is John.*

Use **current** to talk about things that are happening or which exist now.

*She started her current job two years ago, the current economic situation the actual economic situation*

**acumen** /ə'kjuː.mən, 'æk.jə.mən/ *n* [U] the ability to make correct judgments ○ *Mr. Estavez has a real business acumen.*

**acupuncture** /'æk.jə.pʌŋ.tʃər/ *n* [U] a treatment for pain and illness in which special needles are put into the skin at particular positions

**acute** <EXTREME> /ə'kjuːt/ *adj* **1** very serious, extreme, or severe ○ *The area has an acute water shortage.* **2** In medicine, acute describes severe conditions, illnesses, or injuries that need immediate care: *Not all hospitals can provide acute care.*

<ACCURATE> /ə'kjuːt/ *adj* aware of or able to recognize small differences between things, or being accurate in judging something ○ *He has very acute hearing.* ○ **USAGE:** Used to describe thinking, feeling, hearing, seeing, smelling, or tasting. **acutely** /ə'kjuːt.li/ *adv* ○ *I was acutely aware of their problems.*

<ANGLE> /ə'kjuːt/ *adj* (of an angle) less than 90° ○ Compare OBTUSE <ANGLE>

**ad** /æd/ *n* [C] short form of ADVERTISEMENT

**A.D.** abbreviation for anno Domini (= in the year of God), used to show that a year is after the year in which Jesus Christ was thought to have been born ○ *the 12th century A.D.* ○ *The Roman empire ended in A.D. 476.* ○ **USAGE:** A.D. usually appears before the year and after a century. ○ Compare B.C.

**adage** /'æd.ɪdʒ/ *n* [C] a wise saying or PROVERB ○ *He remembered the old adage, "Look before you leap."*

**adamant** /'æd.ə.mənt/ *adj* unwilling to be persuaded to change an opinion or decision ○ *She was adamant about becoming a dancer.*

**adamantly** /'æd.ə.mənt.li/ *adv* ○ *The mayor adamantly refused to consider a tax increase.*

**Adam's apple** /'æd.əm'zæp.əl/ *n* [C] the front part of the neck that sticks out, esp. in a man, and moves up and down when you speak or swallow

**adapt** /ə'dæpt/ *v* [I/T] to adjust to different conditions or uses, or to change to meet different situations ○ [T] *I adapted this recipe from one in an old cookbook.*

**adaptable** /ə'dæp.tə.bəl/ *adj* able or willing to change ○ *He's pretty adaptable, and change doesn't bother him.*

**adaptation** /'æd.əp'teɪ.ʃən, -æp-/ *n* [C/U] ○ [C] *The movie was an adaptation of a novel.*

\* **add** /æd/ *v* [I/T] **1** to put something with something else to increase the number or amount or to make it more important ○ [T] *Beat the butter and sugar together, and then add the eggs.* ○ [T] *"Thanks for all your help!" he added as he was leaving.* ○ [I] *Factors beyond their control added to their success.* **2** To add means to calculate the total of a group of numbers: [T] *If you add three and four you get seven.*

**added** /'æd.əd/ *adj* [not gradable] ○ *He had the added disadvantage of being the only man present.*

#### IDIOM with add

• **add fuel to the fire, add insult to injury** to make a bad situation worse ○ *The President said he wouldn't add fuel to the fire by commenting*

**intelligence test** *n* [C] a test that measures the ability of a person to understand and learn by comparing it with the ability of other people.  
 ◦ Compare ACHIEVEMENT TEST

**intelligible** /ɪn'tel-ə-dʒə-bəl/ *adj* (of speech and writing) clear enough to be understood ◦ *It was a poor telephone connection, and only some of his words were intelligible.*

**intend** /ɪn'tend/ *v* to have as a plan or purpose  
 ◦ [+ to infinitive] *We intend to go to Australia next year to visit our daughter.* ◦ [T] *The remark was intended as a compliment.*

**intent** /ɪn'tent/ *n* [U] *fm* something that you intend or intended to do ◦ *There was clearly no intent to cause harm, and the judge ruled that the injury was accidental.* ◦ See also: INTENT <GIVING ATTENTION>; INTENT <DETERMINED>

**intention** /ɪn'ten-ʃən/ *n* [C/U] something that you want and plan to do; an aim ◦ [U] *I have no intention of selling this house.* ◦ [C] *He had good intentions (= He meant to be kind), but unfortunately things just didn't work out.*

**intentional** /ɪn'ten-ʃən-əl/ *adj* ◦ *Do you think the insult was intentional?*

**intentionally** /ɪn'ten-ʃən-əl-i/ *adv* ◦ *The company was accused of intentionally dumping garbage into the river.*

**intense** /ɪn'tens/ *adj* **1** (of physical and emotional feelings) extreme ◦ *intense heat/cold* ◦ *a look of intense joy* **2** Intense work or thought requires a lot of effort: *an intense 13-week course* **3** A person who is intense is very forceful and has strong emotions and opinions: *He was young and intense, and silly, too.*

**intensely** /ɪn'ten-sli/ *adv* ◦ *intensely personal songs* ◦ *He lives every aspect of life intensely.*

**intensify** /ɪn'ten-sə-faɪ/ *v* [I/T] ◦ [T] *He intensified his training, running 45 miles a week.* ◦ [I] *Fighting around the capital has intensified.*

**intensity** /ɪn'ten-sə-ti/ *n* [U] ◦ *Simone sings with emotional intensity.* ◦ *The light hit us with such intensity that we ducked.*

**intensive** /ɪn'ten-siv/ *adj* **1** needing or using great energy or effort ◦ *We're in the midst of intensive negotiations.* ◦ *an intensive workout* **2** Intensive study or training deals with a lot of information in a short period of time: *a month-long intensive course in Spanish* ♦ Study Pages: **Very, Completely, and Other Intensifiers**

**intensifier** /ɪn'ten-sə-faɪ-ər/, **intensive** /ɪn'ten-siv/ *n* [C] *specialized* (in grammar) a word, esp. an adverb, that is used to add force to another word or phrase ◦ *In "extremely large" and "I strongly object," "extremely" and "strongly" are intensifiers.* ♦ Study Pages: **Very, Completely, and Other Intensifiers**

**intensive care** *n* [U] continuous treatment provided in a hospital for those who are extremely ill, or the department of a hospital that provides this care

**intent** <GIVING ATTENTION> /ɪn'tent/ *adj* giving all your attention to something ◦ *an intent look* ◦ See also: INTENT at INTEND

**intently** /ɪn'tent-li/ *adv* ◦ *The boys played intently.*

<DETERMINED> /ɪn'tent/ *adj* determined, esp. in a way that seems silly or harmful ◦ *The climbers were intent on reaching the mountaintop despite the freezing temperatures.* ◦ See also: INTENT at INTEND

IDIOM with intent

•for all intents and purposes almost completely ◦ *Escape from the prison was, for all intents and purposes, impossible.*

**intention** /ɪn'ten-ʃən/ *n* ◦ See at INTEND

**intentional** /ɪn'ten-ʃən-əl/ *adj* ◦ See at INTEND

**intentionally** /ɪn'ten-ʃən-əl-i/ *adv* ◦ See at INTEND

**inter** /ɪn'tɜr/ *v* [T] -rr- *fm* to put a dead body in the earth; bury

**inter-** /ɪnt-ər/ *prefix* between or among ◦ *inter-collegiate sports*

**interact** /ɪnt-ə'rækt/ *v* [I] to communicate with or react to each other ◦ *He does not interact well with the other students.*

**interaction** /ɪnt-ə'ræk-ʃən/ *n* [C/U] ◦ [C] *drug interactions*

**interactive** /ɪnt-ə'ræk-tɪv/ *adj* **1** *The ocean and the atmosphere form an interactive system.* **2** An interactive computer program involves the user in the exchange of information while the computer is in operation: *interactive software/technology*

**intercede** /ɪnt-ər'si:d/ *v* [I] to use your influence to persuade someone in authority not to punish or harm someone or to do something for someone ◦ *Some pharmacists will intercede on your behalf with doctors.*

**intercept** /ɪnt-ər'sept/ *v* [T] to stop or catch something or someone that is on the way from one place to another so that it does not reach the intended place ◦ *to intercept a letter* ◦ *The ball was intercepted by Grady.*

**interception** /ɪnt-ər'sep-ʃən/ *n* [C] (esp. in football) the act of catching a ball intended for someone on the opposing team ◦ *He's thrown 122 passes without an interception.*

**interchange** <EXCHANGE> /ɪnt-ər'tʃeɪndʒ/ *n* [C/U] an exchange, esp. of ideas or information, between different people or groups ◦ [U] *They hope to encourage the free interchange of ideas.*

**interchangeable** /ɪnt-ər'tʃeɪn-dʒə-bəl/ *adj* able to be exchanged with each other without making any difference or without being noticed ◦ *interchangeable machine parts*

<ROAD> /ɪnt-ər'tʃeɪndʒ/ *n* [C] a connection between two roads that allows vehicles to move from one road to the other without crossing the flow of traffic ♦ Picture: **cloverleaf**

**intercom** /ɪnt-ər,kəm/ *n* [C] a set of communications devices that allows people in different parts of a building, aircraft, ship, etc., to speak to each other