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language> **b** : to cease intending or attempting to perform (<ed the escape) — **abandon-er** *n* — **abandon-ment** \-dān-mənt/ *n*

syn ABANDON, DESERT, FORSAKE mean to leave without intending to return. ABANDON suggests that the thing or person left may be helpless without protection (<abandoned children>). DESERT implies that the object left may be weakened but not destroyed by one's absence (<a deserted town>). FORSAKE suggests an action more likely to bring impoverishment or bereavement to that which is forsaken than its exposure to physical dangers (<a forsaken lover>). **syn** see in addition RELINQUISH

2 **abandon** *n* (1822) : a thorough yielding to natural impulses; esp : ENTHUSIASM, EXUBERANCE (with reckless ~) — **abandon-d** \-bān-dānd/ *adj* (14c) : 1 wholly free from restraint **2** : given up : FORSAKEN

abā \-bā/ [F] (ca. 1897) : down with (<ā has the profiteers>)
abase \-bāz/ *v* (**abased**; **abas-ing** [ME *abassen*, fr. AF *abesser*, *abaisser*, fr. *a-* (fr. *L ad-*) + *besser*, fr. VL **bassiare* to lower] (15c) **1** *archaic* : to lower physically **2** : to lower in rank, office, prestige, or esteem — **abase-ment** \-bāz-mənt/ *n*

abash \-bāsh/ *v* [ME *abaishen*, fr. AF *abaiss-*, *abair* to astonish, alter, of *esbair*, fr. *ex-* + *baer* to open wide, gape — more at ABEYANCE] (14c) : to destroy the self-possession or self-confidence of : DISCONCERT

syn see EMBARRASS — **abash-ment** \-mənt/ *n*
abate \-bāt/ *v* (**abated**; **abat-ing** [ME, fr. AF *abat* to strike down — more at REBATE] *vt* (13c) **1** *a* : to put an end to (<~ a nuisance> **b** : NULLIFY *1* (<~ a wit)> **2** *a* : to reduce in degree or intensity : MODERATE (<may ~ their rancor to win peace> **b** : to reduce in value or amount : make less esp. by way of relief (<~ a tax> **3** : DEDUCT, OMIT (<~ part of the price> **4** *a* : to beat down or cut away so as to leave a figure in relief **b** *obs* : BLUNT **5** : DEPRIVE **2** ~ *vi* **1** : to decrease in force or intensity **2** *a* : to become defeated or become null or void **b** : to decrease in amount or value — **abate-er** *n*

syn ABATE, SUBSIDE, WANE, EBB mean to die down in force or intensity. ABATE stresses the idea of progressive diminishing (<the storm *abated*>). SUBSIDE implies the ceasing of turbulence or agitation (the protests *subsided* after a few days). WANE suggests the fading or weakening of something good or impressive (<waning enthusiasm>). EBB suggests the receding of something (as the tide) that commonly comes and goes (<the ebbing of daylight>). **syn** see in addition DECREASE

abate-ment \-bāt-mənt/ *n* (14c) **1** : the act or process of abating : the state of being abated **2** : an amount abated; esp : a deduction from the full amount of a tax

ab-a-tis \-bā-tis/ *n*, **pl** **ab-a-tis** \-bā-tis/ *n* or **ab-a-tis-es** \-bā-tis-es/ *n* [F, fr. *abbat* to strike down, slaughter, fr. OF *abbat*] (1766) : a defensive obstacle formed by felled trees with sharpened branches facing the enemy

ab-at-toir \-bā-twār, -twōr, -tōr/ *n* [F, fr. *abbat*] (1820) : SLAUGHTERHOUSE

ab-ax-i-al \-bāks-ē-əl/ *adj* (1857) : situated out of or directed away from the axis (<the ~ or lower surface of a leaf>)

aba-ya \-bā-yā/ *n* [Ar *abiyā*] (1836) : a loose-fitting full-length robe worn by some Muslim women

ab-ba-cy \-bā-sē/ *n*, **pl** **-cies** [ME *abbacie*, fr. LL *abbatia*] (15c) : the office, dignity, jurisdiction, or tenure of an abbot

Ab-bas-id \-bā-sad, -bā-sād/ *n* (1788) : a member of a dynasty of caliphs (750–1258) ruling the Islamic empire esp. from their capital Baghdad and claiming descent from Abbas the uncle of Muhammad

ab-ba-tial \-bā-shāl, -ād/ *adj* (ca. 1642) : of or relating to an abbot, abbess, or abbey

ab-bé \-bā, -bā/ *n* [F, fr. LL *abbat*, *abbas*] (1530) : a member of the French secular clergy in major or minor orders — used as a title

ab-bess \-bās/ *n* [ME *abbesse*, fr. AF, fr. LL *abbatissa*, fem. of *abbat*, *abbas*] (13c) : a woman who is the superior of a convent of nuns

Abbe-vil-li-an \-bē-vil-ē-an, -bā-vā/ *adj* [*Abbeville*, France] (ca. 1934) : of or relating to an early Lower Paleolithic culture of Europe characterized by bifacial stone hand axes

ab-bey \-bē/ *n*, **pl** **abbeys** [ME, fr. AF *abbaye*, *abbie*, fr. LL *abbatia* *abbey*, fr. *abbat*, *abbas*] (13c) **1** *a* : a monastery ruled by an abbot **b** : a convent ruled by an abbess **2** : an abbey church

ab-bot \-bōt/ *n* [ME *abbot*, fr. OE, fr. LL *abbat*, *abbas*, fr. LGk *ab-bas*, fr. Aram *abbā* father] (bef. 12c) : the superior of a monastery for men

abbr *abbr* abbreviation
ab-bre-vi-ate \-brē-vē-āt/ *v* (**-ated**; **-at-ing** [ME, fr. LL *abbreviatus*, pp. of *abbreviare* — more at ABRIDGE] (15c) : to make briefer; esp : to reduce to a shorter form intended to stand for the whole **syn** see SHORTEN — **ab-bre-vi-a-tor** \-ā-tōr/ *n*

ab-bre-vi-a-tion \-brē-vē-ā-shən/ *n* (15c) **1** : the act or result of abbreviating : ABRIDGMENT **2** : a shortened form of a written word or phrase used in place of the whole (<ant is an ~ for amount>)

1 **ABC** \-ā-, -bē-, -sē/ *n*, **pl** **ABC's** or **ABCs** \-sēz/ (13c) **1** : ALPHABET — usu. used in pl. **2** *a* : the rudiments of reading, writing, and spelling — usu. used in pl. **b** : the rudiments of a subject — usu. used in pl.

2 **ABC** *abbr* **1** American Bowling Congress **2** American Broadcasting Companies **3** Australian Broadcasting Corporation

ABCD *abbr* accelerated business collection and delivery
abd or **abdom** *abbr* abdomen; abdominal

ABD \-ā-, -bē-, -dē/ *n*, **pl** **ABDs** also **ABD's** [all but dissertation] (1965) : a doctoral candidate who has completed required courses and examinations but not a dissertation

Ab-di-as \-ā-, -bē-, -dē/ *n* [LL, fr. Gk] (14c) : OBADIAH

ab-di-cate \-ā-, -bē-, -dē/ *v* (**-cat-ed**; **-cat-ing** [ME *abdicatus*, pp. of *abdicare*, fr. *ab-* + *dicare* to proclaim — more at DICTON] *vt* (1541) **1** : to cast off : DISCARD **2** : to relinquish (as sovereign power) formally ~ *vi* : to renounce a throne, high office, dignity, or function — **ab-di-ca-tion** \-ā-, -bē-, -dē/ *n*, **pl** **ab-di-ca-tions** \-ā-, -bē-, -dē/ *n* — **ab-di-ca-tor** \-ā-, -bē-, -dē/ *n*

syn ABDICATE, RENOUNCE, RESIGN mean to give up a position with no possibility of resuming it. ABDICATE implies a giving up of sovereign power or sometimes an evading of responsibility such as that of a parent (<abdicated the throne>). RENOUNCE may replace it but often implies additionally a sacrifice for a greater end (<renounced her inheritance by marrying a commoner>). RESIGN applies to the giving up of an unexpired office or trust (<resigned from the board>).

ab-do-men \-ā-, -bē-, -dē/ *n* [MF & L; MF, fr. L (1543) **1** : the part of the body between the thorax and the pelvis; *abd-* : the cavity of this part of the trunk containing the chief viscera **2** : the posterior section of the body behind the thorax in an arthropod — see INSECT illustration — **ab-dom-i-nal** \-ā-, -bē-, -dē-, -nāl/ *adj* — **ab-dom-i-nal-ly** \-ē-ly/ *adv*

ab-du-cens nerve \-ā-, -bē-, -dē-, -sē-, -dyū-/ *n* [NL *abducens*, *abducere*, fr. L, prp. of *abducere*] (1947) : either of the sixth pair of cranial nerves that are motor nerves supplying the rectus on the outer and lateral side of each eye — called also *abducens*

ab-du-cent nerve \-ā-, -bē-, -dē-, -sē-, -dyū-/ *n* (1875) : ABDUCENS NERVE

ab-duct \-ā-, -bē-, -dē-, -tē-/ *v* (**abducted**; **abduct-ing** [ME *abducere*, fr. L, prp. of *abducere*] (1947) : to lead away, fr. *ab-* + *ducere* to lead — more at TOW] (1825) **1** : to seize and take away (as a person) from a position near or parallel to the median axis of the body or from the axis of a limb — **ab-duct-or** \-ā-, -bē-, -dē-, -tōr/ *n*, **pl** **ab-duct-ors** \-ā-, -bē-, -dē-, -tōr-/ *n*

ab-duct-ee \-ā-, -bē-, -dē-, -tē-/ *n* (1975) : a person who has been abducted

ab-duc-tion \-ā-, -bē-, -dē-, -tōn/ *n* (1666) **1** : the action of abducting : the condition of being abducted **2** : the unlawful carrying away of a woman for marriage or intercourse

abeam \-ā-, -bē-, -m/ *adv* or *adj* (ca. 1836) : off to the side of a ship or plane; esp. at a right angle to the middle of the ship or plane's length

abe-ce-dar-i-an \-ā-, -bē-, -dē-, -rē-, -ē-, -ā-/ *n* [ME *abecedary*, fr. ML *abecedarius* alphabet, fr. LL, neut. of *abecedarius* of the alphabet, fr. the letters *a + b + c + d*] (1603) : one learning the rudiments of something (as the alphabet)

2 **abecedarian** *adj* (1665) **1** *a* : of or relating to the alphabet **b** : alphabetically arranged **2** : RUDIMENTARY

abed \-ā-, -bē-, -dē-/ *adv* or *adj* (13c) : in bed

Abel \-ā-, -bē-/ *n* [LL, fr. Gk, fr. Heb *Hebhe*] (bef. 12c) : a son of Adam and Eve killed by his brother Cain

abe-lia \-ā-, -bē-, -yā-/ *n* [NL, fr. Clarke *Abel* †1826 Eng. botanist] (ca. 1899) : any of a genus (*Abelia*) of Asian or Mexican shrubs of the honeysuckle family having opposite leaves and white, red, or pink flowers

abe-li-an \-ā-, -bē-, -ē-, -ā-/ *adj*, often *cap* [Niels *Abel* †1829 Norw. mathematician] (1847) : COMMUTATIVE **2** (<~ group> (<~ ring>)

Abe-na-ki \-ā-, -bē-, -nā-, -kē-/ *n*, **pl** **Abenaki** or **Abenakis** also **Ab-naki** or **Abnakis** [Eastern *Abenaki wopánahki*, Western *Abenaki wopánahki*, lit., dawn land people, easterners] (1721) **1** : a member of a group of American Indian peoples of northern New England and adjoining parts of Quebec **2** : either of the two Algonquian languages spoken by the Abenaki peoples

Ab-er-deen Angus \-ā-, -bē-, -dē-, -nā-, -gēs-/ *n* [*Aberdeen & Angus*, counties in Scotland] (1862) : ANGUS

1 **ab-er-rant** \-ā-, -bē-, -rānt, -ā-, -bē-, -rānt, -ā-, -bē-, -rānt/ *adj* [*aberrant*, *aberrans*, prp. of *aberrare* to go astray, fr. *ab-* + *errare* to wander, err] (ca. 1780) **1** : straying from the right or normal way **2** : deviating from the usual or natural type : ATYPICAL — **ab-er-rant-ly** *adv*

2 **aberrant** *n* (1938) **1** : an aberrant group, individual, or structure **2** : a person whose behavior departs substantially from the standard

ab-er-rat-ed \-ā-, -bē-, -rā-, -tēd/ *adj* [*aberratus*, pp. of *aberrare*] (1892) : ABERRANT

ab-er-ra-tion \-ā-, -bē-, -rā-, -shən/ *n* [*aberrare*] (1594) **1** : the fact or instance of being aberrant esp. from a moral standard or normal state **2** : failure of a mirror, refracting surface, or lens to produce exact point-to-point correspondence between an object and its image **3** : unsoundness or disorder of the mind **4** : a small periodic change in apparent position in celestial bodies due to the combined effect of the motion of light and the motion of the observer **5** : an aberrant individual — **ab-er-ra-tion-al** \-ā-, -bē-, -rā-, -shən-/ *adj*

abet \-ā-, -bē-/ *v* (**abetted**; **abet-ting** [ME *abettan*, fr. AF *abeter*, fr. (fr. *L ad-*) + *beter* to bait, of Gmc origin; akin to OE *bētan* to bait] (14c) **1** : to actively second and encourage (as an activity or plan) **2** : to assist or support in the achievement of a purpose **syn** see INCITE

abet-ment \-ā-, -bē-, -mēnt/ *n* — **abet-or** also **abet-ter** \-ā-, -bē-, -tōr/ *n*

abey-ance \-ā-, -bē-, -ān(t)s/ *n* [AF, fr. OF *abaer* to expect, await, lit., gape, fr. *a-* + *baer* to gape, yawn — more at BAY] (1640) **1** : a lapse, succession during which there is no person in whom the title is vested : temporary inactivity : SUSPENSION — **abey-ant** \-ā-, -bē-, -ānt/ *adj*

ab-hor \-ā-, -bē-, -hōr, -ā-/ *v* (**abhorred**; **abhor-ring** [ME *abhorren*, fr. *abhorre*, fr. *ab-* + *horre* to shudder — more at HORROR] (15c) : regard with extreme repugnance : LOATHE **syn** see HATE — **ab-hor-er** \-ā-, -bē-, -hōr-/ *n*

ab-hor-ence \-ā-, -bē-, -hōr-, -ēn(t)s, -hōr-/ *n* (1660) **1** *a* : the act or state of abhorring **b** : the feeling of one who abhors **2** *a* : that is abhorred **b** : the feeling of one who abhors

ab-hor-ent \-ā-, -bē-, -hōr-, -ēnt/ *adj* [*abhorrent*, *abhorrens*, prp. of *abhorre*] (1599) **1** *a* *archaic* : strongly opposed **b** : feeling or showing abhorrence **2** : not agreeable : CONTRARY (<a notion ~ to their philosophy> **3** : being so repugnant as to stir up positive antagonism (<acts ~ to every right-minded person>) — **ab-hor-ent-ly** *adv*

Abib \-ā-, -bē-, -vē-/ *n* [Heb *Abibh*, lit., ear of grain] (1530) : the first month of the ancient Hebrew calendar corresponding to Nisan — see MONTH

abide \-ā-, -bē-, -dē-/ *v* (**abided**; **abid-ing** [ME, fr. OE *abidan*, fr. *ā-*, perfective prefix + *bidan* to bide; akin to OHG *ir*, perfective prefix — more at BIDE] *vt* (bef. 12c) **1** : to wait for : AWAIT **2** : to endure without yielding : WITHSTAND **b** : to bear patiently : TOLERATE (<cannot ~ such bigots> **3** : to accept without objection (<~ your decision>) ~ *vi* **1** : to remain stable or fixed in a state **2** : to continue in a place : SOJOURN **syn** see BEAR, CONTINUE — **abide-er** \-ā-, -bē-, -dē-/ *n*

abide by **1** : to conform to (<abide by the rules> **2** : to acquiesce in (<will abide by your decision>)

abid-ing \-ā-, -bē-, -dē-/ *adj* (14c) : ENDURING, CONTINUING (<an ~ interest in nature> — **abid-ing-ly** *adv*



abelia