abominable ➔ absent-minded

of doing something is to get rid of it: a plan to abolish smoking in public places
abolition NOUN getting rid of something such as a law or system of doing something

abominable ADJECTIVE very bad
Aborigine (pronounced ab-o-rig-in-e) NOUN one of the people who lived in Australia before anyone arrived from other countries

> Aboriginal ADJECTIVE to do with Australian Aborigines

a ➔ absolute

absolute ADJECTIVE complete: absolute rubbish
> absolutely ADVERB 1 completely: absolutely ridiculous 2 yes, certainly: ‘Please can I have one of those?’ ‘Absolutely.’

> absorb VERB absorbs, absorbing, absorbed 1 to soak up liquid: The bath mat will absorb the splashes. 2 if you are absorbed in something, you are giving it all your attention: We were so absorbed in our game, we didn’t hear the bell.

> absorbing ADJECTIVE very interesting and taking all your attention: an absorbing puzzle

absent ADJECTIVE able to soak up liquid: absorbent kitchen cloths
> absorbency NOUN absorbencies how absorbent something is

abstract ADJECTIVE 1 something that is abstract cannot be seen or touched, for example honesty and an argument. The opposite is concrete 2 (art) an abstract picture does not show things as they really look, but presents ideas in shapes and designs

absurd ADJECTIVE ridiculous: What an absurd idea!
> absurdity NOUN absurdities something that is ridiculous

> absurdly ADVERB 1 in a ridiculous way: That was an absurdly easy question.

abundance NOUN an abundance of something is a lot of it: the abundance of trees in the forest 2 if something is in abundance, there is plenty of it. There was food in abundance at the party.

> abundant ADJECTIVE existing in large amounts: an abundant harvest • abundant hair

> abundantly ADVERB 1 in large amounts: Fruit is abundantly available in the market. 2 very: It is abundantly clear that you’re not happy.

abuse NOUN (pronounced a-bu-soz) abuses 1 bad or cruel treatment: child abuse 2 using something the wrong way on purpose: alcohol abuse 3 insults: shouting abuse at the referee

 Verb (pronounced a-bu-soz) abuses, abusing, abused 1 to use something

> acceptable ADJECTIVE rude or insulting
abysmal ADJECTIVE very bad: abysmal exam results

> abysmally ADVERB very badly: The team played abysmally.

academic ADJECTIVE to do with studying and education: academic qualifications

> academically ADVERB to do with studying and learning: an academically bright pupil

academy NOUN academies a school or college

accelerate VERB accelerates, accelerating, accelerated to go faster

> acceleration NOUN acceleration is increasing speed: You’ll be pushed back into your seat during acceleration.

> accelerator NOUN accelerators the pedal or lever that makes a vehicle go faster

accent NOUN accents 1 the way people from a certain area pronounce words: I have a Scottish accent. 2 a mark over a letter in a foreign language that shows how to pronounce it, for example over e in the word cafe 3 a stress on one part of a word or a sentence, or one note in music, that makes it stand out more than the others: Put the accent on the third syllable in the word preparation.

accept VERB accepts, accepting, accepted 1 to accept something is to take it when someone offers it to you 2 you accept an invitation when you say ‘yes’ to it 3 you accept something like an idea if you agree that it is true: I accept that I was wrong and I’m sorry.

> acceptable ADJECTIVE good enough: This kind of behaviour is just not acceptable

> acceptance NOUN taking something that is given to you

access NOUN accesses a way of getting to or into a place: The builders will need access to the house while you’re out.

Verb (pronounced a-se-ses) accesses, accessing, accessed (ict) to get and be able to use
Accessory → account

Information on a computer: This file was last accessed yesterday.

- Accessible ADJECTIVE easy to get to: The house is not very accessible.

Accessory NOUN 1 accessories an extra part that can be used with something bigger: a hairdryer with lots of attachments 2 something like a bag, a scarf or jewellery, that goes with your clothes

Accident NOUN accidents 1 a bad thing that happens by chance: We had an accident with the glass and now it's everywhere. 2 a road accident is when a vehicle crashes into something on a road

- By accident by chance: I dropped the glass by accident and it smashed.

Accidental ADJECTIVE if something is accidental, it happens by mistake

- Accidentally ADVERB by accident: I accidentally shut the door on my brother's hand.

Acclaim NOUN praise

- Acclaimed ADJECTIVE if something is acclaimed, it has had a lot of praise: an acclaimed television show

Accommodate VERB accommodates, accommodating, accommodated 1 to accommodate someone or something is to find space for them: The whole class can be accommodated in this room. 2 to accommodate someone is to do what you can to help them

- Accommodation NOUN somewhere to stay or live: We'll look for accommodation as soon as we arrive.

Accompaniment NOUN the music that someone sings to: a love song with a guitar accompaniment

Accompany VERB accompanies, accompanying, accompanied 1 to accompany someone is to go with them: Would you like me to accompany you to the police station, sir? 2 to play an instrument while someone else sings a song: Her sister usually accompanies her on the piano.

Accomplish VERB accomplishes, accomplishing, accomplished to accomplish something is to do it successfully: Most children accomplished the task in a few minutes.

- Accomplished ADJECTIVE talented at doing something: an accomplished goalkeeper

- Accomplishment NOUN accomplishments something you are very good at: Cooking is just one of her accomplishments.

Accord NOUN 1 of your own accord if you do something of your own accord, you do it without being asked or told: I was surprised when my little sister thanked me of her own accord.

According to PREPOSITION 1 if you say some information is according to someone, that is what the information comes from: Hannah's ill, according to Lucy. 2 if you measure one thing according to another, you compare those things with each other: The animals were sorted according to their size. 3 Did anything go according to plan?

- Accordingly ADVERB in a way that suits what has just been said or what is happening: The sun was shining and Jake dressed accordingly.

Accordion NOUN accordions a musical instrument with a small keyboard like a piano on the side of a big folding box that you squeeze in and out

Account NOUN accounts 1 a description of something that happened: His account of the journey made us laugh. 2 money that someone keeps in a bank.

- On account of because of: I can't run very well on account of my bad leg.

- On no account definitely not: You are on no account to stay out late.

- Take something into account to take something into account is to consider it: Will they take my age into account when they decide who can go?

- Vague accounts, accounting, accounted to account for something is to explain it: It's her birthday, which

Accounts for all the visitors she's had today.

Accountant NOUN accountants someone whose job is to record a person's or company's money accounts and keep them in order

- Accountancy NOUN the job of organizing and keeping records of a person's or a company's money

Accumulate VERB accumulates, accumulating, accumulated 1 to accumulate things is to collect a lot of them 2 to accumulate things when they pile up: A pile of books had accumulated on my desk.

Accuracy NOUN being exactly right: Please check the accuracy of this measurement.

- Accurately ADVERB exactly: Copy the shape as accurately as possible.

Accusation NOUN accusations a statement saying that a person has done something wrong: Jude has made a very serious accusation against you.

- Accuse VERB accuses, accusing, accused to accuse someone is to say they have done something wrong: Are you accusing me of lying?

- Accustomed ADJECTIVE if you are accustomed to something, you are used to it: We've all become accustomed to his strange way of talking.

- Ace NOUN aces 1 a playing-card with one symbol on it and an A in the corner: the ace of spades 2 an expert: a Brazilian football ace 3 in tennis, an ace is a serve that the other player cannot reach

- Adjective (informal) very good: The food was ace. * an ace detective

Ache NOUN aches a pain that goes on and on: Why are you behind my eyes?

- Ache VERB aching, ache, ached if part of your body aches, it hurts for a long time, especially in a dull, heavy sort of way: My arm aches from playing too much tennis.

Achieve VERB achieves, achieving, achieved to achieve something is to succeed in doing it or getting it: We

- Acquaint VERB acquaints, acquainting, acquainted (informal) 1 to meet someone with something is to tell them about it: Let me acquaint you with the facts. 2 if you are acquainted with someone or something, you have met them and known them slightly

- Acquaintance NOUN acquainances someone you have met and you know slightly