

Webster's New World Dictionary

SECOND COLLEGE EDITION

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WEBSTER'S

NEW WORLD

DICTIONARY

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abomasum

ab·o·ma·sum (ab'ə mā'səm) n., pl. -ma'sa (-sə) [ModL. < L. ab-, from + omasum, bullock's tripe] the fourth, or digesting, chamber of the stomach of a cud-chewing animal, as the cow: see RUMINANT, ILLUS.

*A·bomb (ā'bām) n. same as ATOMIC BOMB —vt. to attack or destroy with an atomic bomb

a·bom·i·na·ble (ə bām'ə nā b'l) adj. [ME. abominabile (sp. infl. by folk etymological derivation < L. ab homine, abominabilis < abominari: see ABOMINATE) 1. nasty and disgusting; vile; loathsome 2. highly unpleasant; disagreeable; very bad (abominable taste) —SYN. see HATEFUL —a·bom·i·na·bly adv.

Abominable Snowman a large, hairy, manlike animal reputed to live in the Himalayas

a·bom·i·nate (ə bām'ə nāt') vt., -nat'ed, -nat'ing [*<* L. abominatus, pp. of abominari, to regard as an ill omen: see AB- & OMEN] 1. to have feelings of hatred and disgust for; loathe 2. to dislike very much —a·bom·i·na·tor n.

a·bom·i·na·tion (ə bām'ə nā'shən) n. 1. an abominating; great hatred and disgust; loathing 2. anything hateful and disgusting

ā bon mar ché (ā bōn mā'r shā) [Fr.] at a good bargain; cheap

ab·o·rig·i·nal (ab'ə rīj'ə n'l) adj. [ABORIGIN(ES) + -AL] 1. existing (in a place) from the beginning or from earliest days; first; indigenous 2. of or characteristic of aborigines —n. an aboriginal animal or plant —SYN. see NATIVE

ab·o·rig·i·nal·ly adv.

ab·o·rig·i·ne (ab'ə rīj'ə nē) n., pl. -nes' [L., first inhabitant < ab-, from + origine, the beginning: see ORIGIN] 1. any of the first or earliest known inhabitants of a region; native 2. [pl.] the native animals or plants of a region

a·born·ing (ə bōr'nīng) adv. while being born or created [the plan died aborting]

a·bort (ə bōrt) vt. [*<* abortire < abortus, pp. of abortiri, to miscarry, pass away, orig. to set (as the sun) < ab-, from + ortiri, to arise] 1. to give birth before the fetus is viable; have a miscarriage 2. to fail to be completed 3. Biol. to fail to develop; stay rudimentary —n. 1. a) to end (a pregnancy) prematurely b) to cause (a fetus) to be expelled before it is viable c) to cause to have an abortion 2. to check (a disease) before fully developed 3. to cut short (an action or operation of an aircraft, spacecraft, etc.), as because of some failure in the equipment —n. an aborting of the action of an aircraft, spacecraft, etc.

a·bor·ti·cide (ə bōrt'ī sīd') n. [ABORTI(ON) + -CID] 1. destruction of the fetus in the womb 2. an abortifacient

a·bor·ti·fa·cient (ə bōrt'ī fā'shənt) adj. [ABORTI(ON) + -FACIENT] causing abortion —n. a drug or device that causes abortion

a·bor·tion (ə bōrt'shən) n. [L. abortio: see ABORT] 1. expulsion of a fetus from the womb before it is sufficiently developed to survive; miscarriage: called criminal abortion when unlawfully induced 2. an aborted fetus 3. anything immature and incomplete, as a deformed creature, a badly developed plan, etc. Biol. a) arrest of development b) an organ whose development has been arrested

*a·bor·tion·ist (-ist) n. a person who effects an abortion

a·bor·tive (ə bōrt'iv) adj. [ME. abortivus < L. abortivus: see ABORT] 1. coming to nothing; unsuccessful; fruitless 2. Biol. arrested in development; rudimentary 3. Med. a) causing abortion b) halting a disease process 4. [Obs.] born prematurely —SYN. see FUTILE

ABO system the system of antigens found on human red blood cells, together with the corresponding antibodies of these antigens: antigens inherited determine major blood types (A, B, AB, O) and their compatibility in transfusion

a·bound (ə baund) vi. [ME. abounden < OFr. abonder < L. abundare, to overflow < ab-, away + undare, to rise in waves < unda, a wave] 1. to be plentiful; exist in large numbers or amounts [tropical plants abound in the jungle] 2. to have plenty; be filled; be wealthy (in) or teem (with) [a land that abounds in grain, woods that abound with game]

a·bout (ə baʊt) adv. [ME. aboute(n) < OE. onbutan, around < on, on + butan, outside < ut, out: all senses develop from the sense of "around"] 1. on every side; all around [look about] 2. here and there; in all directions [travel about] 3. in circumference; around the outside [ten miles about] 4. near [standing somewhere about] 5. in the opposite direction; to a reversed position [turn it about] 6. in succession or rotation [play fair—turn it about] 7. nearly; approximately [about four years old] 8. [Colloq.] all but; almost [just about ready] —adj. [used only in the predicate] 1. astir; on the move [he is up and about again] 2. in the vicinity; prevalent [typhoid is about] —prep. 1. around; on all sides of 2. here and there in; everywhere in 3. near to 4. with; on (one's person) [have your wits about you] 5. concerned with; attending to [go about your business] 6. intending; on the point of [followed by an infinitive] [I am about to say something] 7. having to do with; concerning [a book about ships] 8. in connection with —how (or what) about [Colloq.] 1. what is your wish, opinion, or information concerning? [how about going to a movie?] 2. isn't (that) interesting! [how about that!]

*a·bout·face (ə baʊt'fās; -fās'; for v. ə baʊt'fās') n. 1. a sharp turn to the opposite direction, esp. in response to a military command 2. a sharp change in attitude or opinion

abrogate

—vi. -faced', -fac'ing to turn or face in the opposite direction

a·bout·ship (ə baʊt'shīp) vi. to tack a ship

a·bove (ə buv') adv. [ME. above(n) < OE. abufan, onbufan, overhead, above < on-, intens. + bufan < be, by + ufan, over, on high] 1. in, at, or to a higher place; overhead; up 2. in or to heaven 3. at a previous place (in a piece of writing): often used in hyphenated compounds [above-mentioned] 4. higher in power, status, etc. —prep. 1. higher than; over; on top of 2. beyond; past [the road above the village] 3. at a point upstream of 4. superior to; better than [above the average] 5. too honorable to engage in [not above cheating] 6. in excess of; more than [above fifty dollars] —adj. placed, found, mentioned, etc. above or earlier [as stated in the above rules] —n. something that is above —above all most of all; mainly

a·bove·board (-bōrd') adv., adj. [ABOVE + BOARD (table): orig. a cardplayer's term for cards in plain view] without dishonesty or concealment [be open and aboveboard with me]

āb o·vo (āb ō'vō) [L., from the egg] from the beginning

ab·ra·ca·dab·ra (ab'rō kə dab'rā) n. [LL., prob. of the Balkan origin, but assumed to be < LGr. Abraxas, the almighty God] 1. a word supposed to have magic powers, and hence used in incantations, on amulets, etc. 2. a magic spell or formula 3. foolish or meaningless talk; gibberish

ab·rad·ant (ə brād'nt) adj. abrading —n. an abrasive

ab·rade (ə brād') vt., vi. ab·rad'ed, ab·rad'ing [L. abradere < ab-, away + radere, to scrape] to scrape or rub off; wear away by scraping or rubbing —ab·rad'er n.

A·bra·ham (ābrə'hām) [Heb., lit., father of many: the original form, Avram, means "father is exalted": see Gen. 17:5] 1. a masculine name: dim. Abe 2. Bible the first patriarch and ancestor of the Hebrews: Gen. 12-25 —n. in a state of heavenly bliss, peace, etc.

Abraham, Plains of plateau in the city of Quebec, on the St. Lawrence; site of a battle (1759) in which the British under Wolfe defeated the French under Montcalm, giving Britain control of Canada

A·bram (ābrəm) same as ABRAHAM

a·bran·chi·ate (ā brān'kī ēt, -ēt') adj. [*<* Gr. a-, not + branchia, gills + -ATE] without gills —n. an animal without gills Also a·bran'chi·al (-əl)

ab·ra·sion (ə brā'zhən) n. [LL. abrasio < L. abradere: see ABRADE] 1. a scraping or rubbing off, as of skin 2. a wearing away by rubbing or scraping, as of rock by wind, water, etc. 3. an abraded spot or area

ab·ra·sive (ə brā'siv) adj. [*<* L. abrasus, pp. of abradere, to abrade + -IVE] 1. causing abrasion 2. tending to provoke anger, ill will, etc.; aggressively annoying; irritating —n. a substance used for grinding, polishing, etc., as sandpaper or emery

ābra·zo (ā brā'thō, -sō) n., pl. -zos (-thōs, -sōs) [Sp.] an embrace or hug, esp. in greeting a person

ab·re·act (ab'rē akt') vt. [back-formation < ABRÉACTION] Psychoanalysis to relieve (a repressed emotion), as by talking about it

ab·re·ac·tion (-ak'shən) n. [AB- + REACTION, after G. abreagierung] Psychoanalysis the process of abreacting (a repressed emotion)

a·brest (ə brest') adv., adj. [A- + BREAST] 1. side by side, as in going or facing forward (often with of or with) 2. informed (of) or conversant (with) recent developments

a·bridge (ə brīdʒ) vt. a·bridged', a·bridg'ing [ME. abregen < OFr. abregier < LL. abbreviare: see ABBREVIATE] 1. to reduce in scope, extent, etc.; shorten 2. to shorten by using fewer words but keeping the main contents; condense 3. to lessen or curtail (rights, authority, etc.) 4. [Rare] to deprive (of rights, privileges, etc.) —SYN. see SHORTEN —a·bridg'able, a·bridge'able adj. —a·bridg'er n.

a·bridg·ment, a·bridge·ment (ə brīdʒ'mənt) n. [ME. abregement < OFr. < abregier: see ABRIDGE] 1. an abridging or being abridged; reduction 2. a curtailment, as of rights 3. an abridged or condensed form of a book, etc.

SYN.—abridgment describes a work condensed from a larger work by omitting the less important parts, but keeping the main contents more or less unaltered; an abstract is a short statement of the essential contents of a book, court record, etc. often used as an index to the original material; brief and summary both imply [the brief of a legal argument], summary, especially, connoting a recapitulating statement; a synopsis is a condensed, orderly treatment, as of the plot of a novel, that permits a quick general view of the whole; a digest is a concise, systematic treatment, generally more comprehensive in scope than a synopsis, and, in the case of technical material, often arranged under titles for quick reference; an epitome is a statement of the essence of a subject in the shortest possible form —ANT. expansion

a·broach (ə brōch) adv., adj. [ME. broche < a-, on + broche, skewer, spit: see BROACH] 1. opened so that the liquid contents can come out; broached 2. in motion; astir

a·broad (ə brōd') adv. [ME. brode < on brod: see ON + BROAD] 1. broadly far and wide 2. in circulation; current [a report is abroad that he has won] 3. outside one's house; outdoors [to stroll abroad] 4. outside one's own country; to or in foreign countries 5. wide of the mark; in error —from abroad from a foreign land or lands

ab·ro·gate (ab'rō gāt') vt. -gat'ed, -gat'ing [*<* L. abrogatus,

abrogation

pp. of abrogate, to r propose] to cancel or see ABOLISH —ab'ro (gā'shən) n. —ab'ro a·brupt (ə brupt') a break off < ab-, off happening, or ending curt or gruff in behavior as a precipice 4. proper transitions; suddenly —a·bruptly a·brup·tion (ə brup'tshən) sudden breaking away: A·bruz'zi (ā brūz'tsē of Saoy-Aosta) 1873 climber, & explorer

A·bruz'zi e Mo·li·se Adriatic; 5,883 sq. mi

abs· (abs, abs) same as

ab·sa·lom (ab'sə lom) [Heb., in peace] Bible David against his father: II i

ab·scess (ab'ses) n. [L. abs(s)-, from + cadere, that humors go from t inflamed area in body to form an abscess —

a·bs·cise (ab'siz) vi., v cut off < abs-, var. of a to separate by abscissi

ab·scis·sion (ab'sis'ən) (line), (a line) cut off, abscissus, pp. of absciscere, to cut] in a cot system, the distance of from the vertical axis a

ured along a line parallel horizontal axis: cf. ORT

ab·s·cis·sion (ab'siz'sən) abscissio: see ABSCISSA cutting off, as by surgery: normal separation of leaves, etc. from plants

of pithy cells at the base

ab·s·cond (əb'skənd', əb away + condere, to hide and secretly; run away the law —ab·s·cond'er

ab·s·s·ence (ab's'sns) n. [ABSENT, adj.] 1. the c

back [in the absence of e

ab·s·ent (ab's'nt; for v. absent, prp. of abesse < present; away 2. not e absorbed in thought —

ab·s·en·tee (əb's'ntē) n. a work, school, etc. —adj. lives some distance away

ab·s·en·tee·ism (-iz'm) n. esp. when deliberate or i

ab·s·en·tee·re·o (əb's'ntē defendant

ab·s·ent·ly (əb's'ntlī) ac manner; inattentively

ab·s·ent·mind·ed (-mīnd' thought as not to pay a what is going on around

ab·s·ent·mind·ed·ly adv. —al SYN.—absent-minded sug mind away from the immedia tendency of this kind [the

ab·s·in·thum (əb'sīn'thəm) a serious concern with some that the attention cannot b because of its concern, offe inability to concentrate, offe mood; distraught implies a s

fat, āpe, cār; ten, ēven; is, b a for a in ago, e in agent, i in ū, Fr. duc; r, Fr. cri; H, G