

## 1 Word Order

Your *Longman Dictionary of American English* shows words and expressions in alphabetical (A, B, C, D, etc.) order.

**a·bate** /ə'beɪt/ v. [I] (formal) to become less strong  
→ UNABATED: *Public anger does not appear to be abating.*

**ab·bey** /'æbi/ n. [C] a large church, with buildings next to it where MONKS and NUNS live [ORIGIN: 1200—1300 Old French *abaie*, from Late Latin *abbas*, from Aramaic *abba* “father”]

**ab·bre·vi·ate** /ə'brɪvɪ,eɪt/ v. [T] (formal) to make a word, story, etc. shorter: “*Street*” is often *abbreviated* as “*St.*”. [ORIGIN: 1400—1500 Late Latin, past participle of *abbreviare*, from Latin *brevis* “short”]

**ab·bre·vi·a·tion** /ə,brɪvɪ'eɪʃən/ n. [C] the short form of a word used in writing. For example, Mr. is the abbreviation of Mister.

**ABC** n. **1** ABC's [plural] the letters of the English alphabet as taught to children **2** **American Broadcasting Company** one of the national companies that broadcasts television and radio programs in the U.S.

**ab·di·cate** /'æbdɪ,ket/ v. **1** [I,T] to officially give up the position of being king or queen **2** **abdicate (your) responsibility** (formal)

- Look at these words and expressions, and decide in which order they come in your dictionary. Number each one 1–17. Then check your answers in your dictionary.

- |                                       |                                    |   |   |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> play-by-play | <input type="checkbox"/> palatial  | <input type="checkbox"/> polyester        | <input type="checkbox"/> psychology         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> painting     | <input type="checkbox"/> psalm     | <input type="checkbox"/> perishable       | <input type="checkbox"/> phrase             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> phonetic     | <input type="checkbox"/> poised    | <input type="checkbox"/> pollution        | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> painter |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ph.D.        | <input type="checkbox"/> poisonous | <input type="checkbox"/> plaster of Paris | <input type="checkbox"/> perish             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> palace       |                                    |   |   |

## 2 Using Guidewords

You will find a guideword in the top corner of each page. These guidewords tell you what the first and last words on the pages are. Knowing this will help you to find words more quickly.

**actively**

**ac·tive·ly** /'æktɪvli/ adv. in a way that involves doing things or taking part in something: *My parents are actively involved with the church.*

**adrift**

**ad·mit·ted·ly** /əd'mɪtɪdli/ adv. used when admitting that something is true: *Our net profit this year is, admittedly, much smaller than we had expected.*

- Here are the guidewords for pages 30 and 31 of your dictionary. Circle the words and expressions in the box that you think can be found on these pages.

**altitude**

**al·ti·tude** /'æltɪtʊd/ n. [C,U] the height of something above sea level: *aircraft flying at high/low altitude*

**American Indian**

**am·bu·lance** /'æmbjələns/ n. [C] a special vehicle for taking sick or injured people to the hospital: *Somebody should call an ambulance.*

- |          |          |         |          |          |
|----------|----------|---------|----------|----------|
| amble    | Americas | amuse   | alto     | ambition |
| amicable | alumni   | amateur | although | ambush   |

### 3 Labels

Your dictionary gives you lots of extra information about the words and expressions you will find and use. It uses *labels* to give you this information.

**they** /ðeɪ/ (*pron.*) **1** the people or things that have already been mentioned or that are already known about: *Ken gave me these flowers – aren't they beautiful?* | *I stopped at Doris and Ed's place, but*

*pron.* tells us that *they* is a pronoun.

**de-duce** /drɪ'dus/ (*Ac*) (*v.*) (*[T]*) (*formal*) to make a judgment based on the information that you have:

*v.*, *[T]*, and *formal* tell us that *deduce* is a *verb*, it is *transitive*, and it is used in *formal* situations.

**child-ish** /'tʃaɪldɪʃ/ (*adj.*) **1** (*disapproving*) behaving in a silly way that makes you seem younger than you really are (*syn* **immature**): *At your age, don't you think playing on the swings is a little childish?* **2** relating to or typical of a child: *a childish game* — **childishly** *adv.*

*adj.*, *disapproving* + (*syn*) **immature** tell us that *childish* is an *adjective*, we use it when we want to *disapprove* of something, and that *immature* has exactly the same meaning.

**A Complete these sentences with a label. Use your dictionary to help you.**

- adj.** means that a word is an adjective. *Happy* and *sad* are just two examples.
- [U]** means that a noun is                     . *Water*, *bread*, and *rice* are three examples.
- Words such as *foe* have the word                      after them. This means that they are mostly used in literature and poems, and are not usually used in essays.
- Walkman*, *Coke*, *Thermos*, and *Jell-O* are examples of                      names.
- If somebody is described as *chicken*, it means that they are easily afraid. When *chicken* is used in this way, it is an                      word.
- Nouns such as *outcome* are                     , and cannot have a plural form.
- If something is very good, we say that it is *really good*. However, some people say *real good*. This is an example of                      English, and you should not use it in essays.
- Some words, like *childlike*, are used in an                      way. If a person uses this word to describe somebody, they approve of them (if they disapprove, they would use the word *childish*).
- sb** is an abbreviation for *somebody*, **sth** is an abbreviation for                     .
- Certain words relate to particular subjects such as science, medicine, etc. For example, *larynx* relates to the subject of                     .
- phr. v.** is an abbreviation for                     . *Take off*, *give away*, and *make out* are typical examples.
- prep.** is an abbreviation for                     . *In*, *at*, *on*, and *under* are just four examples.

- **B** Copy the answers from Activity A in the blanks below. Discover the secret word in the shaded column.



## 4 Key Words

Some words in the *Longman Dictionary of American English* are printed in red. These are *key words*. This means that they are the words we use the most often in our written and spoken English.

- **A** Look at page 9 in your dictionary. How many *key words* can you find? \_\_\_\_\_
- **B** Look at these groups of words. In each group, there is one *key word*. Which word do you think is the *key word* in each case? Circle it. Check your answers in your dictionary.

1	aloud	alternate	always	alphabet	alter
2	kettle	keep	ketchup	keen	keel
3	receiver	recycle	rectangle	reflect	record
4	new	neutral	nest	negotiate	necessity
5	worksheet	word	worm	workman	wobble
6	exposure	expressway	extinct	expression	extreme
7	theft	thaw	thumb	thief	that
8	yogurt	yoga	you	yawn	yacht
9	leap	learn	leak	lease	legend