

**abase** v. To lower in position, estimation, or the like; degrade.

**abbess** n. The lady superior of a nunnery.

**abbey** n. The group of buildings which collectively form the dwelling-place of a society of monks or nuns.

**abbot** n. The superior of a community of monks.

**abdicate** v. To give up (royal power or the like).

**abdomen** n. In mammals, the visceral cavity between the diaphragm and the pelvic floor; the belly.

**abdominal** n. Of, pertaining to, or situated on the abdomen.

**abduction** n. A carrying away of a person against his will, or illegally.

**abed** adv. In bed; on a bed.

**aberration** n. Deviation from a right, customary, or prescribed course.

**abet** v. To aid, promote, or encourage the commission of (an offense).

**abeyance** n. A state of suspension or temporary inaction.

**abhorrence** n. The act of detesting extremely.

**abhorrent** adj. Very repugnant; hateful.

**abidance** n. An abiding.

**abject** adj. Sunk to a low condition.

**abjure** v. To recant, renounce, repudiate under oath.

**able-bodied** adj. Competent for physical service.

**ablution** n. A washing or cleansing, especially of the body.

**abnegate** v. To renounce (a right or privilege).

**abnormal** adj. Not conformed to the ordinary rule or standard.

**abominable** adj. Very hateful.

**abominate** v. To hate violently.

**abomination** n. A very detestable act or practice.

**aboriginal** adj. Primitive; unsophisticated.

**aborigines** n. The original of earliest known inhabitants of a country.

**aboveboard** adv. & adj. Without concealment, fraud, or trickery.

**abrade** v. To wear away the surface or some part of by friction.

**abrasion** n. That which is rubbed off.

**abridge** v. To make shorter in words, keeping the essential features, leaving out minor particles.

**abridgment** n. A condensed form as of a book or play.

**abrogate** v. To abolish, repeal.

**abrupt** adj. Beginning, ending, or changing suddenly or with a break.

**abscess** n. A Collection of pus in a cavity formed within some tissue of the body.

**abscission** n. The act of cutting off, as in a surgical operation.

**abscond** v. To depart suddenly and secretly, as for the purpose of escaping arrest.

**absence** n. The fact of not being present or available.

**absent-minded** adj. Lacking in attention to immediate surroundings or business.

**absolution** n. Forgiveness, or passing over of offenses.

**absolve** v. To free from sin or its penalties.

**absorb** v. To drink in or suck up, as a sponge absorbs water.

**absorption** n. The act or process of absorbing.

**abstain** v. To keep oneself back (from doing or using something).

**abstemious** adj. Characterized by self denial or abstinence, as in the use of drink, food.

**abstinence** n. Self denial.

**abstruse** adj. Dealing with matters difficult to be understood.

**absurd** adj. Inconsistent with reason or common sense.

**abundant** adj. Plentiful.

**abusive** adj. Employing harsh words or ill treatment.

**abut** v. To touch at the end or boundary line.

**abyss** n. Bottomless gulf.

**academic** adj. Of or pertaining to an academy, college, or university.

**academician** n. A member of an academy of literature, art, or science.

**academy** n. Any institution where the higher branches of learning are taught.

**accede** v. To agree.

**accelerate** v. To move faster.

**accept** v. To take when offered.

**access** n. A way of approach or entrance; passage.

**accessible** adj. Approachable.

**accession** n. Induction or elevation, as to dignity, office, or government.

**accessory** n. A person or thing that aids the principal agent.

**acclaim** v. To utter with a shout.

**accommodate** v. To furnish something as a kindness or favor.

**accompaniment** n. A subordinate part or parts, enriching or supporting the leading part.

**accompanist** n. One who or that which accompanies.

**accompany** v. To go with, or be associated with, as a companion.

**accomplice** n. An associate in wrong-doing.

**accomplish** v. To bring to pass.

**accordion** n. A portable free-reed musical instrument.

**accost** v. To speak to.  
**account** n. A record or statement of receipts and expenditures, or of business transactions.  
**accouter** v. To dress.  
**accredit** v. To give credit or authority to.  
**accumulate** v. To become greater in quantity or number.  
**accuracy** n. Exactness.  
**accurate** adj. Conforming exactly to truth or to a standard.  
**accursed** adj. Doomed to evil, misery, or misfortune.  
**accusation** n. A charge of crime, misdemeanor, or error.  
**accusatory** adj. Of, pertaining to, or involving an accusation.  
**accuse** v. To charge with wrong doing, misconduct, or error.  
**accustom** v. To make familiar by use.  
**acerbity** n. Sourness, with bitterness and astringency.  
**acetate** n. A salt of acetic acid.  
**acetic** adj. Of, pertaining to, or of the nature of vinegar.  
**ache** v. To be in pain or distress.  
**Achilleian** adj. Invulnerable.  
**achromatic** adj. Colorless,  
**acid** n. A sour substance.  
**acidify** v. To change into acid.  
**acknowledge** v. To recognize; to admit the genuineness or validity of.  
**acknowledgment** n. Recognition.  
**acme** n. The highest point, or summit.  
**acoustic** adj. Pertaining to the act or sense of hearing.  
**acquaint** v. To make familiar or conversant.  
**acquiesce** v. To comply; submit.  
**acquiescence** n. Passive consent.  
**acquire** v. To get as one's own.  
**acquisition** n. Anything gained, or made one's own, usually by effort or labor.  
**acquit** v. To free or clear, as from accusation.  
**acquittal** n. A discharge from accusation by judicial action.  
**acquittance** n. Release or discharge from indebtedness, obligation, or responsibility.  
**acreage** n. Quantity or extent of land, especially of cultivated land.  
**acrid** adj. Harshly pungent or bitter.  
**acrimonious** adj. Full of bitterness.  
**acrimony** n. Sharpness or bitterness of speech or temper.

**actionable** adj. Affording cause for instituting an action, as trespass, slanderous words.

**actuality** n. Any reality.

**actuary** n. An officer, as of an insurance company, who calculates and states the risks and premiums.

**actuate** v. To move or incite to action.

**acumen** n. Quickness of intellectual insight, or discernment; keenness of discrimination.

**acute** adj. Having fine and penetrating discernment.

**adamant** n. Any substance of exceeding hardness or impenetrability.

**addendum** n. Something added, or to be added.

**addle** v. To make inefficient or worthless; muddle.

**adduce** v. To bring forward or name for consideration.

**adhere** v. To stick fast or together.

**adherence** n. Attachment.

**adherent** adj. Clinging or sticking fast.

**adhesion** n. The state of being attached or joined.

adieu inter. Good-by; farewell.

**adjacency** n. The state of being adjacent.

**adjacent** n. That which is near or bordering upon.

**adjudge** v. To award or bestow by formal decision.

**adjunct** n. Something joined to or connected with another thing, but holding a subordinate place.

**adjuration** n. A vehement appeal.

**adjutant** adj. Auxiliary.

**administrator** n. One who manages affairs of any kind.

**admissible** adj. Having the right or privilege of entry.

**admittance** n. Entrance, or the right or permission to enter.

**admonish** v. To warn of a fault.

**admonition** n. Gentle reproof.

**ado** n. unnecessary activity or ceremony.

**adoration** n. Profound devotion.

**adroit** adj. Having skill in the use of the bodily or mental powers.

**adulterant** n. An adulterating substance.

**adulterate** v. To make impure by the admixture of other or baser ingredients.

**adumbrate** v. To represent beforehand in outline or by emblem.

**advent** n. The coming or arrival, as of any important change, event, state, or personage.

**adverse** adj. Opposing or opposed.

**adversity** n. Misfortune.  
**advert** v. To refer incidentally.  
**advertiser** n. One who advertises, especially in newspapers.  
**advisory** adj. Not mandatory.  
**advocacy** n. The act of pleading a cause.  
**advocate** n. One who pleads the cause of another, as in a legal or ecclesiastical court.  
**aerial** adj. Of, pertaining to, or like the air.  
**aeronaut** n. One who navigates the air, a balloonist.  
**aeronautics** n. the art or practice of flying aircraft  
**aerostat** n. A balloon or other apparatus floating in or sustained by the air.  
**aerostatics** n. The branch of pneumatics that treats of the equilibrium, pressure, and mechanical properties.  
**affable** adj. Easy to approach.  
**affect** v. To act upon  
**affectation** n. A studied or ostentatious pretense or attempt.  
**affiliate** n. Some auxiliary person or thing.  
**affirmative** adj. Answering yes; to a question at issue.  
**affix** v. To fasten.  
**affluence** n. A profuse or abundant supply of riches.  
**affront** n. An open insult or indignity.  
**afire** adv. & adj. On fire, literally or figuratively.  
**afoot** adv. In progress.  
aforesaid adj. Said in a preceding part or before.  
**afresh** adv. Once more, after rest or interval.  
**afterthought** n. A thought that comes later than its appropriate or expected time.  
**agglomerate** v. To pile or heap together.  
**aggrandize** v. To cause to appear greatly.  
**aggravate** v. To make heavier, worse, or more burdensome.  
**aggravation** n. The fact of being made heavier or more heinous, as a crime, offense, misfortune, etc.  
**aggregate** n. The entire number, sum, mass, or quantity of something.  
**aggress** v. To make the first attack.  
**aggression** n. An unprovoked attack.  
**aggrieve** v. To give grief or sorrow to.  
**aghast** adj. Struck with terror and amazement.

**agile** adj. Able to move or act quickly, physically, or mentally.  
**agitate** v. To move or excite (the feelings or thoughts).  
**agrarian** adj. Pertaining to land, especially agricultural land.  
**aide-de-camp** n. An officer who receives and transmits the orders of the general.  
**ailment** n. Slight sickness.  
**airy** adj. Delicate, ethereal.  
**akin** adj. Of similar nature or qualities.  
**alabaster** n. A white or delicately tinted fine-grained gypsum.  
**alacrity** n. Cheerful willingness.  
**albeit** conj. Even though.  
**albino** n. A person with milky white skin and hair, and eyes with bright red pupil and usually pink iris.  
**album** n. A book whose leaves are so made to form paper frames for holding photographs or the like.  
**alchemy** n. Chemistry of the middle ages, characterized by the pursuit of changing base metals to gold.  
**alcohol** n. A volatile, inflammable, colorless liquid of a penetrating odor and burning taste.  
**alcoholism** n. A condition resulting from the inordinate or persistent use of alcoholic beverages.  
**alcove** n. A covered recess connected with or at the side of a larger room.  
**alder** n. Any shrub or small tree of the genus *Alumnus*, of the oak family.  
**alderman** n. A member of a municipal legislative body, who usually exercises also certain judicial functions.  
**aldermanship** n. The dignity, condition, office, or term of office of an alderman.  
**alias** n. An assumed name.  
**alien** n. One who owes allegiance to a foreign government.  
**alienable** adj. Capable of being alienated or alienated, as lands.  
**alienate** v. To cause to turn away.  
**alienation** n. Estrangement.  
**aliment** n. That which nourishes.  
**alkali** n. Anything that will neutralize an acid, as lime, magnesia, etc.

**allay** v. To calm the violence or reduce the intensity of; mitigate.

**allege** v. To assert to be true, especially in a formal manner, as in court.

**allegory** n. The setting forth of a subject under the guise of another subject of aptly suggestive likeness.

**alleviate** v. To make less burdensome or less hard to bear.

**alley** n. A narrow street, garden path, walk, or the like.

**alliance** n. Any combination or union for some common purpose.

**allot** v. To assign a definite thing or part to a certain person.

**allotment** n. Portion.

**allude** v. To refer incidentally, or by suggestion.

**allusion** n. An indirect and incidental reference to something without definite mention of it.

**alluvion** n. Flood.

**ally** n. A person or thing connected with another, usually in some relation of helpfulness.

**almanac** n. A series of tables giving the days of the week together with certain astronomical information.

**aloof** adv. Not in sympathy with or desiring to associate with others.

**altar** n. Any raised place or structure on which sacrifices may be offered or incense burned.

**alter** v. To make change in.

**alteration** n. Change or modification.

**altercate** v. To contend angrily or zealously in words.

**alternate** n. One chosen to act in place of another, in case of the absence or incapacity of that other.

**alternative** n. Something that may or must exist, be taken or chosen, or done instead of something else.

**altitude** n. Vertical distance or elevation above any point or base-level, as the sea.

**alto** n. The lowest or deepest female voice or part.

**altruism** n. Benevolence to others on subordination to self-interest.

**altruist** n. One who advocates or practices altruism.

**amalgam** n. An alloy or union of mercury with another metal.

**amalgamate** v. To mix or blend together in a homogeneous body.

**amateur** adj. Practicing an art or occupation for the love of it, but not as a profession.

- amatory** adj. Designed to excite love.
- ambidextrous** adj. Having the ability of using both hands with equal skill or ease.
- ambiguous** adj. Having a double meaning.
- ambitious** adj. Eagerly desirous and aspiring.
- ambrosial** adj. Divinely sweet, fragrant, or delicious.
- ambulance** n. A vehicle fitted for conveying the sick and wounded.
- ambulate** v. To walk about
- ambush** n. The act or state of lying concealed for the purpose of surprising or attacking the enemy.
- ameliorate** v. To relieve, as from pain or hardship
- amenable** adj. Willing and ready to submit.
- Americanism** n. A peculiar sense in which an English word or phrase is used in the United States.
- amicable** adj. Done in a friendly spirit.
- amity** n. Friendship.
- amorous** adj. Having a propensity for falling in love.
- amorphous** adj. Without determinate shape.
- amour** n. A love-affair, especially one of an illicit nature.
- ampere** n. The practical unit of electric-current strength.
- ampersand** n. The character & and.
- amphibious** adj. Living both on land and in water.
- amphitheater** n. An edifice of elliptical shape, constructed about a central open space or arena.
- amplitude** n. Largeness.
- amply** adv. Sufficiently.
- amputate** v. To remove by cutting, as a limb or some portion of the body.
- amusement** n. Diversion.
- anachronism** n. Anything occurring or existing out of its proper time.
- anagram** n. The letters of a word or phrase so transposed as to make a different word or phrase.
- analogous** adj. Corresponding (to some other) in certain respects, as in form, proportion, relations.
- analogy** n. Reasoning in which from certain and known relations or resemblance others are

formed.

**analyst** n. One who analyzes or makes use of the analytical method.

**analyze** v. To examine minutely or critically.

**anarchy** n. Absence or utter disregard of government.

**anathema** n. Anything forbidden, as by social usage.

**anatomy** n. That branch of morphology which treats of the structure of organisms.

**ancestry** n. One's ancestors collectively.

**anecdote** n. A brief account of some interesting event or incident.

**anemia** n. Deficiency of blood or red corpuscles.

**anemic** adj. Affected with anemia.

**anemometer** n. An instrument for measuring the force or velocity of wind.

**anesthetic** adj. Pertaining to or producing loss of sensation.

**anew** adv. Once more.

**angelic** adj. Saintly.

Anglophobia n. Hatred or dread of England or of what is English.

**Anglo-Saxon** n. The entire English race wherever found, as in Europe, the United States, or India.

**angular** adj. Sharp-cornered.

**anhydrous** adj. Withered.

**animadversion** n. The utterance of criticism or censure.

**animadvert** v. To pass criticism or censure.

**animalcule** n. An animal of microscopic smallness.

**animate** v. To make alive.

**animosity** n. Hatred.

**annalist** n. Historian.

**annals** n. A record of events in their chronological order, year by year.

**annex** v. To add or affix at the end.

**annihilate** v. To destroy absolutely.

**annotate** v. To make explanatory or critical notes on or upon.

**annual** adj. Occurring every year.

**annuity** n. An annual allowance, payment, or income.

**annunciation** n. Proclamation.

**anode** n. The point where or path by which a voltaic current enters an electrolyte or the like.

**anonymous** adj. Of unknown authorship.

**antagonism** n. Mutual opposition or resistance of counteracting forces, principles, or persons.

**Antarctic** adj. Pertaining to the south pole or the regions near it.

**ante** v. In the game of poker, to put up a stake before the cards are dealt.

**antecede** v. To precede.

**antecedent** n. One who or that which precedes or goes before, as in time, place, rank, order, or causality.

**antechamber** n. A waiting room for those who seek audience.

**antedate** v. To assign or affix a date to earlier than the actual one.

**antediluvian** adj. Of or pertaining to the times, things, events before the great flood in the days of Noah.

**antemeridian** adj. Before noon.

**antemundane** adj. Pertaining to time before the world's creation.

**antenatal** adj. Occurring or existing before birth.

**anterior** adj. Prior.

**anteroom** n. A room situated before and opening into another, usually larger.

**anthology** n. A collection of extracts from the writings of various authors.

**anthracite** n. Hard coal.

**anthropology** n. The science of man in general.

**anthropomorphous** adj. Having or resembling human form.

**antic** n. A grotesque, ludicrous, or fantastic action.

**Antichrist** n. Any opponent or enemy of Christ, whether a person or a power.

**anticlimax** n. A gradual or sudden decrease in the importance or impressiveness of what is said.

**anticyclone** n. An atmospheric condition of high central pressure, with currents flowing outward.

**antidote** n. Anything that will counteract or remove the effects of poison, disease, or the like.

**antilogy** n. Inconsistency or contradiction in terms or ideas.

**antipathize** v. To show or feel a feeling of antagonism, aversion, or dislike.

**antiphon** n. A response or alteration of responses, generally musical.

**antiphony** n. An anthem or other composition sung responsively.

**antipodes** n. A place or region on the opposite side of the earth.

**antiquary** n. One who collects and examines old things, as coins, books, medals, weapons, etc.

**antiquate** v. To make old or out of date.

**antique** adj. Pertaining to ancient times.

**antiseptic** n. Anything that destroys or restrains the growth of putrefactive micro-organisms.

**antislavery** adj. Opposed to human slavery.

**antispasmodic** adj. Tending to prevent or relieve non-inflammatory spasmodic affections.

**antistrophe** n. The inversion of terms in successive classes, as in "the home of joy and the joy of home".

**antitoxin** n. A substance which neutralizes the poisonous products of micro-organisms.

**antonym** n. A word directly opposed to another in meaning.

**anxious** adj. Distressed in mind respecting some uncertain matter.

**apathy** n. Insensibility to emotion or passionate feeling.

**aperture** n. Hole.

**apex** n. The highest point, as of a mountain.

**aphorism** n. Proverb.

**apiary** n. A place where bees are kept.

**apogee** n. The climax.

**apology** n. A disclaimer of intentional error or offense.

**apostasy** n. A total departure from one's faith or religion.

**apostate** adj. False.

**apostle** n. Any messenger commissioned by or as by divine authority.

**apothecary** n. One who keeps drugs for sale and puts up prescriptions.

**apotheosis** n. Deification.

**appall** v. To fill with dismay or horror.

**apparent** adj. Easily understood.

**apparition** n. Ghost.

**appease** v. To soothe by quieting anger or indignation.

**appellate** adj. Capable of being appealed to.

**appellation** n. The name or title by which a particular person, class, or thing is called.

**append** v. To add or attach, as something accessory, subordinate, or supplementary.

**appertain** v. To belong, as by right, fitness, association, classification, possession, or natural

relation.

**opposite** adj. Appropriate.

**opposition** n. The act of placing side by side, together, or in contact.

**appraise** v. To estimate the money value of.

**appreciable** adj. Capable of being discerned by the senses or intellect.

**apprehend** v. To make a prisoner of (a person) in the name of the law.

**apprehensible** adj. Capable of being conceived.

**approbation** n. Sanction.

**appropriate** adj. Suitable for the purpose and circumstances.

**aqueduct** n. A water-conduit, particularly one for supplying a community from a distance.

**aqueous** adj. Of, pertaining to, or containing water.

**arbiter** n. One chosen or appointed, by mutual consent of parties in dispute, to decide matters.

**arbitrary** adj. Fixed or done capriciously.

**arbitrate** v. To act or give judgment as umpire.

**arbor** n. A tree.

**arboreal** adj. Of or pertaining to a tree or trees.

**arborescent** adj. Having the nature of a tree.

**arboretum** n. A botanical garden or place devoted to the cultivation of trees or shrubs.

**arboriculture** n. The cultivation of trees or shrubs.

**arcade** n. A vaulted passageway or street; a roofed passageway having shops, etc., opening from it.

**archaic** adj. Antiquated

**archaism** n. Obsolescence.

**archangel** n. An angel of high rank.

**archbishop** n. The chief of the bishops of an ecclesiastical province in the Greek, Roman, and Anglican church.

**archdeacon** n. A high official administrator of the affairs of a diocese.

**archaeology** n. The branch of anthropology concerned with the systematic investigation of the relics of man.

**archetype** n. A prototype.

**archipelago** n. Any large body of water studded with islands, or the islands collectively

themselves.

**ardent** adj. Burning with passion.

**ardor** n. Intensity of passion or affection.

**arid** adj. Very dry.

**aristocracy** n. A hereditary nobility

**aristocrat** n. A hereditary noble or one nearly connected with nobility.

**armada** n. A fleet of war-vessels.

**armful** n. As much as can be held in the arm or arms.

**armory** n. An arsenal.

**aroma** n. An agreeable odor.

**arraign** v. To call into court, as a person indicted for crime, and demand whether he pleads guilty or not.

**arrange** v. To put in definite or proper order.

**arrangement** n. The act of putting in proper order, or the state of being put in order.

**arrant** adj. Notoriously bad.

**arrear** n. Something overdue and unpaid.

**arrival** n. A coming to stopping-place or destination.

**arrogant** adj. Unduly or excessively proud, as of wealth, station, learning, etc.

**arrogate** v. To take, demand, or claim, especially presumptuously or without reasons or grounds.

**Artesian well** n. A very deep bored well. water rises due to underground pressure

**artful** adj. Characterized by craft or cunning.

**Arthurian** adj. Pertaining to King Arthur, the real or legendary hero of British poetic story.

**artifice** n. Trickery.

**artless** adj. Ingenuous.

**ascendant** adj. Dominant.

**ascension** n. The act of rising.

**ascent** n. A rising, soaring, or climbing.

**ascetic** adj. Given to severe self-denial and practicing excessive abstinence and devotion.

**ascribe** v. To assign as a quality or attribute.

**asexual** adj. Having no distinct sexual organs.

**ashen** adj. Pale.

**askance** adv. With a side or indirect glance or meaning.

**asperity** n. Harshness or roughness of temper.

- aspirant** n. One who seeks earnestly, as for advancement, honors, place.
- aspiration** n. An earnest wish for that which is above one's present reach.
- aspire** v. To have an earnest desire, wish, or longing, as for something high and good, not yet attained.
- assailant** n. One who attacks.
- assassin** n. One who kills, or tries to kill, treacherously or secretly.
- assassinate** v. To kill, as by surprise or secret assault, especially the killing of some eminent person.
- assassination** n. Murderer, as by secret assault or treachery.
- assay** n. The chemical analysis or testing of an alloy ore.
- assent** v. To express agreement with a statement or matter of opinion.
- assess** v. To determine the amount of (a tax or other sum to be paid).
- assessor** n. An officer whose duty it is to assess taxes.
- assets** n. pl. Property in general, regarded as applicable to the payment of debts.
- assiduous** adj. Diligent.
- assignee** n. One who is appointed to act for another in the management of certain property and interests.
- assimilate** v. To adapt.
- assonance** n. Resemblance or correspondence in sound.
- assonant** adj. Having resemblance of sound.
- assonate** v. To accord in sound, especially vowel sound.
- assuage** v. To cause to be less harsh, violent, or severe, as excitement, appetite, pain, or disease.
- astringent** adj. Harsh in disposition or character.
- astute** adj. Keen in discernment.
- atheism** n. The denial of the existence of God.
- athirst** adj. Wanting water.
- athwart** adv. From side to side.
- atomizer** n. An apparatus for reducing a liquid to a fine spray, as for disinfection, inhalation, etc.
- atone** v. To make amends for.

**atonement** n. Amends, reparation, or expiation made from wrong or injury.

**atrocious** adj. Outrageously or wantonly wicked, criminal, vile, or cruel.

**atrociousness** n. Great cruelty or reckless wickedness.

**attache** n. A subordinate member of a diplomatic embassy.

**attest** v. To certify as accurate, genuine, or true.

**attorney-general** n. The chief law-officer of a government.

**auburn** adj. Reddish-brown, said usually of the hair.

**audacious** adj. Fearless.

**audible** adj. Loud enough to be heard.

**audition** n. The act or sensation of hearing.

**auditory** adj. Of or pertaining to hearing or the organs or sense of hearing.

**augment** v. To make bigger.

**augur** v. To predict.

**Augustinian** adj. Pertaining to St. Augustine, his doctrines, or the religious orders called after him.

**aura** n. Pervasive psychic influence supposed to emanate from persons

**aural** adj. Of or pertaining to the ear.

**auricle** n. One of the two chambers of the heart which receives the blood from the veins.

**auricular** adj. Of or pertaining to the ear, its auricle, or the sense of hearing.

**auriferous** adj. Containing gold.

**aurora** n. A luminous phenomenon in the upper regions of the atmosphere.

**auspice** n. favoring, protecting, or propitious influence or guidance.

**austere** adj. Severely simple; unadorned.

**autarchy** n. Unrestricted power.

**authentic** adj. Of undisputed origin.

**authenticity** n. The state or quality of being genuine, or of the origin and authorship claimed.

**autobiography** n. The story of one's life written by himself.

**autocracy** n. Absolute government.

**autocrat** n. Any one who claims or wields unrestricted or undisputed authority or influence.

- automaton** n. Any living being whose actions are or appear to be involuntary or mechanical.
- autonomous** adj. Self-governing.
- autonomy** n. Self-government.
- autopsy** n. The examination of a dead body by dissection to ascertain the cause of death.
- autumnal** adj. Of or pertaining to autumn.
- auxiliary** n. One who or that which aids or helps, especially when regarded as subsidiary or accessory.
- avalanche** n. The fall or sliding of a mass of snow or ice down a mountain-slope, often bearing with it rock.
- avarice** n. Passion for getting and keeping riches.
- aver** v. To assert as a fact.
- averse** adj. Reluctant.
- aversion** n. A mental condition of fixed opposition to or dislike of some particular thing.
- avert** v. To turn away or aside.
- aviary** n. A spacious cage or enclosure in which live birds are kept.
- avidity** n. Greediness.
- avocation** n. Diversion.
- avow** v. To declare openly.
- awaken** v. To arouse, as emotion, interest, or the like.
- awry** adv. & adj. Out of the proper form, direction, or position.
- aye** adv. An expression of assent.
- azalea** n. A flowering shrub.
- azure** n. The color of the sky.