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opening extract from

Oxford Children's Thesaurus

written by

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published by

Oxford University Press

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OXFORD

UNIVERSITY PRESS

Great Clarendon Street, Oxford OX2 6DP

Oxford University Press is a department of the University of Oxford.
It furthers the University's objective of excellence in research, scholarship,
and education by publishing worldwide in

Oxford New York

Auckland Bangkok Buenos Aires Cape Town Chennai
Dar es Salaam Delhi Hong Kong Istanbul Karachi Kolkata
Kuala Lumpur Madrid Melbourne Mexico City Mumbai Nairobi
São Paulo Shanghai Taipei Tokyo Toronto

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First published 2000

This edition 2003

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British Library Cataloguing in Publication Data available

ISBN 0-19-911120-0 Hardback
ISBN 9 780199 111206 Hardback
9 10

Typeset by Pentacor PLC, High Wycombe
Printed in Italy by G. Canale & C.S.p.A.

A a

abandon verb

1 We will have to abandon the search after dark. ▶ to give up, to cancel, to discontinue

2 The villagers had abandoned their homes after the earthquake. ▶ to

evacuate, to leave, to quit, to forsake

3 The children had been abandoned in the war. ▶ to desert, to forsake, to leave stranded

ability noun

Melissa has inherited her artistic ability from her father. ▶ a talent, a skill, an aptitude, a capability, a gift, a flair, a capacity, know-how

able adjective

Some of the more able pupils do extra reading. ▶ skilful, skilled, capable, accomplished, competent, gifted, proficient, talented

abnormal adjective

It's abnormal to have frost in the summer. ▶ unusual, exceptional, odd, peculiar, strange, funny

abolish verb

Some people would like to abolish television licences. ▶ to get rid of, to do away with, to end, to eliminate

about adverb

It costs about £100. ▶ approximately, roughly, almost, nearly

abroad adverb

The Potters are going abroad this year. ▶ overseas

abrupt adjective

1 His uncle often had abrupt changes of mood. ▶ sudden, unexpected, rapid

2 Her manner with the younger

children was rather abrupt. ▶ blunt, sharp, gruff, curt, rude, unfriendly, short

absent adjective

Jane's mother had been absent from work for three days. ▶ away, off, missing

absolute adjective

The holiday was absolute bliss. ▶ utter, complete, total, sheer

absorbed adjective

An old woman was absorbed in some needlework. ▶ engrossed, preoccupied

absurd adjective

It was absurd to blame the cat for the mess in the kitchen. ▶ silly, ridiculous, laughable, ludicrous, crazy, mad, preposterous, nonsensical

abundant adjective

(not an everyday word) The village had an abundant water supply from an old well. ▶ plentiful, ample, generous; (more formal) copious

abuse verb

1 The RSPCA reported an increase in the number of people abusing animals. ▶ to maltreat, to hurt

2 The losing side began to abuse the referee. ▶ to insult, to swear at, to curse, to be rude to

accelerate verb

▶ to go faster, to speed up

accent noun

She spoke good English but with a slight French accent. ▶ a pronunciation, an intonation

accept verb

1 Police officers are not allowed to accept gifts. ▶ to take, to receive

2 I accept that I may have been wrong. ▶ to admit, to acknowledge, to agree, to believe, to think

acceptable *adjective*

We found the holiday house more than acceptable. ► satisfactory, all right, adequate, pleasing, suitable, passable, tolerable

access *noun*

A narrow lane was the only access to the village. ► an approach, an entry

accident *noun*

1 There had been another accident further down the road. ► a crash, a disaster, a misfortune, a mishap

2 They only found out by accident.
► chance, coincidence

accidental *adjective*

The police said his death was accidental.
► unintentional, unplanned

accommodation *noun*

The council were looking for suitable accommodation for the refugees.

► housing, lodgings, a house, shelter, quarters, board

accompany *verb*

Shall I accompany you to the station?
► to go with, to come with, to escort

accomplish *verb*

The next task was accomplished very quickly. ► to achieve, to perform, to fulfil, to carry out, to complete, to do, to finish

accomplished *adjective*

In his spare time, Frank is an accomplished chef. ► gifted, expert, skilful, skilled, talented, able

account *noun*

We wrote a detailed account of our museum trip. ► a description, a record, a report, a narrative, a story

accumulate *verb*

A large pile of junk had accumulated in one corner. We seem to accumulate

more newspapers than we can read.

► to collect, to heap up, to pile up, to store up

accurate *adjective*

This is an accurate description of what happened. ► correct, exact, precise, right, true

accuse *verb*

The money had gone and Sarah was accused of taking it. ► to blame (for), to charge (with), to condemn (for)

NOTE: You **accuse** someone of something but **blame** someone for something and **charge** someone with something

accustomed *adjective*

We went home by our accustomed route.
► normal, usual, customary, habitual, conventional, ordinary, regular

ache *noun*

John felt an ache spreading through his left leg. ► pain, pang, soreness, twinge, discomfort

ache *verb*

His leg was aching quite badly now.
► to hurt, to be sore, to be painful

achieve *verb*

We achieved a lot in a short time. ► to accomplish, to do, to complete, to finish, to fulfil, to manage

achievement *noun*

It's a great achievement to get into the county team. ► a feat, an accomplishment, a success, an attainment

acid *adjective*

Lemons have an acid taste. ► sharp, sour, tangy, tart

acknowledge *verb*

I acknowledge that you may be right.
► to admit, to agree, to accept, to grant