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## abandon ① VERB

to leave someone or something

• *His parents had abandoned him.*

**desert** • *Medical staff have deserted the city's main hospital.*

**jilt** • *She was jilted by her first fiancé.*

**leave** • *My husband has left me.*

**leave behind** • *He walked out and left behind a wife and two young children.*

### MORE SYNONYMS:

- forsake
- leave in the lurch

## abandon ② NOUN

lack of restraint • *He began to laugh with abandon.*

**recklessness** • *the headstrong recklessness of youth*

**wildness** • *Her wildness just needed to be channelled properly.*

### ANTONYM:

- control

## abate VERB

to become less • *The four-day flood at last abated.*

**decrease** • *The pain had decreased considerably.*

**diminish** • *The attacks on the village did not diminish.*

**ebb** • *Her strength was ebbing fast.*

**lessen** • *After a while, the cramps lessened.*

**subside** • *Their enthusiasm was beginning to subside.*

**wane** • *His popularity shows no sign of waning.*

## ability NOUN

the skill needed to do something

• *the ability to get on with others*

**capability** • *We have the capability of going out and winning.*

**competence** • *They have a high level of competence.*

**expertise** • *legal expertise*

**skill** • *the skill to play at a higher level*

**talent** • *a talent for music*

### MORE SYNONYMS:

- aptitude
- dexterity
- proficiency

### ANTONYM:

- inability

## able ADJECTIVE

good at doing something • *He proved himself to be an able politician.*

**accomplished** • *an accomplished pianist*

**capable** • *a very capable manager*

**efficient** • *a team of efficient workers*

**expert** • *My mother was an expert baker.*

**first-rate** • *This run is only suitable for first-rate skiers.*

**skilled** • *a skilled craftsman*

**talented** • *a talented actor*

### MORE SYNONYMS:

- competent
- proficient

## abolish VERB

to do away with something • *Their*

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*objective was to abolish capital gains tax.*

**annul** • *The marriage was annulled last month.*

**do away with** • *the proposal to do away with nuclear weapons*

**overturn** • *criminals seeking to overturn their convictions*

**put an end to** • *efforts to put an end to the traffic in drugs*

**MORE SYNONYMS:**

- quash
- rescind
- revoke

**about** ① **PREPOSITION**

of or concerning • *anxiety about his sick son*

**concerning** • *documents concerning the estate*

**on** • *his book on Picasso*

**regarding** • *strict rules regarding the disposal of food*

**relating to** • *the rules relating to transfer fees*

**about** ② **ADVERB**

not exactly • *The procedure takes about thirty minutes.*

**almost** • *Their wages have almost doubled.*

**approximately** • *It was approximately three times the size of a domestic cat.*

**around** • *The crowd here is around 12,000.*

**nearly** • *a tradition going back nearly 20 centuries*

**roughly** • *One unit is roughly equivalent to half a pint of beer.*

**above** ① **PREPOSITION**

over or higher than something • *above the clouds*

**higher than** • *There are no hotels higher than four stories.*

**over** • *the picture over the fireplace*

**ANTONYM:**

- below

**RELATED WORDS:**

- PREFIXES super-, supra-, sur-

**above** ② **PREPOSITION**

greater than a certain level or amount • *The death toll will rise above 50.*

**beyond** • *I expect to live way beyond 100.*

**exceeding** • *a floor area exceeding 50,000 square feet*

**abrupt** ① **ADJECTIVE**

sudden or unexpected • *the abrupt resignation of the prime minister*

**sudden** • *this week's sudden thaw*

**unexpected** • *His career came to an unexpected end.*

**unforeseen** • *unforeseen difficulties*

**MORE SYNONYMS:**

- precipitate
- unanticipated

**abrupt** ② **ADJECTIVE**

unfriendly and impolite • *He was taken aback by her abrupt manner.*

**curt** • *"The matter is closed," was the curt reply.*

**rude** • *He was frequently rude to waiters and servants.*

**short** • *She seemed tense and was definitely short with me.*

**terse** • *He received a terse one-line rejection from the Ministry.*

**MORE SYNONYMS:**

- brusque
- unceremonious

**ANTONYM:**

- polite

**absent** **ADJECTIVE**

not present • *absent from work*

**away** • *She is away on a business trip.*

**elsewhere** • *Four witnesses can prove*