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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*