

abject

Pronunciation: 'ab-"jekt

Function: *adjective*

Etymology: Middle English, from Latin *abjectus*, from past participle of *abjicere* to cast off, from *ab-* + *jacere* to throw -- more at [JET](#)

1 : sunk to or existing in a low state or condition: to lowest pitch of *abject* fortune
thou art fallen -- John Milton

2 a : cast down in spirit : [SERVILE](#), [SPIRITLESS](#) a man made *abject* by suffering

b : showing hopelessness or resignation: *abject* surrender

3 : expressing or offered in a humble and often ingratiating spirit: *abject* flattery;
an *abject* apology

synonym see [MEAN](#)

- **ab·ject·ly** - *adverb*

- **ab·ject·ness** - *noun*

abstract

Pronunciation: ab-'strakt, 'ab-"

Function: *adjective*

Etymology: Medieval Latin *abstractus*, from Latin, past participle of *abstrahere* to drag away, from *abs-*, *ab-* + *trahere* to pull, draw

1 a : disassociated from any specific instance: an *abstract* entity

b : difficult to understand : [ABSTRUSE](#): *abstract* problems

c : insufficiently factual : [FORMAL](#): possessed only an *abstract* right

2 : expressing a quality apart from an object: The word *poem* is concrete, *poetry* is *abstract*.

3 a : dealing with a subject in its abstract aspects : [THEORETICAL](#):*abstract* science

b : [IMPERSONAL](#), [DETACHED](#): the *abstract* compassion of a surgeon -- *Time*

4 : having only intrinsic form with little or no attempt at pictorial representation or narrative content: *abstract* painting

- **ab·stract·ly** *adverb*

- **ab·stract·ness** *noun*

acrimonious

Pronunciation: "a-kr&-'mO-nE-&s

Function: *adjective*

caustic, biting, or rancorous especially in feeling, language, or manner: an *acrimonious* dispute

- **ac·ri·mo·ni·ous·ly** - *adverb*

- **ac·ri·mo·ni·ous·ness** - *noun*

acumen

Pronunciation: &-'kyü-m&n, 'a-ky&-m&n

Function: *noun*

Etymology: Latin *acumin-*, *acumen*, literally, point, from *acuere*

keenness and depth of perception, discernment, or discrimination especially in practical matters

synonym see [DISCERNMENT](#)

aesthetic

Variant(s): *also* es·thet·ic /es-'the-tik, is-, *Brit usu* Es- /; *or* aes·thet·i·cal 🗣️ *or* es·thet·i·cal /-ti-k&l/

Function: *adjective*

Etymology: German *ästhetisch*, from New Latin *aestheticus*, from Greek *aisthEtikos* of sense perception, from *aisthanesthai* to perceive -- more at [AUDIBLE](#)

1 a : of, relating to, or dealing with [aesthetics](#) or the beautiful: *aesthetic* theories

b : [ARTISTIC](#): a work of *aesthetic* value

c : pleasing in appearance : [ATTRACTIVE](#) : easy-to-use keyboards, clear graphics, and other ergonomic and *aesthetic* features -- Mark Mehler

2 : appreciative of, responsive to, or zealous about the beautiful; *also* : responsive to or appreciative of what is pleasurable to the senses

- **aes·thet·i·cal·ly** 🗣️ *also* **es·thet·i·cal·ly** /-ti-k(&-) - *adverb*

affinity

Pronunciation: &-'fi-n&-tE

Function: *noun*

Inflected Form(s): *plural -ties*

Etymology: Middle English *affinite*, from Anglo-French or Latin; Anglo-French *affinité*, from Latin *affinitas*, from *affinis* bordering on, related by marriage, from *ad-* + *finis* end, border

1 : relationship by marriage

2 a : sympathy marked by community of interest : [KINSHIP](#)

b (1) : an attraction to or liking for something: people with an *affinity* to darkness -- Mark Twain. Pork and fennel have a natural *affinity* for each other -- Abby Mandel

(2) : an attractive force between substances or particles that causes them to enter into and remain in chemical combination **c** : a person especially of the opposite sex having a particular attraction for one

3 a : likeness based on relationship or causal connection: found an *affinity* between the teller of a tale and the craftsman -- Mary McCarthy. This investigation, with *affinities* to a case history, a psychoanalysis, a detective story -- Oliver Sacks

b : a relation between biological groups involving resemblance in structural plan and indicating a common origin

synonym see [ATTRACTION](#)