abandon
(v.; n) freedom; enthusiasm; impetuosity

abase
(v.) to degrade; humiliate; disgrace

abdicate
(v.) to reject, renounce, or abandon

abnegation
(n.) a denial

abominate
(v.) to loathe; to hate

absolve
(v.) to forgive; to acquit

abstinence
(n.) self-control; chastity

abstruse
(adj.) deep; recondite

acrid
(adj.) sharp; bitter;

addled
(adj.) rotten

adept
(adj.) skilled; practiced

adroit
(adj.) expert or skillful

adverse
(adj.) inimical

affable
(adj.) amiable;

aghast
(adj.) astonished; amazed; horrified; terrified; appalled

aloof
(adj.) reserved; cool

ambivalent
(adj.) undecided

amiss
(adj.; adv.) wrong; awry;

anoint
(v.) to crown; ordain;
antipathy  
(n.) repugnance

apocryphal  
(adj.) counterfeit;

apposite  
(adj.) suitable; apt; relevant

arcane  
(adj.) obscure; secret; mysterious

arduous  
(adj.) laborious, difficult; strenuous

asperity  
(n.) harshness

asperation  
(n.) slander

assiduous  
(adj.) carefully attentive; industrious

assuage  
(v.) to relieve; ease;

astringent  
(n.; adj.) tightening; stern, austere

astute  
(adj.) cunning; sly; crafty

abandoned  
(adj.) unrestrained, profligate

abate  
(v.) quash (a writ or action).

abet  
(v.tr. (abetted, abetting) (usu. in aid and abet) encourage or assist (an offender or offence).

abide  
(v. (past abided or rarely abode) tolerate, endure (can't abide him)

abiding  
(adj.) enduring, permanent (an abiding sense of loss).

abject  
(adj.) miserable, wretched.
1 degraded, self-abasing, humble.
2 despicable.

abode 1  
(n.) sojourn.

abominable  
(adj.) detestable; loathsome; morally reprehensible.
abridge  v.tr.
curtail (liberty).

abrogate  v.tr.
repeal, annul, abolish (a law or custom).

abrupt  adj.
hasty (his abrupt departure); curt. steep, precipitous.

absolve  v.tr.
acquit; pardon

abstracted  adj.
preoccupied.

abstruse  adj.
obscure; profound.

abstruse  adj.
ludicrous, incongruous

abut  v. (abutted, abutting)
1 intr. (foll. by on) (of estates, countries, etc.) adjoin (another).

abysmal  adj.
profound, utter (abysmal ignorance).

a cappella  adj. & adv. (also alla cappella) Mus.
(of choral music) unaccompanied.

accidie  n.
laziness, sloth, apathy.

accommodating  adj.
obliging, compliant.

accost  v.tr.
1 approach and address (a person), esp. boldly.
2 (of a prostitute) solicit.

accouchement  n.
1 childbirth.

accountable  adj.
1 responsible; explicable, understandable.

accoutrement  n. (US accouterment) (usu. in pl.)
equipment, trappings.

acetous  adj.
sour.

acharnement  n.
1 bloodthirsty fury; ferocity.
2 gusto.

acolyte  n.
an assistant; a beginner.

acquisitive adj.
(keen to acquire things) avaricious; materialistic.

acuity n.
sharpness, acuteness (of a needle, senses, understanding).

aculeate n.
pointed, incisive.

acumen n.
keen insight or discernment, penetration.

adage n.
a maxim, a proverb.

addendum n. (pl. addenda)
an appendix

addle v. & adj.
v. muddle, confuse.
adj.
1 muddled, unsound (addle-brained; addle-head).
2 empty, vain.
3 (of an egg) addled.

adduce v.tr.
proof or evidence.

adept adj. & n.
adj. (foll. by at, in) proficient.

n. an expert.

adhibit v.tr. (adhibited, adhibiting)
1 affix.
2 apply or administer (a remedy).

adjudicate v.
pronounce