abandon

verb | aban·don | \ə-ˈban-dən\

Popularity: Top 20% of words | Updated on: 16 Nov 2017

Definition of ABANDON

transitive verb

1 a: to give up to the control or influence of another person or agent
   b: to give up with the intent of never again claiming a right or interest in
      • abandon property

2: to withdraw from often in the face of danger or encroachment • abandon ship
   • soldiers forced to abandon their position

3: to withdraw protection, support, or help from • he abandoned his family

4: to give (oneself) over unrestrainedly • abandoned himself to a life of self-indulgence

5 a: to cease from maintaining, practicing, or using • abandoned their native
—abandonment  
\-dan-m\ant\ noun

See *abandon* defined for English-language learners

See *abandon* defined for kids

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*abandon*

*Word of the Day*

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https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/abandon
Examples of ABANDON in a Sentence

They *abandoned* the car on a back road.

That house was *abandoned* years ago.

The approaching fire forced hundreds of people to *abandon* their homes.

The officer refused to *abandon* his post.

The policy *abandons* the most vulnerable members of society.

She *abandoned* the party not long after the election.

Recent Examples of ABANDON from the Web

But over the years, his plan has been repeatedly picked up and *abandoned* as administrations changed.


At the time, in D.C., a child was not considered *abandoned* unless the mother had no contact with the child or the institution for 30 days.


Robert Lighthizer, the United States Trade Representative (pictured, centre), denied
Abandon | Definition of Abandon by Merriam-Webster

These example sentences are selected automatically from various online news sources to reflect current usage of the word 'abandon.' Views expressed in the examples do not represent the opinion of Merriam-Webster or its editors. Send us feedback.

Origin and Etymology of ABANDON

Middle English abandounen, borrowed from Anglo-French abanduner, derivative of abandun "surrender, abandonment," from the phrase a bandun "in one's power, at one's disposal." from a "at. to" (going back to Latin ad "to") + bandun "iurisdiction."

ABANDON Synonyms

Synonyms
deliver, give up, indulge, surrender, yield

Synonym Discussion of ABANDON

ABANDON, DESERT, FORSAKE mean to leave without intending to return. ABANDON suggests that the thing or person left may be helpless without protection. (• abandoned children) DESERT implies that the object left may be weakened but not destroyed by one's absence. (• a deserted town) FORSAKE suggests an action more likely to bring impoverishment or bereavement to that which is forsaken than its exposure to physical dangers. (• a forsaken lover)
synonyms see in addition relinquish
Abandon | Definition of Abandon by Merriam-Webster

: a thorough yielding to natural impulses; especially : ENTHUSIASM, EXUBERANCE • with reckless abandon

See abandon defined for English-language learners

Examples of ABANDON in a Sentence

added spices to the stew with complete abandon

Recent Examples of ABANDON from the Web

As Fizdale saw it, what the Grizz needed was greater abandon.
  — Ben Golliver And Rob Mahoney, Sl.com, "Top 100 NBA Players of 2018: Nos. 30-11," 13 Sep. 2017

There are few things more comforting than tucking into a bowl of carbs with reckless abandon.
  — Danielle Walsh, Bon Appetit, "This Cauliflower Rice "Failure" Became My Obsession," 6 Mar. 2017

State government is running a $2.8 billion deficit and blazing through its savings accounts with abandon to keep the lights on.
  — Paul Jenkins, Alaska Dispatch News, "Earnings reserve of Permanent Fund can cover government and dividends," 4 Nov. 2017

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Did You Know?
English in the 1300s from Anglo-French *abandoner*. The Anglo-French term in turn came from the phrase *(mettre) a bandun*, meaning "to hand over" or "put in someone's control." The newer sense has been more directly influenced by French *abandon*, which means not only "abandonment or surrender," but also "freedom from constraint."

**Origin and Etymology of ABANDON**

borrowed from French, in part derivative of *abandonner* "to abandon," in part going back to Old French *abandon, abandun* "surrender" — more at [ABANDON](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/abandon)

**ABANDON Synonyms**

Synonyms

*abandonment, ease, lightheartedness, naturalness, spontaneity, spontaneousness, unconstraint, uninhibitedness, unrestraint*

**Financial Definition of ABANDON**

*abandonment*

*noun*

**What It Is**

In the business world, *abandonment* refers to the purposeful surrender of ownership of an *asset*.

**How It Works**

For example, let's assume that Company XYZ owns an oil processing facility in Nigeria. The government has become very unstable there, and because the...
company cannot lift up and move the facility, it abandons the property and leaves the country. In doing so, it may be able to recoup some of the costs via tax deductions or other measures, but Company XYZ has surrendered its ownership of the facility.

People who trade commodities and other items using forward contracts also might be able to abandon the underlying assets by undertaking another trade that avoids having to take delivery of the assets.

**Why It Matters**

Abandoning assets is not as easy as abandoning an empty candy wrapper in the street. Companies often have to calculate the abandonment value of the assets they have left behind or that no longer have financial value, and usually they must get permission from various government entities to let go of physical assets. Financial Accounting Standards Board (FASB) Statement 71 provides guidance about how companies are to account for abandoned property.

*Source: Investing Answers*

**Phrases Related to ABANDON**

**Related Phrases**

abandon oneself to
abandon/drop all pretense at
with reckless abandon

**ABANDON Defined for English Language Learners**

*verb*
abandon

noun

Definition of ABANDON for English Language Learners

: a feeling or attitude of wild or complete freedom

ABANDON Defined for Kids

1 abandon

verb | aban·don | \əˈban-dən\ 

Definition of ABANDON for Students

abandoned; abandoning

1 : to leave and never return to : give up completely • They had to abandon the sinking ship.

2 : to stop having or doing • Never abandon hope.

• ... Mr. Popper had abandoned his telephoning ... —Richard and Florence Atwater, Mr. Popper’s Penguins

—abandonment \-mənt\ noun
up. (● She *abandoned* the wrecked car on the side of the road.) **DESERt** is used when a person leaves something to which he or she has a duty or responsibility. (● He *deserted* his family.) **FORSAKE** is used when a person is leaving someone or something for which he or she once had affection. (● Don't *forsake* old friends in times of trouble.)

**abandon**

noun

**Definition of ABANDON for Students**

: a feeling of complete freedom ● Grandpa drove with reckless *abandon*.

**Law Dictionary**

**abandon**

*transitive verb* | aban·don

**Legal Definition of ABANDON**

1 : to give up with the intent of never again asserting or claiming an interest in (a right or property)

2 : to disassociate oneself from or forsake in spite of a duty or responsibility to
   • *abandon* one's child

3 : to renounce one's obligations and rights under • *abandon* a contract

4 : to fail purposely to bring to completion or fruition • *abandon* a crime
   • *abandon* a lawsuit