



¹abandon

verb | aban·don | \ə-'ban-dən\

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Examples: ABANDON in a Sentence ▼

Editor's Note: Did You Know? ▼

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 \-dən-mənt\ *noun*

See *abandon* defined for English-language learners

See *abandon* defined for kids

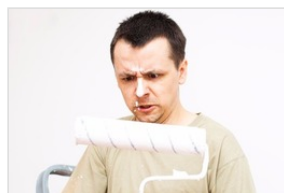
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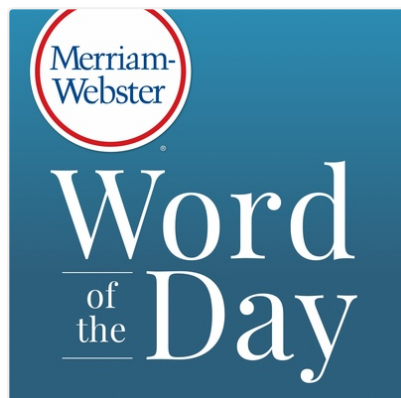


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Inept People



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abandon

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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.

— Joe Pappalardo, *Popular Mechanics*, "An Apollo Astronaut's Anger at NASA's Lost Decades," 20 Oct. 2017

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.

— *Woman's Day*, "Why I've Devoted My Career to Caring for Mothers and Babies," 11 Oct. 2017

Robert Lighthizer, the United States Trade Representative (pictured, centre), denied

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* "jurisdiction."

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**

² abandon

: 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 Fizedale saw it, what the Grizz needed was greater *abandon*.

— Ben Golliver And Rob Mahoney, *SI.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 ¹ABANDON

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

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

abandon

verb

: to leave and never return to (something)

: to leave (a place) because of danger

abandon

noun

Definition of ABANDON for English Language Learners

: a feeling or attitude of wild or complete freedom

ABANDON Defined for Kids

¹abandon

verb | aban·don | \ə-'ban-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.⟩

²abandon

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