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access charge (also **access fee**) ▶ n. a charge made for the use of computer or local telephone-network facilities.

access-ible /æk'sesəbəl/ ▶ adj. 1 (of a place) able to be reached or entered. ■ (of an object, service, or facility) able to be easily obtained or used. ■ easily understood. ■ able to be reached or entered by people in wheelchairs. 2 (of a person, typically one in a position of authority or importance) friendly and easy to talk to; approachable. —**access-ibility** /-sə'sə'bɪlɪti/ n.; **access-ibly** /-bɪli/ adv.

access-ion /æk'seshən/ ▶ n. 1 the attainment or acquisition of a position of rank or power, typically that of monarch or president. ■ the action or process of formally joining or being accepted by an association, institution, or group. 2 a new item added to an existing collection of books, paintings, or artifacts. ■ an amount added to an existing quantity of something. 3 the formal acceptance of a treaty or agreement. ▶ v. [trans.] (usu. **be accessioned**) record the addition of (a new item) to a library, museum, or other collection.

access-or-ize /æk'sesə'raɪz/ ▶ v. [trans.] provide or complement (a garment) with fashion accessories. ■ serve as a fashion accessory to (a garment).

access-or-y /æk'ses(ə)rē/ (also **accessary**) ▶ n. (pl. **-ies**) 1 a thing that can be added to something else in order to make it more useful, versatile, or attractive. ■ a small article or item of clothing carried or worn to complement a garment or outfit. 2 Law someone who gives assistance to the perpetrator of a crime, without directly committing it, sometimes without being present. ▶ adj. [attrib.] chiefly technical contributing to or aiding an activity or process in a minor way; subsidiary or supplementary.

access-ory ▶ **accessory before (or after) the fact** Law, dated a person who incites or assists someone to commit a crime (or knowingly aids someone who has committed a crime).

access-ory nerve ▶ n. Anatomy each of the eleventh pair of cranial nerves, supplying certain muscles in the neck and shoulder.

access time ▶ n. Computing the time taken to retrieve data from storage.

acciac-cata-tura /ä.CHÄkä'tōdrä/ ▶ n. (pl. **acciaccaturas** or **acciaccature** /-rä; -rē/) Music a grace note performed as quickly as possible before an essential note of a melody.

accidence /'æksɪdɪns/ ▶ n. the part of grammar that deals with the inflections of words.

accident /'æksɪdɪnt/ ▶ n. 1 an unfortunate incident that happens unexpectedly and unintentionally, typically resulting in damage or injury. ■ a crash involving road or other vehicles, typically one that causes serious damage or injury. ■ informal used euphemistically to refer to an incidence of incontinence, typically by a child or an animal. 2 an event that happens by chance or that is without apparent or deliberate cause. ■ the working of fortune; chance. 3 Philosophy (in Aristotelian thought) a property of a thing that is not essential to its nature.

accident ▶ **an accident waiting to happen** 1 a potentially disastrous situation, typically caused by negligent or faulty procedures. 2 a person certain to cause trouble. **accidents will happen** however careful you try to be, it is inevitable that some unfortunate or unforeseen events will occur. **by accident** unintentionally; by chance.

accidental /'æksɪ'dentl/ ▶ adj. 1 happening by chance, unintentionally, or unexpectedly. 2 incidental; subsidiary. 3 Philosophy (in Aristotelian thought) relating to or denoting properties not essential to a thing's nature. ▶ n. 1 Music a sign indicating a momentary departure from the key signature by raising or lowering a note. 2 Ornithology another term for **VAGRANT**. —**accidentally** adv.

accident-prone ▶ adj. tending to be involved in a greater than average number of accidents.

accidie /'æksɪdi/ ▶ n. acedia.

accip-iter /æk'sɪpɪtər/ ▶ n. Ornithology a hawk (*Accipiter* and related genera) of a group distinguished by short, broad wings and relatively long legs, adapted for fast flight in wooded country.

accip-itrine /æk'sɪpɪtrɪn; -trɪn/ ▶ adj. [attrib.] Ornithology of or relating to birds of a family (*Accipitridae*) that includes most diurnal birds of prey other than falcons, New World vultures, and the osprey.

acclaim /ə'klām/ ▶ v. [trans.] (usu. **be acclaimed**) praise enthusiastically and publicly. ▶ n. enthusiastic and public praise.

acclamation /'æklə'mæʃən/ ▶ n. loud and enthusiastic approval, typically to welcome or honor someone or something.

acclamation ▶ **by acclamation** (of election, agreement, etc.) by overwhelming vocal approval and without ballot.

acclimate /'æklə'mæt/ ▶ v. [intrans.] (usu. **be acclimated**) become accustomed to a new climate or to new conditions. ■ Biology respond physiologically or behaviorally to a change in a single environmental factor. Compare with **ACCLIMATE**. ■ [trans.] Botany Horticulture harden off (a plant). —**acclimation** /'æklə'mæʃən/ n.

acclimate /'æklə'maɪz/ ▶ v. [intrans.] acclimate. ■ Biology respond physiologically or behaviorally to changes in a complex of environmental factors. ■ [trans.] Botany & Horticulture harden off (a plant). —**acclimatization** /'æklə'maɪzə'sheɪʃən/ n.

acclivity /ə'klɪvɪti/ ▶ n. (pl. **-ies**) an upward slope. —**acclivitous** /-ɪtəs/ adj.

accolade /'ækə,lād; -lād/ ▶ n. 1 an award or privilege granted as a

special honor or as an acknowledgment of merit. ■ an expression of praise or admiration. 2 a touch on a person's shoulders with a sword at the bestowing of a knighthood.

accom-mo-date /ə'kāmə,dæt/ ▶ v. [trans.] 1 (of physical space, esp. a building) provide lodging or sufficient space for. 2 fit in with the wishes or needs of: *it's hard to accommodate the new management style*. ■ [intrans.] (**accommodate to**) adapt to. —**accom-mo-dative** /-dætɪv/ adj.

accom-mo-dat-ing /ə'kāmə,dætɪŋ/ ▶ adj. fitting in with someone's wishes or demands in a helpful way. —**accom-mo-dat-ing-ly** adv.

accom-mo-da-tion /ə'kāmə'dæʃən/ ▶ n. 1 an action of accommodating or the process of being accommodated. ■ (usu. **accommodations**) a room, group of rooms, or building in which someone may live or stay. ■ (**accommodations**) lodging; room and board. ■ the available space for occupants in a building, vehicle, or vessel. ■ the provision of a room or lodging. 2 a convenient arrangement; a settlement or compromise. ■ the process of adapting or adjusting to someone or something. ■ the automatic adjustment of the focus of the eye by flattening or thickening of the lens.

accom-mo-da-tion-ist /ə'kāmə'dæʃənɪst/ ▶ n. a person who seeks compromise with an opposing point of view, typically a political one.

accom-mo-da-tion lad-der ▶ n. a ladder or stairway up the side of a ship allowing access, esp. to and from a small boat, or from a dock.

ac-com-pa-ni-ment /ə'kæmp(ə)nɪmənt/ ▶ n. 1 a musical part that supports or partners a solo instrument, voice, or group. ■ music played to complement or as background to an activity. 2 something that is supplementary to or complements something else, typically food.

ac-com-pa-nist /ə'kæmpənɪst/ ▶ n. a person who provides a musical accompaniment to another musician or to a singer.

ac-com-pa-ny /ə'kæmp(ə)nɪ/ ▶ v. (-ies, -ied) [trans.] 1 go somewhere with (someone) as a companion or escort. 2 (usu. **be accompanied**) be present or occur at the same time as (something else). ■ provide (something) as a complement or addition to something else. 3 play a musical accompaniment for.

ac-com-plice /ə'kæmplɪs/ ▶ n. a person who helps another commit a crime.

accomplice

Word History

Mid 16th cent.: alteration (probably by association with **ACCOMPANY**) of Middle English *complice* 'an associate,' via Old French from late Latin *complex*, *complic* 'allied,' from *com-* 'together' + the root of *plique* 'to fold.'

ac-com-plish /ə'kæmplɪʃ/ ▶ v. [trans.] achieve or complete successfully.

ac-com-plished /ə'kæmplɪʃt/ ▶ adj. highly trained or skilled. ■ dated having a high level of education and good social skills.

ac-com-plish-ment /ə'kæmplɪʃmənt/ ▶ n. something that has been achieved successfully. ■ the successful achievement of a task. ■ an activity that a person can do well, typically as a result of study or practice. ■ skill or ability in an activity.

ac-cord /ə'kɔrd/ ▶ v. 1 [trans.] give or grant someone (power, status, or recognition): *the powers accorded to the head of state*. 2 [intrans.] (**accord with**) (of a concept or fact) be harmonious or consistent with. ▶ n. an official agreement or treaty. ■ agreement or harmony.

accord ▶ **of its own accord** without outside intervention: *the rash may go away of its own accord*. **of one's own accord** voluntarily: *he would not seek treatment of his own accord*.

ac-cord-ance /ə'kɔrdns/ ▶ n. (in phrase **in accordance with**) in a manner conforming with: *the product is disposed of in accordance with federal regulations*.

ac-cord-ant /ə'kɔrdnt/ ▶ adj. [predic.] archaic agreeing or compatible.

ac-cord-ing /ə'kɔrdɪŋ/ ▶ adv. 1 (**according to**) as stated by or in. ■ in a manner corresponding or conforming to. ■ in proportion or relation to. 2 (**according as**) depending on whether.

ac-cord-ing-ly /ə'kɔrdɪŋli/ ▶ adv. 1 in a way that is appropriate to the particular circumstances. 2 [sentence adverb] consequently; therefore.

ac-cord-ion /ə'kɔrdɪən/ ▶ n. a portable musical instrument with metal reeds blown by bellows, played by means of keys and buttons. ■ [as adj.] folding like the bellows of an accordion. —**ac-cord-ion-ist** /-nɪst/ n.

ac-cost /ə'kɔst; ə'kæst/ ▶ v. [trans.] approach and address (someone) boldly or aggressively. ■ approach (someone) with hostility or harmful intent. ■ approach and address (someone) with sexual intent.

accouchement /ə'kooʃmənt; ə'kooʃmɪnt/ ▶ n. archaic the action of giving birth to a baby.



accordion

See page xiii for the **Key to the pronunciations**