

THE ABCS OF LOGOLOGY

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What are the ABCs of logology? Why, words and names beginning with the letters ABC. Since AB- is a common prefix in English, and a word such as ABCOULOMB is very easy to pronounce, there ought to be numerous ABC words and names in English.

Such is not the case. With considerable struggling, I have succeeded in finding sixteen of them. Here they are - can you add to the list?

1. ABCAREE The manufacture or sale of drugs or of intoxicating liquors (Webster's Second Edition)
2. ABCAULINE A botanical term that means "outwards from or not close to the stem" (J.F. and W.D. Henderson, A Dictionary of Biological Terms, 8th Edition, Van Nostrand: Princeton, New Jersey, 1967)
3. ABCDARIAN Someone learning, or someone teaching, the alphabet (Webster's First Edition)
4. ABCE An alphabetical acrostic poem (The Oxford English Dictionary)
5. ABCEDIREN A method of instruction for sight-singing (Funk & Wagnalls Unabridged)
6. ABCEE The first principles or simplest rudiments of any subject (The Oxford English Dictionary)
7. ABCEE-BOOK A spelling book or primer (The Oxford Universal Dictionary on Historical Principles, 3rd Edition, Oxford, 1955)
8. ABCHALAZAL Located away from the point on a seed where the integuments diverge from the nucellus (Webster's Third Edition)
9. ABCHAS Another name for ABIHKA, one of the oldest Upper Creek Indian towns, in northeastern Alabama (Thomas L. McKenney and James Hall, History of the Indian Tribes of North America, 3 volumes, Philadelphia, 1854)
[The form, alas, is probably - but not certainly - a misprint, according to Frederick Webb Hodge's Handbook of American Indians North of Mexico (Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1907)]
10. ABCHASIA A region on the southern slope of the Caucasus, more commonly spelled ABKHASIA (Funk & Wagnalls Unabridged)

11. ABCHASIAN A native or resident of Abchasia (Funk & Wagnalls Unabridged)
12. ABCIE The alphabet (The Oxford English Dictionary)
13. ABCISS A component of blood serum which renders possible the action of the various specific immune bodies or amboceptors (The Century Dictionary Supplement, New York, 1909)
14. ABCO A community without a population, in Hot Spring County, Arkansas - presumably, a railroad stop, silo, ghost town, or kindred entity (Rand McNally Commercial Atlas and Marketing Guide, 1984 Edition)
15. ABCOUDE A town in the Netherlands, 8 miles south-southwest of Amsterdam (The Columbia Lippincott Gazetteer of the World, 1962 Edition)
16. ABCOULOMB An electromagnetic unit of charge equal to ten coulombs (The American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, New College Edition, 1980)
[Because it is the only ABC word common enough to be included in collegiate dictionaries, it is alphabetically the last one of them]

ABC words seem to be a closed chapter of English - no recent new words dictionary or dictionary supplement includes any new such term. Please prove me wrong.

A PRIZE CONTEST

A kangaroo word is a word which has a synonym embedded in it, such as bRIM, lEDGE, FabrICaTION, or faLsifyING. Although Dmitri Borgmann did not invent the concept (see the August 1978 Colloquy), he did popularize it in his Word Row column and in Language on Vacation. In Borgmann's memory, William Sunners offers \$200 worth of word or puzzle books of the winner's choice (from National Library Publications) to the first Word Ways subscriber to discover a kangaroo word containing two different shorter synonyms embedded in it. The contest is open-ended; there is no deadline within which the word and its two synonyms must be found. Note, however, that the synonyms must be spelled out in correct order, not in scrambled form.