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a·ban·don  (ə-băn dən)

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tr.v. **a·ban·doned**, **a·ban·don·ing**, **a·ban·dons**

1. To withdraw one's support or help from, especially in spite of duty, allegiance, or responsibility; desert: *abandon a friend in trouble.*
2. To give up by leaving or ceasing to operate or inhabit, especially as a result of danger or other impending threat: *abandoned the ship.*
3. To surrender one's claim to, right to, or interest in; give up entirely: *abandon a belief.* See Synonyms at [relinquish](#).
4. To cease trying to continue; desist from: *abandoned the search for the missing hiker.*
5. To yield (oneself) completely, as to emotion.

n.

Great enthusiasm or lack of restraint: *skied with abandon.*

[Middle English *abandounen*, from Old French *abandoner*, from *a bandon*, at one's own discretion, without restraint : *a*, at (from Latin *ad*; see [AD-](#)) + *bandon*, control; see *bhā-*² [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

a·ban don·er *n.*

a·ban don·ment *n.*

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

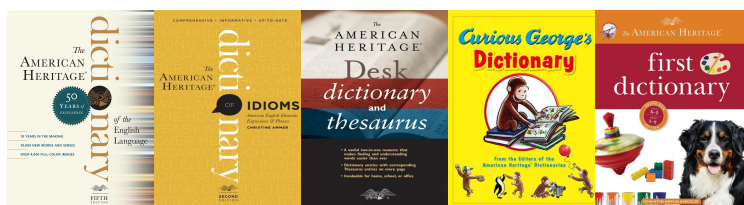
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[Indo-European Roots](#)

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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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