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AMERICAN
HERITAGE®

dictionary

of the
English
Language



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ab·di·cate  (ăb dī-kāt')

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v. ab·di·cat·ed, ab·di·cat·ing, ab·di·cates

v.tr.

To relinquish (power or responsibility) formally.

v.intr.

To relinquish formally a high office or responsibility.

[Latin *abdicāre*, *abdicāt-*, to disclaim : *ab-*, away; see [AB](#)¹ + *dicāre*, to proclaim; see **deik-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

ab di·ca·ble (-kə-bəl) *adj.*

ab'di·ca tion *n.*

ab di·ca'tor *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:

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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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