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ab·do·men  (ăb də-mən)

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n.

1. The part of the body that lies between the thorax and the pelvis and encloses the stomach, intestines, liver, spleen, and pancreas in humans and other mammals. Also called *belly*.
2. The corresponding region in vertebrates other than mammals.
3. The posterior segment of the body in arthropods.

[Latin *abdōmen*, belly; see **dhē-** in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.]

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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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