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a·bort  (ə-bôrt)

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v. **a·bort·ed**, **a·bort·ing**, **a·borts**

v.tr.

1.

a. To terminate (a pregnancy) by abortion.

b. To cause the expulsion of (an embryo or fetus) by abortion.

c. To undergo the abortion of (an embryo or fetus).

d. To miscarry (an embryo or fetus).

2. To terminate (an undertaking or procedure) before implementation or completion: *abort the launch of a rocket; abort a computer program.*

3. To stop the progress of (a disease, for example).

v.intr.

1. To miscarry.

2. To cease growth before full development or maturation.

3. To terminate an undertaking or procedure before implementation or completion.

n.

The act of aborting an undertaking or procedure.

[Latin *abortāre*, frequentative of *aborīrī*, *abort-*, to disappear, miscarry : *ab-*, away; see [AB-](#)¹ + *orīrī*, to appear; see **er-**¹ [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots.](#)]

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

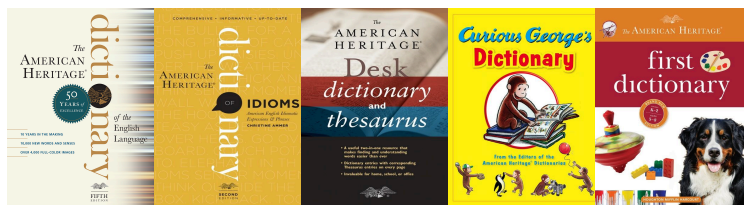
Thousands of entries in the dictionary include etymologies that trace their origins back to reconstructed proto-languages. You can obtain more information about these forms in our online appendices:

[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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