

Illustration #1

abdomen

abate (ə-BAYT) verb  
to lessen in amount or intensity.  
Word Family: abatement, abate

abatis (A-bayt) noun  
a barricade of trees cut down for defense, and arranged with points toward the camp.  
[French]

abattoir (ABAY-toar) noun  
a place where cattle, sheep, etc. are killed for food.  
[French]

abbé (ABay) noun  
a French clergyman.

abbey (ABEE) noun  
a) a monastery or convent; b) a church or house that was once part of an abbey, such as Westminster Abbey.  
Word Family: abbot, nun, the male head of an abbey; abbess, nun, the female head of an abbey of nuns.

abbreviate (ə-BREE-ee-ayt) verb  
to shorten or contract, especially a word or phrase.

abbreviation noun  
1. the act of abbreviating.  
2. a shortened form of a word, especially one using only the first letters of letters. Compare CONTRACTION.  
[ab- + Latin brevis short]

abdicate verb  
1. to renounce the throne.  
2. to give up a claim, position, privilege, etc.  
Word Family: abdication, noun.

abdomen (ABD-uh-n) noun  
also called the belly  
Anatomy: a) in mammals, the region below the chest at the front of the trunk, containing the intestines. b) in

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# The Alexander Index

## U.S. Pat. #4,813,710

### Directions for Use

With two page turns, this invention brings you to the first, then second letter of your word. In Illustration #1, notice the series of long printed black marks on the page edges; the many short printed black marks on the page edges; and the vertical chart A to Z on the inside back cover.

1. **FIRST PAGE TURN.** Locate your word's first letter in the chart, and open the dictionary at the long black mark opposite that letter.

**Example:** Illustration #2 shows this first opening for "encyclopedia," opened to the long black mark across from the chart's E. Words starting with E are at the top of these open pages, with all pages for words starting A through D turned over to the other side of the binding.

2. **SECOND PAGE TURN.** Locate your word's second letter in this same chart. Opposite that letter, the TOPMOST short black mark shows the pages containing your word.

**Examples:** To find "encyclopedia," open to the short black mark across from the chart's N (next to illustration box **EN**). To find "exchange," open to the short black mark across from X (next to illustration box **EX**). To find "escort," open to the short black mark across from S (next to box **ES**).

earrest

Ee

EN

ES

EX

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Illustration #2

**Thumb-indexed dictionaries.** This invention also works with thumb-indexed dictionaries, where replacing the above long black marks, the first opening is to the thumb indexing. Opening to a thumb index with both A and B listed on it would bring one to the first page of A. For words starting with A, the second opening would be just as above. For instance, Illustration #1 has illustration boxes **AE**, **AL**, **AO**, and **AU** to show where to find those second letters E, L, O, and U.

For words starting with B, the second opening would be NOT to the TOPMOST short black mark, and instead to the SECOND-from-the-top short black mark. To find "buffalo," the second opening is to the second-down short black mark next to box **BU**. The rule is - for words starting with any SECOND LETTER listed on a thumb index, after first opening to that thumb index, the second opening is to the SECOND short black mark.