**abstract**

**ADJECTIVE:** /ˈab strakt, ˈab strakt/  
1. existing in thought or as an idea but not having a physical or concrete existence.  
   “abstract concepts such as love or beauty”  
   *synonyms:* theoretical, conceptual, notional, intellectual, metaphysical, ideal, philosophical, academic;  
   *rare:* ideational;  
   *antonyms:* actual, concrete  
   - dealing with ideas rather than events.  
     "the novel was too abstract and esoteric to sustain much attention“  
   - not based on a particular instance; theoretical.  
     "we have been discussing the problem in a very abstract manner“  
   - (of a word, especially a noun) denoting an idea, quality, or state rather than a concrete object.  
     "abstract words like truth or equality“  
   - of or relating to abstract art.  
     "abstract pictures that look like commercial color charts“  
   *synonyms:* nonrepresentational, nonpictorial  
   *antonyms:* representational

**VERB:** /ˈab strakt/  
3rd person present: abstracts; past tense: abstracted; past participle: abstracted; gerund or present participle: abstracting  
1. consider (something) theoretically or separately from something else.  
   "to abstract science and religion from their historical context can lead to anachronism“  
2. extract or remove (something)  
   "applications to abstract more water from streams“  
   *synonyms:* extract, isolate, separate, detach  
   "he abstracted the art of tragedy from its context“  
   - used euphemistically to say that someone has stolen something.  
     "his pockets contained all he had been able to abstract from the apartment.“  
   - withdraw.  
     "as our relationship deepened you seemed to abstract yourself“  
3. make a written summary of (an article or book).  
   "staff who index and abstract material for an online database“  
   *synonyms:* summarize, précis, abridge, condense, compress, shorten, cut down, abbreviate, synopsize;  
   *rare:* epitomize

**NOUN:** /ˈab strakt/  
abstract; plural noun: abstracts; noun: the abstract  
1. a summary of the contents of a book, article, or formal speech.  
   "an abstract of his inaugural address“  
   *synonyms:* summary, synopsis, précis, resume, outline, abridgement, digest, summation, wrap-up  
2. an abstract work of art.  
   "a big framed abstract“  
3. that which is abstract; the theoretical consideration of something.  
   "the abstract must be made concrete by examples“

**Origin**  
*Middle English:* from Latin *abstractus*, literally ‘drawn away,’ past participle of *abstrahere*, from *ab*– ‘from’ + *trahere* ‘draw off.’