abstract

**ADJECTIVE:** /əbˈstrækt, əbˈstrakt/  
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, ideal, 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:** /əbˈstrækt/  
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  
   • 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”

**NOUN:** /əbˈstrækt/  
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

Origin  
**LATIN**  
ab- from astra Here  
abstractus drawn away Middle English  
abstract draw off