

# A Doll's House — Key Vocabulary

by Henrik Ibsen

48 key English words, graded A2–C2 — each with a simple definition and an example. Learn them before you read, or review them after.

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## A2 words (10)

**abroad** /ə'brɔ:d/

A2

in a foreign country

*"markets abroad"*

**absolutely** /,æbsə'lʊtli/

A2

completely and without qualification

*"an absolutely magnificent painting"*

**accompany** /ə'kæmpəni/

A2

be present or associated with an event or entity

*"French fries come with the hamburger"*

**acknowledge** /æk'nɒlɪdʒ/

A2

declare to be true or admit the existence or reality or truth of

*"He admitted his errors"*

**adopt** /ə'dɒpt/

A2

choose and follow

*"She followed the feminist movement"*

**advise** /əd'vaɪz/

A2

give advice to

*"The teacher counsels troubled students"*

**affair** /ə'feɪ/

A2

a vaguely specified concern

*"several matters to attend to"*

**afford** /ə'fɔ:d/

A2

be able to spare or give up

*"I can't afford to spend two hours with this person"*

**afraid** /ə'freɪd/

A2

filled with fear or apprehension

*"afraid even to turn his head"*

**alive** /ə'laɪv/

A2

possessing life

*"the happiest person alive"*

## B1 words (10)

**absolute** /'æbsə,lʊt/

B1

something that is conceived or that exists independently and not in relation to other things

*"no mortal being can influence the absolute"*

**alarm** /ə'lɑ:m/

B1

fear resulting from the awareness of danger

*"I was horrified at the thought of being late for my interview"*

**alter** /'ɔ:ltə/

B1

cause to change

*"The advent of the automobile may have altered the growth pattern of the city"*

**altogether** /,ɔ:ltə'geɪðə/

B1

informal terms for nakedness

*"in the raw"*

**anger** /'æŋgə/

B1

a strong emotion

*"The news angered him"*

**anxious** /'æŋʃəs/

B1

eagerly desirous

*"anxious to see the new show at the museum"*

**anymore** /,ɛni'mɔ:/

B1

at the present or from now on

*"Alice doesn't live here anymore"*

**asleep** /əs'li:p/

B1

in a state of sleep

*"were all asleep when the phone rang"*

**assure** /ə'ʃʊr/

B1

make certain of

*"This nest egg will ensure a nice retirement for us"*

**beg** /bɛg/

B1

call upon in supplication

*"I beg you to stop!"*

## B2 words (10)

**absorb** /əb'zɔrb/

B2

become imbued

*"The liquids, light, and gases absorb"*

**absurd** /əb'sɜrd/

B2

a situation in which life seems irrational and meaningless

*"The absurd is the essential concept and the first truth"*

**accusation** /,ækjə'zeɪʃən/

B2

a formal charge of wrongdoing brought against a person

*"the newspaper published charges that Jones was guilty of drunken driving"*

**acquaintance** /ək'weɪntəns/

B2

personal knowledge or information about someone or something

*"I have trouble remembering the names of all my acquaintances"*

**admirer** /æd'maɪrər/

B2

a person who backs a politician or a team etc.

*"all their supporters came out for the game"*

**afterwards** /'æftərwərdz/

B2

happening at a time subsequent to a reference time

*"he apologized subsequently"*

**agony** /'æɡəni/

B2

intense feelings of suffering

*"an agony of doubt"*

**agreeable** /ə'ɡriəbəl/

B2

conforming to your own liking or feelings or nature

*"Is the plan agreeable to you?"*

**amuse** /əm'juːz/

B2

occupy in an agreeable, entertaining or pleasant fashion

*"The play amused the ladies"*

**amusing** /əm'juːzɪŋ/

B2

occupy in an agreeable, entertaining or pleasant fashion

*"The play amused the ladies"*

## C1 words (9)

**absurdly** /əb'sɜːdli/

C1

in an absurd manner or to an absurd degree

*"an absurdly rich young woman"*

**accustom** /ə'kʌstəm/

C1

make psychologically or physically used (to something)

*"She became habituated to the background music"*

**agitate** /'ædʒəˌteɪt/

C1

try to stir up public opinion

*"The speaker charged up the crowd with his inflammatory remarks"*

**ajar** /ə'dʒɑː/

C1

slightly open

*"the door was ajar"*

**amicably** /'æmɪkəbli/

C1

in an amicable manner

*"they separated amicably"*

**amiss** /ə'mɪs/

C1

not functioning properly

*"something is amiss"*

**apparition** /,æpə'rɪʃən/

C1

a ghostly appearing figure

*"we were unprepared for the apparition that confronted us"*

**aright**

C1

in an accurate manner

*"the flower had been correctly depicted by his son"*

**backwater** /'bæk.wətər/

C1

a body of water that was created by a flood or tide or by being held or forced back by a dam

*"the bayous and backwaters are breeding grounds for mosquitos"*

## C2 words (9)

**absently**

C2

in an absentminded or preoccupied manner

*"he read the letter absently"*

**bewilder** /bɪ'wɪldər/

C2

be a mystery or bewildering to

*"This beats me!"*

**cursedly**

C2

in a damnable manner

*"kindly Arthur--so damnably , politely , endlessly persistent!"*

**deject** /dɪ'dʒekt/

C2

lower someone's spirits

*"These news depressed her"*

**Deprave** /di'preɪv/

C2

corrupt morally or by intemperance or sensuality

*"debauch the young people with wine and women"*

**devotedly**

C2

with devotion

*"He served his master devotedly"*

**dishevel** /dɪ'ʃeɪvəl/

C2

disarrange or rumple

*"The strong wind tousled my hair"*

**distractedly**

C2

in a distracted manner

*"`Come in,' he said distractedly"*

**doubtfully**

C2

in a doubtful manner

*"Gerald shook his head doubtfully"*

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Read it along with audio — tap any word to hear it and see it highlighted in the sentence:

<https://readingcorner.uk/books/a-dolls-house/vocabulary>