

A Study in Scarlet — Key Vocabulary

by Arthur Conan Doyle

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

A2 words (10)

abandon /ə'bændən/

A2

the trait of lacking restraint or control

"she danced with abandon"

abroad /ə'brɔd/

A2

in a foreign country

"markets abroad"

absence /'æbsəns/

A2

the state of being absent

"he was surprised by the absence of any explanation"

accident /'æksədənt/

A2

an unfortunate mishap

"winning the lottery was a happy accident"

accompany /ə'kəmpəni/

A2

be present or associated with an event or entity

"French fries come with the hamburger"

accuse /ə'kjuz/

A2

bring an accusation against

"The neighbors accused the man of spousal abuse"

acknowledge /æk'nɒlɪdʒ/

A2

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

"He admitted his errors"

acquire /ək'waɪər/

A2

come into the possession of something concrete or abstract

"She got a lot of paintings from her uncle"

active /'æktɪv/

A2

chemical agent capable of activity

"The boy threw the ball' uses the active voice"

actor /'æktər/

A2

a theatrical performer

"he's a principal actor in this affair"

B1 words (10)

aboard /ə'bɔːd/

B1

on a ship, train, plane or other vehicle

"Their second homer with Bob Allison aboard"

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"

ac /'eɪ'si/

B1

a radioactive element of the actinide series

"In the US most household current is AC at 60 cycles per second"

accommodate /ə'kʌmə,deɪt/

B1

be agreeable or acceptable to

"This suits my needs"

accomplish /ə'kʌmplɪʃ/

B1

put in effect

"carry out a task"

accordingly /ə'kɔːdɪŋli/

B1

(sentence connectors) because of the reason given

"consequently, he didn't do it"

accurate /'ækjərət/

B1

conforming exactly or almost exactly to fact or to a standard or performing with total accuracy

"an accurate reproduction"

adventure /əd'ventʃər/

B1

a wild and exciting undertaking (not necessarily lawful)

"When you buy these stocks you are gambling"

advocate /'ædvə,keɪt/

B1

a person who pleads for a cause or propounds an idea

"The travel agent recommended strongly that we not travel on Thanksgiving Day"

alarm /ə'lɑːm/

B1

fear resulting from the awareness of danger

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

B2 words (10)

abruptly /ə'brʌptli/

B2

quickly and without warning

"he stopped suddenly"

absent /'æbsənt/

B2

go away or leave

"He absented himself"

absorb /əb'zɔːrb/

B2

become imbued

"The liquids, light, and gases absorb"

abstraction /æb'strækʃən/

B2

a concept or idea not associated with any specific instance

"he loved her only in the abstract--not in person"

absurd /əb'sɜːrd/

B2

a situation in which life seems irrational and meaningless

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

absurdity /əb'sɜːrdəti/

B2

a message whose content is at variance with reason

"the crowd laughed at the absurdity of the clown's behavior"

accompaniment /ə'kɒmpnɪmənt/

B2

an event or situation that happens at the same time as or in connection with another

"a fine wine is a perfect complement to the dinner"

accumulate /ə'kjʊmjə,leɪt/

B2

get or gather together

"I am accumulating evidence for the man's unfaithfulness to his wife"

accuracy /'ækjərəsi/

B2

the quality of being near to the true value

"he was beginning to doubt the accuracy of his compass"

acid /'æsəd/

B2

any of various water-soluble compounds having a sour taste and capable of turning litmus red and reacting with a base to form a salt

"an acerbic tone piercing otherwise flowery prose"

C1 words (9)

accustom /ə'kəstəm/

C1

make psychologically or physically used (to something)

"She became habituated to the background music"

adieu /ə'du/

C1

a farewell remark

"they said their good-byes"

admonish /æd'manɪʃ/

C1

admonish or counsel in terms of someone's behavior

"I warned him not to go too far"

affable /'æfəbəl/

C1

diffusing warmth and friendliness

"an affable smile"

agitate /'ædʒə'teɪt/

C1

try to stir up public opinion

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

alertness /ə'lɜːtnəs/

C1

the process of paying close and continuous attention

"wakefulness, watchfulness, and bellicosity make a good hunter"

alkali /'ælkəˌlaɪ/

C1

any of various water-soluble compounds capable of turning litmus blue and reacting with an acid to form a salt and water

"bases include oxides and hydroxides of metals and ammonia"

allay /ə'leɪ/

C1

lessen the intensity of or calm

"The news eased my conscience"

allot /ə'lat/

give out

"We were assigned new uniforms"

C1

C2 words (9)

accost /ə'kɒst/

speak to someone

"he was solicited by a prostitute"

C2

acuteness /ə'kjʊtnəs/

a sensitivity that is keen and highly developed

"dogs have a remarkable acuteness of smell"

C2

advisability /,ædˌvaɪzə'bɪlɪti/

the quality of being advisable

"they questioned the advisability of our policy"

C2

aggrieve /ə'grɪv/

infringe on the rights of

"his behavior grieves his mother"

C2

airily

in a flippant manner

"he answered the reporters' questions flippantly"

C2

assort /ə'sɔ:t/

keep company with

"He associates with strange people"

C2

avow /ə'vaʊ/

to declare or affirm solemnly and formally as true

"Before God I swear I am innocent"

C2

beatitude

a state of supreme happiness

"her favorite Beatitude is `Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth'"

C2

behindhand

behind schedule

"was behindhand with the rent"

C2

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

<https://readingcorner.uk/books/a-study-in-scarlet/vocabulary>