

Adventures of Huckleberry Finn — Key Vocabulary

by Mark Twain

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)

abroad /ə'brɔ:d/

A2

in a foreign country

“markets abroad”

abuse /ə'bjuz/

A2

cruel or inhumane treatment

“the child showed signs of physical abuse”

accident /'æksədənt/

A2

an unfortunate mishap

“winning the lottery was a happy accident”

acknowledge /æk'nɒlɪdʒ/

A2

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

“He admitted his errors”

admit /əd'mɪt/

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”

advertise /'ædvərˌtaɪz/

A2

call attention to

“Please don't advertise the fact that he has AIDS”

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'fɔːd/

A2

be able to spare or give up

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

B1 words (10)

aboard /ə'bɔːd/

B1

on a ship, train, plane or other vehicle

"Their second homer with Bob Allison aboard"

advance /əd'væns/

B1

a movement forward

"he listened for the progress of the troops"

advantage /æd'væntɪdʒ/

B1

the quality of having a superior or more favorable position

"the experience gave him the advantage over me"

adventure /əd'ventʃər/

B1

a wild and exciting undertaking (not necessarily lawful)

"When you buy these stocks you are gambling"

african /'æfrɪkən/

B1

a native or inhabitant of Africa

"African languages"

afternoon /,æftər'nun/

B1

the part of the day between noon and evening

"he spent a quiet afternoon in the park"

agree /ə'gri/

B1

be in accord; be in agreement

"We agreed on the terms of the settlement"

agreement /ə'grɪmənt/

B1

the statement (oral or written) of an exchange of promises

"they had an agreement that they would not interfere in each other's business"

aim /eɪm/

B1

an anticipated outcome that is intended or that guides your planned actions

"his intent was to provide a new translation"

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)

absent /'æbsənt/

B2

go away or leave

"He absented himself"

accord /ə'kɔːd/

B2

harmony of people's opinions or actions or characters

"the two parties were in agreement"

ache /eɪk/

B2

a dull persistent (usually moderately intense) pain

"Were you hurting after the accident?"

admirable /'ædmərəbəl/

B2

deserving of the highest esteem or admiration

"an estimable young professor"

admission /əd'mɪʃən/

B2

the act of admitting someone to enter

"the surgery was performed on his second admission to the clinic"

aft /æft/

B2

(nautical, aeronautical) situated at or toward the stern or tail

"stow the luggage aft"

afterwards /'æftərwərdz/

B2

happening at a time subsequent to a reference time

"he apologized subsequently"

ain

B2

belonging to or on behalf of a specified person (especially yourself); preceded by a possessive
“for your own use”

airy /'ɛri/

B2

open to or abounding in fresh air
“airy rooms”

alas /ə'læs/

B2

a flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism
“the alae of the nose”

C1 words (9)**abreast** /ə'breɪst/

C1

being up to particular standard or level especially in being up to date in knowledge
“kept abreast of the latest developments”

acquaint /ək'weɪnt/

C1

cause to come to know personally
“permit me to acquaint you with my son”

acquit /ək'wɪt/

C1

pronounce not guilty of criminal charges
“The suspect was cleared of the murder charges”

afflict /ə'flɪkt/

C1

cause great unhappiness for
“she was afflicted by the death of her parents”

affront /ə'frɒnt/

C1

a deliberately offensive act or something producing the effect of deliberate disrespect
“turning his back on me was a deliberate insult”

afire /ə'faɪr/

C1

lighted up by or as by fire or flame
“forests set ablaze (or afire) by lightning”

afoot /ə'fʊt/

C1

traveling by foot
“she was afoot when I saw her this morning”

aggravate /'ægrə'veɪt/

make worse

"This drug aggravates the pain"

C1

aground /ə'graʊnd/

stuck in a place where a ship can no longer float

"a ship aground offshore"

C1

C2 words (9)

addle /'ædəl/

mix up or confuse

"He muddled the issues"

C2

astraddle /ə'strædəl/

with one leg on each side

"she sat astride the chair"

C2

bitt

a strong post (as on a wharf or quay or ship for attaching mooring lines)

"the road was closed to vehicular traffic with bollards"

C2

bitterer

marked by strong resentment or cynicism

"an acrimonious dispute"

C2

blether

idle or foolish and irrelevant talk

"The two women babbled and crooned at the baby"

C2

blithesome

carefree and happy and lighthearted

"was loved for her blithe spirit"

C2

bounden

morally obligatory

"my bounden duty"

C2

brisken

become brisk

"business brisked up"

C2

brisker /'brɪskər/

C2

quick and energetic

“a brisk walk in the park”

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

<https://readingcorner.uk/books/adventures-of-huckleberry-finn/vocabulary>