

Alice's Adventures in Wonderland — Key Vocabulary

by Lewis Carroll

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)

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”

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”

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”

ancient /'eɪntɪənt/

a very old person

"ancient history"

A2

angry /'æŋɡri/

feeling or showing anger

"angry at the weather"

A2

anywhere /'eni,weɪr/

at or in or to any place

"you can find this food anywhere"

A2

B1 words (10)

acceptance /ək'septəns/

the mental attitude that something is believable and should be accepted as true

"he gave credence to the gossip"

B1

accidentally /,æksə'denəli/

without advance planning

"they met accidentally"

B1

adoption /ə'dɒpʃən/

the act of accepting with approval

"its adoption by society"

B1

adventure /əd'ventʃər/

a wild and exciting undertaking (not necessarily lawful)

"When you buy these stocks you are gambling"

B1

alarm /ə'lɑːm/

fear resulting from the awareness of danger

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

B1

alarmed /ə'lɑːmd/

fill with apprehension or alarm

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

B1

alter /'ɔːltər/

cause to change

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

B1

altogether /ˌɔltə'geðər/

B1

informal terms for nakedness

"in the raw"

anger /'æŋgər/

B1

a strong emotion

"The news angered him"

anxious /'æŋʃəs/

B1

eagerly desirous

"anxious to see the new show at the museum"

B2 words (10)

abide /ə'baɪd/

B2

dwell

"You can stay with me while you are in town"

absurd /əb'sɜːd/

B2

a situation in which life seems irrational and meaningless

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

accusation /ˌækjə'zeɪʃən/

B2

a formal charge of wrongdoing brought against a person

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

accustomed /ə'kʌstəmd/

B2

make psychologically or physically used (to something)

"She became habituated to the background music"

advisable /əd'vaɪzəbəl/

B2

worthy of being recommended or suggested

"such action is neither necessary nor advisable"

affectionately /ə'fekʃənətli/

B2

with affection

"she loved him dearly"

afterwards /'æftərwɜːdz/

B2

happening at a time subsequent to a reference time

"he apologized subsequently"

agony /'æɡəni/

B2

intense feelings of suffering

"an agony of doubt"

alae /ə'læs/

B2

a flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism

"the alae of the nose"

aloud /ə'ləʊd/

B2

using the voice

"please read the passage aloud"

C1 words (9)

adjourn /ə'dʒərn/

C1

close at the end of a session

"The court adjourned"

askance /ə'skæns/

C1

(used especially of glances) directed to one side with or as if with doubt or suspicion or envy

"her eyes with their misted askance look"

audibly /'ɔːdəbli/

C1

in an audible manner

"he spoke audibly"

bawl /bɔːl/

C1

shout loudly and without restraint

"Don't bawl in public!"

beautify /'bjʊtɪfaɪ/

C1

make more beautiful

"Flowers adorned the tables everywhere"

behead /bi'hɛd/

C1

cut the head of

"the French King was beheaded during the Revolution"

bristle /'brɪsəl/

C1

a stiff fiber (coarse hair or filament)

"The room abounded with screaming children"

busily /'bɪzəli/

C1

in a busy manner

"they were busily engaged in buying souvenirs"

cackle /'kækəl/

C1

the sound made by a hen after laying an egg

"The women cackled when they saw the movie star step out of the limousine"

C2 words (9)

comfit

C2

candy containing a fruit or nut

"This medicine is home-confected"

crossly

C2

in an ill-natured manner

"she looked at her husband crossly"

doubtfully

C2

in a doubtful manner

"Gerald shook his head doubtfully"

draggled

C2

make wet and dirty, as from rain

"the beggar's bedraggled clothes"

drawling

C2

lengthen and slow down or draw out

"drawl one's vowels"

gloomily /'gluməli/

C2

with gloom

"such a change is gloomily foreseen by many"

inquisitively

C2

with curiosity

"the baby looked around curiously"

mournfully

C2

in a mournful manner

"the young man stared into his glass mournfully"

pattering

rain gently

"It has only sprinkled, but the roads are slick"

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

<https://readingcorner.uk/books/alices-adventures-in-wonderland/vocabulary>