

# Beowulf — Key Vocabulary

by Anonymous

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)

**abandon** /ə'bændən/

A2

the trait of lacking restraint or control

*"she danced with abandon"*

**accompany** /ə'kæmpəni/

A2

be present or associated with an event or entity

*"French fries come with the hamburger"*

**active** /'æktɪv/

A2

chemical agent capable of activity

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

**adopt** /ə'dɒpt/

A2

choose and follow

*"She followed the feminist movement"*

**advise** /əd'vaɪz/

A2

give advice to

*"The teacher counsels troubled students"*

**afford** /ə'fɔːd/

A2

be able to spare or give up

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

**aid** /eɪd/

A2

a resource

*"visual aids in teaching"*

**alive** /ə'laɪv/

A2

possessing life

*"the happiest person alive"*

**ancient** /'eɪntɪənt/

A2

a very old person

*"ancient history"*

**angry** /'æŋɡri/

A2

feeling or showing anger

*"angry at the weather"*

## **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"*

**abstract** /'æb,strækt/

B1

a concept or idea not associated with any specific instance

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

**accidentally** /,æksə'denəli/

B1

without advance planning

*"they met accidentally"*

**accomplish** /ə'kʌmplɪʃ/

B1

put in effect

*"carry out a task"*

**accordingly** /ə'kɔrdɪŋli/

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"*

**adequate** /'ædək,wet/

B1

having the requisite qualities or resources to meet a task

*"she had adequate training"*

**adventure** /əd'ventʃər/

B1

a wild and exciting undertaking (not necessarily lawful)

*"When you buy these stocks you are gambling"*

**adviser** /æd'vaɪzər/

B1

an expert who gives advice

*"an adviser helped students select their courses"*

**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)

**abide** /ə'baɪd/

B2

dwell

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

**abode** /ə'boʊd/

B2

any address at which you dwell more than temporarily

*"a person can have several residences"*

**abrupt** /ə'brʌpt/

B2

marked by sudden changes in subject and sharp transitions

*"abrupt prose"*

**absent** /'æbsənt/

B2

go away or leave

*"He absented himself"*

**absurd** /əb'sɜːd/

B2

a situation in which life seems irrational and meaningless

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

**abundance** /ə'bʌndəns/

B2

the property of a more than adequate quantity or supply

*"an age of abundance"*

**abundantly** /ə'bʌndəntli/

B2

in an abundant manner

*"they were abundantly supplied with food"*

**accent** /'æk,sɛnt/

B2

distinctive manner of oral expression

*"he couldn't suppress his contemptuous accent"*

**accumulate** /ə'kjʊmjə,leɪt/

B2

get or gather together

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

**accurately** /'ækjərətli/

B2

with few mistakes

*"he works very accurately"*

## C1 words (9)

**accrue** /ə'kru/

C1

grow by addition

*"The interest accrues"*

**adverbial** /æd'vɜːbiəl/

C1

a word or group of words function as an adverb

*"adverbial syntax"*

**afflict** /ə'flɪkt/

C1

cause great unhappiness for

*"she was afflicted by the death of her parents"*

**afoot** /ə'fʊt/

C1

traveling by foot

*"she was afoot when I saw her this morning"*

**afresh** /ə'frɛʃ/

C1

again but in a new or different way

*"start afresh"*

**alliteration** /ə'lɪtə'reɪʃən/

C1

use of the same consonant at the beginning of each stressed syllable in a line of verse

*"around the rock the ragged rascal ran"*

**alliterative** /ə'lɪtə'reɪtɪv/

C1

having the same consonant at the beginning of each stressed syllable

*"alliterative verse"*

**allot** /ə'lat/

C1

give out

*"We were assigned new uniforms"*

**aloof** /ə'lʊf/

C1

remote in manner

*“stood apart with aloof dignity”*

## C2 words (9)

**airily**

C2

in a flippant manner

*“he answered the reporters' questions flippantly”*

**apposition**

C2

a grammatical relation between a word and a noun phrase that follows

*“‘Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer’ is an example of apposition”*

**armorer**

C2

a worker skilled in making armor or arms

*“a sword made by a famous English armorer”*

**arrant** /'ærənt/

C2

without qualification

*“an arrant fool”*

**assailing** /ə'seɪlɪŋ/

C2

attack someone physically or emotionally

*“The mugger assaulted the woman”*

**basely**

C2

in a despicable, ignoble manner

*“this new leader meanly threatens the deepest values of our society”*

**bedeck** /bɪ'dɛk/

C2

decorate

*“deck the halls with holly”*

**befoul**

C2

spot, stain, or pollute

*“The townspeople defiled the river by emptying raw sewage into it”*

**besought**

C2

ask for or request earnestly

*“The prophet bid all people to become good persons”*

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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/beowulf/vocabulary>