

Beyond Good and Evil — Key Vocabulary

by Friedrich Wilhelm Nietzsche

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)

absolutely /ˌæbsəˈlutli/

A2

completely and without qualification

“an absolutely magnificent painting”

abuse /əˈbjuz/

A2

cruel or inhumane treatment

“the child showed signs of physical abuse”

accident /ˈæksədənt/

A2

an unfortunate mishap

“winning the lottery was a happy accident”

accompany /əˈkæmpəni/

A2

be present or associated with an event or entity

“French fries come with the hamburger”

acknowledge /ækˈnɒlɪdʒ/

A2

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

“He admitted his errors”

acquire /əkˈwaɪə/

A2

come into the possession of something concrete or abstract

“She got a lot of paintings from her uncle”

active /ˈæktɪv/

A2

chemical agent capable of activity

“‘The boy threw the ball’ uses the active voice”

actor /ˈæktər/

A2

a theatrical performer

“he’s a principal actor in this affair”

ACTORS /'æktərz/

A2

a theatrical performer

*"he's a principal actor in this affair"***actual** /'æktʃəwəl/

A2

presently existing in fact and not merely potential or possible

*"the predicted temperature and the actual temperature were markedly different"***B1 words** (10)**absolute** /'æbsə,lut/

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"***acceptance** /ək'septəns/

B1

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

*"he gave credence to the gossip"***accomplish** /ə'kʌmplɪʃ/

B1

put in effect

*"carry out a task"***accordance** /ə'kɔrdəns/

B1

concurrence of opinion

*"we are in accord with your proposal"***accordingly** /ə'kɔrdɪŋli/

B1

(sentence connectors) because of the reason given

*"consequently, he didn't do it"***acquisition** /,ækwə'zɪʃən/

B1

the act of contracting or assuming or acquiring possession of something

*"the acquisition of wealth"***adapt** /ə'dæpt/

B1

make fit for, or change to suit a new purpose

"Adapt our native cuisine to the available food resources of the new country"

adjustment /ə'dʒʌstmənt/

B1

making or becoming suitable

"an allowance for profit"

adventure /əd'ventʃər/

B1

a wild and exciting undertaking (not necessarily lawful)

"When you buy these stocks you are gambling"

B2 words (10)

absent /'æbsənt/

B2

go away or leave

"He absented himself"

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"

absurdity /əb'sɜrdəti/

B2

a message whose content is at variance with reason

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

abundant /ə'bʌndənt/

B2

present in great quantity

"an abundant supply of water"

accessory /æk'sɛsəri/

B2

clothing that is worn or carried, but not part of your main clothing

"he was charged with being accessory to the crime"

accidental /,æksə'dɛnəl/

B2

a musical notation that makes a note sharp or flat or natural although that is not part of the key signature

"with an inadvertent gesture she swept the vase off the table"

accumulate /ə'kjʌmjə,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"

acute /ə'kjut/

B2

a mark (') placed above a vowel to indicate pronunciation

"acute appendicitis"

C1 words (9)

abdicate /'æbdəˌkeɪt/

C1

give up, such as power, as of monarchs and emperors, or duties and obligations

"The King abdicated when he married a divorcee"

absolve /əb'zɔlv/

C1

grant remission of a sin to

"The priest absolved him and told him to say ten Hail Mary's"

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"

acquaint /ək'weɪnt/

C1

cause to come to know personally

"permit me to acquaint you with my son"

actualize /'æktʃuəˌlaɪz/

C1

make real or concrete

"our ideas must be substantiated into actions"

admissible /əd'mɪsəbəl/

C1

deserving to be admitted

"admissible evidence"

admixture

C1

the state of impairing the quality or reducing the value of something

"the growing medium should be equal parts of sand and loam with an admixture of peat moss and cow manure"

afflict /ə'flɪkt/

C1

cause great unhappiness for

"she was afflicted by the death of her parents"

C2 words (9)

abasement

C2

a low or downcast state

"each confession brought her into an attitude of abasement"

abjure

C2

formally reject or disavow a formerly held belief, usually under pressure

"He retracted his earlier statements about his religion"

abstrusest

C2

difficult to penetrate

"the professor's lectures were so abstruse that students tended to avoid them"

acceptation

C2

acceptance as true or valid

"its adoption by society"

acuteness /ə'kjʊtnəs/

C2

a sensitivity that is keen and highly developed

"dogs have a remarkable acuteness of smell"

aggrieve /ə'grɪv/

C2

infringe on the rights of

"his behavior grieves his mother"

allurement

C2

attractiveness

"its allurement was its remoteness"

ampler

C2

more than enough in size or scope or capacity

"had ample food for the party"

animalize

C2

represent in the form of an animal

"Life in the camps had brutalized him"

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

<https://readingcorner.uk/books/beyond-good-and-evil/vocabulary>