

Cranford — Key Vocabulary

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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"

absence /'æbsəns/

A2

the state of being absent

"he was surprised by the absence of any explanation"

absolutely /,æbsə'lutli/

A2

completely and without qualification

"an absolutely magnificent painting"

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"

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"

active /'æktɪv/

A2

chemical agent capable of activity

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

actual /'æktʃʊəl/

A2

presently existing in fact and not merely potential or possible

"the predicted temperature and the actual temperature were markedly different"

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"

acceptable /ək'septəbəl/

B1

worthy of acceptance or satisfactory

"acceptable levels of radiation"

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'kɔːdəns/

B1

concurrence of opinion

"we are in accord with your proposal"

accordingly /ə'kɔːdɪŋli/

B1

(sentence connectors) because of the reason given

"consequently, he didn't do it"

adjust /ə'dʒʌst/

B1

alter or regulate so as to achieve accuracy or conform to a standard

"Adjust the clock, please"

adoption /ə'dɒpʃən/

B1

the act of accepting with approval

"its adoption by society"

adventure /əd'ventʃər/

B1

a wild and exciting undertaking (not necessarily lawful)

"When you buy these stocks you are gambling"

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"

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"

absurd /əb'sɜːd/

B2

a situation in which life seems irrational and meaningless

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

absurdity /əb'sɜːdətɪ/

B2

a message whose content is at variance with reason

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

abundantly /ə'bʌndəntli/

B2

in an abundant manner

"they were abundantly supplied with food"

accent /'æksənt/

B2

distinctive manner of oral expression

"he couldn't suppress his contemptuous accent"

C1 words (9)

aback /ə'bæk/

C1

having the wind against the forward side of the sails

"the ship came up into the wind with all yards aback"

accede /æk'sid/

C1

yield to another's wish or opinion

"The government bowed to the military pressure"

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"

acquiescence /,ækwi'ɛsəns/

C1

acceptance without protest

"he gave his assent eagerly"

adjourn /ə'dʒərn/

C1

close at the end of a session

"The court adjourned"

admirably /'ædmərəbli/

C1

in an admirable manner

"the children's responses were admirably normal"

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"

afresh /ə'frɛʃ/

again but in a new or different way

"start afresh"

C1

C2 words (9)

absently

in an absentminded or preoccupied manner

"he read the letter absently"

C2

acquiescent

willing to carry out the orders or wishes of another without protest

"too acquiescent to challenge authority"

C2

adjoin /ə'dʒɔɪn/

lie adjacent to another or share a boundary

"Canada adjoins the U.S."

C2

admonitory /,æd'mɒnɪ,tɔːri/

serving to warn

"shook a monitory finger at him"

C2

affright

an overwhelming feeling of fear and anxiety

"The stranger who hangs around the building frightens me"

C2

aggrieve /ə'grɪv/

infringe on the rights of

"his behavior grieves his mother"

C2

arrant /'ærənt/

without qualification

"an arrant fool"

C2

awestricken

having or showing a feeling of mixed reverence and respect and wonder and dread

"stood in awed silence before the shrine"

C2

benignant

pleasant and beneficial in nature or influence

"a benign smile"

C2

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

<https://readingcorner.uk/books/cranford/vocabulary>