

# Frankenstein — Key Vocabulary

by Mary Shelley

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”*

**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”*

**accident** /'æksədənt/

A2

an unfortunate mishap

*“winning the lottery was a happy accident”*

**accompany** /ə'kæmpəni/

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”*

**acquire** /ək'waɪər/

A2

come into the possession of something concrete or abstract

*"She got a lot of paintings from her uncle"*

**active** /'æktɪv/

A2

chemical agent capable of activity

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

## **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"*

**acceptance** /ək'septəns/

B1

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

*"he gave credence to the gossip"*

**accidentally** /,æksə'denəli/

B1

without advance planning

*"they met accidentally"*

**accomplish** /ə'kʌmplɪʃ/

B1

put in effect

*"carry out a task"*

**accordingly** /ə'kɔːdɪŋli/

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"*

**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"*

**adequate** /'ædək,weɪt/

B1

having the requisite qualities or resources to meet a task

*"she had adequate training"*

## B2 words (10)

**abject** /'æbdʒekt/

B2

of the most contemptible kind

*"abject cowardice"*

**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"*

**absorb** /əb'zɔrb/

B2

become imbued

*"The liquids, light, and gases absorb"*

**abstain** /əb'steɪn/

B2

refrain from voting

*"I abstain from alcohol"*

**accent** /'æk,sənt/

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"*

**accuracy** /'ækjərəsi/

B2

the quality of being near to the true value

*"he was beginning to doubt the accuracy of his compass"*

**accusation** /,ækjə'zeɪʃən/

B2

a formal charge of wrongdoing brought against a person

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

## C1 words (9)

**abhor** /æ'bhɔːr/

C1

find repugnant

*"I loathe that man"*

**abhorrent** /æ'bhɔːrənt/

C1

offensive to the mind

*"an abhorrent deed"*

**abortive** /ə'bɔːtɪv/

C1

failing to accomplish an intended result

*"an abortive revolt"*

**abstruse** /əb'strus/

C1

difficult to penetrate

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

**accede** /æk'sɪd/

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"*

**acme** /'ækmi/

C1

the highest level or degree attainable

*"his landscapes were deemed the acme of beauty"*

**acquaint** /ək'weɪnt/

C1

cause to come to know personally

*"permit me to acquaint you with my son"*

**acquiesce** /,ækwi'ɛs/

C1

to agree or express agreement

*"The Maestro assented to the request for an encore"*

## C2 words (9)

**acuteness** /ə'kjʊtnəs/

C2

a sensitivity that is keen and highly developed

*"dogs have a remarkable acuteness of smell"*

**affright**

C2

an overwhelming feeling of fear and anxiety

*"The stranger who hangs around the building frightens me"*

**allurement**

C2

attractiveness

*"its allurement was its remoteness"*

**anatomise**

C2

dissect in order to analyze

*"anatomize the bodies of the victims of this strange disease"*

**appal**

C2

strike with disgust or revulsion

*"The scandalous behavior of this married woman shocked her friends"*

**augury**

C2

an event that is experienced as indicating important things to come

*"he hoped it was an augury"*

**avow** /ə'vaʊ/

C2

to declare or affirm solemnly and formally as true

*"Before God I swear I am innocent"*

**balminess**

C2

the quality of weather that is deliciously mild and soothing

*"the day's heat faded into balminess"*

**barbarously**

C2

in a barbarous manner

*"they were barbarously murdered"*

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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/frankenstein/vocabulary>