

Gulliver's Travels into Several Remote Nations of the World — Key Vocabulary

by Jonathan Swift

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”

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”

accuse /ə'kjuz/

A2

bring an accusation against

“The neighbors accused the man of spousal abuse”

acquire /ək'waɪə/

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”

administration /æd,mɪnɪ'streɪʃən/

A2

a method of tending to or managing the affairs of a some group of people (especially the group's business affairs)

"he claims that the present administration is corrupt"

adopt /ə'dɒpt/

A2

choose and follow

"She followed the feminist movement"

advise /əd'vaɪz/

A2

give advice to

"The teacher counsels troubled students"

B1 words (10)

ability /ə'blɪlə'ti/

B1

the quality of being able to perform; a quality that permits or facilitates achievement or accomplishment

"danger heightened his powers of discrimination"

aboard /ə'bɔːd/

B1

on a ship, train, plane or other vehicle

"Their second homer with Bob Allison aboard"

accept /ək'sept/

B1

consider or hold as true

"I cannot accept the dogma of this church"

accomplish /ə'kʌmplɪʃ/

B1

put in effect

"carry out a task"

accordingly /ə'kɔːrdɪŋli/

B1

(sentence connectors) because of the reason given

"consequently, he didn't do it"

address /'æ,dres/

B1

(computer science) the code that identifies where a piece of information is stored

"he listened to an address on minor Roman poets"

adjust /ə'dʒʌst/

B1

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

"Adjust the clock, please"

advance /əd'væns/

B1

a movement forward

"he listened for the progress of the troops"

advantage /æd'væntɪdʒ/

B1

the quality of having a superior or more favorable position

"the experience gave him the advantage over me"

adventure /əd'ventʃər/

B1

a wild and exciting undertaking (not necessarily lawful)

"When you buy these stocks you are gambling"

B2 words (10)

abound /ə'baʊnd/

B2

be abundant or plentiful

"The room abounded with screaming children"

Abraham /'eɪbrə,hæm/

B2

the first of the Old Testament patriarchs and the father of Isaac; according to Genesis, God promised to give Abraham's family (the Hebrews) the land of Canaan (the Promised Land); God tested Abraham by asking him to sacrifice his son

"Judaism, Christianity, and Islam each has a special claim on Abraham"

absurd /əb'sɜːd/

B2

a situation in which life seems irrational and meaningless

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

accent /'æks,ʃənt/

B2

distinctive manner of oral expression

"he couldn't suppress his contemptuous accent"

accord /ə'kɔːrd/

B2

harmony of people's opinions or actions or characters

"the two parties were in agreement"

acquaintance /ək'weɪntəns/

B2

personal knowledge or information about someone or something

"I have trouble remembering the names of all my acquaintances"

acute /ə'kjut/

B2

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

"acute appendicitis"

adhere /ə'dhɪr/

B2

be compatible or in accordance with

"You must adhere to the rules"

admiration /,ædmə'reɪʃən/

B2

a feeling of delighted approval and liking

"a small token in admiration of your works"

adorn /ə'dɔːn/

B2

make more attractive by adding ornament, colour, etc.

"Decorate the room for the party"

C1 words (9)

abate /ə'beɪt/

C1

make less active or intense

"The storm abated"

aggravate /'ægrə'veɪt/

C1

make worse

"This drug aggravates the pain"

amply /'æmpli/

C1

to an ample degree or in an ample manner

"these voices were amply represented"

answerable /'ænsərəbəl/

C1

capable of being answered

"parents are answerable for their child's acts"

antipathy /æn'tɪpəθi/

C1

a feeling of intense dislike

"cats were his greatest antipathy"

astonish /ə'stənɪʃ/

C1

affect with wonder

"Your ability to speak six languages amazes me!"

astonishment /ə'stənɪʃmənt/

C1

the feeling that accompanies something extremely surprising

"he looked at me in astonishment"

barbarous /'bɑːbərəs/

C1

(of persons or their actions) able or disposed to inflict pain or suffering

"a barbarous crime"

bate /beɪt/

C1

moderate or restrain

"He bated his breath when talking about this affair"

C2 words (9)

brobdingnagian /ˌbrɒbdɪŋˈnæɡiən/

C2

huge; relating to or characteristic of the imaginary country of Brobdingnag

"huge government spending"

circumspectly

C2

in a cagey manner

"'I don't know yet,' he answered cagily"

dapple

C2

a small contrasting part of something

"a bald spot"

deafen /ˈdeɪfən/

C2

be unbearably loud

"a deafening noise"

debauch

C2

a wild gathering involving excessive drinking and promiscuity

"debauch the young people with wine and women"

descant

C2

a decorative musical accompaniment (often improvised) added above a basic melody

"The Austrians were yodeling in the mountains"

despond

C2

lose confidence or hope

"The supporters of the Presidential candidate desponded when they learned the early results of the election"

disapprobation

C2

an expression of strong disapproval

"his uncompromising condemnation of racism"

dispirit

C2

lower someone's spirits

"These news depressed her"

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

<https://readingcorner.uk/books/gulliver-s-travels-into-several-remote-nations-of-the-world/vocabulary>