

Meditations — Key Vocabulary

by Marcus Aurelius

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)

abandon /ə'bændən/

A2

the trait of lacking restraint or control

“she danced with abandon”

abroad /ə'brɔd/

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"

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"

acceptable /ək'septəbəl/

B1

worthy of acceptance or satisfactory

"acceptable levels of radiation"

accidentally /,æksə'denəli/

B1

without advance planning

"they met accidentally"

accommodate /ə'kamə,deɪt/

B1

be agreeable or acceptable to

"This suits my needs"

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"

adoption /ə'dɒpʃən/

B1

the act of accepting with approval

"its adoption by society"

adviser /æd'vaɪzər/

B1

an expert who gives advice

"an adviser helped students select their courses"

advocate /'ædvə,keɪt/

B1

a person who pleads for a cause or propounds an idea

"The travel agent recommended strongly that we not travel on Thanksgiving Day"

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"

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"

absurd /əb'sɜrd/

B2

a situation in which life seems irrational and meaningless

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

accessory /æk'sesəri/

B2

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

"he was charged with being accessory to the crime"

accurately /'ækjəreɪtli/

B2

with few mistakes

"he works very accurately"

accusation /,ækjə'zeɪʃən/

B2

a formal charge of wrongdoing brought against a person

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

acquaintance /ək'weɪntəns/

B2

personal knowledge or information about someone or something

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

C1 words (9)

abominable /ə'bəməneɪbəl/

C1

unequivocally detestable

"abominable treatment of prisoners"

acclamation /,æklə'meɪʃən/

C1

enthusiastic approval

"the book met with modest acclaim"

accustom /ə'kæstəm/

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"

acquit /ək'wɪt/

C1

pronounce not guilty of criminal charges

"The suspect was cleared of the murder charges"

admonish /æd'manɪʃ/

C1

admonish or counsel in terms of someone's behavior

"I warned him not to go too far"

admonition /,ædmə'nɪʃən/

C1

cautionary advice about something imminent (especially imminent danger or other unpleasantness)

"a letter of admonition about the dangers of immorality"

affix /'æfɪks/

C1

a linguistic element added to a word to produce an inflected or derived form

"affix the seal here"

afflict /ə'flɪkt/

C1

cause great unhappiness for

"she was afflicted by the death of her parents"

C2 words (9)

acceptation

C2

acceptance as true or valid

"its adoption by society"

adjure

C2

ask for or request earnestly

"The prophet bid all people to become good persons"

adventitious

C2

associated by chance and not an integral part

"poetry is something to which words are the accidental, not by any means the essential form"

appetitive

C2

of or relating to appetite

"appetitive needs"

basely

C2

in a despicable, ignoble manner

"this new leader meanly threatens the deepest values of our society"

begot /bi'gɒt/

C2

make children

"Abraham begot Isaac"

bewail

C2

regret strongly

"I deplore this hostile action"

bewray

C2

reveal unintentionally

"Her smile betrayed her true feelings"

boisterously

C2

in a carefree manner

"she was rollickingly happy"

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

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