

Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass — Key Vocabulary

by Frederick Douglass

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"

acquire /ək'waɪər/

A2

come into the possession of something concrete or abstract

"She got a lot of paintings from her uncle"

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"

accomplish /ək'kɒmplɪʃ/

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"

adequate /'ædək,wet/

B1

having the requisite qualities or resources to meet a task

"she had adequate training"

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"

alarm /ə'lɑːm/

B1

fear resulting from the awareness of danger

"I was horrified at the thought of being late for my interview"

alike /ə'laɪk/

B1

having the same or similar characteristics

"all politicians are alike"

B2 words (10)

abide /ə'baɪd/

B2

dwell

"You can stay with me while you are in town"

abolish /ə'bɒlɪʃ/

B2

do away with

"Slavery was abolished in the mid-19th century in America and in Russia"

abolition /,æbə'liʃən/

B2

the act of abolishing a system or practice or institution (especially abolishing slavery)

"the abolition of capital punishment"

abound /ə'baʊnd/

B2

be abundant or plentiful

"The room abounded with screaming children"

absent /'æbsənt/

B2

go away or leave

"He absented himself"

abundance /ə'bʌndəns/

B2

the property of a more than adequate quantity or supply

"an age of abundance"

abundant /ə'bʌndənt/

B2

present in great quantity

"an abundant supply of water"

accountable /ə'kaʊntəbəl/

B2

liable to account for one's actions

"governments must be accountable to someone beside themselves"

accumulate /ə'kjʊmjə,leɪt/

B2

get or gather together

"I am accumulating evidence for the man's unfaithfulness to his wife"

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)

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"

abhor /æ'bhɔːr/

C1

find repugnant

"I loathe that man"

ably /'eɪbli/

C1

with competence

"they worked competently"

abominable /ə'bʌmənəbəl/

C1

unequivocally detestable

"abominable treatment of prisoners"

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"

admirably /'ædmərəbli/

C1

in an admirable manner

"the children's responses were admirably normal"

afflict /ə'flɪkt/

C1

cause great unhappiness for

"she was afflicted by the death of her parents"

afresh /ə'frɛʃ/

C1

again but in a new or different way

"start afresh"

C2 words (9)

adjudge /ə'dʒʌdʒ/

C2

declare to be

"She was declared incompetent"

advisedly /əd'vaɪzədli/

C2

with intention

"he used that word intentionally"

appal

C2

strike with disgust or revulsion

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

avow /ə'vaʊ/

C2

to declare or affirm solemnly and formally as true

"Before God I swear I am innocent"

betoken

C2

be a signal for or a symptom of

"These symptoms indicate a serious illness"

calk /kɔk/

C2

a metal cleat on the bottom front of a horseshoe to prevent slipping

"calk horse shoes"

carefulness

C2

the trait of being cautious

"a man of caution"

consecrating

C2

appoint to a clerical posts

"he was ordained in the Church"

dilapidate /dɪˈlæpəˌdeɪt/

C2

bring into a condition of decay or partial ruin by neglect or misuse

“The unoccupied house started to decay”

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

<https://readingcorner.uk/books/narrative-of-the-life-of-frederick-douglass/vocabulary>