

Oedipus, King of Thebes — 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"

admit /əd'mɪt/

A2

declare to be true or admit the existence or reality or truth of

"He admitted his errors"

afraid /ə'freɪd/

A2

filled with fear or apprehension

"afraid even to turn his head"

aid /eɪd/

A2

a resource

"visual aids in teaching"

alive /ə'lɑɪv/

A2

possessing life

"the happiest person alive"

amazing /ə'meɪzɪŋ/

A2

affect with wonder

"Your ability to speak six languages amazes me!"

ancient /'eɪntɪənt/

A2

a very old person

"ancient history"

angry /'æŋgri/

A2

feeling or showing anger

"angry at the weather"

apart /ə'pɑːt/

A2

remote and separate physically or socially

"existed over the centuries as a world apart"

B1 words (10)

absolute /'æbsəˌlʊt/

B1

something that is conceived or that exists independently and not in relation to other things

"no mortal being can influence the absolute"

accomplish /ə'kʌmplɪʃ/

B1

put in effect

"carry out a task"

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"

altogether /ˌɔːltə'ɡeðər/

B1

informal terms for nakedness

"in the raw"

anger /'æŋgər/

B1

a strong emotion

"The news angered him"

anxious /'æŋʃəs/

B1

eagerly desirous

"anxious to see the new show at the museum"

autumn /'ɔːtəm/

B1

the season when the leaves fall from the trees

"in the fall of 1973"

awake /ə'weɪk/

B1

stop sleeping

"She woke up to the sound of the alarm clock"

babe /beɪb/

B1

a very young child (birth to 1 year) who has not yet begun to walk or talk

"the baby began to cry again"

B2 words (10)

abide /ə'baɪd/

B2

dwell

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

accusation /,ækjə'zeɪʃən/

B2

a formal charge of wrongdoing brought against a person

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

adequately /'ædəkwiːtli/

B2

in an adequate manner or to an adequate degree

"he was adequately prepared"

adore /ə'dɔːr/

B2

love intensely

"he just adored his wife"

afterwards /'æftərwɜːdz/

B2

happening at a time subsequent to a reference time

"he apologized subsequently"

alien /'eɪliən/

B2

a person who comes from a foreign country

"The will alienated the property to the heirs"

aloft /ə'lɒft/

B2

at or on or to the masthead or upper rigging of a ship

"climbed aloft to unfurl the sail"

ambition /æm'biʃən/

B2

a cherished desire

"his ambition is to own his own business"

anguish /'æŋgwɪʃ/

B2

extreme mental distress

"It pains me to see my children not being taught well in school"

annoy /ə'noɪ/

B2

cause annoyance in

"Mosquitoes buzzing in my ear really bothers me"

C1 words (9)

abate /ə'beɪt/

C1

make less active or intense

"The storm abated"

abhor /æ'bhɔːr/

C1

find repugnant

"I loathe that man"

anoint /ə'noɪnt/

C1

choose by or as if by divine intervention

"She was anointed the head of the Christian fundamentalist group"

apace /ə'peɪs/

C1

with rapid movements

"he works quickly"

askance /ə'skæns/

C1

(used especially of glances) directed to one side with or as if with doubt or suspicion or envy

"her eyes with their misted askance look"

assuage /əs'weɪdʒ/

C1

cause to be more favorably inclined

"She managed to mollify the angry customer"

ought /ɔːt/

C1

a quantity of no importance

"it looked like nothing I had ever seen before"

augur /'ɔːgər/

C1

(ancient Rome) a religious official who interpreted omens to guide public policy

"These signs bode bad news"

banishment /'bæniʃmənt/

C1

the state of being banished or ostracized (excluded from society by general consent)

"the association should get rid of its elderly members--not by euthanasia, of course, but by Coventry"

C2 words (9)

abridge /ə'brɪdʒ/

C2

reduce in scope while retaining essential elements

"The manuscript must be shortened"

accost /ə'kɒst/

C2

speak to someone

"he was solicited by a prostitute"

affright

C2

an overwhelming feeling of fear and anxiety

"The stranger who hangs around the building frightens me"

amain

C2

at full speed

"the children ran down the hill amain"

beggary

C2

a solicitation for money or food (especially in the street by an apparently penniless person)

"they were reduced to mendicancy"

begot /bi'gɒt/

C2

make children

"Abraham begot Isaac"

beseem

C2

accord or comport with

"This kind of behavior does not suit a young woman!"

choric /'kɔːɪk/

C2

relating to or written for or in the style of a Greek chorus

"a choric Greek tragedy"

deftness

C2

skillful performance or ability without difficulty

"his quick adeptness was a product of good design"

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

<https://readingcorner.uk/books/oedipus-king-of-thebes/vocabulary>