

# On Liberty — Key Vocabulary

by John Stuart Mill

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'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”*

**accommodation** /ə,kamə'deɪʃən/

A2

making or becoming suitable

*“they reached an accommodation with Japan”*

**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"*

## 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"*

**abstract** /'æb,strækt/

B1

a concept or idea not associated with any specific instance

*"he loved her only in the abstract--not in person"*

**acceptable** /ək'septəbəl/

B1

worthy of acceptance or satisfactory

*"acceptable levels of radiation"*

**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"*

**accordance** /ə'kɔrdəns/

B1

concurrence of opinion

*"we are in accord with your proposal"*

**accordingly** /ə'kɔrdɪŋli/

B1

(sentence connectors) because of the reason given

*"consequently, he didn't do it"*

**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"*

## B2 words (10)

**abide** /ə'baɪd/

B2

dwell

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

**abject** /'æbdʒekt/

B2

of the most contemptible kind

*"abject cowardice"*

**abound** /ə'baʊnd/

B2

be abundant or plentiful

*"The room abounded with screaming children"*

**absent** /'æbsənt/

B2

go away or leave

*"He absented himself"*

**absorption** /əb'zɔ:pʃən/

B2

(chemistry) a process in which one substance permeates another

*"the absorption of photons by atoms or molecules"*

**abstain** /əb'steɪn/

B2

refrain from voting

*"I abstain from alcohol"*

**absurd** /əb'sɜ:d/

B2

a situation in which life seems irrational and meaningless

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

**absurdity** /əb'sɜ:dəti/

B2

a message whose content is at variance with reason

*"the crowd laughed at the absurdity of the clown's behavior"*

**abundant** /ə'bʌndənt/

B2

present in great quantity

*"an abundant supply of water"*

**accidental** /,æksə'dɛnəl/

B2

a musical notation that makes a note sharp or flat or natural although that is not part of the key signature

*"with an inadvertent gesture she swept the vase off the table"*

## C1 words (9)

**abate** /ə'beɪt/

C1

make less active or intense

*"The storm abated"*

**abatement** /ə'beɪtmənt/

C1

an interruption in the intensity or amount of something

*"laws enforcing noise abatement"*

**abdicate** /'æbdə'keɪt/

C1

give up, such as power, as of monarchs and emperors, or duties and obligations

*"The King abdicated when he married a divorcee"*

**abhor** /æ'bhɔːr/

C1

find repugnant

*"I loathe that man"*

**abominable** /ə'bʌmənəbəl/

C1

unequivocally detestable

*"abominable treatment of prisoners"*

**accrue** /ə'kruː/

C1

grow by addition

*"The interest accrues"*

**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"*

**acquiesce** /,ækwi'ɛs/

C1

to agree or express agreement

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

## C2 words (9)

**abasement**

C2

a low or downcast state

*"each confession brought her into an attitude of abasement"*

**abnegate**

C2

deny oneself (something)

*"She denied herself wine and spirits"*

**abominate**

C2

find repugnant

*"I loathe that man"*

**accessary**

C2

someone who helps another person commit a crime

*"he was charged with being accessory to the crime"*

**aggrieve** /ə'griv/

C2

infringe on the rights of

*"his behavior grieves his mother"*

**asserter**

C2

someone who claims to speak the truth

*"a bold asserter"*

**baneful**

C2

exceedingly harmful

*"the Florida eagles have a fierce baleful look"*

**benevolently**

C2

in a benevolent manner

*"she looked on benevolently"*

**betoken**

C2

be a signal for or a symptom of

*"These symptoms indicate a serious illness"*

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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/on-liberty/vocabulary>