

Pride and Prejudice — Key Vocabulary

by Jane Austen

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/

in a foreign country

"markets abroad"

A2

absence /'æbsəns/

the state of being absent

"he was surprised by the absence of any explanation"

A2

absolutely /,æbsə'lʊtli/

completely and without qualification

"an absolutely magnificent painting"

A2

abuse /ə'bjuz/

cruel or inhumane treatment

"the child showed signs of physical abuse"

A2

accident /'æksədənt/

an unfortunate mishap

"winning the lottery was a happy accident"

A2

accompany /ə'kəmpəni/

be present or associated with an event or entity

"French fries come with the hamburger"

A2

accuse /ə'kjuz/

bring an accusation against

"The neighbors accused the man of spousal abuse"

A2

acknowledge /æk'nɒlɪdʒ/

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

"He admitted his errors"

A2

acquire /ək'waɪər/

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"

B1 words (10)

ability /ə'bɪlə.ti/

B1

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

"danger heightened his powers of discrimination"

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"

accept /ək'sept/

B1

consider or hold as true

"I cannot accept the dogma of this church"

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"

accordingly /ə'kɔrdɪŋli/

B1

(sentence connectors) because of the reason given

"consequently, he didn't do it"

accounting /ə'kaʊntɪŋ/

B1

a convincing explanation that reveals basic causes

"he was unable to give a clear accounting for his actions"

accurate /'ækjərət/

B1

conforming exactly or almost exactly to fact or to a standard or performing with total accuracy

"an accurate reproduction"

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"

abound /ə'baʊnd/

B2

be abundant or plentiful

"The room abounded with screaming children"

abrupt /ə'brʌpt/

B2

marked by sudden changes in subject and sharp transitions

"abrupt prose"

abruptly /ə'brʌptli/

B2

quickly and without warning

"he stopped suddenly"

absent /'æbsənt/

B2

go away or leave

"He absented himself"

absurd /əb'sɜːd/

B2

a situation in which life seems irrational and meaningless

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

absurdity /əb'sɜːdətɪ/

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"

abundantly /ə'bʌndəntli/

B2

in an abundant manner

"they were abundantly supplied with food"

C1 words (9)

abatement /ə'beɪtmənt/

C1

an interruption in the intensity or amount of something

"laws enforcing noise abatement"

abhorrent /æ'bhɔrənt/

C1

offensive to the mind

"an abhorrent deed"

abominable /ə'bʌmənəbəl/

C1

unequivocally detestable

"abominable treatment of prisoners"

accede /æk'sɪd/

C1

yield to another's wish or opinion

"The government bowed to the military pressure"

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"

acquiescence /,ækwi'ɛsəns/

C1

acceptance without protest

"he gave his assent eagerly"

acquit /ək'wɪt/

C1

pronounce not guilty of criminal charges

"The suspect was cleared of the murder charges"

C2 words (9)

abominably

C2

in an offensive and hateful manner

"I don't know anyone who could have behaved so abominably"

abominate

C2

find repugnant

"I loathe that man"

accost /ə'kɒst/

C2

speak to someone

"he was solicited by a prostitute"

adieu

C2

a farewell remark

"they said their good-byes"

allurement

C2

attractiveness

"its allurement was its remoteness"

asperity /ə'spɛrɪti/

C2

something hard to endure

"the asperity of northern winters"

avow /ə'vaʊ/

C2

to declare or affirm solemnly and formally as true

"Before God I swear I am innocent"

barbarously

C2

in a barbarous manner

"they were barbarously murdered"

bewail

C2

regret strongly

"I deplore this hostile action"

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

<https://readingcorner.uk/books/pride-and-prejudice/vocabulary>