

Romeo and Juliet — Key Vocabulary

by William Shakespeare

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"

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"

acknowledge /æk'nɒlɪdʒ/

A2

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

"He admitted his errors"

advise /əd'vaɪz/

A2

give advice to

"The teacher counsels troubled students"

afford /ə'fɔ:d/

A2

be able to spare or give up

"I can't afford to spend two hours with this person"

afraid /ə'freɪd/

A2

filled with fear or apprehension

"afraid even to turn his head"

alive /ə'laɪv/

A2

possessing life

"the happiest person alive"

ancient /'eɪntɪənt/

A2

a very old person

"ancient history"

angry /'æŋɡri/

A2

feeling or showing anger

"angry at the weather"

B1 words (10)

aboard /ə'boɪd/

B1

on a ship, train, plane or other vehicle

"Their second homer with Bob Allison aboard"

adventure /əd'ventʃər/

B1

a wild and exciting undertaking (not necessarily lawful)

"When you buy these stocks you are gambling"

alike /ə'laɪk/

B1

having the same or similar characteristics

"all politicians are alike"

ally /'ælaɪ/

B1

a friendly nation

"he's a good ally in fight"

anger /'æŋɡər/

B1

a strong emotion

"The news angered him"

apology /ə'pɒlədʒi/

B1

an expression of regret at having caused trouble for someone

"he wrote a letter of apology to the hostess"

asleep /əs'li:p/

B1

in a state of sleep

"were all asleep when the phone rang"

assure /ə'ʃʊr/

B1

make certain of

"This nest egg will ensure a nice retirement for us"

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)

accent /'æksənt/

B2

distinctive manner of oral expression

"he couldn't suppress his contemptuous accent"

ache /eɪk/

B2

a dull persistent (usually moderately intense) pain

"Were you hurting after the accident?"

acquaintance /ək'weɪntəns/

B2

personal knowledge or information about someone or something

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

adjacent /ə'dʒeɪsənt/

B2

nearest in space or position

"had adjacent rooms"

affection /ə'fekʃən/

B2

a positive feeling of liking

"he had trouble expressing the affection he felt"

agile /'ædʒəl/

B2

moving quickly and lightly

"sleek and agile as a gymnast"

airy /'eəri/

B2

open to or abounding in fresh air

"airy rooms"

alae /ə'læz/

B2

a flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism

"the alae of the nose"

alderman /'ɔldərmən/

B2

a member of a municipal legislative body (as a city council)

"aldermen usually represent city wards"

alliance /ə'laɪəns/

B2

the state of being allied or confederated

"the shifting alliances within a large family"

C1 words (9)

abhor /æ'bhɔːr/

C1

find repugnant

"I loathe that man"

adieu /ə'du/

C1

a farewell remark

"they said their good-byes"

afflict /ə'flɪkt/

C1

cause great unhappiness for

"she was afflicted by the death of her parents"

afire /ə'faɪr/

C1

lighted up by or as by fire or flame

"forests set ablaze (or afire) by lightning"

aloof /ə'lʊf/

C1

remote in manner

"stood apart with aloof dignity"

amorous /'æməərəs/

C1

inclined toward or displaying love

"feeling amorous"

antic /'æntɪk/

C1

a ludicrous or grotesque act done for fun and amusement

"Hamlet's assumed antic disposition"

apace /ə'peɪs/

C1

with rapid movements

"he works quickly"

arbitrate /'arbəˌtreɪt/

C1

act between parties with a view to reconciling differences

"He interceded in the family dispute"

C2 words (9)

abroach

C2

of a cask or barrel

"the cask was set abroach"

addle /'ædəl/

C2

mix up or confuse

"He muddled the issues"

adjoin /ə'dʒɔɪn/

C2

lie adjacent to another or share a boundary

"Canada adjoins the U.S."

affright

C2

an overwhelming feeling of fear and anxiety

"The stranger who hangs around the building frightens me"

angelical

C2

of or relating to angels

"angelic messenger"

awearry

C2

physically and mentally fatigued

"`awearry' is archaic"

bedeck /bɪ'dɛk/

C2

decorate

"deck the halls with holly"

beggarly

C2

marked by poverty befitting a beggar

"a beggarly existence in the slums"

beggary

C2

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

"they were reduced to mendicancy"

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

<https://readingcorner.uk/books/romeo-and-juliet/vocabulary>