

Second Treatise of Government — Key Vocabulary

by John Locke

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'lʊtli/

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”

acknowledge /æk'nɒlɪdʒ/

A2

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

"He admitted his errors"

acquire /ək'waɪə/

A2

come into the possession of something concrete or abstract

"She got a lot of paintings from her uncle"

actual /'æktʃwəl/

A2

presently existing in fact and not merely potential or possible

"the predicted temperature and the actual temperature were markedly different"

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"

ac /'eɪ'si/

B1

a radioactive element of the actinide series

"In the US most household current is AC at 60 cycles per second"

accordingly /ə'kɔrdɪŋli/

B1

(sentence connectors) because of the reason given

"consequently, he didn't do it"

adventure /əd'ventʃər/

B1

a wild and exciting undertaking (not necessarily lawful)

"When you buy these stocks you are gambling"

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"

alike /ə'laɪk/

B1

having the same or similar characteristics

"all politicians are alike"

alter /'ɔltər/

B1

cause to change

"The advent of the automobile may have altered the growth pattern of the city"

altogether /ˌɔltə'geðər/

B1

informal terms for nakedness

"in the raw"

apparent /ə'pɛrənt/

B1

clearly revealed to the mind or the senses or judgment

"the effects of the drought are apparent to anyone who sees the parched fields"

assault /ə'sɔlt/

B1

close fighting during the culmination of a military attack

"The mugger assaulted the woman"

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"

absurdity /əb'sɜrdəti/

B2

a message whose content is at variance with reason

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

abundance /ə'bʌndəns/

B2

the property of a more than adequate quantity or supply

"an age of abundance"

accidental /ˌæksə'dɪnəl/

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"

accountable /ə'kaʊntəbəl/

B2

liable to account for one's actions

"governments must be accountable to someone beside themselves"

acquaintance /ək'weɪntəns/

B2

personal knowledge or information about someone or something

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

administer /əd'mɪnɪstər/

B2

work in an administrative capacity

"administer a program"

admirable /'ædmərəbəl/

B2

deserving of the highest esteem or admiration

"an estimable young professor"

affection /ə'fekʃən/

B2

a positive feeling of liking

"he had trouble expressing the affection he felt"

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"

absolve /əb'zɔlv/

C1

grant remission of a sin to

"The priest absolved him and told him to say ten Hail Mary's"

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"

adjourn /ə'dʒɜːn/

C1

close at the end of a session

"The court adjourned"

affront /ə'frənt/

C1

a deliberately offensive act or something producing the effect of deliberate disrespect

"turning his back on me was a deliberate insult"

aggravate /'ægrə'veɪt/

C1

make worse

"This drug aggravates the pain"

C2 words (9)

abridge /ə'brɪdʒ/

C2

reduce in scope while retaining essential elements

"The manuscript must be shortened"

adventitious

C2

associated by chance and not an integral part

"poetry is something to which words are the accidental, not by any means the essential form"

aggrieve /ə'grɪv/

C2

infringe on the rights of

"his behavior grieves his mother"

aliquot

C2

an integer that is an exact divisor of some quantity

"4 is an aliquot part of 12"

arrant /'ærənt/

C2

without qualification

"an arrant fool"

begot /bi'gɒt/

C2

make children

"Abraham begot Isaac"

chasten /'tʃeɪsən/

C2

censure severely

"She chastised him for his insensitive remarks"

conduce

C2

be conducive to

"The use of computers in the classroom lead to better writing"

conformable

C2

quick to comply

"I have been to you a true and humble wife, at all times to your will conformable"

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

<https://readingcorner.uk/books/second-treatise-of-government/vocabulary>