

Spenser's The Faerie Queene, Book I — 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)

abandon /ə'bændən/

A2

the trait of lacking restraint or control

"she danced with abandon"

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"

academic /,æke'demɪk/

A2

an educator who works at a college or university

"the academic curriculum"

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"

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"

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"

abstract /'æb,strækt/

B1

a concept or idea not associated with any specific instance

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

accidentally /,æksə'denəli/

B1

without advance planning

"they met accidentally"

accomplish /ə'kʌmplɪʃ/

B1

put in effect

"carry out a task"

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"

adequate /'ædək,wet/

B1

having the requisite qualities or resources to meet a task

"she had adequate training"

adjust /ə'dʒʌst/

B1

alter or regulate so as to achieve accuracy or conform to a standard

"Adjust the clock, please"

adventure /əd'ventʃər/

B1

a wild and exciting undertaking (not necessarily lawful)

"When you buy these stocks you are gambling"

alarm /ə'lɑːm/

B1

fear resulting from the awareness of danger

"I was horrified at the thought of being late for my interview"

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"

accent /'æksənt/

B2

distinctive manner of oral expression

"he couldn't suppress his contemptuous accent"

accompaniment /ə'kɒmpənɪmənt/

B2

an event or situation that happens at the same time as or in connection with another

"a fine wine is a perfect complement to the dinner"

acquaintance /ək'weɪntəns/

B2

personal knowledge or information about someone or something

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

adamant /'ædəmənt/

B2

very hard native crystalline carbon valued as a gem

"he is adamant in his refusal to change his mind"

adaptation /,ædəp'teɪʃən/

B2

a written work (as a novel) that has been recast in a new form

"the play is an adaptation of a short novel"

adjective /'ædʒɪktɪv/

B2

a word that expresses an attribute of something

"adjectival syntax"

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"

ablative

C1

the case indicating the agent in passive sentences or the instrument or manner or place of the action described by the verb

"ablative material on a rocket cone"

absolve /əb'zɔːlv/

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"

acquit /ək'wɪt/

C1

pronounce not guilty of criminal charges

"The suspect was cleared of the murder charges"

advisement /əd'vaɪzmənt/

C1

careful consideration

"a little deliberation would have deterred them"

afflict /ə'flɪkt/

C1

cause great unhappiness for

"she was afflicted by the death of her parents"

C2 words (9)

aery

C2

the lofty nest of a bird of prey (such as a hawk or eagle)

"figures light and aeriform come unlooked for and melt away"

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"

anglicize /'æŋlɪ,saɪz/

C2

make English in appearance

"She anglicised her name after moving from Paris to London"

appall /ə'pɔːl/

C2

strike with disgust or revulsion

"The scandalous behavior of this married woman shocked her friends"

assoil

C2

pronounce not guilty of criminal charges

"The suspect was cleared of the murder charges"

astonied

C2

filled with the emotional impact of overwhelming surprise or shock

"an amazed audience gave the magician a standing ovation"

attaint

C2

bring shame or dishonor upon

"he dishonored his family by committing a serious crime"

avow /ə'vaʊ/

C2

to declare or affirm solemnly and formally as true

"Before God I swear I am innocent"

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

<https://readingcorner.uk/books/spenser-s-the-faerie-queene-book-i/vocabulary>