

# The Ballad of the White Horse — Key Vocabulary

by G. K. Chesterton

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)

**alive** /ə'laɪv/

A2

possessing life

*“the happiest person alive”*

**ancient** /'eɪntɪənt/

A2

a very old person

*“ancient history”*

**apart** /ə'pɑːt/

A2

remote and separate physically or socially

*“existed over the centuries as a world apart”*

**arise** /ə'raɪz/

A2

come into existence

*“A new religious movement originated in that country”*

**aside** /ə'saɪd/

A2

a line spoken by an actor to the audience but not intended for others on the stage

*“step aside”*

**ass** /æs/

A2

the fleshy part of the human body that you sit on

*“he deserves a good kick in the butt”*

**band** /bænd/

A2

an unofficial association of people or groups

*“the smart set goes there”*

**battle** /'bætəl/

A2

a hostile meeting of opposing military forces in the course of a war

*"Grant won a decisive victory in the battle of Chickamauga"*

**beat** /bit/

A2

a regular route for a sentry or policeman

*"in the old days a policeman walked a beat and knew all his people by name"*

**beauty** /'bjuti/

A2

the qualities that give pleasure to the senses

*"his roses were beauties"*

## **B1 words** (10)

**alarm** /ə'lɑ:m/

B1

fear resulting from the awareness of danger

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

**alter** /'ɔ:ltə/

B1

cause to change

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

**arch** /ɑ:tʃ/

B1

a curved shape in the vertical plane that spans an opening

*"they built a triumphal arch to memorialize their victory"*

**autumn** /'ɔ:təm/

B1

the season when the leaves fall from the trees

*"in the fall of 1973"*

**awake** /ə'weɪk/

B1

stop sleeping

*"She woke up to the sound of the alarm clock"*

**awful** /'ɔ:fəl/

B1

exceptionally bad or displeasing

*"atrocious taste"*

**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"*

**bade** /beɪd/

B1

a Chadic language spoken in northern Nigeria

*"The Swiss dealer offered \$2 million for the painting"*

**banner** /'bænər/

B1

long strip of cloth or paper used for decoration or advertising

*"a banner year for the company"*

**bare** /beɪ/

B1

lay bare

*"bare your breasts"*

## 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"*

**acclaim** /ə'kleɪm/

B2

enthusiastic approval

*"the book met with modest acclaim"*

**afar** /ə'fɑː/

B2

(old-fashioned) at or from or to a great distance

*"we traveled afar"*

**agony** /'æɡəni/

B2

intense feelings of suffering

*"an agony of doubt"*

**alien** /'eɪliən/

B2

a person who comes from a foreign country

*"The will alienated the property to the heirs"*

**aloft** /ə'lɒft/

B2

at or on or to the masthead or upper rigging of a ship

*"climbed aloft to unfurl the sail"*

**aloud** /ə'laʊd/

B2

using the voice

*"please read the passage aloud"*

**amazement** /ə'meɪzmənt/

B2

the feeling that accompanies something extremely surprising

*"he looked at me in astonishment"*

**ancestral** /æn'sɛstrəl/

B2

inherited or inheritable by established rules (usually legal rules) of descent

*"ancestral home"*

## C1 words (9)

**abhor** /æ'bhɔːr/

C1

find repugnant

*"I loathe that man"*

**aeon**

C1

(Gnosticism) a divine power or nature emanating from the Supreme Being and playing various roles in the operation of the universe

*"oh, that happened eons ago"*

**aflame** /ə'fleɪm/

C1

keenly excited (especially sexually) or indicating excitement

*"his face all ablaze with excitement"*

**afoot** /ə'fʊt/

C1

traveling by foot

*"she was afoot when I saw her this morning"*

**ajar** /ə'dʒɑːr/

C1

slightly open

*"the door was ajar"*

**aloof** /ə'lʊf/

C1

remote in manner

*"stood apart with aloof dignity"*

**awry** /ə'raɪ/

C1

turned or twisted toward one side

*"a...youth with a gorgeous red necktie all awry"*

**baptize** /bæp'taɪz/

C1

administer baptism to

*"The parents had the child baptized"*

**beardless**

C1

having no beard

*"a smooth-faced boy of 14 years"*

**C2 words** (9)

**amain**

C2

at full speed

*"the children ran down the hill amain"*

**armourer**

C2

a worker skilled in making armor or arms

*"a sword made by a famous English armorer"*

**athwart** /əθ'wɔ:t/

C2

at right angles to the center line of a ship

*"the sun shone aslant into his face"*

**begot** /bi'gɒt/

C2

make children

*"Abraham begot Isaac"*

**carven**

C2

made for or formed by carving (‘carven’ is archaic or literary)

*"the carved fretwork"*

**chaffer**

C2

wrangle (over a price, terms of an agreement, etc.)

*"Let's not haggle over a few dollars"*

**chid**

C2

censure severely or angrily

*"The mother scolded the child for entering a stranger's car"*

**clamorously**

C2

in manner that attracts attention

*"obstreperously, he demanded to get service"*

## doubtfully

C2

in a doubtful manner

*“Gerald shook his head doubtfully”*

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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/the-ballad-of-the-white-horse/vocabulary>