

The Blue Castle: a novel — Key Vocabulary

by L. M. Montgomery

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"

absolutely /,æbsə'lutli/

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"

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'waɪər/

A2

come into the possession of something concrete or abstract

"She got a lot of paintings from her uncle"

actor /'æktər/

A2

a theatrical performer

"he's a principal actor in this affair"

ad /æd/

A2

a public promotion of some product or service

"in AD 200"

admit /əd'mɪt/

A2

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

"He admitted his errors"

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"

adventure /əd'ventʃər/

B1

a wild and exciting undertaking (not necessarily lawful)

"When you buy these stocks you are gambling"

alarm /ə'lɑ:m/

B1

fear resulting from the awareness of danger

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

alert /ə'lɜ:t/

B1

condition of heightened watchfulness or preparation for action

"bombers were put on alert during the crisis"

ally /'ælaɪ/

B1

a friendly nation

"he's a good ally in fight"

alter /'ɔltər/

B1

cause to change

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

altogether /,ɔltə'gɛðər/

B1

informal terms for nakedness

"in the raw"

ambassador /æm'bæsədər/
a diplomat of the highest rank
"an ambassador of good will"

B1

anger /'æŋgər/
a strong emotion
"The news angered him"

B1

B2 words (10)

abject /'æbdʒekt/
of the most contemptible kind
"abject cowardice"

B2

abomination /ə,bamə'neɪʃən/
a person who is loathsome or disgusting
"his treatment of the children is an abomination"

B2

abrupt /ə'brʌpt/
marked by sudden changes in subject and sharp transitions
"abrupt prose"

B2

absent /'æbsənt/
go away or leave
"He absented himself"

B2

absorb /əb'zɔrb/
become imbued
"The liquids, light, and gases absorb"

B2

absurd /əb'sɜrd/
a situation in which life seems irrational and meaningless
"The absurd is the essential concept and the first truth"

B2

absurdity /əb'sɜrdəti/
a message whose content is at variance with reason
"the crowd laughed at the absurdity of the clown's behavior"

B2

abundance /ə'bʌndəns/
the property of a more than adequate quantity or supply
"an age of abundance"

B2

ache /eɪk/

B2

a dull persistent (usually moderately intense) pain

"Were you hurting after the accident?"

administer /əd'mɪnɪstər/

B2

work in an administrative capacity

"administer a program"

C1 words (9)

abominable /ə'bəməneɪbəl/

C1

unequivocally detestable

"abominable treatment of prisoners"

absurdly /əb'sɜːdli/

C1

in an absurd manner or to an absurd degree

"an absurdly rich young woman"

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"

admiringly /əd'maɪrɪŋli/

C1

with admiration

"he looked at his wife admiringly"

admonition /,ædmə'nɪʃən/

C1

cautionary advice about something imminent (especially imminent danger or other unpleasantness)

"a letter of admonition about the dangers of immorality"

aforsaid /ə'fɔːsɪd/

C1

being the one previously mentioned or spoken of

"works of all the aforementioned authors"

afterglow /'æftər,gləʊ/

C1

a glow sometimes seen in the sky after sunset

"he basked in the afterglow of his victory"

ageless /'eɪdʒləs/

C1

continuing forever or indefinitely

"the ageless themes of love and revenge"

C2 words (9)

abominably

C2

in an offensive and hateful manner

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

absently

C2

in an absentminded or preoccupied manner

"he read the letter absently"

accusingly /ə'kjuzɪŋli/

C2

in an accusing manner

"he looked at her accusingly"

agleam /ə'glim/

C2

bright with a steady but subdued shining

"from the plane we saw the city below agleam with lights"

airily

C2

in a flippant manner

"he answered the reporters' questions flippantly"

ambrosial /æm'brɒʒiəl/

C2

extremely pleasing to the taste

"a nectarous drink"

appal

C2

strike with disgust or revulsion

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

asperity /ə'spɛrɪti/

C2

something hard to endure

"the asperity of northern winters"

athwart /əθ'wɔːt/

C2

at right angles to the center line of a ship

"the sun shone aslant into his face"

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

<https://readingcorner.uk/books/the-blue-castle-a-novel/vocabulary>