

# The Hound of the Baskervilles — Key Vocabulary

by Arthur Conan Doyle

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)

**abandon** /ə'bændən/

A2

the trait of lacking restraint or control

*“she danced with abandon”*

**absence** /'æbsəns/

A2

the state of being absent

*“he was surprised by the absence of any explanation”*

**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”*

**accompany** /ə'kæmpəni/

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”*

**active** /'æktiv/

A2

chemical agent capable of activity

*"The boy threw the ball' uses the active voice"*

**additional** /ə'dɪʃənəl/

A2

further or added

*"called for additional troops"*

**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"*

**accomplish** /ə'kʌmplɪʃ/

B1

put in effect

*"carry out a task"*

**accordance** /ə'kɔrdəns/

B1

concurrence of opinion

*"we are in accord with your proposal"*

**accurate** /'ækjərət/

B1

conforming exactly or almost exactly to fact or to a standard or performing with total accuracy

*"an accurate reproduction"*

**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'lɜrt/

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** /'ɔltə/

B1

cause to change

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

## B2 words (10)

**abode** /ə'boʊd/

B2

any address at which you dwell more than temporarily

*"a person can have several residences"*

**absent** /'æbsənt/

B2

go away or leave

*"He absented himself"*

**absorb** /əb'zɔrb/

B2

become imbued

*"The liquids, light, and gases absorb"*

**absurd** /əb'sɜrd/

B2

a situation in which life seems irrational and meaningless

*"The absurd is the essential concept and the first truth"*

**accent** /'æksənt/

B2

distinctive manner of oral expression

*"he couldn't suppress his contemptuous accent"*

**accessory** /æk'sesəri/

B2

clothing that is worn or carried, but not part of your main clothing

*"he was charged with being accessory to the crime"*

**accidental** /,æksə'denəl/

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"*

**accurately** /'ækjərətli/

with few mistakes

*"he works very accurately"*

B2

**acquaintance** /ək'weɪntəns/

personal knowledge or information about someone or something

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

B2

**acute** /ə'kjut/

a mark (') placed above a vowel to indicate pronunciation

*"acute appendicitis"*

B2

## C1 words (9)

**aback** /ə'bæk/

having the wind against the forward side of the sails

*"the ship came up into the wind with all yards aback"*

C1

**abhor** /æ'bhɔːr/

find repugnant

*"I loathe that man"*

C1

**abortive** /ə'bɔːtɪv/

failing to accomplish an intended result

*"an abortive revolt"*

C1

**abreast** /ə'brɛst/

being up to particular standard or level especially in being up to date in knowledge

*"kept abreast of the latest developments"*

C1

**accustom** /ə'kʌstəm/

make psychologically or physically used (to something)

*"She became habituated to the background music"*

C1

**acrid** /'ækrɪd/

strong and sharp

*"the pungent taste of radishes"*

C1

**afoot** /ə'fʊt/

traveling by foot

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

C1

**afterthought** /'æftər,θɒt/

C1

thinking again about a choice previously made

*"he had second thoughts about his purchase"*

**agape** /ə'geɪp/

C1

(Christian theology) the love of God or Christ for mankind

*"the gaping audience"*

## C2 words (9)

**advisability** /,ædˌvaɪzə'bɪlɪti/

C2

the quality of being advisable

*"they questioned the advisability of our policy"*

**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"*

**bewail**

C2

regret strongly

*"I deplore this hostile action"*

**bewilder** /bɪ'wɪldər/

C2

be a mystery or bewildering to

*"This beats me!"*

**bleaker** /'blikər/

C2

offering little or no hope

*"the future looked black"*

**brusquely** /'brɛskli/

C2

in a blunt direct manner

*"he spoke bluntly"*

**carouse** /kə'raʊz/

C2

revelry in drinking

*"They were out carousing last night"*

**chimerical** /kɪ'mɛrəkəl/

C2

being or relating to or like a chimera

*“his Utopia is not as chimeric commonwealth but a practical improvement on what already exists”*

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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-hound-of-the-baskervilles/vocabulary>