

# The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, Or Gustavus Vassa, The African / Written By Himself — Key Vocabulary

by Olaudah Equiano

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/

the trait of lacking restraint or control

*"she danced with abandon"*

A2

**abroad** /ə'brɔ:d/

in a foreign country

*"markets abroad"*

A2

**absence** /'æbsəns/

the state of being absent

*"he was surprised by the absence of any explanation"*

A2

**abuse** /ə'bjuz/

cruel or inhumane treatment

*"the child showed signs of physical abuse"*

A2

**accident** /'æksədənt/

an unfortunate mishap

*"winning the lottery was a happy accident"*

A2

**accommodation** /ə,kamə'deɪʃən/

making or becoming suitable

*"they reached an accommodation with Japan"*

A2

**accompany** /ə'kʌmpəni/

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'waɪər/

A2

come into the possession of something concrete or abstract

*"She got a lot of paintings from her uncle"*

## **B1 words** (10)

**aboard** /ə'bɔːrd/

B1

on a ship, train, plane or other vehicle

*"Their second homer with Bob Allison aboard"*

**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"*

**accept** /ək'sept/

B1

consider or hold as true

*"I cannot accept the dogma of this church"*

**accommodate** /ə'kʌmə,deɪt/

B1

be agreeable or acceptable to

*"This suits my needs"*

**accomplish** /ə'kʌmplɪʃ/

B1

put in effect

*"carry out a task"*

**accordingly** /ə'kɔːdɪŋli/

B1

(sentence connectors) because of the reason given

*"consequently, he didn't do it"*

**activity** /æk'tɪvɪti/

B1

any specific behavior

*"they avoided all recreational activity"*

**address** /'æ,dres/

B1

(computer science) the code that identifies where a piece of information is stored

*"he listened to an address on minor Roman poets"*

**adoption** /ə'dɒpʃən/

B1

the act of accepting with approval

*"its adoption by society"*

**advantage** /æd'væntɪdʒ/

B1

the quality of having a superior or more favorable position

*"the experience gave him the advantage over me"*

## B2 words (10)

**abolish** /ə'bɒlɪʃ/

B2

do away with

*"Slavery was abolished in the mid-19th century in America and in Russia"*

**abolition** /,æbə'ɪʃən/

B2

the act of abolishing a system or practice or institution (especially abolishing slavery)

*"the abolition of capital punishment"*

**abound** /ə'baʊnd/

B2

be abundant or plentiful

*"The room abounded with screaming children"*

**Abraham** /'eɪbrə,hæm/

B2

the first of the Old Testament patriarchs and the father of Isaac; according to Genesis, God promised to give Abraham's family (the Hebrews) the land of Canaan (the Promised Land); God tested Abraham by asking him to sacrifice his son

*"Judaism, Christianity, and Islam each has a special claim on Abraham"*

**absent** /'æbsənt/

B2

go away or leave

*"He absented himself"*

**abundance** /ə'bʌndəns/

B2

the property of a more than adequate quantity or supply

*"an age of abundance"*

**accord** /ə'kɔːrd/

B2

harmony of people's opinions or actions or characters

*"the two parties were in agreement"*

**accusation** /,ækjə'zeɪʃən/

B2

a formal charge of wrongdoing brought against a person

*"the newspaper published charges that Jones was guilty of drunken driving"*

**ache** /eɪk/

B2

a dull persistent (usually moderately intense) pain

*"Were you hurting after the accident?"*

**acknowledgment** /æk'nɒlɪdʒmənt/

B2

the state or quality of being recognized or acknowledged

*"the partners were delighted with the recognition of their work"*

## C1 words (9)

**abate** /ə'beɪt/

C1

make less active or intense

*"The storm abated"*

**ably** /'eɪbli/

C1

with competence

*"they worked competently"*

**aborigine** /,æbərɪdʒəni/

C1

an indigenous person who was born in a particular place

*"the art of the natives of the northwest coast"*

**abortive** /ə'bɔːtɪv/

C1

failing to accomplish an intended result

*"an abortive revolt"*

**abreast** /ə'breɪst/

C1

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

*"kept abreast of the latest developments"*

**acclamation** /,æklə'meɪʃən/

C1

enthusiastic approval

*"the book met with modest acclaim"*

**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"*

## C2 words (9)

**abridge** /ə'brɪdʒ/

C2

reduce in scope while retaining essential elements

*"The manuscript must be shortened"*

**accost** /ə'kɒst/

C2

speak to someone

*"he was solicited by a prostitute"*

**adjoin** /ə'dʒɔɪn/

C2

lie adjacent to another or share a boundary

*"Canada adjoins the U.S."*

**basely**

C2

in a despicable, ignoble manner

*"this new leader meanly threatens the deepest values of our society"*

**benumb**

C2

make numb or insensitive

*"The shock numbed her senses"*

**besought**

C2

ask for or request earnestly

*"The prophet bid all people to become good persons"*

**cheerless**

C2

causing sad feelings of gloom and inadequacy

*"the economic outlook is depressing"*

**commodious** /kə'mɒdiəs/

C2

large and roomy ('convenient' is archaic in this sense)

*"a commodious harbor"*

**conformable**

C2

quick to comply

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

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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-interesting-narrative-of-the-life-of-olaudah-equiano/vocabulary>