

The King in Yellow — Key Vocabulary

by Robert W. Chambers

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'brɔd/

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”

academic /,ækə'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"

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"

accidentally /,æksə'dɛnəli/

B1

without advance planning

"they met accidentally"

accomplish /ə'kʌmplɪʃ/

B1

put in effect

"carry out a task"

adjust /ə'dʒʌst/

B1

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

"Adjust the clock, please"

alarm /ə'lɑ:m/

B1

fear resulting from the awareness of danger

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

alcohol /'ælkə,hɒl/

B1

a liquor or brew containing alcohol as the active agent

"alcohol (or drink) ruined him"

alert /ə'lɜ:t/

B1

condition of heightened watchfulness or preparation for action

"bombers were put on alert during the crisis"

allege /ə'leɪdʒ/

B1

report or maintain

"He alleged that he was the victim of a crime"

amateur /'æmə,tʃər/

B1

someone who pursues a study or sport as a pastime

"an amateur painter"

anchor /'æŋkər/

B1

a mechanical device that prevents a vessel from moving

"faith is his anchor"

B2 words (10)

abode /ə'boʊd/

B2

any address at which you dwell more than temporarily

"a person can have several residences"

abruptly /ə'brʌptli/

B2

quickly and without warning

"he stopped suddenly"

absent /'æbsənt/

B2

go away or leave

"He absented himself"

absorb /əb'zɔrb/

B2

become imbued

"The liquids, light, and gases absorb"

abstraction /æb'strækʃən/

B2

a concept or idea not associated with any specific instance

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

absurd /əb'sɜrd/

B2

a situation in which life seems irrational and meaningless

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

accent /'æk,sɛnt/

B2

distinctive manner of oral expression

"he couldn't suppress his contemptuous accent"

accompaniment /ə'kɒmpnɪmənt/

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"

acknowledgment /æk'nɒlɪdʒmənt/

B2

the state or quality of being recognized or acknowledged

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

acquaintance /ək'weɪntəns/

B2

personal knowledge or information about someone or something

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

C1 words (9)

abate /ə'beɪt/

C1

make less active or intense

"The storm abated"

ablaze /ə'bleɪz/

C1

keenly excited (especially sexually) or indicating excitement

"his face all ablaze with excitement"

accustom /ə'kʌstəm/

C1

make psychologically or physically used (to something)

"She became habituated to the background music"

acquiesce /,ækwi'ɛs/

C1

to agree or express agreement

"The Maestro assented to the request for an encore"

adieu /ə'du/

C1

a farewell remark

"they said their good-byes"

admonition /,ædmə'nɪʃən/

C1

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

"a letter of admonition about the dangers of immorality"

adorably

C1

in an adorable manner

"the toddler behaved adorably"

affix /'æfɪks/

C1

a linguistic element added to a word to produce an inflected or derived form

"affix the seal here"

aggravate /'ægrə'veɪt/

make worse

"This drug aggravates the pain"

C1

C2 words (9)

absently

in an absentminded or preoccupied manner

"he read the letter absently"

C2

advisability /,æd'vaɪzə'bɪlɪti/

the quality of being advisable

"they questioned the advisability of our policy"

C2

armourer

a worker skilled in making armor or arms

"a sword made by a famous English armorer"

C2

athirst

(usually followed by 'for') extremely desirous

"athirst for knowledge"

C2

benumb

make numb or insensitive

"The shock numbed her senses"

C2

bewilder /bɪ'wɪldər/

be a mystery or bewildering to

"This beats me!"

C2

complacently /kəm'pleɪsəntli/

in a self-satisfied manner

"he complacently lived out his life as a village school teacher"

C2

convalesce /,kɒnvə'les/

get over an illness or shock

"The patient is recuperating"

C2

convulse

make someone convulse with laughter

"The comedian convulsed the crowd"

C2

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

<https://readingcorner.uk/books/the-king-in-yellow/vocabulary>