

The Life and Adventures of Robinson Crusoe — Key Vocabulary

by Daniel Defoe

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”

absence /'æbsəns/

A2

the state of being absent

“he was surprised by the absence of any explanation”

absolutely /,æbsə'lʊtli/

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”

accommodation /ə,kəmə'deɪʃən/

A2

making or becoming suitable

“they reached an accommodation with Japan”

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"

ad /æd/

A2

a public promotion of some product or service

"in AD 200"

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"

accept /ək'sept/

B1

consider or hold as true

"I cannot accept the dogma of this church"

acceptable /ək'septəbəl/

B1

worthy of acceptance or satisfactory

"acceptable levels of radiation"

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"

adapt /ə'dæpt/

B1

make fit for, or change to suit a new purpose

"Adapt our native cuisine to the available food resources of the new country"

advance /əd'væns/

B1

a movement forward

"he listened for the progress of the troops"

advantage /æd'væntɪdʒ/

B1

the quality of having a superior or more favorable position

"the experience gave him the advantage over me"

adventure /əd'ventʃər/

B1

a wild and exciting undertaking (not necessarily lawful)

"When you buy these stocks you are gambling"

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"

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'bʊndəns/

B2

the property of a more than adequate quantity or supply

"an age of abundance"

abundant /ə'bʊndənt/

B2

present in great quantity

"an abundant supply of water"

abundantly /ə'bʊndəntli/

B2

in an abundant manner

"they were abundantly supplied with food"

accidental /ˌæksəˈdɛnəl/

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"

accord /əˈkɔːrd/

B2

harmony of people's opinions or actions or characters

"the two parties were in agreement"

acknowledgment /ækˈnɒlɪdʒmənt/

B2

the state or quality of being recognized or acknowledged

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

C1 words (9)

abate /əˈbeɪt/

C1

make less active or intense

"The storm abated"

abatement /əˈbeɪtmənt/

C1

an interruption in the intensity or amount of something

"laws enforcing noise abatement"

abhor /æˈbɒr/

C1

find repugnant

"I loathe that man"

abominable /əˈbɒmənəbəl/

C1

unequivocally detestable

"abominable treatment of prisoners"

abortive /əˈbɔːtɪv/

C1

failing to accomplish an intended result

"an abortive revolt"

accustom /əˈkæstəm/

C1

make psychologically or physically used (to something)

"She became habituated to the background music"

acquaint /əkˈweɪnt/

C1

cause to come to know personally

"permit me to acquaint you with my son"

acquiesce /,ækwi'ɛs/

C1

to agree or express agreement

"The Maestro assented to the request for an encore"

actuate /'æ,ktʃu'eɪt/

C1

put in motion or move to act

"trigger a reaction"

C2 words (9)

adjoin /ə'dʒɔɪn/

C2

lie adjacent to another or share a boundary

"Canada adjoins the U.S."

affright

C2

an overwhelming feeling of fear and anxiety

"The stranger who hangs around the building frightens me"

allurement

C2

attractiveness

"its allurements were its remoteness"

apt

C2

(usually followed by 'to') naturally disposed toward

"he is apt to ignore matters he considers unimportant"

articulately

C2

with eloquence

"he expressed his ideas eloquently"

athwart /əθ'wɔ:t/

C2

at right angles to the center line of a ship

"the sun shone aslant into his face"

bagful /'bæg,fʊl/

C2

the quantity that a bag will hold

"he ate a large bag of popcorn"

barbarously

C2

in a barbarous manner

"they were barbarously murdered"

benumb

C2

make numb or insensitive

"The shock numbed her senses"

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

<https://readingcorner.uk/books/the-life-and-adventures-of-robinson-crusoe/vocabulary>