

The Metamorphosis — Key Vocabulary

by Franz Kafka

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"

absolutely /,æbsə'lutli/

A2

completely and without qualification

"an absolutely magnificent painting"

accuse /ə'kjuz/

A2

bring an accusation against

"The neighbors accused the man of spousal abuse"

acquire /ək'waɪə/

A2

come into the possession of something concrete or abstract

"She got a lot of paintings from her uncle"

admit /əd'mɪt/

A2

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

"He admitted his errors"

advise /əd'vaɪz/

A2

give advice to

"The teacher counsels troubled students"

affair /ə'feɪ/

A2

a vaguely specified concern

"several matters to attend to"

afraid /ə'freɪd/

A2

filled with fear or apprehension

"afraid even to turn his head"

amazed /ə'meɪzd/

A2

affect with wonder

"Your ability to speak six languages amazes me!"

ancient /'eɪntɪənt/

A2

a very old person

"ancient history"

B1 words (10)

acceptance /ək'septəns/

B1

the mental attitude that something is believable and should be accepted as true

"he gave credence to the gossip"

alarm /ə'lɑːm/

B1

fear resulting from the awareness of danger

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

alert /ə'lɜːt/

B1

condition of heightened watchfulness or preparation for action

"bombers were put on alert during the crisis"

alright /ɔː'lraɪt/

B1

nonstandard usage

"it's expensive all right"

altogether /ɔːltə'geðə/

B1

informal terms for nakedness

"in the raw"

anger /'æŋgə/

B1

a strong emotion

"The news angered him"

angle /'æŋɡəl/

B1

the space between two lines or planes that intersect

"he angled his way into the room"

announcement /ə'naʊnsmənt/

B1

a formal public statement

"the government made an announcement about changes in the drug war"

anxious /'æŋʃəs/

B1

eagerly desirous

"anxious to see the new show at the museum"

appreciation /əˌprɪʃi'eɪʃən/

B1

understanding of the nature or meaning or quality or magnitude of something

"he has a good grasp of accounting practices"

B2 words (10)

abruptly /ə'brʌptli/

B2

quickly and without warning

"he stopped suddenly"

accumulate /ə'kjʊmjəˌleɪt/

B2

get or gather together

"I am accumulating evidence for the man's unfaithfulness to his wife"

accurately /'ækjərətli/

B2

with few mistakes

"he works very accurately"

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?"

adjoining /ə'dʒɔɪnɪŋ/

B2

lie adjacent to another or share a boundary

"Canada adjoins the U.S."

affection /ə'fekʃən/

B2

a positive feeling of liking

"he had trouble expressing the affection he felt"

afterwards /'æftərwərdz/

B2

happening at a time subsequent to a reference time

"he apologized subsequently"

agitated /'ædʒə,teɪtəd/

B2

try to stir up public opinion

"The speaker charged up the crowd with his inflammatory remarks"

amazement /ə'meɪzmənt/

B2

the feeling that accompanies something extremely surprising

"he looked at me in astonishment"

C1 words (9)

aggrieved /ə'grɪvd/

C1

infringe on the rights of

"his behavior grieves his mother"

assail /ə'seɪl/

C1

attack someone physically or emotionally

"The mugger assaulted the woman"

astonish /ə'stənɪʃ/

C1

affect with wonder

"Your ability to speak six languages amazes me!"

bombard /bəm'bɑːd/

C1

a large shawm

"They pelted each other with snowballs"

burdensome /'bɜːdənsəm/

C1

not easily borne

"the burdensome task of preparing the income tax return"

bushy /'bʊʃi/

C1

used of hair

"bushy locks"

calmness /'kɑːmnəs/

C1

steadiness of mind under stress

"he accepted their problems with composure and she with equanimity"

captivate /'kæptɪ,veɪt/

C1

attract

"She captured all the men's hearts"

carelessly /ˈkɛrɪəslɪ/

C1

without care or concern

“carelessly raised the children's hopes without thinking of their possible disappointment”

C2 words (9)

charwoman /ˈtʃɑrwʊmən/

C2

a human female employed to do housework

“the char will clean the carpet”

deepness

C2

the intellectual ability to penetrate deeply into ideas

“the profundity of the mine was almost a mile”

denude /dɪˈnuːd/

C2

lay bare

“denude a forest”

derange /dɪˈreɪndʒ/

C2

derange mentally, throw out of mental balance

“The death of his parents unbalanced him”

disconcert /ˌdɪskənˈsɜːt/

C2

cause to feel embarrassment

“The constant attention of the young man confused her”

dishevel /dɪˈʃeɪvəl/

C2

disarrange or rumple

“The strong wind tousled my hair”

dully

C2

without liveliness

“she nodded her head dully”

engross /ɪnˈɡrəʊs/

C2

devote (oneself) fully to

“He immersed himself into his studies”

enquiringly

C2

in an inquiring manner

“Tom Swift looked at his cabin mates inquiringly”

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

<https://readingcorner.uk/books/the-metamorphosis/vocabulary>