

The Prince — Key Vocabulary

by Niccolò Machiavelli

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”

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”

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”

actor /'æktər/

A2

a theatrical performer

"he's a principal actor in this affair"

ad /æd/

A2

a public promotion of some product or service

"in AD 200"

B1 words (10)

absolute /'æbsə,lut/

B1

something that is conceived or that exists independently and not in relation to other things

"no mortal being can influence the absolute"

acceptable /ək'septəbəl/

B1

worthy of acceptance or satisfactory

"acceptable levels of radiation"

accommodate /ə'kamə,det/

B1

be agreeable or acceptable to

"This suits my needs"

accomplish /ə'kʌmplɪʃ/

B1

put in effect

"carry out a task"

accordingly /ə'kɔrdɪŋli/

B1

(sentence connectors) because of the reason given

"consequently, he didn't do it"

acquisition /,ækwə'zɪʃən/

B1

the act of contracting or assuming or acquiring possession of something

"the acquisition of wealth"

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"

adventure /əd'ventʃər/

B1

a wild and exciting undertaking (not necessarily lawful)

"When you buy these stocks you are gambling"

adviser /æd'vaɪzər/

B1

an expert who gives advice

"an adviser helped students select their courses"

advocate /'ædvə,keɪt/

B1

a person who pleads for a cause or propounds an idea

"The travel agent recommended strongly that we not travel on Thanksgiving Day"

B2 words (10)

abandonment /ə'bændənmənt/

B2

the act of giving something up

"his abandonment of his wife and children left them penniless"

abide /ə'baɪd/

B2

dwell

"You can stay with me while you are in town"

abject /'æbdʒekt/

B2

of the most contemptible kind

"abject cowardice"

abolish /ə'bɒlɪʃ/

B2

do away with

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

absent /'æbsənt/

B2

go away or leave

"He absented himself"

absorb /əb'zɔːrb/

B2

become imbued

"The liquids, light, and gases absorb"

abstain /əb'steɪn/

B2

refrain from voting

"I abstain from alcohol"

abundance /ə'bʌndəns/

B2

the property of a more than adequate quantity or supply

"an age of abundance"

accession /ək'seɪʃən/

B2

a process of increasing by addition (as to a collection or group)

"the art collection grew through accession"

acclaim /ə'kleɪm/

B2

enthusiastic approval

"the book met with modest acclaim"

C1 words (9)

abate /ə'beɪt/

C1

make less active or intense

"The storm abated"

abortive /ə'bɔːtɪv/

C1

failing to accomplish an intended result

"an abortive revolt"

abreast /ə'brɛst/

C1

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

"kept abreast of the latest developments"

accredit /ə'krɛdɪt/

C1

grant credentials to

"The Regents officially recognized the new educational institution"

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"

admirably /'ædmərəbli/

C1

in an admirable manner

"the children's responses were admirably normal"

admonish /æd'manɪʃ/

C1

admonish or counsel in terms of someone's behavior

"I warned him not to go too far"

adroitly /ə'drɔɪtli/

with adroitness

"he handled the situation adroitly"

C1

C2 words (9)

acuteness /ə'kjʊtnəs/

a sensitivity that is keen and highly developed

"dogs have a remarkable acuteness of smell"

C2

aggrieve /ə'grɪv/

infringe on the rights of

"his behavior grieves his mother"

C2

allurement

attractiveness

"its allurement was its remoteness"

C2

arbitrament

the act of deciding as an arbiter

"they submitted their disagreement to arbitration"

C2

asperity /ə'spɛrɪti/

something hard to endure

"the asperity of northern winters"

C2

becomingly

in a becoming manner

"she was becomingly dressed"

C2

behave

be appropriate or necessary

"It behooves us to reflect on this matter"

C2

benignant

pleasant and beneficial in nature or influence

"a benign smile"

C2

changeful

such that alteration is possible

"changeable behavior"

C2

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

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