

The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde — Key Vocabulary

by Robert Louis Stevenson

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)

absence /'æbsəns/

A2

the state of being absent

“he was surprised by the absence of any explanation”

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”

active /'æktɪv/

A2

chemical agent capable of activity

“The boy threw the ball' uses the active voice”

actual /'æktʃwəl/

A2

presently existing in fact and not merely potential or possible

“the predicted temperature and the actual temperature were markedly different”

admit /əd'mɪt/

A2

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

“He admitted his errors”

advertise /'ædvərˌtaɪz/

A2

call attention to

“Please don't advertise the fact that he has AIDS”

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"

afford /ə'fɔːd/

A2

be able to spare or give up

"I can't afford to spend two hours with this person"

B1 words (10)

accordingly /ə'kɔːrdɪŋli/

B1

(sentence connectors) because of the reason given

"consequently, he didn't do it"

adventure /əd'ventʃər/

B1

a wild and exciting undertaking (not necessarily lawful)

"When you buy these stocks you are gambling"

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"

alongside /ə'lɒŋ'saɪd/

B1

side by side

"anchored close aboard another ship"

alter /'ɔːltər/

B1

cause to change

"The advent of the automobile may have altered the growth pattern of the city"

altogether /ˌɔːltə'geðər/

B1

informal terms for nakedness

"in the raw"

anger /'æŋgə/

B1

a strong emotion

"The news angered him"

apparent /ə'pɛrənt/

B1

clearly revealed to the mind or the senses or judgment

"the effects of the drought are apparent to anyone who sees the parched fields"

arrival /ə'raɪvəl/

B1

accomplishment of an objective

"they awaited her arrival"

B2 words (10)

abject /'æbdʒɛkt/

B2

of the most contemptible kind

"abject cowardice"

abnormal /æb'nɔːmə/

B2

not normal

"abnormal powers of concentration"

abruptly /ə'brʌptli/

B2

quickly and without warning

"he stopped suddenly"

absent /'æbsənt/

B2

go away or leave

"He absented himself"

accent /'æk,sɛnt/

B2

distinctive manner of oral expression

"he couldn't suppress his contemptuous accent"

acid /'æsəd/

B2

any of various water-soluble compounds having a sour taste and capable of turning litmus red and reacting with a base to form a salt

"an acerbic tone piercing otherwise flowery prose"

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"

affection /ə'fekʃən/

B2

a positive feeling of liking

"he had trouble expressing the affection he felt"

affirmative /ə'fərmətɪv/

B2

a reply of affirmation

"he answered in the affirmative"

C1 words (9)

abominable /ə'bəməneɪbəl/

C1

unequivocally detestable

"abominable treatment of prisoners"

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"

accustom /ə'kʌstəm/

C1

make psychologically or physically used (to something)

"She became habituated to the background music"

acquiescence /,ækwi'ɛsəns/

C1

acceptance without protest

"he gave his assent eagerly"

admittance /əd'mɪtəns/

C1

the right to enter

"the surgery was performed on his second admission to the clinic"

afresh /ə'frɛʃ/

C1

again but in a new or different way

"start afresh"

alleviation /ə,lɪvɪ'eɪʃən/

C1

the feeling that comes when something burdensome is removed or reduced

"as he heard the news he was suddenly flooded with relief"

amiss /ə'mɪs/

C1

not functioning properly

"something is amiss"

amorphous /ə'mɔːfəs/

C1

having no definite form or distinct shape

"amorphous clouds of insects"

C2 words (9)

abjection

C2

a low or downcast state

"each confession brought her into an attitude of abasement"

accost /ə'kɒst/

C2

speak to someone

"he was solicited by a prostitute"

acuteness /ə'kjʊtnəs/

C2

a sensitivity that is keen and highly developed

"dogs have a remarkable acuteness of smell"

appal

C2

strike with disgust or revulsion

"The scandalous behavior of this married woman shocked her friends"

aptness

C2

a disposition to behave in a certain way

"the aptness of iron to rust"

avow /ə'vaʊ/

C2

to declare or affirm solemnly and formally as true

"Before God I swear I am innocent"

blackguardly

C2

lacking principles or scruples

"the rascally rabble"

causeless

C2

having no justifying cause or reason

"a senseless, causeless murder"

chirruping

make high-pitched sounds

“the birds were chirping in the bushes”

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

<https://readingcorner.uk/books/the-strange-case-of-dr-jekyll-and-mr-hyde/vocabulary>