

The Wonderful Wizard of Oz — Key Vocabulary

by L. Frank Baum

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)

accident /'æksədənt/

A2

an unfortunate mishap

“winning the lottery was a happy accident”

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”

afford /ə'fɔːd/

A2

be able to spare or give up

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

afraid /ə'freɪd/

A2

filled with fear or apprehension

“afraid even to turn his head”

alive /ə'laɪv/

A2

possessing life

“the happiest person alive”

angrier /'æŋgriə/

A2

feeling or showing anger

“angry at the weather”

angry /'æŋɡri/

A2

feeling or showing anger

"angry at the weather"

announce /ə'naʊns/

A2

make known

"She denoted her feelings clearly"

anywhere /'eni,wɛr/

A2

at or in or to any place

"you can find this food anywhere"

B1 words (10)

adventure /əd'ventʃər/

B1

a wild and exciting undertaking (not necessarily lawful)

"When you buy these stocks you are gambling"

alarm /ə'lɑ:m/

B1

fear resulting from the awareness of danger

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

altogether /,ɔltə'ɡeðər/

B1

informal terms for nakedness

"in the raw"

anger /'æŋɡər/

B1

a strong emotion

"The news angered him"

anxious /'æŋʃəs/

B1

eagerly desirous

"anxious to see the new show at the museum"

arch /ɑ:tʃ/

B1

a curved shape in the vertical plane that spans an opening

"they built a triumphal arch to memorialize their victory"

asleep /əs'li:p/

B1

in a state of sleep

"were all asleep when the phone rang"

assistance /ə'sɪstəns/

B1

the activity of contributing to the fulfillment of a need or furtherance of an effort or purpose

"he gave me an assist with the housework"

awake /ə'weɪk/

B1

stop sleeping

"She woke up to the sound of the alarm clock"

awful /'ɔːfəl/

B1

exceptionally bad or displeasing

"atrocious taste"

B2 words (10)

abound /ə'baʊnd/

B2

be abundant or plentiful

"The room abounded with screaming children"

abundance /ə'bʌndəns/

B2

the property of a more than adequate quantity or supply

"an age of abundance"

ache /eɪk/

B2

a dull persistent (usually moderately intense) pain

"Were you hurting after the accident?"

afterward /'æftərwɜːd/

B2

happening at a time subsequent to a reference time

"he apologized subsequently"

afterwards /'æftərwɜːdz/

B2

happening at a time subsequent to a reference time

"he apologized subsequently"

alae /ə'læz/

B2

a flat wing-shaped process or winglike part of an organism

"the alae of the nose"

amazement /ə'meɪzmənt/

B2

the feeling that accompanies something extremely surprising

"he looked at me in astonishment"

amuse /əm'juːz/

B2

occupy in an agreeable, entertaining or pleasant fashion

"The play amused the ladies"

angrily /'æŋgrəli/

B2

with anger

"he angrily denied the accusation"

anxiously /'æŋkʃəsli/

B2

with anxiety or apprehension

"we watched anxiously"

C1 words (9)

afresh /ə'frɛʃ/

C1

again but in a new or different way

"start afresh"

airtight /'ɛr,tʰaɪt/

C1

having no weak points

"an airtight defense"

armless

C1

having no arms

"the armless Venus de Milo"

arouse /ə'raʊz/

C1

call forth (emotions, feelings, and responses)

"arouse pity"

assemblage /ə'sɛmblɪdʒ/

C1

a group of persons together in one place

"they demanded the right of assembly"

astonish /ə'stʌnɪʃ/

C1

affect with wonder

"Your ability to speak six languages amazes me!"

beckon /'bɛkən/

C1

signal with the hands or nod

"She waved to her friends"

bestow /bɪ'stəʊ/

C1

present

"The university conferred a degree on its most famous former student, who never graduated"

boisterous /'bɔɪstərəs/

C1

noisy and lacking in restraint or discipline

"a boisterous crowd"

C2 words (9)

assort /ə'sɔrt/

C2

keep company with

"He associates with strange people"

despairingly

C2

with desperation

"`Why can't you understand?,' she asked despairingly"

gruffly /'grʌfli/

C2

in a gruff manner

"`No,' he replied gruffly"

queerly

C2

in a strange manner

"a queerly inscribed sheet of paper"

reproachfully

C2

in a reproving or reproachful manner

"she spoke to him reprovingly"

saucily

C2

in an impudent or impertinent manner

"a lean, swarthy fellow was peering through the window, grinning impudently"

sorrowfully

C2

in a sorrowful manner

"his mother looked at him dolefully when he told her he had joined the Army"

straightway

C2

at once

"straightway the clouds began to scatter"

sulkily

C2

in a sulky manner

"What else could I do?" said Graham sulkily

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

<https://readingcorner.uk/books/the-wonderful-wizard-of-oz/vocabulary>