

The Works of Edgar Allan Poe — Volume 2

— Key Vocabulary

by Edgar Allan Poe

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'lutli/

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,kamə'deɪʃən/

A2

making or becoming suitable

“they reached an accommodation with Japan”

accompany /ə'kʌmpəni/

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"

acquire /ək'waɪər/

A2

come into the possession of something concrete or abstract

"She got a lot of paintings from her uncle"

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"

abstract /'æb,strækt/

B1

a concept or idea not associated with any specific instance

"he loved her only in the abstract--not in person"

acceptance /ək'septəns/

B1

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

"he gave credence to the gossip"

accidentally /,æksə'denəli/

B1

without advance planning

"they met accidentally"

accommodate /ə'kamə,deɪt/

B1

be agreeable or acceptable to

"This suits my needs"

accomplish /ə'kʌmplɪʃ/

B1

put in effect

"carry out a task"

accordance /ə'kɔrdəns/

B1

concurrence of opinion

"we are in accord with your proposal"

accordingly /ə'kɔːdɪŋli/

B1

(sentence connectors) because of the reason given

“consequently, he didn't do it”

accurate /'ækjəreɪt/

B1

conforming exactly or almost exactly to fact or to a standard or performing with total accuracy

“an accurate reproduction”

acquisition /,ækwə'zɪʃən/

B1

the act of contracting or assuming or acquiring possession of something

“the acquisition of wealth”

B2 words (10)

abject /'æbdʒekt/

B2

of the most contemptible kind

“abject cowardice”

abnormal /æb'nɔːrməl/

B2

not normal

“abnormal powers of concentration”

abound /ə'baʊnd/

B2

be abundant or plentiful

“The room abounded with screaming children”

abrupt /ə'brʌpt/

B2

marked by sudden changes in subject and sharp transitions

“abrupt prose”

abruptly /ə'brʌptli/

B2

quickly and without warning

“he stopped suddenly”

absent /'æbsənt/

B2

go away or leave

“He absented himself”

absorb /əb'zɔːrb/

B2

become imbued

“The liquids, light, and gases absorb”

abstraction /æb'strækʃən/

B2

a concept or idea not associated with any specific instance

"he loved her only in the abstract--not in person"

absurd /əb'sərd/

B2

a situation in which life seems irrational and meaningless

"The absurd is the essential concept and the first truth"

absurdity /əb'sərdəti/

B2

a message whose content is at variance with reason

"the crowd laughed at the absurdity of the clown's behavior"

C1 words (9)

aback /ə'bæk/

C1

having the wind against the forward side of the sails

"the ship came up into the wind with all yards aback"

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"

abscond /æb'skænd/

C1

run away

"The thief made off with our silver"

absolve /əb'zɔːlv/

C1

grant remission of a sin to

"The priest absolved him and told him to say ten Hail Mary's"

abstruse /əb'strus/

C1

difficult to penetrate

"the professor's lectures were so abstruse that students tended to avoid them"

accede /æk'sɪd/

C1

yield to another's wish or opinion

"The government bowed to the military pressure"

accredit /ə'kreɪdɪt/

C1

grant credentials to

"The Regents officially recognized the new educational institution"

accrue /ə'kru/

C1

grow by addition

"The interest accrues"

C2 words (9)

abase

C2

cause to feel shame

"He humiliated his colleague by criticising him in front of the boss"

abasement

C2

a low or downcast state

"each confession brought her into an attitude of abasement"

acceptation

C2

acceptance as true or valid

"its adoption by society"

accost /ə'kɒst/

C2

speak to someone

"he was solicited by a prostitute"

accumulative /ə'kjʊmjəleɪtɪv/

C2

increasing by successive addition

"the benefits are cumulative"

acuteness /ə'kjʊtnəs/

C2

a sensitivity that is keen and highly developed

"dogs have a remarkable acuteness of smell"

addle /'ædəl/

C2

mix up or confuse

"He muddled the issues"

adjoin /ə'dʒɔɪn/

C2

lie adjacent to another or share a boundary

"Canada adjoins the U.S."

adventitious

C2

associated by chance and not an integral part

“poetry is something to which words are the accidental, not by any means the essential form”

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

<https://readingcorner.uk/books/the-works-of-edgar-allan-poe-volume-2/vocabulary>