

Treasure Island — 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)

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"

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"

active /'æktɪv/

A2

chemical agent capable of activity

"The boy threw the ball' uses the active voice"

actual /'æktʃəwəl/

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"

B1 words (10)

aboard /ə'bɔːd/

B1

on a ship, train, plane or other vehicle

"Their second homer with Bob Allison aboard"

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"

accomplish /ə'kʌmplɪʃ/

B1

put in effect

"carry out a task"

accordance /ə'kɔːdəns/

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 /'ækjərət/

B1

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

"an accurate reproduction"

ace /eɪs/

B1

the smallest whole number or a numeral representing this number

"he has the one but will need a two and three to go with it"

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"

alert /ə'lɜ:t/

B1

condition of heightened watchfulness or preparation for action

"bombers were put on alert during the crisis"

B2 words (10)

absent /'æbsənt/

B2

go away or leave

"He absented himself"

absurd /əb'sɜ:d/

B2

a situation in which life seems irrational and meaningless

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

accent /'æk,sɛnt/

B2

distinctive manner of oral expression

"he couldn't suppress his contemptuous accent"

accidental /,æksə'dɛnəl/

B2

a musical notation that makes a note sharp or flat or natural although that is not part of the key signature

"with an inadvertent gesture she swept the vase off the table"

accuracy /'ækjərəsi/

B2

the quality of being near to the true value

"he was beginning to doubt the accuracy of his compass"

ache /eɪk/

B2

a dull persistent (usually moderately intense) pain

"Were you hurting after the accident?"

acquaintance /ək'weɪntəns/

B2

personal knowledge or information about someone or something

"I have trouble remembering the names of all my acquaintances"

admirable /'ædmərəbəl/

B2

deserving of the highest esteem or admiration

"an estimable young professor"

admiration /,ædmər'eɪʃən/

B2

a feeling of delighted approval and liking

"a small token in admiration of your works"

adrift /ə'drɪft/

B2

aimlessly drifting

"after the storm the boats were adrift"

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"

ablaze /ə'bleɪz/

C1

keenly excited (especially sexually) or indicating excitement

"his face all ablaze with excitement"

abominable /ə'bɒmənəbəl/

C1

unequivocally detestable

"abominable treatment of prisoners"

absurdly /əb'sɜːdli/

C1

in an absurd manner or to an absurd degree

"an absurdly rich young woman"

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"

admirably /'ædmərəbli/

C1

in an admirable manner

"the children's responses were admirably normal"

admiringly /æd'maɪrɪŋli/

C1

with admiration

"he looked at his wife admiringly"

admixture

C1

the state of impairing the quality or reducing the value of something

“the growing medium should be equal parts of sand and loam with an admixture of peat moss and cow manure”

C2 words (9)**adjoin** /ə'dʒɔɪn/

C2

lie adjacent to another or share a boundary

“Canada adjoins the U.S.”

agone

C2

gone by

“two years ago”

airily

C2

in a flippant manner

“he answered the reporters' questions flippantly”

amidship

C2

located in the middle part of a ship or aircraft

“in the late 19th century, engines were placed in front, amidships, and at the rear”

arrant /'ærənt/

C2

without qualification

“an arrant fool”

athwart /əθ'wɔ:t/

C2

at right angles to the center line of a ship

“the sun shone aslant into his face”

avow /ə'vaʊ/

C2

to declare or affirm solemnly and formally as true

“Before God I swear I am innocent”

becalm /bɪ'kɑ:m/

C2

make steady

“steady yourself”

bewilder /bɪ'wɪldə:/

C2

be a mystery or bewildering to

“This beats me!”

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

<https://readingcorner.uk/books/treasure-island/vocabulary>