

English Vocabulary: 'A' words

Adjectives

adept (at)	John is extremely adept at languages.
afoot	There is something afoot – I don't trust him.
aghast	The crowd were aghast when the helicopter crashed.
agile	Peter is an agile swimmer.
alert	It's important to stay alert when you open e-mails from strangers.
aligned (with)	My opinion is not aligned with your politics.
alone	I prefer to study when I am alone .
aloof	English people are often aloof , as they don't like to talk to strangers.
astute	Mary is an astute scientist.
averse (to)	My brother is averse to eating meat.
aware (of)	Are you aware of any reason as to why he is lying?

Opposite adjectives

amoral	A person who has no conscience or scruples is an amoral person.
apolitical	John has no interest in politics. He is apolitical .
asexual	Some plants reproduce using asexual methods, such as vegetative propagation.

Adjectives based on verbs

adrift (to drift)	After the storm, many boats became adrift .
afloat (to float)	It's difficult for small boats to stay afloat during a storm.
ahead (of) (to head)	Phil stayed ahead of the race. (<i>physical meaning</i>) Albert Einstein was ahead of his time. (<i>abstract meaning</i>)
alike (to be like)	We are alike – we have the same interests and opinions.
alive (to live)	After the shipwreck, 5 people were found alive .
amiss (to miss)	There is something amiss – there is nobody here.
ashamed (to shame)	John felt ashamed after failing his English test.
askew (to skew)	He parked his car askew and received a parking ticket.
asleep (to sleep)	A: Where is Bob? B: He is asleep in his bed.
awake (to wake)	Is your son awake ? I need to speak to him.
awash (to wash)	The city is awash after so much rain.

Verbs

to align	We should align our ideas if we want to make any progress.
to arise	New ideas always arise during our meetings.
to await	We are awaiting the decision of the committee.

Adverbs

afresh	Let's start afresh tomorrow, as we are both very sleepy.
again	I have made many mistakes in my essay. I will do it again .
aloft	Martin held his son aloft so that he could see the show.
aloud	Please read aloud , so that I can check your pronunciation.
anew	Let's demolish the house and build it anew .
apart	The trees are all 3 meters apart from each other.
aside	Put your phone aside , please. (<i>physical meaning</i>) Leave your personal problems aside when you come to work. (<i>abstract meaning</i>)
away	He walked away from me when I insulted him.

Prepositions

against	Mike leaned against the wall and it collapsed. (<i>physical meaning</i>) I am not against the idea, I just want to understand it better. (<i>abstract meaning</i>)
around	I need to put a fence around my property.
astride	Gregory sat astride his bicycle and rode away.