

**PRIMARY LIST**

Words in this list were known by children who had just completed their seventh year of formal schooling in New South Wales but they were not known by pre-school children or infants school-aged children. The children ranged in age from 11;6 years to 12;11 years at the time they were assessed.

Words and phrases in bold print are the known words. Phrases in normal print are provided to show the particular meanings known by the children in this group.

**abacus**  
**abbreviate**  
**abduct** a child  
**abide by** the rules  
**abnormal**  
**abolish**  
**abort** a procedure  
**above all** (most importantly)  
**absence** – be quiet in my  
**absence**  
**absent-minded**  
**absolute** – **absolute** freedom  
**absorb** – **absorbed** in a newspaper  
 - the cloth **absorbed** the water  
 - **absorb** new ideas  
**abstract** painting  
**absurd** ideas  
**abuse** your privileges  
 - **abuse** a child  
**accelerator** in a car  
**access** to the building  
**accessory** – **accessories** for clothing  
**accommodate** her in the spare bedroom  
 - he will easily **accommodate** to the changes  
**accompany** me to the ball  
**accomplish** a goal  
**accomplishment** (achievement)  
**account** – don't change things  
**on my account**  
**accountant**  
**accuse** her of lying

- bring the **accused** to the stand  
**accustomed** to getting his way  
**ace** – an **ace** basketballer  
**acknowledge** a greeting  
**acre**  
**act** – caught in the **act**  
 - the child **acted up** because he couldn't get his way  
**acting** – the **acting** principal  
**acupuncture**  
**acute** infection  
**apple** – **Adam's apple**  
**addiction**  
**additional**  
**address** an audience  
**adjoin** – the **adjoining** garage  
**administration** of the company  
**admirer** – I hear she has an **admirer**  
**admission** – **admission** is \$2  
**adrift** in the ocean  
**advance** – the troops are **advancing**  
 - to **advance** in a career  
**advantage** – she had the **advantage** of good genes  
**advertise** – try not to **advertise** the fact that you are not prepared  
**advisable** to be prepared  
**aerobatics**  
**afar**  
**affair** – business **affairs**  
**affection** – he has a strong **affection** for his nephew  
**affectionately**  
**afford** – I can't **afford** to lose her trust  
**aftertaste**  
**afterthought**  
**age** – the **age** of enlightenment  
 - to **age** overnight  
**aged** – an **aged** judge  
**agent** – a theatrical **agent**  
**aggravation**  
**agile**  
**agitate** the government for changes in a law  
 - feeling **agitated**  
**agonise** over a decision  
**agony**  
**agreement** – sign an **agreement**  
**aim** – **aim high**

**air** – vanished **into thin air**  
 - the radio station is **off the air**  
**airborne**  
**airlift** food to stranded farmers  
**airline**  
**airstrip**  
**airtight**  
**album** – music **album**  
**alcoholic** – she was an **alcoholic**  
**alien** – this type of behaviour is **alien** to me  
**alike**  
**all** – **after all** (all things considered) he is a good father  
 - she was injured **after all** (despite her efforts)  
**alley**  
**alliance** – an **alliance** between two countries  
**allocate** jobs  
**allowance** – a weekly **allowance**  
**ally** – that country is our **ally**  
**along** – she was here **all along**  
**alternate** – sing the **alternate** verses  
**alternative** suggestion  
**altitude**  
**ambush** the travellers  
**ammunition**  
**amnesia**  
**among**  
**amount** – our savings don't **amount to** much  
**amplifier**  
**amputate**  
**amuse** – the joke **amused** him  
**amusement** – for my **amusement**  
 - **amusements**  
**analyse**  
**animation** – the **animation** in the cartoon was colourful  
**annual**  
**anonymous**  
**anorexia**  
**anthem**  
**anti** – he was **anti** the suggestion  
**anticipate**  
**antique** vases  
 - buy **antiques** at a shop