

## SECONDARY LIST

Words in this list were known by students who had just completed their thirteenth year of formal schooling in New South Wales but they were not known by primary or younger students. The students ranged in age from 17;7 years to 18;10 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 students in this group.

**abandon** – dancing with  
**abandon**  
**abashed**  
**abbey**  
**abbot**  
**ablaze** (on fire)  
**able** – an **able** swimmer  
**able-bodied**  
**abode** – our humble **abode**  
**abound in** fertile land  
**about-face** in policy  
**about-turn!**  
**above-board** activities  
**abrasive** material  
**abridge** a story  
**abrupt** change in attitude  
**abscess**  
**absent without leave (AWL)**  
**absolute** rule  
**absolve** from responsibility  
**abroad** (overseas)  
**abseil**  
**abstain** (during a vote)  
**abundant**  
**abysmal** scores  
**abyss** – fall into an **abyss**  
**academic** – an **academic** at a university  
**academy** of engineers  
**accent** – in this home the **accent** is on politeness  
**accentuate**  
**accept** – **accept** the situation  
**accepted** – the **accepted** way  
**access** – gain **access** to the boss  
**accessory** – an **accessory** to the crime

**accolade** (an honour)  
**accommodating**  
**accompaniment** – she provided the piano **accompaniment**  
**accomplish**  
**accord** – **with one accord**  
**account** – an **account** of events  
 - **account for** (explain)  
 - **on account of** (because)  
**accountable** for your actions  
**accumulate** rubbish  
**ace** – hit an **ace** in tennis  
**ache** – she **aches** to travel overseas  
**Achilles heel**  
**acknowledge** the truth of the statement  
**acne**  
**acoustics** of a building  
**acquaintance** – she is an **acquaintance** of mine  
**acquire**  
**acquisition** – the museum had a new **acquisition**  
**acquit** (in court)  
**acreage**  
**across-the-board**  
**act** – an **Act** of Parliament  
**action** – a piece of **the action**  
**action stations**  
**acute** hearing  
 - **acute** comments  
**additive** (in food)  
**address** a problem  
**adequate** amounts of food  
**adhesive** – an **adhesive** hook  
**adjourn**  
**adlib** – the comedian **adlibbed**  
**administer** a state  
 - **administer** medication  
**administrative** problems  
**admittedly**  
**adolescent** – he was only an **adolescent** when he became king  
**adopt** a new name  
**adrenalin** (the hormone)  
**adultery**  
**advance** – an **advance** on her pay  
 - he made **advances** to her at the party  
 - to **advance** their interests  
**advanced** age  
**advantage** – to **take**

**advantage** of the old man  
**advertisement** in the newspaper  
**advocate** – you will need an **advocate**  
**aerial** photograph  
**aerobics**  
**aeronautics**  
**aesthetic** considerations  
**affair** – the takeover was a nasty **affair**  
**affecting** – an **affecting** poem  
**affiliate**  
**affirm** (to state)  
 - to **affirm** a previous decision  
**affirmative** – reply in **the affirmative**  
**affix**  
**afield** – further **afield**  
**afresh**  
**after** – to ask **after** a patient  
**aftermath**  
**age** – it took an **age**  
**agenda** for a meeting  
**age of consent**  
**agree** – his account of events **agrees** with hers  
**agreeable** – a very **agreeable** person  
**agriculture**  
**aground** – the ship ran **aground**  
**air** – she had an **air** of tranquillity  
**aircraft carrier**  
**airway** to the lungs  
**ajar**  
**akin** to abuse  
**à la**  
**albino** – he was an **albino**  
**alias** – using an **alias**  
**alibi**  
**allegation**  
**allegiance**  
**alleviate**  
**allusion** – an **allusion** to past misbehaviour  
**ally** – we will **ally** with them  
**aloft**  
**alpine**  
**alter**  
**altercation**  
**alter ego** (close friend)  
**amass** money  
**amateur** – only an **amateur**