

Battle For Britain Upper-Intermediate Vocabulary

1	
abolish	to officially end a law, a system or an institution
absent-minded	tending to forget things, perhaps because you are not thinking about what is around you, but about sth else; forgetful
absorb	to take sth into the mind and learn or understand it
accelerate	to happen or to make sth happen faster or earlier than expected
acclaimed	famous
accomplish	to succeed in doing or completing sth; achieve
acknowledge	to accept that sth is true
acquire	to gain or obtain
adjust	to change sth slightly to make it more suitable
affectionate	showing caring feelings and love for sb; loving
affluent	very rich
aggravate	to make worse
agile	able to move quickly and easily; nimble
allege	to state sth as a fact but without giving proof
allegedly	probably but without proof
alleviate	to make sth less severe; ease
alter	to become different or to make sb/sth different
ambiguous	that can be understood in more than one way; having different meanings
amend	to change a law, document, statement, etc. slightly in order to correct a mistake or to improve it
anticipate	to expect
appalled at	feeling or showing horror or disgust at sth unpleasant or wrong; horrified
appalling	shocking; extremely bad
appealing	attractive or interesting
approximately	used to show that sth is almost, but not completely, accurate or correct
arrogant	behaving in a proud, unpleasant way, showing little thought for other people
2	
assassinate	to murder an important or famous person, especially for political reasons
assertive	expressing opinions or desires strongly and with confidence
astute	very clever and quick at seeing what to do in a particular situation
atrocious	very bad or unpleasant; terrible
baffled	confused
barely	hardly
beforehand	in advance
biased	prejudiced
bid	to offer to pay a particular price for sth, especially at an auction
bitterly	(describing unpleasant or sad feelings) extremely

bizarre	strange or odd
bland	with little color, interest or taste
blast	to explode
blossom	(of a plant) to produce flowers
blunt	not sharp
boast	to talk with too much pride about sth that you have or can do
boost	to make sth increase, or become better or more successful
bound to	certain or likely to happen, or to do or be sth:
brake	to go slower or make a vehicle go slower
browse	to look at a lot of things rather than looking for one particular thing
capsize	(of a boat) to turn over in the water
capture	to catch a person or an animal and keep them as a prisoner
cease	to stop
charge sth	to ask an amount of money for goods or a service
chase	to run, drive, etc. after sb/sth in order to catch them
3	
cheeky	rude in an amusing or an annoying way
chiefly	mainly, for the most part
chubby	slightly fat in a way that people usually find attractive
clarify	to make sth clearer or easier to understand
clutch	to hold sb/sth tightly; grip
coarse	rough
coherent	logical
collide	crash into each other or into something
commence	to begin to happen
compatible with	(of machines, especially computers) able to be used together
comprehensible	that can be understood by sb
comprehensive	including all, or almost all, the items, details, facts, information, etc., that may be concerned
comprise	to have sb/sth as parts or members; consist of
compulsive	not being able or difficult to control
compulsory	not optional; mandatory
conceal	to hide
conceited	arrogant
concise	giving only the information that is necessary and important, using few words
condemn	to express very strong disapproval of sb/sth, usually for moral reasons
confide in	to tell sb secrets and personal information because you feel you can trust them
conscientious	taking care to do things carefully and correctly
conscious	aware or awake
consequently	as a result; therefore
considerate	always thinking of other people's wishes and feelings; careful not to hurt

	or upset others; thoughtful
contradict	to say that sth that sb else has said is wrong, and that the opposite is true
4	
conventional	ending to follow what is done or considered acceptable by society in general; normal and ordinary, and perhaps not very interesting
courteous	polite, especially in a way that shows respect:
creak	to make the sound that a door sometimes makes when you open it or that a wooden floor sometimes makes when you step on it
cunning	able to get what you want in a clever way, especially by tricking or cheating sb
curved	having a round shape
daft	silly, often in a way that is amusing
damp	slightly wet, often in a way that is unpleasant
deafening	very loud
deceive	to make sb believe sth that is not true
dedicated	working hard at sth because it is very important to you; committed
defeat	to win against sb in a war, competition, sports game, etc.; beat
defiant	openly refusing to obey sb/sth, sometimes in an aggressive way
depict	to show an image of sb/sth in a picture
deprived	without enough food, education, and all the things that are necessary for people to live a happy and comfortable life:
deserve	if sb/sth _____s sth, it is right that they should have it,
desperately	very much, greatly
despise	to dislike and have no respect for sb/sth
deteriorate	to become worse
detest	to hate intensely
devastated	extremely upset and shocked
devise	to invent sth new or a new way of doing sth; think up
diffident	not having much confidence in yourself; not wanting to talk about yourself; shy
discreet	careful in what you say or do, in order to keep sth secret or to avoid causing embarrassment or difficulty for sb; tactful
dismantle	to take apart a machine or structure so that it is in separate pieces
disposable	made to be thrown away after use
5	
distinguish between	recognize the difference between two people or things
dizzy	feeling as if everything is spinning around you and that you are not able to balance; giddy
drowsy	tired and almost asleep
eliminate	to remove or get rid of sth/sb
eminent	famous and respected, especially in a particular profession

emphasize	to give special importance to sth; stress
enclose	to surround sth; to put sth in the same envelope, package, etc. as sth else
entitled	having the right to have or to do sth
eradicate	to destroy or get rid of sth completely, especially sth bad; wipe out
evidently	clearly; that can be seen or understood easily; obviously
exaggerate	to make sth seem larger, better, worse or more important than it really is
excessive	greater than what seems reasonable or appropriate
exhaustive	including everything possible; very thorough or complete
extinguish	to make a fire stop burning or a light stop shining; put out
fabulous	(informal) extremely good
feeble	very weak
fertile	producing good results
fetch	to go to where sb/sth is and bring them / it back
filthy	very dirty
fluctuate	to change frequently in size, amount, quality, etc., especially from one extreme to another; vary
forge	1. to put a lot of effort into making sth successful or strong so that it will last; 2. to make an illegal copy of sth in order to cheat people
former	that used to exist in earlier times
frown on	disapprove of
gaze	to look steadily at sb/sth for a long time
gesture	to move your hands, head, face, etc. as a way of expressing what you mean or want
6	
glare	to look at sb/sth in an angry way
glimpse	to see sb/sth for a moment, but not very clearly
greasy	(disapproving) (of hair or skin) producing too much natural oil
gripping	exciting or interesting in a way that keeps your attention
heartbroken	extremely sad because of sth that has happened; broken-hearted
hectic	very busy; full of activity
hereditary	given to a child by its parents before it is born
hesitate	to be slow to speak or act because you feel uncertain or nervous
hoover	to clean a carpet, floor, etc. with a vacuum cleaner; to vacuum
hum	to sing a tune with your lips closed
humble	showing you do not think that you are as important as other people; modest
humid	(of the air or climate) warm and damp
humiliate	to make sb feel ashamed or stupid and lose the respect of other people
hypocritical	pretending to have moral standards or opinions that they do not actually have
immaculate	perfect
imminent	likely to happen very soon
imprison	to put sb into prison

incidentally	by the way
indescribable	so extreme or unusual it is almost impossible to describe
indulge in	to allow yourself to have or do sth that you like, especially sth that is considered bad for you
ineligible	not having the necessary qualifications to have or to do sth
inevitable	that you cannot avoid or prevent; unavoidable
inexcusable	too bad to accept or forgive; unjustifiable
inexplicable	that cannot be understood or explained; incomprehensible:
infamous	famous for sth bad
7	
infested	full of insects or animals such as rats existing in large numbers in a particular place
inherent	that is a basic or permanent part of sb/sth and that cannot be removed; intrinsic
insecure	not confident about yourself or your relationships with other people
insert	to put sth into sth else or between two things
insipid	having almost no taste or flavour; flavourless
insolent	extremely rude and showing a lack
insoluble	that cannot be solved or dissolved
insult	to say or do sth that offends sb
insurmountable	that cannot be dealt with successfully; insuperable
intelligible	that can be easily understood
interfere	to get involved in and try to influence a situation that does not concern you, in a way that annoys other people
interminable	lasting a very long time and therefore boring or annoying; endless
interrelated	closely connected and affecting each other
interrogate	to ask sb a lot of questions over a long period of time, especially in an aggressive way
intrinsic	belonging to or part of the real nature of sth/sb
intrude	to go or be somewhere where you are not wanted or are not supposed to be
inundated	to give or send sb so many things that they cannot deal with them all; overwhelm, swamp
invade	to enter a country, town, etc. using military force in order to take control of it
invaluable	extremely useful
invariably	always; without fail
invasive	spreading very quickly and difficult to stop; involving cutting into the body
irreversible	that cannot be changed back to what it was before
irritable	getting annoyed easily; showing your anger; bad-tempered
irritated	annoyed or angry
itch	to have an uncomfortable feeling on your skin that makes you want to scratch; to make your skin feel like this

8	
itemize	to produce a detailed list of things
jam	to push sth somewhere with a lot of force; to become unable to move or work; to make sth do this
jubilant	feeling or showing great happiness because of a success
juggle	to throw a set of three or more objects such as balls into the air and catch and throw them again quickly, one at a time
laid-back	relaxed
lapse	to gradually become weaker or come to an end; expire
latter	the second of two things, people or groups that have just been mentioned, or the last in a list
leak	to allow liquid or gas to get in or out through a small hole or crack
loathe	to dislike sb/sth very much; detest
loosen	to make sth less tight or firmly fixed; to become less tight or firmly fixed; slacken:
lucrative	producing a large amount of money; making a large profit
lure	to persuade or trick sb to go somewhere or to do sth by promising them a reward; entice
maintain	to make sth continue at the same level, standard, etc.; preserve
malicious	having or showing hatred and a desire to harm sb or hurt their feelings; malevolent, spiteful
malnourished	in bad health because of a lack of food or a lack of the right type of food
medieval	connected with the middle ages
mediocre	not very good; of only average standard
mend	to repair
merely	only or simply
meticulous	paying careful attention to every detail; fastidious, thorough
mild	not severe or strong
mislay	to put sth somewhere and then be unable to find it again, especially for only a short time; lose
misleading	giving the wrong idea or impression and making you believe sth that is not true; deceptive
moist	slightly wet
muggy	warm and damp in an unpleasant way; close
9	
nag	to keep complaining to sb about their behaviour or keep asking them to do sth; pester
neglect	to fail to take care of sb/sth; to not give enough attention to sth
nick sth	to steal sth; pinch
nosey	too interested in things that do not concern you, especially other people's affairs; inquisitive
nurture	to care for and protect sb/sth while they are growing and developing

obedient	doing what you are told to do; willing to obey
obstinate	refusing to change your opinions, way of behaving, etc. when other people try to persuade you to; showing this; stubborn
omit	to not include sth/sb, either deliberately or because you have forgotten it/them; leave out
overcharge	to make sb pay too much for sth
own up	to admit that you are responsible for sth bad or wrong; confess
panic-stricken	extremely anxious about sth, in a way that prevents you from thinking clearly; hysterical
pat	to touch sb/sth gently several times with your hand flat, especially as a sign of affection
peel	to take the skin off fruit, vegetables, etc.
pejorative	expressing disapproval or criticism; derogatory
perceive	to notice or become aware of sth
perennial	continuing for a very long time; happening again and again
perplexed	confused and anxious because you are unable to understand sth; showing this
persistent	determined to do sth despite difficulties, especially when other people are against you and think that you are being annoying or unreasonable
perspire	to sweat
persuade	to make sb do sth by giving them good reasons for doing it
pertinent	appropriate to a particular situation; relevant
pinch	to take a piece of sb's skin between your thumb and first finger and squeeze hard, especially to hurt the person
placate	to make sb feel less angry about sth; pacify
plausible	reasonable and likely to be true
pledge	to formally promise to give or do sth
10	
plummet	to fall suddenly and quickly from a high level or position; plunge
plump	having a soft, round body; slightly fat
plunge	to decrease suddenly and quickly; plummet
posthumously	after a person has died
praise	to express your approval or admiration for sb/sth; compliment
predominantly	for the most part
preserve	to keep a particular quality, feature, etc.; to make sure that sth is kept
presumably	used to say that you think that sth is probably true
pretentious	trying to appear important, intelligent, etc. in order to impress other people; trying to be sth that you are not, in order to impress:
primarily	mainly, chiefly
prior to	before sth
probe	to ask questions in order to find out secret or hidden information about sb/sth; investigate
prolong	to make sth last longer; extend

prompt	(adjective) done without delay, immediate; (verb) to make sb decide to do sth; to cause sth to happen, provoke
prone to	likely to suffer from sth or to do sth bad; liable
prosecute	to officially charge sb with a crime in court
prosperous	rich and successful; affluent
prudent	sensible and careful when you make judgements and decisions; avoiding unnecessary risks:
pungent	having a strong taste or smell
purchase	to buy
pursue	1) to do sth or try to achieve sth over a period of time; 2) to follow or chase sb/sth, especially in order to catch them
ramshackle	(of buildings, vehicles, furniture, etc.) in a very bad condition and needing repair; tumbledown
rattle	o make a series of short loud sounds when hitting against sth hard; to make sth do this
rear	(adjective) at or near the back of sth; (verb) to care for young children or animals until they are fully grown
reassure	to say or do sth that makes sb less frightened or worried, set sb's mind at rest
11	
recuperate	to get back your health, strength or energy after being ill / sick, tired, injured, etc; recover
recurrent	happening again and again
reinforced	made stronger
relentless	not stopping or getting less strong; unrelenting
relieved	happy because sth unpleasant has stopped or has not happened
reluctant	hesitating before doing sth because you do not want to do it or because you are not sure that it is the right thing to do
repel	to drive, push or keep sth away
replicate	to copy sth exactly; duplicate
represent	to be a symbol of sth; symbolize
reputable	that people consider to be honest and to provide a good service; respected
resilient	able to feel better quickly after sth unpleasant such as shock, injury, etc.
resume	continue after an interruption
retain	to keep sth; to continue to have sth; preserve
retaliate	to do sth harmful to sb because they have harmed you first; take revenge
reveal	to make sth known to sb; disclose
reversible	able to be changed so that sth returns to its original state or situation
revert to	to return to a former state or the original owner
revolting	extremely unpleasant; disgusting
rigorous	thorough or strict
rip off	to cheat sb, by making them pay too much, by selling them sth of poor

	quality, etc.
rumble	to make a long deep sound or series of sounds
rural	connected with or like the countryside
rustle	to make a sound like paper, leaves, etc. moving or rubbing together
ruthless	hard and cruel; determined to get what you want and not caring if you hurt other people
sage	wise, especially because you have a lot of experience
12	
scarce	only available in small quantities
scathing	criticizing sb or sth very severely; withering
scatter	to throw or drop things in different directions so that they cover an area of ground
scratch	to rub, cut or damage the surface of sth with sth sharp
screech	to make a loud high unpleasant sound; to say sth using this sound
scrutinize	to look at or examine sb/sth carefully
seal	to close sth tightly
segregate	to separate people of different races, religions or sexes and treat them in a different way
self-contained	able to operate or exist without outside help or influence; independent
sensible	able to make good judgements based on reason and experience rather than emotion; practical
sensitive	aware of and able to understand other people and their feelings or easily upset
severe	extremely bad or serious
shove	to push sb/sth in a rough way
shrewd	clever at understanding and making judgements about a situation; astute
skid	(usually of a vehicle) to slide sideways or forwards in an uncontrolled way
skim	1) to move quickly and lightly over a surface, not touching it or only touching it occasionally; 2) to read sth quickly in order to find a particular point
slam	to shut, or to make sth shut, with a lot of force, making a loud noise
slash	to make a long cut with a sharp object, especially in a violent way; slit
slender	(approving) (of people or their bodies) thin in an attractive or elegant way; slim
sluggish	moving, reacting or working more slowly than normal and in a way that seems lazy
snarl	(of dogs, etc.) to show the teeth and make a deep angry noise in the throat
sniff	to breathe air in through your nose in a way that makes a sound, especially when you are crying, have a cold, etc.
soaked	very wet; drenched
solely	only; not involving sb/sth else
spin	to turn round and round quickly; to make sth do this

13	
splash	to make sb/sth wet by making water, mud, etc. fall on them / it
squander	to waste money, time, etc. in a stupid or careless way
squash	to press sth so that it becomes soft, damaged or flat, or changes shape
squeak	to make a short high sound that is not very loud
squeeze	to press sth firmly, especially with your fingers
quelch	to make a wet sucking sound
stagger	1) to walk with weak unsteady steps, as if you are about to fall; 2) to shock or surprise sb very much
stare	to look at sb/sth for a long time:
steady	developing, growing, etc. gradually and in an even and regular way; constant
stem from	to be the result of sth
stiff	firm and difficult to bend or move
stifle	to suppress or suffocate
stingy	not given or giving willingly; not generous, especially with money; mean
stir	to move a liquid or substance around, using a spoon or sth similar, in order to mix it thoroughly
stray	to move away from the place where you should be, without intending to
strenuous	needing great effort and energy; arduous
stringent	very strict and that must be obeyed
stroke	to move your hand gently and slowly over an animal's fur or hair
stroll	to walk somewhere in a slow relaxed way
subservient to	too willing to obey other people
subtle	not very noticeable or obvious
superficial	only affecting the surface and therefore not serious
superfluous	more than you need or want; unnecessary
sustain	1) to provide enough of what sb/sth needs in order to live or exist; 2) to experience sth bad; suffer
sustainable	involving the use of natural products and energy in a way that does not harm the environment
14	
swallow	make food, drink, etc. go down your throat into your stomach
swamped	having more of sth than they can deal with; inundated
tackle	to make a determined effort to deal with a difficult problem or situation
tedious	lasting or taking too long and not interesting; boring
thick-skinned	not easily upset by criticism or unkind comments
thorough	done completely; with great attention to detail
thrifty	careful about spending money and not wasting things; frugal
thriving	successful, strong, healthy, etc.; flourishing
thus	1) in this way; like this; 2) as a result of sth just mentioned; hence, therefore

trim	to make sth neater, smaller, better, etc., by cutting parts from it
unanimous	agreed or shared by everyone in a group
urgent	that needs to be dealt with or happen immediately; pressing
utter	used to emphasize how complete sth is
vanish	to disappear suddenly and/or in a way that you cannot explain
vast	extremely large in area, size, amount, etc.; huge
versatile	able to do many different things or having many different uses
vibrant	full of life and energy
vigorously	in a way that is very active, determined or full of energy
vile	extremely unpleasant or bad
volatile	likely to change suddenly; easily becoming dangerous; unstable
vulnerable	weak and easily hurt physically or emotionally
warily	carefully dealing with sb/sth because you think that there may be a danger or problem; cautiously
withstand	to be strong enough not to be hurt or damaged by extreme conditions, the use of force, etc.; resist, stand up to
worn-out	damaged because it has been used a lot or tired
yield	1) to produce or provide sth, for example a profit, result or crop; 2) yield (to sth/sb) to stop resisting sth/sb