

Phrasal verbs & usage

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EMESCO

PHRASAL VERBS AND USAGE

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1. Account for: /ə'kaunt fə(r)/ provide an explanation of your actions: To be responsible or answerable. You must *account for* every rupee spent at the movies. They had to *account for* all expenses made during the official event.
2. Act on: /ækt ɒn/ take action as a result of something happening: The police need to *act on* the information received by the informers. The Management should *act on* the evidence provided by the police authorities.
3. Act up: /ækt ʌp/ misbehave; become painful: Children, sometimes, *act up* when they are tired or hungry. Our old car started *acting up* again despite the repairs done.
4. Add on: /æd ɒn/ put numbers or amounts together to get a total: Please *add on* a service tax of 12% to the total amount.

5. Add up to: /æd 'ʌptə/ amount to something; show something: These facts do not **add up to** much, so we must find out more. This evidence **adds up to** the fact that he is innocent.
6. Agree with: /ə'gri: wɪθ/ shares the same opinion or point of view. I **agree with** your suggestion; searching for an answer in the dictionary. The Management **agreed with** our suggestion to conduct specific classes during the summer.
7. Aim at: /'eɪmət/ strive for a purpose or objective: We should **aim at** achieving a very high grade in the exam. He **aimed at** becoming a scientist.
8. Allow for: /ə'lau fə(r)/ make provision; arrangements for: When planning for a picnic we must **allow for** poor weather. When planning for an urgent meeting, we must **allow for** the time required to commute during peak traffic hours.
9. Answer back: /'a:nσə(r) ,bæk/ defend oneself from criticism; reply in a rude manner: She was hurt by her friend's disparaging remarks but could not **answer back**. I understand you are hurt, but it's downright rude to **answer** him **back**.
10. Answer for: /'a:nσə(r) fə(r)/ be responsible for; suffer for: He must **answer for** his mistakes. They must **answer for** all the errors committed.
11. Argue down: /'a:gju: ,daun/ defeat someone in an argument, debate or discussion; persuade someone to reduce the price of a commodity. He tries to **argue down** everyone he meets. She insults everybody by **arguing** them **down**.
12. Argue out of: /'a:gju: aut əv/ try and persuade by giving reasons, reaching a solution: She **argued** me **out of** resigning my job. He **argued** me **out of** changing my present job.