

Common Phrasal Verbs

Here is a list of common phrasal verbs.

Account for

This is an inseparable phrasal verb.

To account for something is to give a reason or explanation for it.

How will you account for the money you spent on that fancy dress?

How do you account for the sudden improvement in your grades?

The student was brought before the principal to account for his behavior.

Exports account for nearly 60% of our revenue.

Act out

To act out is to express your feelings through your words or actions.

She was acting out her feelings of insecurity by being overly possessive.

Act up

When children act up, they behave badly. When machines act up, they fail to work properly.

My kids act up whenever we have guests.

The car is acting up again.

Add in

To add in something is to include it.

If you add in the information about his family background, you will understand why he behaves so strangely.

Add up

When something adds up it makes sense.

Your arguments just don't add up.

There is something about his behavior that just doesn't add up.

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To add up is to calculate the total.

Add up those numbers.

Allow for

To allow for something is to take it into consideration.

The survey does not allow for the fact that many students drop out of school before they turn fourteen.

Answer back

To answer back is to reply rudely.

Her children are very badly brought up. They answer back all the time.

Answer for

To answer for something is to take responsibility for something you have done.

You will have to answer for your actions.