

# Phrasal verbs & usage

*Ms. Ranjana Deshpande*

Editors

**Prof. Prakasam V.  
Dr. S.D. Subba Reddy**

**EMESCO**

# PHRASAL VERBS AND USAGE

## A

1. Account for: /ə'kaʊnt 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'laʊ 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: /'ɑ:nsə(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: /'ɑ:nsə(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: /'ɑ:gju: ,daʊn/ 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: /'ɑ:gju: aʊt 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.