

ENGLISH
SPEECHES

+3000
ENGLISH
PHRASAL
VERBS

WITH MEANING AND EXAMPLES

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Author Bio

Ricardo Santos is an entrepreneur and founder of **English Speeches** living in Canada who loves sharing knowledge and helping others on the topic of learning English.

Ricardo is a passionate person who will go the extra mile and over-deliver.

Ricardo's words of wisdom:

"I believe that there are no secrets to becoming successful in life. And I truly believe the result to true success in life is the result from hard work, the preparation and the most important of them all, the learning from the failings."

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Phrasal verb	Meaning	Example
Abide by	Accept or follow a decision or rule.	We have to ABIDE BY what the court says.
Account for	To explain.	They had to ACCOUNT FOR all the money that had gone missing.
Ache for	Want something or someone a lot.	My partner's been away for a fortnight - I am ACHING FOR her.
Act on	To take action because of something like information received.	The police were ACTING ON a tip from an informer and caught the gang red-handed.
Act on	Affect.	The medicine only ACTS ON infected tissue.
Act out	Perform something with actions and gestures.	They ACTED OUT the story on stage.
Act out	Express an emotion in your behaviour.	Their anger is ACTED OUT in their antisocial behaviour.
Act up	Behave badly or strangely.	My computer's ACTING UP; I think I might have a virus.
Act upon	To take action because of something like information received.	The police were ACTING UPON a tip-off.
Act upon	Affect.	The enzyme ACTS UPON certain proteins.
Add on	Include in a calculation.	You have to ADD the VAT ON to the price they give.
Add up	To make a mathematical total.	We ADDED UP the bill to check it was correct.
Add up	Be a satisfactory explanation for something.	She explained why the work wasn't ready, but her story doesn't ADD UP.

Add up to	Have a certain result.	Trains delays are getting worse and with the high fares, it all ADDS UP TO misery for the commuters.
Agree with	Affect- usually used in the negative to show that something has had a negative effect, especially is it makes you feel bad.	I feel terrible- that food didn't AGREE WITH my stomach.
Agree with	Affect- usually used in the negative to show that something has had a negative effect, especially is it makes you feel bad.	I feel terrible- that food didn't AGREE WITH my stomach.
Aim at	To target.	The magazine is AIMED AT teenagers.
Aim at	Intend to achieve.	They're AIMING AT reducing costs by ten percent.
Allow for	Include something in a plan or calculation.	You should ALLOW FOR delays when planning a journey.
Allow of	Make possible, permit.	The rules don't ALLOW OF any exceptions.
Angle for	Try to get something indirectly, by hinting or suggesting.	He's been ANGLING FOR an invitation, but I don't want him to come.
Answer back	To reply rudely to someone in authority.	Her mother was shocked when she started ANSWERING her BACK and refusing to help.
Answer for	Be held responsible for a problem.	The government should be made to ANSWER FOR their failure to sort out the problem.
Answer for	Speak on behalf of someone or from knowing them.	I can ANSWER FOR my partner because I know her position on this issue.
Argue down	Beat someone in a debate, discussion or argument.	The teacher tried to ARGUE the girl DOWN, but she couldn't.
Argue down	Persuade someone to drop the price of something they're selling.	She ARGUED him DOWN ten percent.

Argue down	Try to persuade people not to accept a proposition, motion, etc.	They tried to ARGUE DOWN the proposal.
Argue out	Argue about a problem to find a solution.	If we can't ARGUE our differences OUT, we'll have to take them to court.
Ask about	Ask how someone is doing, especially professionally and in terms of health.	He ASKED ABOUT my father.
Ask after	Enquire about someone's health, how life is going.	Jenny rang earlier and ASKED AFTER you, so I told her you were fine.
Ask around	Ask a number of people for information of help.	I have no idea, but I'll ASK AROUND at work and see if anyone can help.
Ask around	Invite someone.	We ASKED them AROUND for dinner.
Ask for	To provoke a negative reaction.	You're ASKING FOR trouble.
Ask for	Request to have or be given.	I ASKED FOR the menu.
Ask in	To invite somebody into your house.	'Jon's at the door.' 'ASK him IN.'
Ask out	To invite someone for a date.	He wanted to ASK her OUT but was too shy.
Ask over	Invite.	They have ASKED us OVER for drinks on Friday.
Ask round	Invite someone.	We ASKED John ROUND for diner.
Auction off	Sell something in an auction.	They AUCTIONED OFF their property as they were heavily in debt.
Back away	Retreat or go backwards.	The crowd BACKED AWAY when the man pulled a knife.

Back down	Retract or withdraw your position or proposal in an argument.	She refused to BACK DOWN and was fired.
Back into	Enter a parking area in reverse gear.	He prefers to BACK his car INTO the garage.
Back off	Retreat.	The police told the protesters to BACK OFF.
Back out	Fail to keep an arrangement or promise.	He BACKED OUT two days before the holiday so we gave the ticket to his sister
Back out of	Fail to keep an agreement, arrangement.	She BACKED OUT OF the agreement at the last minute.
Back out of	Exit a parking area in reverse gear.	She BACKED the Rolls OUT OF its parking space.
Back up	Make a copy of computer data.	You should always BACK UP important files and documents so that you won't lose all your work if something goes wrong with the hardware.
Back up	Support.	The rest of the staff BACKED her UP when she complained about working conditions.
Back up	Drive a vehicle backwards.	Tom BACKED UP without looking and ran over his laptop.
Bag out	Criticise.	Don't bag out BAG OUT Australian English.
Bail out	Save, rescue.	The government had to BAIL OUT the airline because it was losing so much money.
Bail out	Remove water from something that is flooded.	The boat was leaking so they had to BAIL it OUT.
Bail out	Jump out of a plane because it is going to crash.	The pilot BAILED OUT when he saw that the engines had failed.
Bail out of	Pay a bond to release someone from jail.	I must BAIL my drunken brother OUT OF jail.

Bail out on	Stop supporting someone when they are in trouble.	Everybody BAILED OUT ON him when the scandal broke.
Bail up	Talk to someone and delay them.	I was late because he BAILED me UP on the phone and wouldn't shut up.
Bail up	Rob someone at gunpoint.	He was BAILED UP by a couple of muggers as he came out of the bank.
Ball up	Confuse or make things complicated.	The new project has BALLED me UP - I have no idea what to do.
Ball up	Roll or form into a round shape.	He BALLED UP his napkin when he had finished eating.
Balls up	Spoil, ruin.	He BALLSED the presentation UP .
Bang about	Move in a place making a lot of noise.	He's BANGING ABOUT in the kitchen.
Bang around	Move in a place making a lot of noise.	I can hear him BANGING ABOUT upstairs.
Bang on	Talk at great length.	He BANGED ON for half an hour but no one was listening.
Bang on about	Keep talking about something.	He's always BANGING ON ABOUT football.
Bang out	Play a musical instrument loudly.	She BANGED the tune OUT on the piano.
Bang up	Put someone in prison.	The judge BANGED him UP for eight years.
Bang up	Damage badly.	He BANGED his car UP last night.
Bank on	Count or rely on.	I'm BANKING ON your help; I can't do it alone.