

## A

### A

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account for  
ace out (American informal)  
ache for  
ace out  
act up  
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ask for  
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### B

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## **abide by**

- Fire those who don't abide by the new rules.
- Abide by the law.

## **accede to**

- My parents finally acceded to my demand.
- Accede to the throne.

## **account for**

- sth: Can you account for your absence yesterday?
- sth: Students account for 50% of our customers.
- sb: I can't account for the missing students.

## **ace out (American informal)**

- We were aced out by some kids.

## **ache for**

- sth: I'm aching for some sleep.
- sb: After only two weeks apart, I'm already aching for her.

## **ace out**

- Can you ace it out?

## **act up**

- My left knee is acting up. My Indian accent is acting up.
- If you start acting up, I will send you home.

## **add up**

- add sth up: add these numbers up.
- add up (**Informal**): It doesn't add up. It all adds up now.

## **adhere to**

- Adhere to the rule / a promise.

## **adjourn to (humorous)**

- Shall we adjourn to my place for some coffee?

## **agree with**

- agree with sb (**slightly old-fashioned**).
  - Motherhood really agrees with me.
  - The sea air agrees with me.
- not agree with sb (**always negative**)
  - I don't eat onions. They don't agree with me.
- I agree with you.

## **aim at**

- We are aiming at a 50% increase.
- This is aimed at killing the mosquitoes here.

## **announce against (American)**

- I have announced against Donald Trump.

## **announce for (American)**

- sb: I can't believe you announced for Donald Trump.
- sth: I'm going to announce for the presidency.

## **answer back**

- Don't you dare answer me back. (talk back)

## **answer for**

- You should answer for your son's behavior.
- Everything was perfect until you came long.
- You have a lot to answer for.

## **answer for sb / sth**

- I can answer for Bingo because I've been following him for 3 years.
- I can't answer for Bingo's professionalism.

## **answer to (Slightly formal)**

- I don't answer to you. I answer to John.

## **ante up (American)**

- They told everyone to ante up 100 dollars.

## **arse about / around (British & Australian)**

- I wish you could stop arsing around and help me clean up the room.

## **ask around**

- I'll ask around at work.

## **ask for**

- Ask for money. Ask you dad for allowance.
- Ask sb for a favor: Can I ask you a favor?
- couldn't ask for ... better...: I couldn't ask for a better boss.

## **ask for**

- A young lady was asking for you.

## **be asking for**

- Drinking and driving is asking for trouble.
- You asked for it.

## **B**

## **back away**

- Back away. He has a gun.
- Back away from: The government has backed away from plans to increase taxes.

## **back down**

- Nothing will make him back down.

## **back off**

- He has a gun. You should back off.
- It's none of your business. Just back off.
- I'll just back off and let her handle this.
- Mainly American: The president wants to back off from his "no new taxes" promise.

## **back out**

- If you are afraid, you can just back out.
- You signed a contract. You can't back out now.

## **back up**

- drive: Back up a little.
- computer: I back up all my files onto my flash disk. Always make a back-up of your files.
- Come on. Back me up here. Will you back me up if I say I was at home last night?
- I will always back you up.
- music: Can you back me up on piano?
- be backed up: His theory has been backed up.
- = back off
- We need backup.

## **bag up**

- We bagged up the vegetables to put in the freezer.

## **bail out**

- My mom won't bail me out.
- You need to pay 25 grand to bail him out.
- My advice is to bail out now before it's too late.
- True friends never bail out on you when you're in trouble.

## **bail / bail on someone**

- He bailed. They bailed on me. He bailed on us.

## **band together**

- They are banding together to finish the work.

## **barge in / into**

- You can't just barge into the room like that.
- Never barge into someone's bedroom without knocking.
- Sorry to bargain in, but are you from the States?
- Bargain in on someone: You can't bargain on them.

## **bear with someone**

- If you'll just bear with me for a moment, I'll find you a copy.

## **beat**

- Beat up: A tall guy beat me up. I got beaten up by 4 strangers.
- beat oneself up: Stop beating yourself up. Don't beat yourself up like that.
- beat up on...: Stop beating up on yourself.
- beat sth out of sb: Don't worry. The police will beat the truth out of him.
- beat the heck/hell/crap/shit out of ... : They will beat the heck out of me.
- be beat: I'm beat.

## **beef**

- What's your beef with me ? I have no beef with you.
- beef up: beef up your image with a new hairstyle.
- beef about: Stop beefing about your new boss.

## **believe**

- believe sth/sb: I believe you. I don't believe this.
- believe in sth: Do you believe in God? I believe in Karma. They don't believe in living together.
- believe in sb: I believe in you. Always believe in your teacher.

## **belly**

- beer belly/belly button/belly dance: I got a beer belly.
- belly up to...: He bailed up to the bar for a drink.
- Belly up to the table.

## **belong to**

- belong to sb: This car belongs to me. You belong to me. All the credit belongs to you. (You take all the credit)
- belong to sth: I belong to this group.

- You don't belong here. / You belong with me. / belongings.

## **bend**

- It's bent. /be bent out of shape: He is bent out of shape.
- bend down: I can't bend down to tie my shoelaces. Yao Ming has to bend down as he goes through the door.
- bend over: Don't bend over the fire.
- bend over backwards: I would bend over backwards to help you.

## **bet**

- You wanna bet? I bet he likes you. = I'm sure he likes you.
- place your bet. I lost the bet.
- You bet. You bet your ass...: You bet your ass I am./I can/I do.
- bet on ...: Don't bet on it. Bet on that one.

## **bill**

- Bill please. Can we get the bill? Pay the bills. I got bills to pay. Water bill/electricity bill/gas bill.
- bill sb/sth as ...: They billed her as the most beautiful woman on earth.

## **bite**

- It will bite you. It bit me. A mosquito bit me.
- grab a bite to eat: I'm famished. Let's go grab a bite to eat = go grab something to eat.
- Bite me!
- one's bark is worse than their bite: Her bark is worse than her bite. So don't be scared.

## **black out**

- I blacked out. I don't know what happened.
- The entire city is blacked out.

## **blank out**

- Hello? It looks like you just blanked out. /your mind went blank.

## **blast**

- have a blast: We are gonna have a blast in London. I had a blast talking with you.
- have a ball. /have a great time / have a lot of fun.



## **blow**

- When the wind blows in your face.
- This party really blows
- taboo: BJ = blow job. Blow me ! = Eff me!
- blow money: I blew all my 25 grand.
- blow away: It will blow away. Put a phone on it or something.
- blow sb away: You blew me away. This movie will blow you away. = blow your mind.
  - Mind-blowing: This movie is mind-blowing.
- blow out: Blow out the candles.
- blow sb / sth off: He said he would come, but he blew me off. You blew off the interview. what were you thinking?
- ruin: Don't blow this. I blew the interview.

## **Bog off (British & Australian)**

### **bone up on. (Informal)**

- I am boning up on my English. You need to bone up on your driving skills.

## **book**

- book a table / book a room.
- book into... / British & Australian: I need to book into the hotel first. = check in / into
- be booked up: Sorry, we're booked up/we're fully booked/I can't. I'm booked up this weekend.

## **boomerang on...**

- I made a bad joke on. It boomeranged on me because now she is mad at me.

## **boss**

- You're the boss.
- boss around: Stop bossing me around. I can tell your wife likes to boss you around.

## **bottle up**

- A lot of men bottle up their feelings. Come on. Don't bottle things up. Just tell me.

## **bounce off**

- I'd like to bounce some ideas off you.

## **break**

- Don't break my vase. I broke many bones.
- take a break. Let's take a 5-minute break = Let's take 5. take a lunch break. Take a commercial break.  
Spring break. Winter break.
- give sb a break: Give me a break
- break sth to sb: You break this news to him. I hate to break this to you, but ..
- Break a leg. VS Good luck. VS Go get'em!

## **break down:**

- My car broke down. The washing machine broke down.
- Talks between the two countries broke down. One in three marriages in Britain breaks down and ends in divorce.
- You can't tell her. She will break down.
- Two days after his wife died, he broke down and needed medical help.
- breakdown: You're going to have a break down if you keep working like this. Have a nervous breakdown.
- Break it down! Australian.
- = take it easy / Calm down.

## **break for**

- Break for it! = Make a break for it. The police are coming.

## **break in**

- We can break in through the kitchen window.
- Use a password so no one can break in.
- I'm going to break in these new boots. I'm breaking in my new pants tomorrow.
- break in on sb: I'm sorry to break in on you, but there's a lady asking for you outside.
- mean / wicked / sick
- ok VS It's OK VS I'm OK.

## **break into**

- Someone broke into y car. Let's break into their house.

## **break off**

- She break off their engagement after discovering that he was having an affair.
- Break off with: I broke off with her last night.
- I broke it off with her last night.

## **break out**

- They tried to break out of the prison by digging a tunnel. Prison Break. Break jail / prison.

## **break through**

Part of my job as a teacher is to break through the laziness that stops the students from learning.

Breakthrough: We have made a major breakthrough.

Break through(the clouds): The sun is starting to break through.

## **break up**

- My marriage broke up.
- We need to break up.
- She broke up with me. Who broke up with whom?
- Breakup: I'm not over the breakup yet. The whole breakup thing is killing me.

## **breathe in/out; breath**

- be out of breath: I'm out of breath
- can't catch one's breath: I can't catch my breath.
- I need to catch my breath.
- Save one's breath: Save your breath.
- have bad breath: You have bad breath.
- Hold your breath.

## **breeze**

- I love the breeze. Breezy: It's breezy / easy-breezy
- Breeze through: I'll breeze through the English exam.
- Breeze into... : He breezes in every morning, always happy and smiling.

## **bring**

- Can I bring a friend? Bring a date. Bring a plus one. Bring company: You brought company. Bring ... with...: Bring your laptop with you.
- What brings you here? What brings you by?

- bring about: We want to bring about some changes in this company.
- bring along: Bring your mom along.
- bring back: This phone brings it all back. Talking with you brought back lots of good memories.
- bring sb back to life: I'll bring her back to life.
- bring in: It's time I brought some money in, given I'm already 20 years old.
- Bring it in. = Get in here.
- bring sth on : Stress can bring on headaches. Bring it on.
- bring sth on sb: You brought this on yourself.
- bring sb up: I'm going to bring my son up in America.
- be brought up: I was brought up in China. He was brought up by his foster parents. \* raise. I raise you better than that.