

ad·mit

S2 W1

/əd'mɪt/

verb

(admitted, admitting)

1 **accept truth** ADMIT[intransitive and transitive] to agree unwillingly that something is true or that someone else is right:

'Okay, so maybe I was a little bit scared,' Jenny admitted.

admit (that)

*You may not like her, but you **have to admit** that she's good at her job.*

admit to somebody (that)

Paul admitted to me that he sometimes feels jealous of my friendship with Stanley.

*I **must admit**, I didn't actually do anything to help her.*

***Admit it!** I'm right, aren't I?*

admit (to) doing something

Dana admitted feeling hurt by what I had said.

freely/openly/frankly etc admit (= admit without being ashamed)

Phillips openly admits to having an alcohol problem.

2 **accept blame** ADMIT[intransitive and transitive] to say that you have done something wrong, especially something criminal

SYN confess

OPP

admit doing something

Greene admitted causing death by reckless driving.

admit to (doing) something

A quarter of all workers admit to taking time off when they are not ill.

After questioning, he admitted to the murder.

*No organization has **admitted responsibility** for the bombing.*

- 3 allow to enter** ENTER[transitive] to allow someone to enter a public place to watch a game, performance etc → **admittance, admission:**
admit somebody to/into something

Only ticket-holders will be admitted into the stadium.

In everyday English, people usually say **let** someone **in** rather than **admit** someone:

*They won't **let you in** without a ticket.*

- 4 allow to join** JOIN AN ORGANIZATION[transitive] to allow someone to join an organization, club etc:

admit somebody to/into something

Drake was admitted into the club in 1997.

- 5 hospital** [transitive] if people at a hospital admit someone, that person is taken in to be given treatment, tests, or care:

What time was she admitted?

be admitted to hospital (BrE), be admitted to the hospital (AmE)

- 6 admit defeat** STOP DOING SOMETHING

to stop trying to do something because you realize you cannot succeed:

For Haskill, selling the restaurant would be admitting defeat.

- 7 admit evidence**

to allow a particular piece of EVIDENCE to be used in a court of law:

Courts can refuse to admit evidence obtained illegally by police.

verbs

refuse to admit something *He refused to admit that it was his fault.*

be forced to admit something *The government was forced to admit that the policy had never really worked.*

somebody has to admit something *In the end, he had to admit I was right.*

adverbs

freely/readily/openly admit something (= admit without being ashamed) *I freely admit I'm hopeless at maths.*

grudgingly/reluctantly admit something (= admit something when you do not want to) *He grudgingly admitted that I was a better swimmer than him.*

phrases

be willing/prepared/happy/ready to admit something *She was willing to admit that she'd made a mistake.*

be ashamed/loath to admit something *He was ashamed to admit that he had lied to her.*

I must admit something (= used when saying that you admit that something is true) *I must admit I hate camping.*

I hate to admit it but ... *I hate to admit it but it looks like we've failed.*

be the first to admit something *I know I'm lazy – I'm the first to admit it!*

I don't mind admitting something *I'm scared and I don't mind admitting it.*

THESAURUS

admit something is true

admit to agree unwillingly that something is true: *He admitted that the company was having financial difficulties. | I must admit*

I was disappointed by their reaction.

concede (formal) to admit something in a discussion or argument: *'You may be right,' Bridget conceded. | It was a decision which he now concedes was incorrect.*

acknowledge /ək'nɒlɪdʒ/ (formal) to say that something is true or that a situation exists: *The report acknowledges that research on animals is not always a reliable guide when it comes to humans. | They do not want to acknowledge the fact that things have changed.*

confess to admit something that you feel embarrassed or ashamed about: *Bradley confessed that he struggled to finish the race. | I must confess I don't like his wife at all.*

Granted / I grant you (formal spoken) used when admitting that something is true, although you do not think it makes much difference to the main point. **Granted** is usually used at the beginning of a sentence, or on its own: *She has a lot of experience, I grant you, but she's not good at managing people. | Granted he did play well in the last game, but generally his form hasn't had been very good recently.*

admit you have done something wrong

admit to say that you have done something wrong, especially something criminal: *He admitted charges of theft and false accounting. | Bennett admitted killing his wife.*

confess to tell the police or someone in authority that you have done something bad, especially when they have persuaded you to do this: *He finally confessed that he had stolen the money. | They told him that if he confessed he would get a lighter sentence.*

own up to admit that you have done something wrong, usually something that is not very serious. **Own up** is more informal than **admit** or **confess**: *He owned up to the mistake straight away.*

fess up (informal) to admit that you have done something wrong that is not very serious: *Come on, fess up! Where were you last night?*

come clean (informal) to finally admit something bad that you have been trying to hide: *They want the government to come clean on where all the money has gone.*

admit of something

phrasal verb

(formal)

GOOD ENOUGH if a situation admits of a particular explanation, that explanation can be accepted as possible:

The facts admit of no other explanation.

Word origin

Date: 1300–1400

Language: Latin

Origin: *admittere*, from *ad-* 'to' + *mittere* 'to send'

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