

answer²

S1 W2

verb

- 1 **reply** [intransitive and transitive] ANSWER/REPLY to say something to someone as a reply when they have asked you a question, made a suggestion etc:

She thought for a moment before answering.

*He still hadn't **answered** my **question**.*

'Why don't you just leave?' 'I'd like to,' she answered, 'but I have nowhere else to go.'

answer (that)

When questioned, Hughes answered that he knew nothing about the robbery.

How much was it? Come on, answer me.

- 2 **test** TEST [intransitive and transitive] ANSWER/RESULT to write or say the answer to a question in a test or competition:

Answer as many questions as possible in the time provided.

- 3 **answer the phone/a call/the door** TALK TO SOMEBODY

to pick up the telephone and speak when it rings or open the door when someone knocks or rings the bell

- 4 **letter** LETTER [transitive] ANSWER/REPLY if you answer a letter or advertisement, you write a letter to the person who has written it:

Simon got the job by answering an advert in the paper.

- 5 **RESPONSIBLE answer criticism/charges/accusations etc**

to explain why you did something when people are criticizing you – used in news reports:

How do you answer the criticism that your government has done nothing to help the homeless?

- 6 **react to something** DO SOMETHING AS A REACTION [intransitive and transitive] REACT to do something as a reaction to criticism or an attack

The army answered by firing into the crowd.

7 | deal with a problem DEAL WITH A PROBLEM [transitive] DEAL WITH to be a way of dealing with or solving a problem:

'You can borrow my car if you like.' 'Well, that answers one problem.'

8 answer a need PROVIDE

to provide something that is needed:

Our transportation system is designed to answer the needs of the city's commuters.

9 answer a description SAME

if someone answers a description, they match that description:

A man answering the police's description was seen entering the building.

THESAURUS

answer to say something to someone when they have asked you a question or spoken to you: *You don't have to answer the question if you don't want to. | I said hello to her, but she didn't answer.*

reply to answer someone. Used especially in written English to report what someone said: *'I'm so sorry,' he replied. | We asked Jane to help, but she replied that she was too busy.*

respond (formal) to answer someone: *How do you respond to the allegation that you deliberately deceived your employers?*

give somebody an answer to answer someone by telling them what you have decided or giving them a piece of information they asked for: *He asked me to marry him, but I didn't give him an answer straight away.*

get back to somebody to answer someone at a later time especially by telephoning them, usually because you need to

think about their question or find out more information: *She's promised to get back to me as soon as she hears any more news from the hospital.*

retort (written) to answer someone angrily, especially because they have annoyed you or criticized you: *'You're not afraid?' Brenda asked. 'Of course not,' he retorted angrily.*

answer back

phrasal verb

ANSWER/REPLY to reply in a rude way to someone that you are supposed to obey:

answer somebody back

Don't answer me back young man!

answer for somebody/ something

phrasal verb

1 to explain to people in authority why you did something wrong or why something happened, and be punished if necessary:

Their coach must answer for the team's poor performance.

2 RESPONSIBLE **have a lot to answer for** (informal)

to be responsible for causing a lot of trouble

3 CERTAINLY/DEFINITELY **can't answer for somebody** (spoken)

used to say that you cannot make a decision for someone who is not there, or give their opinion:

I'm sure John will help us – I can't really answer for the others.

answer to somebody/ something

phrasal verb

1 EXPLAIN to give an explanation to someone, especially about something that you have done wrong:

Phipps answers to me and me alone.

2 answer to the name of something

to be called a particular name – used humorously:

a well-dressed young woman answering to the name of Suzanne

Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English

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