

ac·count¹

S1 W1

/ə'kaʊnt/

noun [countable]

1 **description** a written or spoken description that says what happens in an event or process:

account of

*He was too shocked to **give an account** of what had happened.*

blow-by-blow account (= a description of all the details of an event in the order that they happened)

a blow-by-blow account of how England lost to Portugal

Chomsky's account of how children learn their first language

eye-witness/first-hand account (= a description of events by someone who saw them)

Eye-witness accounts told of the unprovoked shooting of civilians.

This gives a first-hand account of the war.

2 **at a bank** (written abbreviation **a/c** or **acct.**) an arrangement in which a bank keeps your money safe so that you can pay more in or take money out:

My salary is paid into my bank account.

*I've **opened an account** with Barclay's Bank.*

*My husband and I have a **joint account** (= one that is shared between two people) .*

→ BANK ACCOUNT,
CHECKING ACCOUNT,
CURRENT ACCOUNT,
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT,
PROFIT AND LOSS ACCOUNT,

SAVINGS ACCOUNT

3 take account of something (also take something into account)

THINK ABOUT

to consider or include particular facts or details when making a decision or judgment about something:

These figures do not take account of changes in the rate of inflation.

4 on account of something BECAUSE

because of something else, especially a problem or difficulty:

She was told to wear flat shoes, on account of her back problem.

5 accounts

a) [plural]

an exact record of the money that a company has received and the money it has spent:

The accounts for last year showed a profit of \$2 million.

b) [uncountable]

a department in a company that is responsible for keeping records of the amount of money spent and received:

Eileen works in accounts.

6 on account PAY FOR

if you buy goods on account, you take them away with you and pay for them later

7 **with a shop/company** PAY FOR an arrangement that you have with a shop or company, which allows you to buy goods or use a service now and pay for them later

SYN credit account

Can you charge this to my account please?

an unlimited-use Internet account

8 bill a statement that shows how much money you owe for things you have bought from a shop

pay/settle your account (= pay what you owe)

James left the restaurant, settling his account by credit card.

9 | arrangement to sell goods an arrangement to sell goods and services to another company over a period of time:

Our sales manager has secured several big accounts recently.

10 by/from all accounts SAY/STATE

according to what a lot of people say:

It has, from all accounts, been a successful marriage.

11 on somebody's account BECAUSE

if you do something on someone's account, you do it because you think they want you to:

Please don't change your plans on my account.

12 on your own account INDEPENDENT PERSON

by yourself or for yourself:

Carrie decided to do a little research on her own account.

13 on no account/not on any account ADVISE

used when saying that someone must not, for any reason, do something:

On no account must you disturb me.

14 by somebody's own account SAY/STATE

according to what you have said, especially when you have admitted doing something wrong:

Bentley was, by his own account, over-sensitive to criticism.

15 on that account/on this account ABOUT

concerning a particular situation:

There needn't be any more worries on that account.

16 give a good/poor account of yourself PERFORM

to do something or perform very well or very badly:

Kevin gave a good account of himself in today's game.

17 bring/call somebody to account (formal)

to force someone who is responsible for a mistake or a crime to explain publicly why they did it and punish them for it if necessary:

The people responsible for the accident have never been brought to account.

18 put/turn something to good account (formal)

to use something for a good purpose:

Perhaps she could put some of her talents to good account by helping us.

19 of no/little account (formal)

not important:

As she grew up, her father was of no account to her.

COLLOCATIONS Sense 1

verbs

give an account *Marshall gave the police his account of how the fight started.*

provide an account *Freud has provided an account of the human psyche's stages of development.*

write an account *He later wrote an account of his experiences during the war.*

read an account *Have you read his account of the journey?*

ADJECTIVES/NOUN + account

a detailed account *She gave me a detailed account of what happened at the meeting.*

a full account *It is not possible to give a full account of what we discussed.*

a short account *What follows is a short account of the legal procedure.*

a brief account *The class were asked to write a brief account of their holidays.*

a clear account *I've tried to write a clear account of the incident.*

an accurate account *Both newspapers gave fairly accurate accounts of what had happened.*

a true account *The book is a true account of his life and death.*

a blow-by-blow account (= very detailed) *Rosemary gave me a blow-by-blow account of their trip.*

a graphic account (= very clear with a lot of details, especially unpleasant details) *He wrote a graphic account of his time in jail.*

a vivid account (= so clear that it seems real or like real life) *I read a vivid account of his experiences in Egypt.*

an eye-witness account (= an account of an event, given by the person who saw it happen) *an eye-witness account of the attack*

a first-hand account (= an account of a situation, given by the person who experienced it) *a first-hand account of life in the refugee camps*

conflicting accounts (= different accounts of the same event, that cannot both be true) *There were conflicting accounts of what actually happened.*

THESAURUS

account a written or spoken description that says what happens in an event or process: *He provided the police with a detailed account of what he saw.*

description something you say or write that gives details about what something or someone is like: *The report gave a brief description of the problem.*

story an account of something that has happened which may not be true – used especially when people are telling each other

about something: *I don't think he was honest enough to tell us the full story.* | *Her parents did not believe her story.*

report a written or spoken account of a situation or event, giving people the information they need, especially after studying something as part of your job: *The UN will issue a report on the incident.* | *Initial police reports suggest she was murdered.*

version a particular person's account of an event, which is different from the account that another person gives: *Her **version of events** has been contradicted by other witnesses.*