

# account<sup>2</sup>

S3 W2

verb

## account for something

phrasal verb

**1** BE to form a particular amount or part of something:

*Afro-Americans account for 12% of the US population.*

**2** REASON to be the reason why something happens

**SYN** explain

*Recent pressure at work may account for his behavior.*

**3** REASON to give a satisfactory explanation of why something has happened or why you did something

**SYN** explain

*Can you account for your movements on that night?*

**4** HERE to say where all the members of a group of people or things are, especially because you are worried that some of them may be lost:

*Three days after the earthquake, more than 150 people had still to be accounted for.*

### Word origin

**Date:** 1300–1400

**Language:** Old French

**Origin:** *acompter*, from *compter* 'to count'

*Longman Dictionary of Contemporary English*

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