

# Phrasal Verbs with 'Be'

## Be About

- **be about**

1. *be near, nearby:*

- *He must be somewhere about.*

2. *be available or active (in a certain place) :*

- *Step carefully, there are snakes about.*
- *There comes the commission, they are to be about from the first of May until the fifteenth.*

- **be about** something

1. *be doing something; be busy with something:*

- *What are you about?*
- *She doesn't know what she's about.*

- **be about** to do something

1. *used to indicate an action that may soon occur based on the situation:*

- *So what is it exactly he's about to do?*
- *It's about to rain.*
- *Being about to fall, he took his hands out of the pockets.*

2. *used to express planned action:*

- *So what is it exactly he's about to do?*

## Be Above

- **be above** something

1. *be superior; rise superior to something:*

- *She's above criticism. (She is flawless.)*
- *It's above my head. (This is too difficult for me to understand.)*

- **be above** oneself

1. *overestimate one's worth:*

- *He's above himself and thinks he knows everything.*

2. *get out of obedience; become unmanageable:*

- *Something needs to be done. He is above himself.*

## Be After

- **be after** something

1. *try to do or get anything; be interested in something:*

- *He is after money, not friendship.*
- **be after** someone for something
  1. *pester someone with something:*
    - *He's always after me for something.*

## Be Against

- **be against** someone or something
  1. *oppose someone or something; object to someone or something:*
    - *He wasn't against my doing it.*
    - *It is against my principles to tell a lie.*

## Be Ahead

- **be ahead** of someone or something
  1. *be outrunning, winning or in a superior position compared to someone or something*
    - *Development of transportation is far ahead of road infrastructure.*

## Be At

- **be at** someone
  1. *criticize or complain someone in an annoying way; pester someone (with any request) :*
    - *She was at me all evening for I came drunk again.*
    - *He was at me to let him go outside. / He was at me about letting him go outside.*
  2. *be doing something; be busy with something; deal with something:*
    - *What are you at?*
    - *Who's been at my stuff? (Who touched / used my stuff?)*

## Be Away

- **be away**
  1. *be gone; be out of one's place:*
    - *I won't be away for long.*
    - *I'll be away to Simferopol for a few days.*
  2. *immerse in thoughts:*
    - *He is away in a world of his own.*

## Be Back

- **be back**
  1. *return; come back:*
    - *I will be back soon.*
  2. *come back into fashion; become popular again:*
    - *Oversized sunglasses are back again.*

## Be Behind

- **be behind** (someone, something)
  1. *lag (behind someone or something):*
    - *He's behind the times.*
    - *They are a powerhouse team and never give up even when they are behind in the score.*
  2. *be in arrears:*
    - *They're behind with their rent.*
  3. *support someone:*
    - *I'm behind you all the way.*

## Be Down

- **be down**
  1. indicates a location below the current position (see also [Down vs. Up](#)):
    - *The nearest bus stop is down the street, it's in three minutes on foot.*
  2. *go (temporarily) out of order:*
    - *Our home WiFi network is down.*
- **be down**
  1. *finish; have a small amount:*
    - *Crime is down. (The crime rate is dropping.)*
- **be down** (to some quantity)
  1. *decline (to a certain level):*
    - *We discovered that our water stock was down to two bottles.*
- **be down** (with something)
  1. *get sick with something:*
    - *He is down with the flu.*
- **be down** (with someone or something)
  1. *be in agreement with someone or something; cooperate; get along with someone, enjoy something:*
    - *I'm down with your solution.*

- *I'm down with this music.*
- *—Are we going for a walk? —I'm down.*

## Be Down and Out

- **be down and out**

1. *be exhausted; be helpless :*
  - *I'm not so down and out that I can't handle this.*
2. *be in need; be without funds:*
  - *For years she had been down and out in Los Angeles, singing for \$5 a night.*

## Be For

- **be for** *someone, something*

1. *be on someone's side; support anyone, anything:*
  - *I'm all for what you say.*
  - *I was for giving her another chance.*
2. *be a cause; be a harbinger of something:*
  - *It can't be for nothing!*
  - *Maybe it's all for the best.*

- **be for** *someone to do something*

1. *be someone's right or duty to do something:*
  - *It's not for me to decide whether you should do this or not.*

## Be In

- **be in**

1. *be at home; be in place:*
  - *(At) what time are you in tomorrow?*
  - *I have said I'm in for no one.*
2. *be involved, join in an activity:*
  - *Are you in? – Are you with us (in business)?*
3. *be in fashion:*
  - *Oversized sunglasses are in this year.*
4. *to be in jail:*
  - *He was in for fraud.*

## Be In For

- **be in for something**

1. *be waiting for something:*
  - *What are we in for this today?*
  - *Having come home she was in for a surprise.*
2. *be involved in something; take part in something:*
  - *He has no idea what he is to be in for.*

## Be Into

- **be into** someone or something

1. *love; like; be carried away by someone or something :*
  - *He's into his new neighbors.*

- **be into** something

1. *be involved in something:*
  - *I don't care what he's into.*

## Be Of

- **be of** something

1. *be determined by some sign: be of interest = be interesting; be of use = be useful:*
  - *Please let me know if I can be of help.*
  - *I was of two minds whether to leave or to stay.*
  - *They were all of a size (one size / the same size).*
  - *Benefits may be of two types: cash benefits and benefits in kind.*
2. *belong to something:*
  - *I am of Ireland.*
3. *be made of something:*
  - *It is of wood.*

## Be Off

- **be off**

1. *be canceled:*
  - *I must call my wife, tell her our date night<sup>(1)</sup> is off.*
  - *If I haven't seen some results by tomorrow, the deal is off.*
2. *be turned off; be switched off:*
  - *The electricity is off.*

3. *be free of any business:*

- *I will be off by 5 o'clock today.*

4. *be confused; not be at one's best; be out of luck :*

- *I've been a little off these last few days.*

• **be off** (to somewhere)1. *go; go away (somewhere):*

- *Be off! (Get out!)*
- *I must be off.*
- *Well, I'm off to bed.*

• **be off** something1. *lose interest in something; quit (about the habit):*

- *When you are ill you can be off your food.*
- *I've been off cigarettes for two years.*

2. *figuratively: be outside of something, be without something:*

- *He's been off his game this last couple of days. (He's not been in his best shape.)*
- *Don't be off your guard. (Don't be careless.)*
- *Are you off your head?*

## Be On

• **be on**1. *happen; take place:*

- *Join our mailing list, so you know about what's on in our community.*

2. *be on display; be on show; be on exhibit:*

- *The film is on in a few minutes.*

3. *be turned on; be switched on:*

- *The electricity is on.*

• **be on** something1. *figuratively: be in something, be with something:*

- *It's nice to know someone here is on his game. (It's nice to know that someone here knows what to do.)*
- *Our experienced team are on hand to advise you on any questions. (Our experienced team is always ready to advise you on any questions.)*

## Be On About

• **be on about** something1. *hint, imply; talk about something (in a long or unintelligible conversation) :*

- *What is he on about? (What is he talking about. / What does he mean?)*
- *I have no idea what he's on about.*

## Be On At

- **be on at** someone

1. *pestering someone over and over again with a request:*
  - *She is always on at me about earning more money.*

## Be Out

- **be out**

1. *open up, become known:*
  - *It's no use keeping the truth back. Everything will be out anyway.*
2. *leave a certain place (usually for a short time; not be at home, at work, and the like):*
  - *He's out at the moment.*
  - *I told you, I'm out to lunch.*
3. *do not have (enough); lack:*
  - *Something is out here. (Something is missing here.)*
  - *I'm out of cigarettes.*

- **be out** to do something

1. *colloquial intend, decide to do something:*
  - *She's out to prove herself. (She's going to show what she's capable of.)*

- **be out** of something

1. *go beyond the boundaries or the limits of anything:*
  - *If something is out of range it is too far away to be reached or detected.*

## Be Out and About

- **be out and about**

1. *go to the active phase after rest or an ordinary state:*
  - *The snake season is upon us, which means snakes will soon be out and about after a long period of hibernation – hungry and in search of food.<sup>[1]</sup>*
2. *get better (come back to the ordinary run of things after illness):*
  - *I'm glad you are out and about again after the operation.*
3. *become available after a breakdown:*
  - *Your car will be out and about in an hour.*
4. *go out into the light, into circulation; become available :*
  - *Our postcards and posters will soon be out and about giving you all the details of our event.<sup>[2]</sup>*
  - *He decided it wouldn't be foreseeing for him to be out and about now.*
  - *You need to be out and about, mate.*
  - *I usually read books if I'm not out and about.*

# Be Up

- **be up**

1. *be on your feet; wake up; stay awake :*
  - *Usually I'm already up at seven o'clock.*
2. *happen, take place; be relevant:*
  - *What's up?*
  - *Is the offer still up for grabs?*
3. *climb, be on top, reach a high position:*
  - *Gasoline prices are up about 40 cents in a month.*
  - *He is up in his room.*
  - *She is up in years, but she has a huge spirit.*

# Be Up For

- **be up for** something

1. *be in the mood to do something; be ready for anything:*
  - *Are you up for shopping?*
  - *I think he's up for the challenge.*
2. *figuratively: be under some action:*
  - *This house is up for sale.*
  - *This isn't up for discussion anyway.*
  - *All facets of the matter has been up for review.*

# Be Up To

- **be up to** something

1. *be capable, ready for something; match, fit something:*
  - *I think he's up to the challenge.*
  - *I'm not up to waiting that long.*
  - *Where are you up to with your treatment? (How are you doing with your treatment?)*
  - *Please, review the application example and make sure that yours is up to sample.*
2. *meditate doing something, conceive something :*
  - *I have to know what she is up to.*
3. *be dependent, be determined by something:*
  - *It's up to me, not to you, to decide that.*
  - *Now it's all up to you.*
  - *That one's life is up to oneself is a pivotal developmental epiphany.*



# Be With

- **be with** someone:

1. *agree with someone; support, be on someone's side:*

- *I am entirely with you in this.*

## See also

- [The grammar of the use of the verb 'Be'.](#)
- [Conjugation of the verb 'Be'.](#)
- [Dictionary entry for the verb 'Be'.](#)
- [Formation and use of phrasal verbs.](#)
- [Understanding the meaning of prepositions and adverbs in phrasal verbs.](#)

## Notes

<sup>1)</sup> *Date night* – originally, this is the evening time that a married couple has allocated for themselves away from children and everyday worries, but can also be used in relation to any time of the day.

## Citation

<sup>1)</sup> *Garin Joemath #KeepYourEyesOnTheSnake* // tame TIMES Newspaper ([28.02.2019](#)).

<sup>2)</sup> HISTON Handmade ([histonhandmade.com](https://histonhandmade.com)) at [twitter.com](https://twitter.com/HistonHandmade) ([twitter.com/HistonHandmade](https://twitter.com/HistonHandmade)) ([28.02.2019](#)).

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