

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.*

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** somebody for something

1. *pester someone with something:*

- *He's always after me for something.*

Be Against

- **be against** *somebody or something*

1. *oppose somebody or something; object to somebody or something:*

- *He wasn't against my doing it.*
- *It is against my principles to tell a lie.*

Be Ahead

- **be ahead** *of somebody or something*

1. *be outrunning, winning or in a superior position compared to somebody or something*

- *Development of transportation is far ahead of road infrastructure.*

Be At

- **be at** *somebody*

1. *criticize or complain somebody 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** (somebody, something)
 1. *lag (behind somebody 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** (to some quantity)
 1. *finish; have a small amount; decline (to a certain level):*
 - *Crime is down. (The crime rate is dropping.)*
 - *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 somebody 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** *somebody, 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 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** somebody 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⁽¹⁾ is off.
 - If I don't see 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** something

1. 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** something

1. 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** something

1. 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 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; get better (come back to normal); become available after a breakdown:*

- *You need to be out and about, mate.*
- *I usually read books if I'm not out and about.*
- *I'm glad you are out and about again after the operation.*
- *He decided it wouldn't be foreseeing for him to be out and about now.*
- *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.^[1]*
- *Your car will be out and about in an hour.*

2. *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.^[2]*

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 :*
 - *I think he's up to the challenge.*
 - *I'm not sure that I'm up to the job.*
 - *I'm not up to waiting that long.*
 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** somebody:
 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

¹⁾ *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.

Sources

- The article is based on the translation of "Фразовые глаголы с 'be'" (Phrasal Verbs with 'Be'), accessed 26.04.2021, permalink https://esl.wiki/ru/phrasal_verbs/be?rev=1619444654.

Citation

¹⁾ *Garin Joemath #KeepYourEyesOnTheSnake* // tame TIMES Newspaper (28.02.2019).

²⁾ HISTON Handmade (histonhandmade.com) at twitter.com (twitter.com/HistonHandmade) (28.02.2019).

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