

say hello to idioms which begin with 'A'

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to abandon oneself to

to give, surrender, relinquish or turn oneself over to

He **abandoned himself to** the pleasure of the moment.

to abbreviate something to

to reduce in length or duration

They have **abbreviated the name** to an acronym.

to abdicate to

to relinquish one's rights or claims to

Prince Charles may **abdicate to** his son.

to abduct someone from

to kidnap, to take, to carry off

I'm afraid that she will **abduct the baby from** the church.

to abscond with

to take the money and run, to steal, to rob, to prig (British English)

They **absconded with** the money.

to absolve someone from

to free from guilt or blame

The priest **absolved the men from** all blame.

to absorb in

to become interested, engrossed or fully engaged in

She could become so **absorbed in** her books that she would be oblivious to her surroundings.

to absorb something into

to integrate something into something i.e. an organization

The fraternity **absorbed the new members into** the organization with almost no problem.

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to absorb with something

to soak up or take up fluid by absorption

The child **absorbed the milk** with a paper towel.

to abstain from

to refrain or desist from, to curtail

During Lent, the children **abstained from** sweets.

to accept someone as is

to accept without any questions or doubts, to accept unconditionally

I **accept my children as is**. No more explanation is necessary.

to account for

to clear up, to show grounds, to explain

He could not **account for** the mix-up.

to account for

to know the whereabouts of

I can always **account for** his movements.

to account for

to justify, to explain, to make comprehensible

No one can **account for** his actions.

to ace

to beat or win against someone easily

I **aced** that class.

to ace out of

to get out of something by luck

I **aced out of** the class.

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to ache for

to empathize or sympathize with

I **ache for** you and your family. Please accept my sympathies.

to ache for

to yearn for, to crave, to really want

I've missed him so much. I **ache for** him.

to ache to

to be eager or long to

I **ache to** get even.

to acquaint someone with

to make someone aware or familiar with, to help acquire knowledge of

It is my job to **acquaint the new employee with the company's policy**.

to acquire a taste for

to become used to the flavor of, to begin to like the taste of, to get used to the flavor of

I have never **acquired a taste for** wine.

to act as

to fulfill the function or the role of

At the teacher's meeting, she will **act as** her siblings' parent.

to act as if

to behave as if a situation were something that it is not

He **acts as if** he were still president. He's not.

to act for

to substitute, to fill in, to pinch hit for, to take the place of

When I gave you the assignment, I was **acting for** your teacher. I am only a sub.

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to act for

to represent someone legally or contractually, to legally function in the name of

When I fired the director, I was **acting for** the president.

to act for

to take action when the person who is in charge does or will not

Because the president was indisposed, the vice president had to **act for** him.

to act from

to be motivated, prompted or provoked by

Simply put, he **acted from** love.

to act funny

to display eccentric or strange behavior, to make another feel uncomfortable by one's behavior

I don't want him anywhere near my children; he **acts funny**.

to act funny

to behave differently, to change one's behavior, to have one's behavior demonstrate that something has changed

Is every thing okay? You're **acting funny**.

to act high and mighty

to carry oneself as if one were all powerful, supreme, almighty or omnipotent

He needs to stop **acting all high and mighty**.

to act in cold blood

to behave in a manner which is ruthless, cold or deliberate, to operate without emotion or pity

When he killed the victim, he **acted in cold blood**.

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to act like

to behave or carry oneself in a particular manner

You need to start **acting like** an adult. You are not a child.

to act like an asshole

to conduct oneself in a manner which is idiotic, foolish or unthinking

You are always **acting like an asshole**.

to act on

to have an effect on, to affect, to do something about

He needs to **act on** the problem quickly or he will be lost.

to act on behalf of

to legally or contractually stand in for or represent another

The viceroy **acted on behalf of** the king.

to act one's age

to behave in a mature manner, to carry oneself appropriately and maturely

Act your age and not your shoe size!

to act out

to illustrate or demonstrate by words or gestures

She **acted out** the meaning of the word.

to act out

to give overt expression to one's repressed emotion or feeling

He **acted out** his aggression by having a temper tantrum.

to act out

to express one's fantasies or imagination in real life

I **acted out** my inner feelings on stage.

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to act over someone's head

to ignore, dismiss, or disregard one's immediate supervisor
to consult his or her supervisor

Because my manager would not listen to me, I had to **act over the foreman's head** and go to the supervisor.

to act up

to behave badly, to not behave oneself

Mary **acted up** all day today.

to act up

to have a flare up, to become temporarily painful

My knee is **acting up** again.

to add insult to injury

to hurt a person who already is, to continue injuring, to kick a person when he's/she's already down

She is especially cruel, always **adding insult to injury**.

to add fuel to the flame

to make a bad situation worse

Stop **adding fuel to the flame**. It only makes the situation more unbearable.

to add the finishing touches to

to put or add the necessary details and accessories so that a project can be completed

This picture will **add the finishing touches to** the book.

to add something to

to increase, to intensify, to enlarge, to make larger or greater, to magnify, to amplify

He **added fuel to the fire** and, as a result, made a bad situation horrible.