

## say hello to idioms which begin with 'A' (2)

This study guide was developed to help you learn some of the most common idioms in the English language which begin with the letter **A**. The expressions in Daily Expressions' Study Guide have been divided into several categories: the standard **dark yellow** in bold is for those expressions which are standard; the italic *dark yellow* is for those expressions which are acceptable but, because they are informal, their use should be limited; the **red** in bold is for those expressions which are slang and, therefore, not acceptable in many situations and the **blue** in bold is for those expressions which are considered vulgar.

**to add something and something together**

to sum up, to get the total or sum

No matter what. When you **add two and two together**, you will always get four.

**to add something to**

to increase the intensity of

He **added** more tequila **to** the punch.

**to add something to**

to join something to something to increase the size of or the amount of

He **added** another bedroom **to** his house.

**to add something to**

to put in another ingredient or element

You need to **add** sugar **to** the punch.

**to add something together**

to sum up, to get the total

When you **add two numbers together**, you get a total.

**to add up**

to total, compute or tote up

He **added up** the numbers.

**to add up to**

to signify, to mean, to indicate, to stand for

All of the evidence doesn't **add up to** murder.

**to add weight to**

to support, to bolster, to fortify, to augment, to reinforce, to buttress, to under gird

His book gave us no new information; it only **added weight to** what we already knew.

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**to addict someone to**

**to cause someone to become dependent on (drugs/alcohol)**

He **addicted his girlfriend to** cocaine.

**to address someone as**

**to use a specified form or title in speaking or in writing**

He **addressed his son as** Mr. President.

**to address oneself to**

**to speak directly to a particular person or persons**

He **addressed himself to** the leader of the group.

**to address oneself to**

**to turn one's complete attention to**

I need to **address myself to** the problem at hand.

**to adopt someone as**

**to vote for, to approve, to confirm**

They **adopted Gore as** their candidate.

**to adopt something as**

**to back, to uphold, to support**

They **adopted his policy as** law.

**to adore someone for**

**to honor, to respect, to esteem, to admire, to deify**

They **adore him for** the power that he has.

**to adore someone for**

**to love, to cherish, to hold dear, to dote on**

Like everyone else, he **adores her for** her beauty.



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**to adorn something with**

to decorate, to embellish, to garnish

They **adorn the house with** different color lights and other kinds of decorations.

**to adulterate something with**

to tamper, to doctor, to make impure, weaker or less potent, to water down

He **adulterated the medicine with** water.

**to advance to**

to go forward, to move on or onward

She **advanced** to first place.

**to advance toward**

to move toward or in the direction of

They **advanced toward** their goal step by small step.

**to advertise something for**

to publicize, announce or broadcast the price of

He **advertised everything for** rock bottom prices.

**to advertise for**

to publicize, announce or publish the availability of

He **advertised for** a roommate.

**to advise someone against**

to warn, caution or forewarn against

I **advised you against** trusting him.

**to advise someone of**

to inform, to make known, to relate, to communicate

The police did not **advise him of** his rights.

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**to advise someone on**

to counsel, to guide, to instruct

I asked the clerk to **advise me on** which system to buy for my home.

**to agitate against**

to excite, arouse, or foment against

To start the rebellion, they **agitated against** the government.

**to agitate for**

to work up, fire up or incite support for

They **agitated for** human rights.

**to agonize over**

to struggle, to grapple, to suffer over

He always **agonizes over** each and every decision.

**to agree to**

to yield assent, to reconcile, to come around, to come to terms with

I can't fight anymore. I'll **agree to** your terms.

**to agree to**

to give consent, to approve

I **agree to** your requests.

**to agree on**

to assent or consent to the choice of

I'll **agree on** your brother's appointment.

**to agree with**

to concur, to admit, to grant, to approve, to go along with

I **agree with** your decision.



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**to agree with**

(food/medicine) to suit, to be good for, to be able to digest or stomach

Chilies and peppers do not **agree with** me.

**to agree with**

(grammatical) to have the same gender, case, number and person of

The verb must **agree with** the subject.

**to aid someone in**

to help, to assist, to lend a hand in, to do one's part

He **aided me in** getting new housing after the hurricane.

**to aim something at**

to direct or point in the direction of

Please don't **aim that gun at** me.

**to aim for**

to strive, work, or struggle toward a goal

He's **aiming for** spectacular success.

**to aim for**

to reach, to strive or struggle for, to set one's sights on, to aspire to, to work for

He's always **aiming for** the stars.

**to air one's dirty laundry in public**

to talk about one's private or intimate matters in public

You shouldn't **air your dirty laundry in public**.

**to air one's grief**

to complain or talk of one's problems publicly

You shouldn't **air your grief** for everyone to know.

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**to air out**

**to put outside in the fresh air in order to freshen, disinfect or deodorize**

That trash can needs to be **aired out** now. It smells.

**to air out**

**to ventilate, to refresh, to freshen**

It's close in here. You got to open up the windows to **air out** this room.

**to air out**

**to talk about, to discuss, to make known, to expose, to reveal**

We need to **air out** all our disagreements.

**to alert someone to**

**to make known or aware, to warn**

He **alerted me to** my son's problems.

**to alienate someone from**

**to estrange, to make averse, to set against**

She **alienated her children from** their father.

**to allow for**

**to make allowance for, take into consideration**

When you buy cotton, you must **allow for** shrinkage.

**to allow for**

**to put up with, to bear, to tolerate, to take , to stand**

I won't **allow for** your disrespect.

**to allow someone in**

**to give or grant permission, to authorize**

They won't **allow me in**.