

Idiomatic expressions using the word account

Here is a list of idiomatic expressions using the word account.

Bring / hold / call someone to account

To bring someone to account is to force them to publicly explain why they committed a crime or made a mistake.

- The opposition has decided to bring the minister to account.
- The Principal who misappropriated the funds was called to account by the Vice Chancellor.

By all accounts / from all accounts

This expression is used to suggest that you are saying something based on what people say.

- He is, by all accounts, the best footballer of our times. (= Everybody says that he is the best footballer of our times.)
- Martin is, by all accounts, the most ambitious person I have ever known.

By your own account

According to what you yourself have said.

- By his own account, he was not keen on joining the company.

Give a good account of yourself

To give a good account of yourself is to perform or behave well.

- The team couldn't win the championship but they gave a good account of themselves coming second overall.

Of no account / of little account

If something is of no account, it is not important.

- We are looking to recruit candidates who can deliver exceptional performance. Their race or nationality is of no account.

On someone's account

If you do something on someone's account, you do it because you think they want you to do it.

- You don't have to make any special arrangements on my account.
- We prepared a lavish dinner on his account.

On account of

On account of means because of

- He retired at forty on account of ill-health.

On no account

This expression is used to say that something must not happen or must not be done.

- On no account should the captain be blamed for the loss.
- On no account can the doctor be blamed for the death of the patient.

On your own account

When you do something on your own account, you do it by yourself or for yourself.

- He works at a supermarket and earns \$500 a week on his own account.
- He joined the army on his own account.

Settle an account / settle accounts with

To settle accounts with somebody is to get revenge on them.

- The goon threatened to settle accounts with anyone who challenged him.

Take account of something / take something into account

To take account of something is to consider it.

- The government has to take account of environmental issues before going ahead with its plan to build the dam.
- The government has to take environmental issues into account before
- When you build your retirement fund, you must take inflation into account.
- You must take into account the fact that he is a postgraduate before offering to appoint him as your peon.

Turn something to good account

To turn a situation or experience to good account is to make good use of it.

- She had a flair for words and turned it to good account by becoming a journalist.
- He turned his retirement time to good account by cultivating some highly profitable hobbies.