

about**1. [ə'baʊt] a predic**

1) двигающийся, находящийся в движении

2) вставший с постели

to be up /out/ and about - а) быть на ногах, встать с постели; б) подняться после болезни

3) существующий, находящийся в обращении

4) *мор.* меняющий курс; лежащийся, поворачивающийся на другой галс**2. [ə'baʊt] adv***указывает на*1. *нахождение*1) *в разных местах* повсюду, везде, в разных местах

he was nowhere about - его нигде не было (видно)

don't leave papers lying about - не разбрасывайте бумаги где попало

there is a good deal of influenza about at present - сейчас повсюду много случаев гриппа

there is a rumour about - ходит слух

2) *поблизости* неподалёку, поблизости, рядом

several schoolboys were standing about - рядом /неподалёку/ стояло несколько школьников

look about and see if you can find it - поищи это где-нибудь здесь

2. *движение*1) *в разных направлениях по какой-л. ограниченной территории (по комнате, городу, стране и т. п.)* взад и вперёд; *передается тж. глагольными префиксами*

to stroll about - прогуливаться

they moved the furniture about - они передвигали мебель

2) *в противоположном направлении* обратнo, кругом

after swimming a mile he turned about and swam back to the shore - проплыв милю, он повернул обратнo к берегу

about, about face turn - *амер. воен.* кругом!about ship - *мор.* поворот! (*команда*)to put /to go/ about - *мор.* делать поворот оверштаг3) *по кругу, по окружности* вокруг, в окружности

he looked about - он огляделся кругом

3. *приблизительность* около, приблизительно почти; без малого

about thirty miles - приблизительно тридцать миль

about three o'clock - около трёх часов

about your size - примерно вашего размера

he is about as tall as I am - он почти такого же роста, как и я

it is about time you learned the rule - пора бы вам выучить это правило

that's about right - это более *или* менее правильноjust about enough - *разг.* примерно столько и нужно; \cong должно хватить

he is about ready - он уже почти готов

4. *готовность совершить какое-л. действие (с последующим инфинитивом):*

a plane about to take off - самолёт, готовый к взлёту

to be about to do smth. - собираться сделать что-л.

he was about to reply but thought better of it - он собирался ответить но раздумал

◇ (just) the other way about - (как раз) наоборот

what are you about? - чем вы заняты?, что вы делаете?, что собираетесь делать?

turn and turn about - по очереди, один за другим

3. [ə'baʊt] prep1. *в пространственном значении указывает на*1) *местоположение вокруг какого-л. предмета* вокруг, кругом

there was a fence about the garden - вокруг сада был забор

to gather about the fire - собираться у камина *или* вокруг костра

from everywhere about them came strange sounds - со всех сторон /отовсюду/ раздавались странные звуки

the folks about us - окружающие нас люди

2) *нахождение в разных местах, тут и там* по

all his belongings were lying about the floor - все его вещи были разбросаны по полу

3) *близость* неподалёку, поблизости, около

I dropped it somewhere about here - я уронил это где-то здесь

stay about the house today - не уходи сегодня далеко от дома

2. *указывает на движение в разных направлениях по какой-л. ограниченной территории (по комнате, городу, стране и т. п.)* туда и сюда, по

he walked about the garden - он ходил по саду взад и вперёд, он расхаживал по саду

to run /to rush/ about the room - метаться по комнате

he travelled about the country - он путешествовал по стране

3. *указывает на объект разговора, обсуждения, забот и т. п.* о, относительно насчёт

to speak [to think, to read, to write] about smb., smth. - говорить [думать, читать, писать] о ком-л., чём-л.

••Much Ado about Nothing•• (*Shakespeare*) - «Много шума из ничего»

to worry about smth. - беспокоиться о чём-л.

a story about dogs - рассказ о собаках

tell me all about it - расскажите мне всё, что вы знаете об этом

what /how/ about ...? - как насчёт ...?

what about your report? - как насчёт вашего доклада?

to come about business - прийти по делу

she went about her usual duties - она занялась своими обычными делами

do you know how to go about it? - ты знаешь, как решить эту задачу /этот вопрос/?

4. указывает на наличие

1) **каких-л. предметов (документов, денег и т. п.)** при, с

have you any money about you? - есть ли у вас с собой /при себе/ деньги?

they had lost all they had about them - они потеряли всё, что при них было

2) **каких-л. свойств, качеств и т. п.** в, у

there is smth. about her - в ней что-то есть

there is smth. queer about him - в нём есть что-то странное

there is a look of kindness about his face - у него доброе лицо

5. в сочетаниях:

what is wrong about the colour? - чем вам не нравится этот цвет?

what is it all about? - в чём дело?, о чём речь?, что происходит?

mind what you're about! - будьте внимательны!

be quick about it! - (по)торопитесь (с этим)!

about

Oxford Advanced Learners Dictionary 8th Ed.

about **adverb**, **preposition**, **adjective** **BrE** [ə'baʊt] ^а **NAmE** [ə'baʊt] ^а

adverb

1. a little more or less than; a little before or after

Syn: †approximately

• It costs about \$10.

• They waited (for) about an hour.

• He arrived (at) about ten.

2. nearly; very close to

• I'm just about ready.

• This is about the best we can hope for.

3. (especially BrE) in many directions; here and there

• The children were rushing about in the garden.

4. (especially BrE) in no particular order; in various places

• Her books were lying about on the floor.

5. (especially BrE) doing nothing in particular

• People were standing about in the road.

6. (especially BrE) able to be found in a place

• There was nobody about.

• There's a lot of flu about.

• She's somewhere about— I saw her a few minutes ago.

7. (technical or formal) facing the opposite direction

• He brought the ship about.

more at just about **at** †just _{adv.} out and about **at** †out _{adv.}

Word Origin:

Old English onbūtan, from on 'in, on' + būtan 'outside of' .

Thesaurus:

about **adv.**

1.

• It costs about \$10.

approximately • • **roughly** • • **around** • • **round about** • • **something like** • • **more or less** •

Opp: exactly

2.

• about the best we can hope for

almost • • **nearly** • • **virtually** • • **more or less** • • **practically** • |spoken **pretty much** • • **pretty well** •

just about/almost/nearly/virtually/more or less/practically/pretty much **ready**

Which Word?:

around / round / about

Around and round can often be used with the same meaning in **BrE**, though around is more formal: ▫ The earth goes round/around the sun. ▫ They live round/around the corner. ▫ We travelled round/around India. ▫ She turned round/around when I came in.

In **NAmE** only around can be used in these meanings.

Around, round and about can also sometimes be used with the same meaning in **BrE**: ▫ The kids were running around/round/about outside. ▫ I've been waiting around/round/about to see her all day. In **NAmE** only around can be used in these meanings. About or around can be used in both **BrE** and **NAmE** to mean 'approximately': ▫ We left around/about 8 o'clock.

Idioms: †about to do something ▫ †how about ...? ▫ †not be about to do something ▫ †that's about all ▫ †that's about it

preposition

1. on the subject of sb/sth; in connection with sb/sth
 - a book about flowers
 - Tell me **all about** it.
 - What's she so angry about?
 - There's something strange about him.
 - I don't know what you're **on about** (= talking about) .
 - There's nothing you can do about it now.
2. used to describe the purpose or an aspect of sth
 - Movies are **all about** making money these days.
 - **What was all that about?** (= what was the reason for what has just happened?)
3. busy with sth; doing sth
 - Everywhere people were going about their daily business.
 - And **while you're about it** ... (= while you're doing that)
4. (especially BrE) in many directions in a place; here and there
 - We wandered about the town for an hour or so.
 - He looked about the room.
5. (especially BrE) in various parts of a place; here and there
 - The papers were strewn about the room.
6. (especially BrE) next to a place or person; in the area mentioned
 - She's somewhere about the office.
7. (literary) surrounding sb/sth
 - She wore a shawl about her shoulders.

Word Origin:

Old English onbūtan, from on 'in, on' + būtan 'outside of' .

Language Bank:

about

Saying what a text is about

- The book **is about** ▪ homeless people in the cities.
- The report **deals with** ▪ the issue of homelessness in London.
- The writer **discusses** ▪ the problems faced by homeless people.
- The article **presents an overview of** ▪ the issues surrounding homelessness.
- The novel **explores** ▪ the theme of friendship among homeless people.
- The first chapter **examines** ▪ the relationship between homelessness and drug addiction.
- The paper **considers** ▪ the question of why so many young people become homeless.

adjective

Word Origin:

[**about**] Old English onbūtan, from on 'in, on' + būtan 'outside of' .

about

Longman DOCE 5th Ed. (En-En)

I. **about**¹ **S1 W1** /ə'baʊt/ *BrE* ² *AmE* ³ *preposition*

1. concerning or relating to a particular subject:
 - a book about politics
 - She said something about leaving town.
 - He lied about his age.
 - About that car of yours. How much are you selling it for?
 - What's he on about (=talking about)?
 - It's about Tommy, doctor. He's been sick again.
 - Naturally, my mother wanted to know all about it (=all the details relating to it).
2. used to show why someone is angry, happy, upset etc:
 - I'm really worried about Jack.
 - She's upset about missing the party.
3. in many different directions within a particular place, or in different parts of a place **SYN around, round**:
 - We spent the whole afternoon walking about town.
 - Books were scattered about the room.
4. in the nature or character of a person or thing:
 - There's something really strange about Liza.
 - What I like about the job is that it's neverboring.
5. **what/how about somebody/something** *spoken*
 - a) used to ask a question that directs attention to another person or thing:
 - What about Jack? We can't just leave him here.
 - I'm feeling hungry. How about you?
 - b) used to make a suggestion:
 - How about a salad for lunch?
6. **do something about something** to do something to solve a problem or stop a bad situation:
 - If we don't do something about it, the problem is going to get worse.

What can be done about the rising levels of pollution?

7. if an organization, a job, an activity etc is about something, that is its basic purpose:

Leadership is all about getting your team to co-operate.

8. **it's all about somebody/something** used to say who or what is important in a situation:

It's all about money, and who's got the most.

9. **while you're about it** *spoken* used to tell someone to do something while they are doing something else because it would be easier to do both things at the same time:

Go and see what's the matter, and while you're about it you can fetch me my sweater.

10. **what was all that about?** *spoken* used to ask the reason for something that has just happened, especially someone's angry behaviour

11. **literary** surrounding a person or thing:

Jo sensed fear and jealousy all about her.

⇒ **be quick about it** at ↑**quick**¹(5), ⇒ **go about your business** at ↑**business**(12)

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THESAURUS

- **about** used when saying what the subject of something is: She's always talking about you. | In her novels she writes about life in South Africa. | There's something I wanted to ask you about.
- **on** about a particular subject: a book on English grammar | a report on poverty in rural areas
- **concerning/regarding** *formal* about: Prince Saïd answered questions concerning Kuwait's future. | The report raises a number of questions regarding food safety.
- **with regard to** *formal* about – used especially when you want to start talking or writing about something: Dear Sir, I'm writing with regard to your advertisement in The Times.
- **re** used in business letters and in emails to introduce the subject that you are going to write about: Re: Friday's meeting

II. **about**² **S1 W1** *BrE* *AmE* *adverb*

[Language: Old English; Origin: abutan, from a- 'on' + butan 'outside']

1. (also **round about** *spoken*) a little more or less than a particular number, amount, or size **SYN** **roughly, approximately** :

I live about 10 miles away.

a tiny computer about as big as a postcard

We left the restaurant at round about 10.30.

REGISTER

In written English, people usually prefer to use **approximately** , as it sounds more technical:

The cost to taxpayers is approximately \$200 billion.

2. **British English** in many different directions within a place or in different parts of a place **SYN** **around** :

People were rushing about, trying to find the driver.

Cushions were scattered about on the chairs.

3. near to you or in the same place as you:

Is Derek about? There's a phone call for him.

Quick! Let's go while there's no-one about.

4. **British English** *spoken* existing or available now:

I hope she hasn't caught flu. There's a lot of it about.

She might get temporary work, but there's not much about.

5. **informal** almost or probably:

I was about ready to leave when somebody rang the doorbell.

'Have you finished?' 'Just about.'

It's just about the worst mistake anyone could make.

6. **that's about it/all** *spoken*

a) used to tell someone that you have told them everything you know:

He was a quiet chap, married with kids. That's about it, really.

b) used to say that there is nothing else available:

There's some cheese in the fridge and that's about it.

7. so as to face in the opposite direction **SYN** **around** :

He quickly turned about and walked away.

III. **about**³ *BrE* *AmE* *adjective*

1. **be about to do something** if someone is about to do something, or if something is about to happen, they will do it or it will happen very soon:

We were just about to leave when Jerry arrived.

Work was about to start on a new factory building.

2. **not be about to do something** *informal* used to emphasize that you have no intention of doing something:

I've never smoked in my life and I'm not about to start now.

⇒ **out and about** at ↑**out**¹(3), ⇒ **be up and about** at ↑**up**¹(11)

• • •

THESAURUS

- **approximately** more or less than a number or amount – used especially in technical or scientific contexts: The company had total revenues of approximately \$2 million. | The disease affects approximately 10% of the adult population.
- **about** more or less than a number or amount. 'About' is the usual word to use in everyday English: It costs about \$30 to get a visa. | There were about 50 people at the meeting.
- **roughly** /'rʌfli/ about – used when you are trying to give someone a general idea of the size, amount, or number of something: The two countries are roughly the same size. | Roughly how many miles do you travel a year?
- **around** about a number or time – used when you are guessing: I'll be there around 5 o'clock. | The BBC broadcasts around

2,000 radio dramas every year.

- **somewhere/something in the region of formal** about – used with very large numbers or amounts: Last year he earned something in the region of \$60 million. | It costs somewhere in the region of £100,000 to train a new doctor.
- **or so informal** about – used after a period of time, a number, or an amount: The journey takes an hour or so.
- **circa** /'sɜːkə/\$ 'sɜːr/ **formal** about – used with dates a long time ago in the past: The house was built circa 1530.
- **or more** used after a number or amount, when the total may be a lot more: A thirty-second commercial can cost £60,000 or more.
- **upwards of** more than a number or amount: The aircraft can carry upwards of 400 passengers.

about

Freakuency Pack

12500 **67**^{MCW}

15000 **34**^{COCA}

RANGE: **1k** ABOUT 1135722

about 1135722

COCA 500k Unlemmatized

141298 **48**⁹¹⁷⁰²² *ij*

64422 **251**¹⁴⁶⁰¹² *rg*

26598 **1051**³⁸⁶⁰⁸ *rp*

16224 **1837**²³⁵¹² *rp*

8728 **4027**⁹⁹⁹⁵ *rr22*

446 **31883**⁵⁰⁰ *nn1*

34 **122296**⁴⁰ *nnu*

16 **199267**¹⁶ *rl*

5 **391006**⁵ *p**ph1*

4 **425245**⁴ *cc*

4 **450456**⁴ *p**phs1*

4 **451082**⁴ *vbz*