

Verb Phrases for Business Projects

Verb Phrase	Meaning	Example
Add up	Be a satisfactory explanation for something.	She explained why the work wasn't ready, but her story doesn't ADD UP.
Add up	To make sense, seem reasonable	The numbers in the budget just don't add up.
Add up to	Come to a certain amount or figure.	The total costs ADD UP TO several million euros.
Aim at	To target.	The product is AIMED AT teenagers.
allow for	To take into consideration	We need to allow for unexpected charges along the way.
Angle for	Try to get something indirectly, by hinting or suggesting.	He's been ANGLING FOR an invitation, but I don't want him to come.
Back down	Retract or withdraw your position or proposal in an argument.	She refused to BACK DOWN and was fired.
Back out	Fail to keep an arrangement or promise.	He BACKED OUT two days before the holiday so we gave the ticket to his sister
Bail out	Save, rescue.	The government had to BAIL OUT the airline because it was losing so much money.
Bank on	Count or rely on.	I'm BANKING ON your help; I can't do it alone.
Be all ears	If you are all ears, you are very eager to hear what someone has to say.	We were all ears when the director went over the budget.
Be away	Be elsewhere; on holiday, etc..	She's AWAY on business for three weeks.
Be cut out for	Be suitable, have the necessary qualities.	She's not CUT OUT FOR this kind of work.
Be down	Be reduced or less.	The firm's profits ARE DOWN by ten percent this quarter.
Be in	Be submitted, arrive.	The application form must BE IN by 3pm on Friday.
Be in on	Be involved in.	Susan was the only one who WASN'T IN ON the plan.