



# IT AS AN EMPTY OBJECT - PHRASES [aprendeinglesenleganes.com](http://aprendeinglesenleganes.com)

We use IT as an “empty” object after certain verbs and in some phrases to introduce a following clause. We say it is empty because it doesn’t refer to anything in particular.

The following fairly fixed phrases have introductory IT as Object.

<p><b>BREAK IT TO SOMEONE THAT :</b> to tell sb about something unpleasant that will affect or upset them</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The doctor finally <b>broke it to me that</b> there was no cure.</li> </ul> <p><b>DRUM IT INTO SOMEONE THAT :</b> to teach sth to sb by frequent repeating.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● They <b>drummed it into me that</b> you were not to know.</li> </ul>	<p><b>MAKE IT A HABIT TO DO SOMETHING :</b> to begin to do something regularly or often.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● I have <b>made it a habit to</b> listen to audio books on my way to work.</li> </ul> <p><b>MAKE IT A RULE TO DO SOMETHING :</b> to act according to a principle.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● I <b>make it a rule not to eat</b> fatty foods.</li> </ul>
<p><b>HAVE IT IN MIND (formal) : to intend to do something</b> have it in mind + to inf /that clause</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● For a long time <b>I had it in mind to write</b> a book about my experiences.</li> <li>● <b>I had it in mind that</b> one day I might move to Spain.</li> </ul>	<p><b>PUT IT ABOUT THAT :</b> to tell a lot of people sth, especially sth that is not true</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Someone's been <b>putting it about that</b> Dan is leaving.</li> </ul> <p><b>PUT IT TO SOMEONE THAT :</b> to tell someone your explanation of sth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● I <b>put it to him that</b> what we needed was some independent advice.</li> </ul>
<p><b>I WOULDN'T PUT IT PAST SOMEONE TO DO SOMETHING :</b> to not be surprised if someone does sth bad, because it is a typical thing for that person to do:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>I wouldn't put it past him to lie</b>, especially if it helped him in some way.</li> <li>● Perhaps Helena told him - <b>I wouldn't put it past her</b>.</li> </ul>	<p><b>RUMOUR/LEGEND/WORD HAS IT THAT :</b> used to report what people say or what a story says</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>Rumour has it that</b> Kim is not his child / <b>Word has it that</b> they may separate</li> <li>● <b>Legend has it that</b> a real giant terrorised the locals.</li> </ul>
<p><b>LET IT BE KNOWN (formal) :</b> to give information to other people, especially in an indirect way</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <b>He let it be known</b>, during dinner, <b>that</b> he was on the lookout for a wife.</li> <li>● <b>I let it be known that</b> I was not happy about the decision they had made.</li> </ul>	<p><b>SEE TO IT THAT :</b> to make sure that something is done</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Can you <b>see to it that</b> everyone gets a copy of this memo?</li> </ul> <p><b>TAKE IT IN TURNS TO DO SOMETHING :</b> to do something on at a time.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● They <b>took it in turns to drink</b> from the water bottle.</li> </ul>
<p><b>LEAVE IT TOO LATE TO DO SOMETHING :</b> to wait too long to do something</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● I hope I haven't <b>left it too late to apply</b>.</li> <li>● You've <b>left it too late to change</b> your ticket.</li> </ul>	<p><b>TAKE IT FOR GRANTED THAT :</b> to believe that sth is true without making sure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● He just <b>took it for granted that</b> he would pass the exam.</li> </ul> <p><b>TAKE IT AS READ THAT :</b> to feel certain that sth is true although no one has told you it is true</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● You can <b>take it as read that</b> we will support the project.</li> <li>● I <b>took it as read that</b> you were coming.</li> </ul>
<p><b>MAKE IT A POINT TO DO SOMETHING :</b> to do sth deliberately, even when it involves making a special effort.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● She <b>makes it a point to</b> treat her employees fairly.</li> </ul> <p><b>MAKE IT YOUR BUSINESS TO DO SOMETHING :</b> to make a special effort to do something</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Ruth <b>made it her business to get</b> to know the customers.</li> </ul>	<p><b>TAKE IT THAT :</b> said if you think that what you say is likely to be true, although it is not proved</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● I <b>take it</b> you've heard about Ben and Carol splitting up.</li> </ul> <p><b>TAKE IT AS A GIVEN THAT :</b> to accept that sth is true and not expect it to change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● You can <b>take it as a given that</b> there will be champagne at the wedding.</li> </ul>