



American Expression E0484 Don't quote me on that

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"Don't quote me on that" is a common colloquial expression used to disclaim the accuracy or authority of a statement made by someone. When someone prefaces a statement with this phrase, they are essentially saying that the information they are about to provide should not be taken as an official or definitive statement, and they do not wish to be held accountable if the information turns out to be inaccurate or incorrect.

The phrase is often used in informal conversations, discussions, or when sharing information that may be speculative, uncertain, or based on personal opinion rather than concrete facts. By saying "don't quote me on that," the speaker is attempting to avoid being cited as the source of the information in a more formal or serious context.

The expression serves as a protective measure, allowing individuals to share ideas or insights without the fear of being misquoted or misunderstood. It acknowledges that the speaker is not entirely confident in the accuracy of the information they are providing and, therefore, should not be regarded as an authoritative source.

In many cases, the phrase is used to encourage others to verify the information independently before using it as a reference in any official or critical context. It also indicates that the speaker is open to the possibility of being corrected or challenged on the information they have shared.

"Don't quote me on that" can be employed in a variety of situations, such as casual conversations among friends, debates, online discussions, or during interviews where the speaker may not want to be held responsible for the accuracy of their words. It can also be used when discussing sensitive or confidential information, allowing the speaker to share insights without revealing the original source or compromising confidentiality.

While the expression is often lighthearted, it underscores the importance of critical thinking and the need to verify information from credible sources, especially in this age of rapid information sharing and misinformation. It serves as a reminder that not everything heard or read can be taken at face value and that individuals should exercise caution before using any information as a basis for important decisions or actions.

In conclusion, "don't quote me on that" is an informal expression used to disclaim the accuracy or authority of a statement. It allows speakers to share information, opinions, or insights without being held accountable for their accuracy and encourages others to verify the information independently. While often used lightheartedly, the phrase highlights the significance of critical thinking and the need to rely on credible sources when dealing with information in various contexts. As communication continues to evolve, this expression serves as a reminder of the importance of responsible information sharing and fact-checking in an increasingly interconnected world.

#### Questions for Discussion

1. How often do you find yourself using the phrase "don't quote me on that" in conversations, and what are the typical situations where you feel the need to use it?
2. In what ways do you think the expression "don't quote me on that" impacts the sharing of information in today's fast-paced and digitally connected world? Does it contribute to a culture of skepticism or critical thinking?
3. Have you ever experienced a situation where someone quoted you on information you shared with the disclaimer "don't quote me on that"? How did it make you feel, and did it lead to any misunderstandings or conflicts?
4. The phrase "don't quote me on that" can be seen as a form of verbal hedging or cautionary language. Do you think this linguistic device is beneficial in maintaining open and respectful communication, or does it sometimes hinder the expression of confident opinions?
5. In professional settings or formal contexts, do you believe there are appropriate alternatives to using the expression "don't quote me on that" when sharing information that may be speculative or unverified? How can we navigate such situations while promoting transparency and credibility?