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WordReference Random House Learner's Dictionary of American English © 2025be•come /bɪˈkʌm/USA pronunciation v., -came, -come, -com•ing. [~ + adjective] to come, change, or grow to be (as specified): I became tired and went to bed. to come into being:[~ + noun]She became a ballerina. to be attractive on; suit:[~ + object;not: be + ~-ing]That dress becomes you. to be suitable to the dignity or rank:[~ + object;not: be + ~-ing]conduct that becomes an officer.See becoming. Idioms Idioms become of, [~ + object; used in questions]to happen to (someone or something); to be the fate of (someone or something):Whatever became of him? WordReference Random House Unabridged Dictionary of American English © 2025be•come (bi kum′),USA pronunciation v., be•came, be•come, be•com•ing. v.i. to come, change, or grow to be (as specified):He became tired. to come into being. v.t. to be attractive on; befit in appearance; look well on:That gown becomes you. to be suitable or necessary to the dignity, situation, or responsibility of:conduct that becomes an officer. Idioms become of, to happen to; be the fate of:What will become of him? bef. 900; Middle English becumen, Old English becuman to come about, happen; cognate with Dutch bekomen, German bekommen, Gothic biqiman. See be-, come Collins Concise English Dictionary © HarperCollins Publishers:: become /bɪˈkʌm/ vb (-comes, -coming, -came, -come) (mainly intr) (copula) to come to be; develop or grow into: he became a monster (followed by of; usually used in a question) to fall to or be the lot (of); happen (to): what became of him? (transitive) (of clothes, etc) to enhance the appearance of (someone); suit: that dress becomes you (transitive) to be appropriate; befit: it ill becomes you to complainEtymology: Old English becuman to happen; related to Old High German biqueman to come to, Gothic biquiman to appear suddenly Collins Concise English Dictionary © HarperCollins Publishers:: become /bɪˈkʌm/ vb (-comes, -coming, -came, -come) (mainly intr) (copula) to come to be; develop or grow into: he became a monster (followed by of; usually used in a question) to fall to or be the lot (of); happen (to): what became of him? (transitive) (of clothes, etc) to enhance the appearance of (someone); suit: that dress becomes you (transitive) to be appropriate; befit: it ill becomes you to complainEtymology: Old English becuman to happen; related to Old High German biqueman to come to, Gothic biquiman to appear suddenly Also found in: Thesaurus, Acronyms, Idioms, Encyclopedia. (bĭ-kŭm′)v. be·came (-kām′), be·come, be·com·ing, be·comes v.intr. To grow or come to be: became more knowledgeable; will become clearer in the morning.v.tr.1. To be appropriate or suitable to: "It would not become me ... to interfere with parties" (Jonathan Swift).2. To show to advantage; look good with: The new suit becomes you.Phrasal Verb: become of To be the fate of; happen to: What has become of the old garden?American Heritage® Dictionary of the English Language, Fifth Edition. Copyright © 2016 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved. (bɪˈkʌm) vb (mainly intr) , -comes, -coming, -came or -come1. (copula) to come to be; develop or grow into: he became a monster. 2. (foll by of; usually used in a question) to fall to or be the lot (of); happen (to): what became of him?. 3. (tr) (of clothes, etc) to enhance the appearance of (someone); suit: that dress becomes you. 4. (tr) to be appropriate; befit: it ill becomes you to complain. [Old English becuman to happen; related to Old High German biqueman to come to, Gothic biquiman to appear suddenly]Collins English Dictionary – Complete and Unabridged, 12th Edition 2014 © HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1994, 1998, 2000, 2003, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2014 (bɪˈkʌm) v. -came, -come, -com•ing. v.i. 1. to come, change, or grow to be (as specified): to become tired. 2. to come into being; develop or progress into: She became a ballerina. v.t. 3. to be attractive on; befit in appearance; suit: That dress becomes you. 4. to be suitable to the dignity, situation, or responsibility of: conduct that becomes an officer. Idioms: become of, to happen to; be the fate of. [before 900; Middle English becumen, Old English becuman to come about, happen, c. Old Frisian bikuma, Old High German biqueman, Gothic biqiman. See be-, come] Random House Kernerman Webster's College Dictionary, © 2010 K Dictionaries Ltd. Copyright 2005, 1997, 1991 by Random House, Inc. All rights reserved.1. 'become'When something or someone becomes a particular thing, they start to be that thing. If you become a doctor, a teacher, or a writer, for example, you start to be a doctor, a teacher, or a writer.Greta wants to become a teacher.If someone or something becomes a certain way, they start to have that quality.When did you first become interested in politics?The past tense of 'become' is became.We became good friends at once.The smell became stronger and stronger.The -ed participle is become.Life has become a lot harder since James died.When become is followed by a singular noun phrase, the noun phrase usually begins with a determiner.The young man became his friend.However, when the noun phrase refers to a unique job or position within an organization, the determiner can be omitted.In 1960 he became Ambassador to Hungary.The following words can be used to mean 'become'. These words can be followed only by an adjective. Don't use a noun phrase after them.2. 'get'In conversation, get is often used to talk about how people or things change and start to have a different quality.She began to get suspicious.3. 'grow'In written English, grow is often used to talk about how people or things change and start to have a different quality.Some of her colleagues are growing impatient.The sun grew so hot that we had to stop working.4. 'come'If a dream, wish, or prediction comes true, it actually happens.5. 'go'Go is used to talk about a sudden change in someone's body.You say that someone goes blind or deaf.She went blind twenty years ago.Go is always used in the phrases go wrong and go mad.Something has gone wrong with our car.Tom went mad and started shouting at me.6. 'go' and 'turn'If you want to say that someone or something becomes a different colour, you use go or turn.The grass had turned brown.When she heard the news, she went pale.He turned bright red with embarrassment.In American English, you usually use turn, not 'go'.Be Careful!Don't use 'get' or 'become' when you are talking about someone's face changing colour. Don't say, for example, that someone 'gets pale' or 'becomes pale'.Collins COBUILD English Usage © HarperCollins Publishers 1992, 2004, 2011, 2012Past participle: becomeGerund: becomingImperativePresentPreteritePresent ContinuousPresent PerfectPast ContinuousPast PerfectFutureFuture PerfectFuture ContinuousPresent Perfect ContinuousFuture Perfect ContinuousPast Perfect ContinuousConditionalPast ConditionalCollins English Verb Tables © HarperCollins Publishers 2011 Verb1.become - enter or assume a certain state or condition; "He became annoyed when he heard the bad news"; "It must be getting more serious"; "her face went red with anger"; "She went into ecstasy"; "Get going!"change state, turn - undergo a transformation or a change of position or action; "We turned from Socialism to Capitalism"; "The people turned against the President when he stole the election"sober up, sober - become sober after excessive alcohol consumption; "Keep him in bed until he sobers up"sober, sober up - become more realistic; "After thinking about the potential consequences of his plan, he sobered up"work - arrive at a certain condition through repeated motion; "The stitches of the hem worked loose after she wore the skirt many times"take effect - go into effect or become effective or operative; "The new law will take effect next month"run - change from one state to another; "run amok"; "run rogue"; "run riot"take - be seized or affected in a specified way; "take sick"; "be taken drunk"break - come into being; "light broke over the horizon"; "Voices broke in the air"settle - become resolved, fixed, established, or quiet; "The roar settled to a thunder"; "The wind settled in the West"; "it is settling to rain"; "A cough settled in her chest"; "Her mood settled into lethargy"2.become - undergo a change or development; "The water turned into ice"; "Her former friend became her worst enemy"; "He turned traitor"change state, turn - undergo a transformation or a change of position or action; "We turned from Socialism to Capitalism"; "The people turned against the President when he stole the election"transmute, metamorphose, transform - change in outward structure or looks; "He transformed into a monster"; "The salesman metamorphosed into an ugly beetle"suffocate, choke - become stultified, suppressed, or stifled; "He is suffocating--living at home with his aged parents in the small village"nucleate - form into a nucleus; "Some cells had nucleated"turn - cause to change or turn into something different;assume new characteristics; "The princess turned the frog into a prince by kissing him"; "The alchemists tried to turn lead into gold"add up, amount, come - develop into; "This idea will never amount to anything"; "nothing came of his grandiose plans"3.become - come into existence; "What becomes has duration"occur, come - come to one's mind; suggest itself; "It occurred to me that we should hire another secretary"; "A great idea then came to her"root - come into existence, originate; "The problem roots in her depression"arise, originate, spring up, uprise, develop, grow, rise - come into existence; take on form or shape; "A new religious movement originated in that country"; "a love that sprang up from friendship"; "the idea for the book grew out of a short story"; "An interesting phenomenon uprose"bob up, arise, come up - originate or come into being; "a question arose"make - be or be capable of being changed or made into; "He makes a great host"; "He will make a fine father"4.become - enhance the appearance of; "Mourning becomes Electra"; "This behavior doesn't suit you!"beautify, fancify, prettify, embellish - make more beautifulBased on WordNet 3.0, Farlex clipart collection. © 2003-2012 Princeton University, Farlex Inc.verb1. come to be, develop into, be transformed into, grow into, change into, evolve into, alter to, mature into, metamorphose into, ripen into After leaving school, he became a professional footballer.2. suit, look good on, fit, enhance, flatter, ornament, embellish, grace, harmonize with, look right on, set off Does khaki become you?Collins Thesaurus of the English Language – Complete and Unabridged 2nd Edition. 2002 © HarperCollins Publishers 1995, 2002verb1. To come to be:come, get, grow, turn (out), wax.2. To be appropriate or suitable to: The American Heritage® Roget's Thesaurus. Copyright © 2013, 2014 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. All rights reserved. ponersevolversequedarquedar biensalirdiventaretrasformarsivenirevenniaccadereделаться сделаться становиться стать olmakuymakyakışmakgelmekgitmek [bɪˈkʌm] (became (pt) (become (pp)))B. IMPE has become of him? → ¿qué ha sido de él?what will become of me? → ¿qué será de mí?whatever can have become of that book? → ¿dónde estará ese libro?C. VT (= look nice on) → favorecer, sentar bienthat thought does not become you → ese pensamiento es indigno de ti The translation of become/go/get/turn depends on the context and the type of change involved and how it is regarded. Very often there is more than one possible translation, or even a special verb to translate get + ((ADJECTIVE)) (e.g. get angry - enfadarse), but here are some general hints.Become + adjective• Use ponerse to talk about temporary but normal changes: I got quite ill Me puse muy malo He went pale Se puso blanco You've got very brown Te has puesto muy moreno He got very angry Se puso furioso• Use volverse to refer to sudden, longer-lasting and unpredictable changes, particularly those affecting the mind: He has become very impatient in the last few years Se ha vuelto muy impaciente estos últimos años She went mad Se volvió loca• Use quedar(se) especially when talking about changes that are permanent, involve deterioration and are due to external circumstances. Their onset may or may not be sudden: He went blind (Se) quedó ciego Goya went deaf Goya (se) quedó sordoNOTE Quedarse is also used to talk about pregnancy: She became pregnant (Se) quedó embarazada• Use hacerse for states resulting from effort or from a gradual, cumulative process: They became very famous Se hicieron muy famosos The pain became unbearable El dolor se hizo insoportable• Use llegar a ser to suggest reaching a peak: The heat became stifling El calor llegó a ser agobianteBecome + noun• Use hacerse for career goals and religious or political persuasions: He became a lawyer Se hizo abogado I became a Catholic in 1990 Me hice católico en 1990 He became a member of the Green Party Se hizo miembro del Partido Verde• Use llegar a + ((NOUN)) and llegar a ser + ((PHRASE)) for reaching a peak after a period of gradual change. This construction is often used to talk about professional accomplishments: If you don't make more effort, you'll never get to be a teacher Si no te esfuerzas más, no llegarás a profesor Castelar became one of the most important politicians of his time Castelar llegó a ser uno de los políticos más importantes de su época Football became an obsession for him El fútbol llegó a ser una obsesión para él• Use convertirse en for long-lasting changes in character, substance and kind which take place gradually: Those youngsters went on to become delinquents Aquellos jóvenes se convirtieron después en delincuentes Over the years I have become a more tolerant person Con los años me he convertido en una persona más tolerante Water turns into steam El agua se convierte en vapor• Use quedar(se) + ((ADJECTIVE)) to talk about changes, particularly when they are permanent, for the worse and due to external circumstances. Their onset may or may not be sudden: She became a widow (Se) quedó viuda• To translate have turned into or have become + ((NOUN)) in emphatic phrases particularly about people, you can use estar hecho un(a) + ((NOUN)): Juan has become a really good pianist Juan está hecho todo un pianistaCollins Spanish Dictionary - Complete and Unabridged 8th Edition 2005 © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1971, 1988 © HarperCollins Publishers 1992, 1993, 1996, 1997, 2000, 2003, 2005 [bɪˈkʌm] [became] [bɪˈkeɪm] (pt) [become] [bɪˈkʌm] (pp) impers vbwhat has become of (= happened to)What has become of him? → Qu'est-il devenu?What has become of them? → Qu'est-il advenu d'eux?, Que sont-ils devenus?what will become ofWhat will become of me? → Que vais-je devenir?Collins English/French Electronic Resource. © HarperCollins Publishers 2005Collins German Dictionary – Complete and Unabridged 7th Edition 2005. © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1980 © HarperCollins Publishers 1991, 1997, 1999, 2004, 2005, 2007Collins Italian Dictionary 1st Edition © HarperCollins Publishers 1995 (bɪˈkʌm) – past tense became (bɪˈkeɪm) : past participle beˈcome – verb3. (with of) to happen to. What became of her son? geword يَحْدُثُ لَهُ، يَحِلُّ بِهِ ,случвам се на acontecer stát se werden aus blive af; ske med απογίνομαι, καταλήγω σε μια κατάσταση ser de juhtuma روی دادن ;ر سر کسی آمدن mitä jollekin on tapahtunut advenir de לקרות ,ניהו ,ننا ، کا ,ونا 遭遇 ,某人 (事) 情况如何 4. to suit. That dress really becomes her. vleiend ,يُلائِم ,يُناسِب ,отивам ficar bem slušet stehen passe; klæde ταιριάζω σε κπ. sentar bien, quedar b pukea bien aller à לְהַלוֹם ,ניהו ,ניהו pristajati illik hozzá cocok fara vel addirsi 似合う tikti piestāvēt (par apģērbu) sesuai goed staanpasse, klepasować (مناسبت ,مناسبت) ficar bem a-i veni bine быть к лицу pristać, hodić sa pristajati pristajati passa, klä ,ترتیب دینا ، سجنا ,زیب دینا ,uymak, gitmek, yakışmak 適合 личити, бути до лиця thích hợp 适合be'coming adjectivebe'comingly adverb v ...가 nutikti notikt terjadi worden van bli av, skjestać się يَبْسِبِل acontecer a se alege de становиться stať sa (s) zgoditi se desiti se bli av ,ترتیب برازنده ,pukevasti admirablement בְּאוּכָה הוֹלֶמֶת ,ניהו ,ניהו ,ניהו privlačno, prikladno ill(end)ően menakjubkan dásamlega graziosamente ふさわしく patraukliai piestāvoši dengan menjadi bekoorlijkattraktivt, kledelig twarzowo ژوندی توګه de modo atraente ad يَصْوَرَةٍ مُلائِمَة أو لائِقَة атрактивно atraentemente elegantně, slušivě kleidsam passende κατάλληλαconvenientemente sobivalt privlačno, prikladno klädsamt ,ترتیب طور س ,مناسب ,ترتیب ,zarif bir şekilde 合適地 до лиця thích hợp 合适地Kernerman English Multilingual Dictionary © 2006-2013 K Dictionaries Ltd. → يُصْبِحُ stát se blive werden γίνομαι volverse tulla joksikin devenir postati diventare ⋯になる ...□ □□ worden bli stać się tornar-se становиться bli □□□□□□□□ olmak trở nên 成为Multilingual Trar HarperCollins Publishers 2009vi. hacerse, convertirse; ___ accustomed → acostumbrarse; ___ a doctor → hacerse médico-a; [conversion]; ___ crazy → volverse loco-a; ___ frightened → asustarse; ___ ill → ponerse enfermo-a; enfermarse; ___ inflamed → inflamarse; English-Spanish Medical Dictionary © Farlex 2012 vi ponerse, volverse, (permanently) quedarse; (inflamed, sick, etc.) inflamarse, enfermarse, etc.; If it becomes swollen..Si se pone hinchado… She became blind..Se quedó ciega…It became inflamed..Se puso inflamado.. Se inflamó.English-Spanish/Spanish-English Medical Dictionary Copyright © 2006 by The McGraw-Hill Companies, Inc. All rights reserved. Want to thank TFD for its existence? Tell a friend about us, add a link to this page, or visit the webmaster's page for free fun content. Link to this page: An officer of the Cuirassier Life Guards, a handsome prince who everyone predicted would become aide-de-camp to the Emperor Nicholas I and have a brilliant career, left the service, broke off his engagement to a beautiful maid of honour, a favourite of the Empress's, gave his small estate to his sister, and retired to a monastery to become a monk.Indeed, his feeling towards her, whatever it had been at first, had now so far changed that it had become a distinct affection of a purely animal kind.When I had arrived at this point and had become as well acquainted with the theory and practice of natural philosophy as depended on the lessons of any of the professors at Ingolstadt, my residence there being no longer conducive to my improvements, I thought of returning to my friends and my native town, when an incident happened that protracted my stay.But now, drawing back to the edge of the table, gradually lower your eye (thus bringing yourself more and more into the condition of the inhabitants of Flatland), and you will find the penny becoming more and more oval to your view, and at last when you have placed your eye exactly on the edge of the table (so that you are, as it were, actually a Flatlander) the penny will then have ceased to appear oval at all, and will have become, so far as you can see, a straight line.By attentively watching, the observer would then have perceived the other molecules of the mass, following the example of this central star, become likewise condensed by gradually accelerated rotation, and gravitating round it in the shape of innumerable stars.As soon as the Queen had finished her speech Hermod replied that he also laid a spell on her, and that was, that as soon as he was freed from her enchantments she should become a rat and her daughter a mouse, and fight with each other in the hall until he killed them with his sword.Traditions had brought forth symbols, beneath which they disappeared like the trunk of a tree beneath its foliage; all these symbols in which humanity placed faith continued to grow, to multiply, to intersect, to become more and more complicated; the first monuments no longer sufficed to contain them, they were overflowing in every part; these monuments hardly expressed now the primitive tradition, simple like themselves, naked and prone upon the earth."Why, your friend, the Tin Woodman, has become the funniest thing you can imagine," replied the King, wiping the tears of merriment from his eyes.Though nature grants vast periods of time for the work of natural selection, she does not grant an indefinite period; for as all organic beings are striving, it may be said, to seize on each place in the economy of nature, if any one species does not become modified and improved in a corresponding degree with its competitors, it will soon be exterminated.He who has annexed them, if he wishes to hold them, has only to bear in mind two considerations: the one, that the family of their former lord is extinguished; the other, that neither their laws nor their taxes are altered, so that in a very short time they will become entirely one body with the old principality.When a writer of genius appeared, noblemen and others, who were powerful and wealthy, were eager to become his patron, and have his books dedicated to them.The money which Nicholas acquired in right of his wife he invested in the firm of Cheeryble Brothers, in which Frank had become a partner. English edit Etymology edit A compound of the sources of be- + come. From Middle English becomen, bicumen, from Old English becuman (“to come (to), approach, arrive, enter, meet with, fall in with; happen, befall; befit”), from Proto-Germanic *bikwemaną (“to come around, come about, come across, come by”), equivalent to be- (“about, around”) + come. Cognate with Scots becum (“to come, arrive, reach a destination”), North Frisian bekommen, bykommen (“to come by, obtain, receive”), West Frisian bikomme (“to come by, obtain, receive”), Dutch bekomen (“to come by, obtain, receive”), German bekommen (“to get, receive, obtain”), Swedish bekomma (“to receive, concern”), Gothic (biqiman, “to come upon one, befall”). Sense of "befit, suit" due to influence from Middle English cweme, icweme, see queem. Displaced Old English weorþan. Pronunciation edit Verb edit become (third-person singular simple present becomes, present participle becoming, simple past became, past participle become or (rare, dialectal) becomen) (copulative) begin to be; turn into. [from 12th c.] Synonyms: get, grow, wax, turn, go She became a doctor when she was 25. The weather will become cold after the sun goes down. The sense ‘state or process of bearing fruit’ has become imposed on fruition as the 20c. proceeded. 1897 December (indicated as 1898), Winston Churchill, chapter VIII, in The Celebrity: An Episode, New York, N.Y.: The Macmillan Company; London: Macmillan & Co., Ltd., →OCLC:The humor of my proposition appealed more strongly to Miss Trevor than I had looked for, and from that time forward she became her old self again; for, even after she had conquered her love for the Celebrity, the mortification of having been jilted by him remained. 2012 May 13, Alistair Magowan, “Sunderland 0-1 Man Utd”, in BBC Sport:Then, as the Sunderland fans' cheers bellowed around the stadium, United's title bid was over when it became apparent City had pinched a last-gasp winner to seal their first title in 44 years. 2013 May-June, William E. Conner, “An Acoustic Arms Race”, in American Scientist, volume 101, number 3, pages 206–7:Earless ghost swift moths become “invisible” to echolocating bats by forming mating clusters close (less than half a meter) above vegetation and effectively blending into the clutter of echoes that the bat receives from the leaves and stems around them. (intransitive, archaic outside become of) To come about; happen; come into being; arise. [from 12th c.] What became of him after he was let go? It hath becomen so that many a man had to sterve. 1906, Lord Dunsany [i.e., Edward Plunkett, 18th Baron of Dunsany], Time and the Gods[1], London: William Heineman, →OCLC, page 3:And Time went forth into the worlds to obey the commands of the gods, yet he cast furtive glances at his masters, and the gods distrusted Time because he had known the worlds or ever the gods became. (transitive) To be proper for; to beseem. [from 13th c.] It doesn’t become a true gentleman to speak in such a manner. 1610–1611 (date written), William Shakespeare, “The Tempest”, in Mr. William Shakespeares Comedies, Histories, & Tragedies […] (First Folio), London: […] Isaac Iaggard, and Ed[ward] Blount, published 1623, →OCLC, [Act III, scene ii]:Ay, lord, she will become thy bed, I warrant,And bring thee forth brave brood. 1892, Ambrose Bierce, “The Applicant,” in The Collected Works of Ambrose Bierce, Volume II: In the Midst of Life (Tales of Soldiers and Civilians), New York: Gordian Press, 1966,[2] He was hatted, booted, overcoated, and umbrellaed, as became a person who was about to expose himself to the night and the storm on an errand of charity […] 1930, Duff Cooper, Talleyrand, Folio Society, published 2010, page 7:His ordination […] enabled him to be independent of his parents, and to afford a manner of living which became his rank rather than his calling. (transitive) Of an adornment, piece of clothing etc.: to look attractive on (someone). [from 14th c.] That dress really becomes you. (intransitive, obsolete) To arrive, come (to a place). [9th–18th c.] c. 1591–1592 (date written), William Shakespeare, “The Third Part of Henry the Sixt, […]”, in Mr. William Shakespeares Comedies, Histories, & Tragedies […] (First Folio), London: […] Isaac Iaggard, and Ed[ward] Blount, published 1623, →OCLC, [Act IV, scene iv]:But, madam, where is Warwick then become? Usage notes edit In Early Modern English, the second-person informal singular indicative verb forms used with thou were becomest in the present and becamest in the past tenses. Similarly, becometh was used as a third-person singular indicative present form. Also in Early Modern English, to become (and some other intransitive verbs like to come and to go) used the auxiliary be rather than have for perfect aspect constructions. In current usage, to have is standard. 1965, the original text in Sanskrit and his own translation, in The Decision to Drop the Bomb[3], spoken by Interviewee (J. Robert Oppenheimer), PeriscopeFilm:□□□□□□□□□ □□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□ / □□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□□ □□□□□□□□□ □kālo’smi lokakṣayakṛtpravṛddho / lokānsamāhartumiha pravṛttaḥ.Now I am become Death, the destroyer of worlds These forms and uses persisted into Modern English in a few archaic, dialectal, poetic, etc. contexts. Synonyms edit (to be suitable for): befit, suit Derived terms edit Translations edit References edit William Dwight Whitney, Benjamin E[li] Smith, editors (1911), “become”, in The Century Dictionary […], New York, N.Y.: The Century Co., →OCLC. “become”, in Webster’s Revised Unabridged Dictionary, Springfield, Mass.: G. & C. Merriam, 1913, →OCLC. The Dictionary of the Scots Language Douglas Harper (2001–2025) “become”, in Online Etymology Dictionary. became, become, becoming. to come, change, or grow to be (as specified).to come into being.became, become, becoming. to be attractive on; befit in appearance; look well on.to be suitable or necessary to the dignity, situation, or responsibility of.conduct that becomes an officer.(copula) to come to be; develop or grow into(foll by of; usually used in a question) to fall to or be the lot (of); happen (to)(tr) (of clothes, etc) to enhance the appearance of (someone); suit(tr) to be appropriate; befitit ill becomes you to complain“Collins English Dictionary — Complete & Unabridged” 2012 Digital Edition © William Collins Sons & Co. Ltd. 1979, 1986 © HarperCollins Publishers 1998, 2000, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2012Origin of become1First recorded before 900; Middle English becumen, Old English becuman “to come about, happen”; cognate with Dutch bekomen, German bekommen, Gothic biqiman. See be-, comeOrigin of become1Old English becuman to happen; related to Old High German biqueman to come to, Gothic biquiman to appear suddenlyIdiomsbecome of, to happen to; be the fate of.What will become of him?Examples have not been reviewed.The black mountain - always a source of environmental and health problems - now became somewhere to earn money.The latest State of the UK Climate report published by the Met Office remarks that weather extremes are now becoming the new normal and that hotter, drier summers will become more frequent.Although he had wanted to become a doctor, he also dreamed of going to fight in Ukraine.“The bodies were decomposing too much in the sun, they were becoming unrecognizable. We just couldn’t wait anymore.“While Buehler expressed interest in remaining with the Dodgers ahead of his free agency last winter, his eventual departure became clear in the first week of the offseason.come develop into www.thesaurus.comgrow into turn into www.thesaurus.comDefinitions and idiom definitions from Dictionary.com Unabridged, based on the Random House Unabridged Dictionary, © Random House, Inc. 2023Idioms from The American Heritage® Idioms Dictionary copyright © 2002, 2001, 1995 by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt Publishing Company.becloudbecome ofBrowse#aabbccddeeffgghhiijjkkllmmnnooppqqrrsstuuvvwwxxyyzzAboutCareersContact usCookies, terms, & privacyHelpFollow usGet the Word of the Day every day!© 2025 Dictionary.com, LLC From Middle English becomen, bicumen, from Old English becuman (“to come, approach, arrive, enter, meet with, fall in with; happen, befall; befit”), from Proto-Germanic *bikwemaną (“to come around, come about, come across, come by”), equivalent to be- (“about, around”) + come. Cognate with Scots becum (“to come, arrive, reach a destination”), North Frisian bekommen, bykommen (“to come by, obtain, receive”), West Frisian bikomme (“to come by, obtain, receive”), Dutch bekomen (“to come by, obtain, receive”), German bekommen (“to get, receive, obtain”), Swedish bekomma (“to receive, concern”), Gothic [script?] (bikwiman, “to come upon one, befall”). Sense of "befit, suit" due to influence from Middle English cweme, icweme, see queem. [script?] From Wiktionary Middle English bicomen from Old English becuman gwā- in Indo-European roots From American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, 5th Edition To Becomeverbpret. I became; comp. pret. I have become.Etymology: from by and come.1. To enter into some state or condition, by a change from some other. The Lord God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and man became a living soul. Gen. ii. 7. And unto the Jews I became a Jew, that I might gain the Jews. 1 Cor. ix. 20. A smaller pear, grafted upon a stock that beareth a greater pear, will become great. Francis Bacon, Natural History, №. 453. My voice thou oft hast heard, and hast not fear’d,But still rejoic’d; how is it now becomeSo dreadful to thee? John Milton, Paradise Lost, b. x. l. 120. So the least faults, if mix’d with fairest dead,Of future ill become the fatal seed. Matthew Prior.2. To become of. To be the fate of; to be the end of; to be the final condition of. It is observable, that this word is never, or very seldom, used but with the interrogative what. What is then become of so huge a multitude, as would have overspread a great part of the continent? Walter Raleigh, Essays. Perplex’d with thoughts, what would becomeOf me, and all mankind. John Milton, Par. Lost, b. xii. l. 275. The first hints of the circulation of the blood were taken from a common person’s wondering what became of all the blood which issued out of the heart. John Graunt, Bills of Mortality. What will become of me then? for when he is free, he will infallibly accuse me. John Dryden, Spanish Friar. What became of this thoughtful busy creature, when removed from this world, has amazed the vulgar, and puzzled the wise. John Rogers, Sermons.3. In the following passage, the phrase, where is he become, is used for what is become of him. I cannot joy, until I be resolvedWhere our right valiant father is become. William Shakespeare, Hen. VI.To BecomeverbEtymology: from be or by, and cwemen, Sax. to please.1. Applied to persons; to appear in a manner suitable to something. If I become not a cart as well as another man, a plague on my bringing up. William Shakespeare, Henry IV. p. i. Why would I be a queen? because my faceWould wear the title with a better grace;If I became it not, yet it would bePart of your duty, then, to flatter me. John Dryden, Conq. of Gran.2. Applied to things; to be suitable to the person; to befit; to be congruous to the appearance, or character, or circumstances, in such a manner as to add grace; to be graceful. She to her sire made humble reverence,And bowed low, that her right well became,And added grace unto her excellence. Fairy Queen, b. i. I would I had some flowers of the spring that mightBecome your time of day; and your’s, and your’s,That wear upon your virgin branches yetYour maidenheads growing. William Shakespeare, Winter’s Tale. Yet be sad, good brothers;For, to speak truth, it very well becomes you. William Shakespeare, Henry IV. Your dishonourMangles true judgment, and bereaves the stateOf that integrity, which should become it. William Shakespeare, Coriol. Wicherly was of my opinion, or, rather, I of his: for it becomes me so to speak of so excellent a poet. John Dryden, Dufr. Pref. He utterly rejected their fables concerning their gods, as not becoming good men, much less those which were worshipped for gods. Edward Stillingfleet, Def. of Disc. on Rom. Idolatry.

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