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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 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.Now he is 18 holes away from becoming just the fourth player to win a Masters, US PGA and The Open before the age of 30.He has a player option after the 2025-26 season, meaning he can become a free agent next summer.That it
comes just two days into the second half signals how urgent Betts' struggles have become.Carol Knight, chief executive of the Investing and Saving Alliance, says Reeves' ambition will be judged a success if more women, more people from ethnic minorities, and more people outside of London become investors.This market, the report says, is growing at nearly 10% every
year, with Covid having become a big turning point, as the wealthy chose to avoid public spaces.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
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verbVerb Forms present simple I / you / we / they become he / she / it becomes past simple became past participle become -ing form becoming Idioms jump to other results linking verb to start to be something + adj. It soon became apparent that no one was going to come.It is becoming increasingly clear that something has gone seriously wrong.When did you first
become aware of the problem?It was becoming more and more difficult to live on his salary.She was becoming confused. + noun He became king in 2022.The bill will become law next year.Over the last five years she has become part of the family.How can I become a member of the society?She's studying to become a teacher.His job has become his whole life.Which
Word? become / get / go / turnbecome / get / go / turnThese verbs are used frequently with the following adjectives:become ~get ~go ~turn ~involvedused towrongblueclearbetterrightsouraccustomedworsebadbadpregnantpregnantwhiteredextincttiredcrazycoldfamousangrybaldilldarkblindBecome is more formal than get. Both describe changes in people's emotional or
physical state, or natural or social changes.Go is usually used for negative changes.Go and turn are both used for changes of colour.Turn is also used for changes in the weather. [transitive, no passive] (not used in the progressive tenses) become somebody (formal) to be suitable for somebodySuch behaviour did not become her. [transitive, no passive] (not used in the
progressive tenses) become somebody (formal) to look attractive on somebody synonym suitShort hair really becomes you. Word OriginOld English becuman 'come to a place, come (to be or do something)' (see be-, come), of Germanic origin; related to Dutch bekomen and German bekommen 'get, receive'.Idioms what became, has become, will become of
somebody/something? used to ask what has happened or what will happen to somebody/somethingWhat became of that student who used to live with you?I dread to think what will become of them if they lose their home. See become in the Oxford Advanced American Dictionary Nearby words beckon verb Becky become verb becoming adjective becquerel noun 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 they 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. يَحِلُّ بِه ،يَحْدُثُ لَهُ، يُلائِمُيَتَّخِذُ وَظيفَةًيُناسِب، يُصْبِحُيُصْبِحponersevolversequedarquedar
biensalirdiventaretrasformarsivenirevenniaccaderеделатьсясделатьсястановитьсястатьolmakuymakyakışmakgelmekgitmek [bɪˈkʌm] (became (pt) (become (pp)))B. IMPERS VB what 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 (biˈkam) – past tense became (biˈkeim) : past participle beˈcome – verb3. (with of) to happen to. What became of her son? geword يَحْدُثُ لَهُ، يَحِلُّ بِه случвам се на acontecer
stát se werden aus blive af; ske med απογίνομαι, καταλήγω σε μια κατάσταση ser de juhtuma بر سر کسی آمدن؛ روی دادن mitä jollekin on tapahtunut advenir de לקרות postati történik vele vmi terjadi verða (um) avvenire di ～がどうなる ... 가 nutikti notikt terjadi worden van bli av, skjestać się پیښېدل acontecer a se alege de становиться stať sa (s) zgoditi se desiti se bli av
生，遭遇 статися; трапитися وونا کا ، بننا xảy đến 遭遇，某人（事）情况如何 4. to suit. That dress really becomes her. vleiend يُناسِب، يُلائِم отивам ficar bem slušet stehen passe; klæde ταιριάζω σε κπ. sentar bien, quedar bien sobima زیبنده بودن pukea bien aller à לְהַלוֹם pristajati illik hozzá cocok fara vel addirsi 似合う tikti piestāvēt (par apģērbu) sesuai goed staanpasse,
(مناسب)ar bem a-i veni bine быть к лицу pristať, hodiť sa pristajati pristajati passa, klä uymak, gitmek, yakışmak 適合 личити, бути до лиця سجنا ، زیب دینا thích hợp 適合beˈcoming adjectivebeˈcomingly adverb vleiend بِصورَةٍ مُلائِمَه أو لائِقَه атрактивно atraentemente elegantně, slušivě kleidsam passende κατάλληλαconvenientemente sobivalt بطور برازنده pukevasti admirable
privlačno, prikladno ill(end)ően menakjubkan dásamlega graziosamente ふさわしく patraukliai piestāvoši dengan menjadi bekoorlijkattraktivt, kledelig twarzowo ژوندی توکه de modo atraente admirabil подходяще slušivo privlačno prikladno klädsamt zarif bir şekilde 合適地 до лиця مناسب طور س thích hợp 合适地Kernerman English Multilingual Dictionary ©
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 Translator © 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.

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