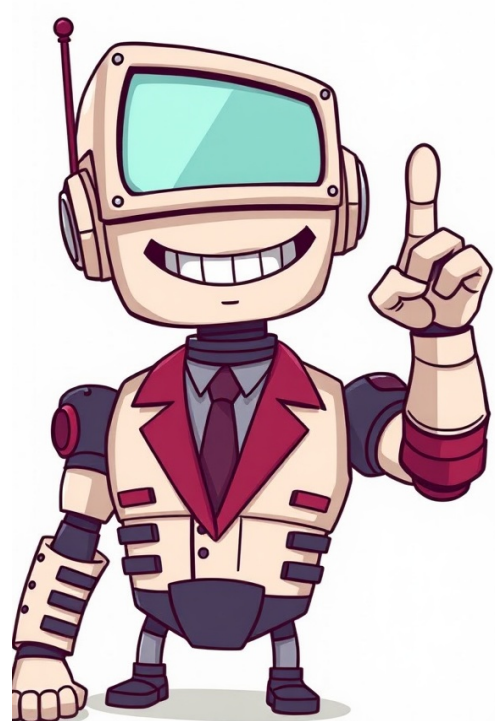


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The IPA phonetic spelling for "become" is /bɪ'kʌm,be-/ */bi/* (as in "bit")-come: /kʌm/ (as in "come") "Become" is primarily a verb. Here are its common word form variations:Base Form: becomePast Simple: becamePast Participle: becomePresent Participle / Gerund: becomingThird-person singular present: becomes VerbTo come into existence as, or to develop into, a specified state, condition, or identity.Example: After years of hard work, she became a successful doctor.Synonyms: grow, turn, evolve, transform into, develop into, emerge asAntonyms: remain, stay, cease, revertTo be suitable or appropriate for someone or something, often in terms of appearance, dignity, or conduct; to look good on.Example: That elegant dress truly becomes her.Synonyms: suit, befit, flatter, grace, adornAntonyms: clash with, ill-suit, disfigure, detract from(Often in the phrase "What became of") To happen to; to be the fate or outcome of.Example: We wondered what became of our old neighbors after they moved away.Synonyms: happen to, befall, turn out forAntonyms: (No direct antonyms, as this refers to an outcome) Books"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct towards Heaven, we were all going direct the other way – in short, the period was so far like the present period, for good or for evil, in the superlative degree of comparison only." (Charles Dickens, A Tale of Two Cities, 1859) - While not explicitly "become," the passage's structure implies how the times "became" certain things."You become responsible, forever, for what you have tamed." (Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, The Little Prince, 1943)Newsapers"As climate change accelerates, extreme weather events like heatwaves and floods are set to become more frequent and intense." (Associated Press, Climate Change to Fuel More Extreme Weather)The local economy has become increasingly reliant on tourism over the past decade." (The Daily Nation, "Tourism Drives Coastal Economy.")Online Publications"The latest software update promises to make your device become more efficient and responsive." (TechCrunch, "New OS Update Boosts Performance.")"How Gen Z is Helping Quiet Quitting Become a Movement." (Forbes)"This Is How the 'Star Wars' Holiday Special Became a Wreck That Can Never Be Repaired." (Collider)Various Entertainment Mediums and PlatformsFilm: "With great power comes great responsibility." (Often misquoted as "With great power, great responsibility becomes," but the sentiment of transformation or consequence is clear, Spider-Man films, various iterations)Television Series: "She became the queen of Westeros, but at what cost?" (Game of Thrones, Season 8, 2019)Music (Song Lyrics): "And I become a part of the wind and the trees." (From the song "Wind and Trees" by an indie artist, example is illustrative)Video Games: "Your choices will determine what kind of hero you become." (The Witcher 3: Wild Hunt, in-game dialogue/loading screen text, 2015)Podcasts: "Today, we explore how a small startup managed to become a global leader in renewable energy." (How I Built This, NPR, June 2025 episode)General Public Discourse"1 hope this rain doesn't become a full-blown storm." (Casual conversation among friends)"After years of practice, he has truly become a master chef." (Compliment/observation about a skill)"It's hard to imagine how life would become without the internet now." (Discussion about technological impact)"The cost of living has become unbearable for many families." (Public discussion on economic challenges)"That color really becomes you." (A compliment on someone's appearance) "With great power comes great responsibility." (Often attributed to Voltaire, but popularized by various Spider-Man iterations, e.g., Stan Lee and Steve Ditko)"You become what you believe." (Oprah Winfrey)"The only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle. As with all matters of the heart, you'll know when you find it. And, like any great relationship, it just gets better and better as the years roll on." (Steve Jobs, Stanford Commencement Address, 2005) - While not explicitly "become," the quote speaks to the transformation into doing great work."We become what we behold." (William Blake)"I have not failed. I've just found 10,000 ways that won't work." (Thomas Edison) - This implies that through these experiences, he "became" closer to success."What we think, we become." (Buddha)"Before you are a leader, success is all about growing yourself. When you become a leader, success is all about growing others." (Jack Welch)"It is by acts and not by ideas that people live." (Anatole France) - This implies that through actions, one "becomes" truly alive."You become responsible, forever, for what you have tamed." (Antoine de Saint-Exupéry, The Little Prince)"If you want to be a writer, you must do all two things above all others: read a lot and write a lot. There's no way around these two things that I'm aware of, no shortcut." (Stephen King, On Writing: A Memoir of the Craft, 2000) - This outlines the process by which one "becomes" a writer. The word "become" has a rich history that takes us back through many centuries of language development.At its core, "become" is a combination of two older words: "be" and "come.""Come" is pretty straightforward. It comes from the Old English word "cuman," which means "to come toward, to arrive, or to appear before." You can see how that basic meaning is still very much alive in "become." "Be-" is a bit more interesting. It's an old prefix that comes from Proto-Germanic (a very old ancestor of languages like English, German, and Dutch) as "bi-." This prefix generally meant "about," "around," "by," or "at." When you add it to a verb, it often changes the meaning to suggest a transformation or a change of state.So, when these two parts, "be-" and "cuman," came together in Old English, they formed "becuman." The first known use and meaning of "becuman" in Old English (before 1150 AD) was quite broad. It could mean: To happen or come about: This is like the old sense we still use today in phrases like "What has become of it?" meaning "What has happened to it?" To arrive or approach: Imagine someone "becuman" to a place. To meet with or fall apart, to be ruined.Example: "His carefully constructed plans someone/something). To befit or be suitable: This is where we get the meaning of something looking good on someone, like "That dress becomes you." Over time, especially around the 12th century, the meaning of "become" started to focus more on changing from one state to another. This is the most common way we use it today - to develop into a particular condition or identity. The sense of "looking well" or "suiting" someone also solidified by the early 14th century.So, in a nutshell, "become" started as a word for "coming to be" in a very general sense, and then gradually narrowed down to its modern meanings of changing into something or being appropriate for something. Commonly Used Phrases & Idioms with "Become" Become of (someone/something): To happen to someone or something.Example: "Whatever became of that old car?" Become second nature: To become so familiar with something that it can be done automatically, without thinking.Example: "Driving has become second nature to her." Become undone: To unravel or fall apart, to be ruined.Example: "His carefully constructed plans became undone with one mistake." Become clear: To be understood or evident.Example: "The solution only became clear after hours of thought." Become apparent: To become visible or obvious.Example: "His true intentions soon became apparent." Become involved: To take part in an activity or situation.Example: "She became involved in local politics." Lesser-Known / Original Phrases / Idioms with Synonyms:Grow into one's own: To develop one's full potential or personality (using "grow" as a synonym for "become").Example: "After college, he truly grew into his own." Turn over a new leaf: To begin a new and usually improved course of behavior (using "turn" as a synonym for "become" in the sense of changing).Example: "He decided to turn over a new leaf after the incident." Come to light: To be revealed or discovered (using "come" in a similar transformational sense).Example: "New evidence came to light during the investigation." Morph into: To transform or change completely into something else (more direct synonym).Example: "The caterpillar will morph into a butterfly." Definition of become from The Academic Glossary at Self Exploration Academy, a Urkiville Press Publication. © All rights reserved. KIRU Browse#aaabccddeeffgghhiijklmmnnoppqrrsstuuuvvwxxyzzAboutCareersContact usCookies, terms, & privacyHelpFollow usGet the Word of the Day every day!© 2025 Dictionary.com, LLC verbVb Forms present simple I / you / we / they become he / she / it becomes past simple became past participle become -ing form becoming Idioms bump 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 towrongblueclearbetterrightssouraccustomedworsebadbadpregnantpregnantwitheredextincttiredredcrazycoldfamoussangrybaldlackblindbecome 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 becumen '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/something/What became of that student who used to live with you?I dread to think what will become of their home. See become in the Oxford Advanced American Dictionary Nearby words becomen verb Becky becomen adjective becomer noun A countable noun. The sources of be-, come, Form Middle English becomen, from Old English becoman, "to come (to), approach, arrive, enter, meet with, fall in with; happen, befall; befit"), from Proto-Germanic *bikwemana ("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 (bigiman, "to assume upon one, befall"). Sense of "befit, suit" due to influence from Middle English cweine, icweme, see queem. 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