

back-ground

S2 W2

/ˈbækgraʊnd/

noun

- 1 [countable] someone's family, education, previous work etc:

Students with a background in chemistry will probably find the course easier.

*It's important to understand other people, people **from different backgrounds**.*

Do you know anything about his background?

- 2 [uncountable and countable] PAST the situation or past events that explain why something happens in the way that it does:

background to

Without knowing the background to the case, I couldn't possibly comment.

against a background of something

The peace talks are being held against a background of increasing violence.

background information/details/data etc

The author included a new chapter of background material for the second edition of the book.

- 3 [countable usually singular] BEHIND the area that is behind the main thing that you are looking at, especially in a picture:

The background looks out of focus.

in the background

In the background, you can see my college friends.

- 4 [countable] the pattern or colour on top of which something has been drawn, printed etc:

red lettering on a white background

5 in the background SEE

someone who keeps or stays in the background tries not to be noticed:

The president's advisors are content to remain in the background.

6 [uncountable and countable] the sounds that you can hear apart from the main thing that you are listening to:

in the background

In the background, I could hear the sound of traffic.

*All of the **background noise** made it difficult to have a phone conversation.*

COLLOCATIONSense 1 adjectives

family background *Many kids lack a stable family background.*

social background *Universities aim to attract students from varied social backgrounds.*

cultural background *Some of his attitudes were due to his cultural background.*

ethnic background *We do not discriminate against people because of their ethnic background or gender.*

class background *Class background is an important factor in the level of schooling achieved.*

socio-economic background *Smokers often come from poorer socio-economic backgrounds.*

educational/ academic background *The interviewer will ask you about your educational background and work experience. | Postgraduate students come from a wide range of academic backgrounds.*

professional background *Managers can come from a wide range of professional backgrounds.*

a working-class/ middle-class background *I came from a*

very poor working-class background.

a deprived/ disadvantaged background The school has a high percentage of pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds.

a poor background His poor background prevented him from going to medical college.

a privileged/ wealthy background All the top jobs were taken by people from privileged backgrounds.

verbs

have a background (in something) We are looking for someone who has a background in science.

come from a background Mark and I came from very similar backgrounds.

phrases

a range of backgrounds People from a wide range of backgrounds go to watch football.