

a-round S1 W1

/ə'raʊnd/

adverb, preposition

1 AROUND/ROUND surrounding or on all sides of something or someone

SYN round (BrE):

The whole family was sitting around the dinner table.

The Romans built a defensive wall around the city.

She wore a beautiful silk shawl around her shoulders.

People crowded around to see what was happening.

*We would hear the birds singing **all around** us.*

2 moving in a circle

SYN round (BrE):

A helicopter was circling around, looking for somewhere to land.

They danced around the bonfire.

3 in or to many places or parts of an area

SYN about (BrE):

He wandered around the streets, looking in shop windows.

There are over 40 radio stations dotted around the country.

When I finished college, I travelled around for a while.

Since it's your first day here, would you like me to show you around?

We started looking around for somewhere to live.

4

a) (BrE)

in an area near a place or person

SYN round

Is there a bank around here?

When you've been around a person long enough, you start to know how they'll react.

*the new housing areas **in and around** Dublin*

*Catherine was the most beautiful girl **for miles around**.*

b)

if someone or something is around, they are somewhere in the place where you are:

Why is there never a policeman around when you need one?

Jake went down to the bar, but there was no one around that he knew.

Is your dad around?

*The list is **somewhere around**.*

5 (BrE) on the other side of something, or to the other side of it without going through it or over it

SYN round

If the gate's locked, you'll have to go around the side of the house.

There's a door around the back.

*She ran **around the corner** and straight into the arms of John Delaney.*

6 used to say that someone or something turns so that they face in the opposite direction

SYN round (BrE):

Rex spun around and kicked the gun from her hand.

Slowly he turned the boat around towards the open sea.

7 (also **around about**) used when guessing a number, amount, time etc, without being exact:

There must have been around 40,000 people in the stadium.

The whole project will probably cost around \$3 million.

Most guests started to make their way home around about

ten o'clock.

8 existing

SYN **about** (BrE):

That joke's been around for years.

Manson has a reputation as one of the most stylish designers around.

9 if something is organized around a particular person or thing, it is organized according to their needs, wishes, ideas etc:

Why does everything have to be arranged around what Callum wants to do?

Their whole society was built around their religious beliefs.

10 used to show that someone spends time in a place without doing anything useful

SYN **about** (BrE):

I've been waiting around all morning.

They could be seen hanging around street corners, watching the girls go by.

11 a way around a difficult situation or problem is a way to solve it or avoid it

SYN **round** (BrE):

We must find a way around these difficulties.

The company is expected to get around this problem by borrowing from the banks.

12 to other people or positions

SYN **round** (BrE):

Write your name on this list and pass it around.

Someone's been moving the furniture around.

13 have been around (also have been around the block a few times) (informal)

a)

to have had experience of many different situations so that you

can deal with new situations confidently:

You could tell this guy had been around a bit by the knowing way he talked.

b)

to have had many sexual experiences – used humorously

14 (AmE) used to show the length of a line surrounding something:

Redwood trees can measure 30 or 40 feet around.

→ ROUND¹,

→ **get around (something)** AT GET AROUND (1),

→ **go around in circles** AT CIRCLE¹ (5)

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