

be·come S1 W1

/bi'kʌm/

verb (*past tense* **became** /-'keɪm/, *past participle* **become**)

1 [linking verb] **BECOME** to start to have a feeling or quality, or to start to develop into something:

The weather became warmer.

Slowly my eyes became accustomed to the darkness.

Helen became increasingly anxious about her husband's strange behaviour.

Pollution from cars has become a major problem.

2 [linking verb] **BECOME** to start to have a job or position:

George became king at the age of 54.

When did you first want to become a teacher?

3 [transitive not in progressive] (*formal*) **SUITABLE** to be suitable for someone, or to look attractive on them

SYN suit

Blue really becomes her.

Don't try to be clever – it doesn't become you.

4 **what became of...?/whatever will become of...?** **HAPPEN**

used to ask what has happened to someone or something, especially when you have not seen them for a long time, or what will happen to someone that you are worried about:

What became of those Chinese vases that Mum used to have?

Whatever will become of Sam when his wife dies?

THESAURUS

become to start to have a feeling or quality, or to start to develop into something: *His parents became worried when he*

was late home from school. | Violent crime is becoming a major problem. | She became more confident when she joined a drama group.

get to start to have a feeling or quality. **Get** is less formal than **become** and is much more commonly used in everyday English: *I was getting very tired. | Make sure you're home before it gets dark.*

go to become something – used about things becoming a different colour, or things or people becoming worse in some way: *Her hair was going grey. | He went blind. | I think I'm going mad.*

turn to become something – used about things becoming a different colour, or the weather or people's behaviour changing: *The water had turned bright green. | The weather is expected to turn cold again. | He suddenly turned nasty.*

grow (especially written) to gradually become something: *People were growing impatient. | The rich grew richer.*

come undone/ loose/ apart to become undone, loose, or separated into pieces: *The screws had come loose.*

change into something to become something completely different: *The caterpillar changed into a beautiful butterfly.*

Word origin

Language: Old English

Origin: *becuman* 'to come to, become', from *cuman* 'to come'