

# ac·quire

W2 AC

/ə'kwaɪə \$ ə'kwair/

verb [transitive]

**1** (formal) COLLECTGET to obtain something by buying it or being given it:

*Manning hoped to acquire valuable works of art as cheaply as possible.*

*She has acquired an email address and a site on the WorldWide Web.*

**2** to get or gain something:

*The college acquired a reputation for very high standards.*

In everyday English, people usually say **get** rather than **acquire**:

*Where did you **get** that tie?*

*He soon **got** a reputation for being unfriendly.*

**3** LEARN to gain knowledge or learn a skill:

*He spent years acquiring his skills as a surgeon.*

*Elsie acquired a good knowledge of Chinese.*

**4 acquire a taste for something** LIKE SOMEBODY OR SOMETHING

to begin to like something:

*She had acquired a taste for European beer.*

**5 an acquired taste** LIKE SOMEBODY OR SOMETHING

something that people only begin to like after they have tried it a few times

## Word origin

**Date:** 1400–1500

**Language:** Old French

**Origin:** *aquerre*, from Latin *acquirere*, from *ad-* 'to' + *quaerere* 'to look for, obtain'

