



American Expression E1511 Be in one's good graces

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"To be in one's good graces" is an idiomatic expression that refers to being in someone's favor or enjoying their approval and positive regard. When someone is in another person's good graces, it means they have earned that person's trust, respect, or affection, and as a result, they are viewed favorably or treated well by them.

This expression often suggests a positive and harmonious relationship between individuals. It implies that the person in favor is likely to receive special treatment, support, or preferential treatment from the other party. Being in someone's good graces can open doors, create opportunities, and foster goodwill, making it a desirable position to be in.

The phrase is commonly used in both personal and professional contexts. In personal relationships, it might describe someone who is highly regarded by their friends or loved ones. For example, if a person is in their grandmother's good graces, it implies a strong bond and positive connection with their grandmother, often resulting in her showering them with affection and attention.

In a professional setting, being in someone's good graces can have significant implications. It can mean that an employee or colleague has garnered the support and trust of their supervisor or boss. This can lead to favorable treatment, such as promotions, salary increases, or opportunities for growth within the organization. On the other hand, falling out of someone's good graces in the workplace can have adverse consequences, potentially impacting job security and career prospects.

Building and maintaining good graces with someone typically involves demonstrating qualities such as trustworthiness, reliability, loyalty, and respect. Individuals often achieve this by being supportive, helpful, and considerate, as well as by consistently meeting or exceeding expectations. However, it's important to note that being in someone's good graces is not necessarily about flattery or insincere behavior but rather about genuine respect and positive interactions.

Conversely, falling out of someone's good graces can result from actions or behaviors that erode trust or respect. This might include betrayal, dishonesty, unreliability, or a pattern of negative behavior. Once someone has lost the favor of another person, it can be challenging to regain it, and it may require effort and time to rebuild trust and repair the relationship.

In summary, "to be in one's good graces" is an idiomatic expression that signifies being in someone's favor, enjoying their approval, and benefiting from a positive and harmonious relationship with them. It applies to both personal and professional contexts and implies trust, respect, and positive regard. Achieving and maintaining good graces typically involves demonstrating qualities such as reliability, loyalty, and respect, while falling out of favor may result from actions that erode trust or respect. This phrase highlights the importance of interpersonal dynamics and the impact they can have on various aspects of life.

#### Questions for Discussion

1. Can you share a personal experience where you went out of your way to be in someone's good graces, and what motivated you to do so?
  2. Have you ever witnessed a situation where someone's actions or behavior caused them to fall out of another person's good graces? How did it affect their relationship?
  3. In a professional context, how important is it to be in your supervisor's or boss's good graces, and how can individuals maintain or improve their standing with their superiors?
  4. Can you think of a historical figure or public figure who was known for being in the good graces of influential people or institutions? How did this impact their career or legacy?
  5. What strategies or behaviors do you believe are effective for building and maintaining good graces in personal relationships, such as friendships or family dynamics?
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