



American Expression E1957 Been around

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The phrase "been around" is a colloquial expression that is often used to describe someone who has a lot of experience, especially in the context of life, relationships, or a particular field of expertise. When someone is said to have "been around," it implies that they have a wealth of knowledge and understanding because they have encountered a wide range of situations, challenges, or people over a significant period of time.

In the context of life experiences, saying that someone has "been around" suggests that they have lived through various phases of life, encountered diverse cultures and lifestyles, and have a broad perspective on the world. This can be attributed to their age, travel experiences, or exposure to different environments. Such individuals often have a wealth of stories, wisdom, and insights to share with others.

For example, an elderly person who has traveled extensively, worked in different countries, and overcome numerous challenges in their life is likely to be described as someone who has "been around." Their experiences have given them a deep understanding of the complexities of life and the ability to offer valuable advice to younger generations.

In the realm of relationships, someone who has "been around" may be seen as having a history of romantic or interpersonal experiences. They may have been in various types of relationships, encountered different personality types, and navigated the highs and lows of love and friendship. This breadth of experience can contribute to their ability to relate to others, offer relationship advice, or provide emotional support.

In professional or academic contexts, the phrase "been around" can be used to describe individuals who have extensive experience or expertise in a particular field. These individuals have likely worked in the industry for a significant period, accumulated knowledge, and honed their skills. When someone is described as having "been around" in their profession, it often implies that they are a seasoned expert who can be relied upon for guidance or mentorship.

For instance, a professor who has been teaching for several decades, published numerous academic papers, and advised countless students may be considered as having "been around" in their field of study. Their depth of knowledge and experience makes them a respected authority in their academic community. While the phrase "been around" is generally used to connote experience and wisdom, it can sometimes carry different connotations in certain contexts. In informal or slang usage, it may imply that someone has been involved in questionable or unsavory activities, suggesting a degree of cynicism or worldliness.

In conclusion, "been around" is a versatile expression used to describe individuals who possess a wealth of knowledge and experience, whether in the context of life experiences, relationships, or professional expertise. It is a way of acknowledging someone's wisdom and understanding gained through exposure to various situations, challenges, and people over time. This phrase highlights the value of experience in shaping a person's perspective and abilities.

#### Questions for Discussion

1. Can you think of someone you know personally or admire from history who has truly "been around" and accumulated a wealth of life experiences? What qualities or stories make them stand out as a person of wisdom and insight?
  2. In the professional world, why is it often advantageous to seek guidance or mentorship from individuals who have "been around" in a particular industry or field? How can their experience benefit the career development of younger professionals?
  3. What are some common misconceptions or stereotypes associated with people who are described as having "been around," and how can we challenge or dispel these stereotypes to appreciate the value of their experience?
  4. How has the concept of "been around" evolved in the age of technology and the internet, where information is readily accessible, and younger generations may have different ways of acquiring knowledge and experience?
  5. Can you share a personal anecdote or story where the guidance or insights of someone who has "been around" had a significant impact on your life or decision-making? What did you learn from their experiences that proved valuable to you?
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