



American Expression E2109 Come across

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"Come across" is a versatile phrasal verb in English that can convey various meanings depending on the context in which it is used. Generally, it refers to the act of encountering or finding something or someone unexpectedly or by chance. This expression can be used in both literal and figurative contexts, adding nuance to communication.

In its most literal sense, "come across" describes stumbling upon or discovering something or someone unexpectedly. For example, if you were walking through a park and found a lost wallet on the ground, you could say that you "came across" the wallet. Similarly, if you unexpectedly encounter a friend while running errands, you could say that you "came across" them.

Figuratively, "come across" can describe the impression or perception one makes on others during an interaction or communication. For example, if someone speaks confidently and persuasively in a job interview, they may "come across" as competent and capable. Conversely, if someone appears nervous or hesitant during a presentation, they may "come across" as unprepared or unsure.

Additionally, "come across" can also be used to describe the conveyance or transmission of information or emotions. For example, if someone reads a heartfelt letter and is moved by its sincerity, they may say that the emotions "came across" in the writing. Similarly, if a news article is written in a clear and concise manner, readers may find that the key points "come across" effectively.

The phrase "come across" is commonly used in everyday conversation, as well as in written communication, to describe chance encounters, impressions, and the conveyance of information or emotions. It adds depth and nuance to language, allowing speakers and writers to express themselves more precisely and effectively.

Moreover, "come across" can also imply a degree of authenticity or genuineness in one's communication or behavior. For example, if someone "comes across" as sincere or genuine, it suggests that their words or actions are perceived as honest and heartfelt by others. Conversely, if someone "comes across" as insincere or disingenuous, it implies that their words or actions are perceived as fake or calculated.

In conclusion, "come across" is a versatile phrasal verb that can convey various meanings depending on the context in which it is used. It describes the act of encountering or finding something or someone unexpectedly, as well as the impression or perception one makes on others during an interaction. Additionally, it can also describe the conveyance or transmission of information or emotions. Whether used in literal or figurative contexts, "come across" adds nuance to communication and allows speakers and writers to express themselves more precisely and effectively.

#### Questions for Discussion

1. Reflecting on personal experiences, can you recall a memorable instance where you unexpectedly "came across" something or someone? How did this encounter impact you, and did it lead to any significant outcomes or realizations?
2. Discuss the importance of first impressions and how they contribute to the way individuals "come across" to others. How can individuals enhance their ability to make positive and lasting impressions in various social and professional settings?
3. Consider the role of communication in how individuals "come across" to others. How can verbal and nonverbal cues influence the perception of sincerity, authenticity, and credibility during interactions?
4. Reflecting on media and literature, can you identify examples of characters who effectively or ineffectively "come across" to audiences or other characters? How do these portrayals shape our understanding of communication and impression management?
5. Discuss strategies for improving how individuals "come across" in written communication, such as emails, letters, or social media posts. How can clarity, tone, and language choice impact the effectiveness of conveying information and emotions to readers?