



American Expression E2411 In the good books

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"In the good books" is a phrase used to describe being in someone's favor, enjoying their approval, or having a positive standing with them. When an individual is "in the good books" of another, it means that they have done something to earn trust, respect, or appreciation, leading to a favorable relationship. This expression is often used in social, professional, or familial contexts to indicate that someone is viewed in a positive light and can expect goodwill or preferential treatment.

The origins of the phrase "in the good books" can be traced back to the idea of record-keeping, where maintaining a list of people who were trustworthy, reliable, or deserving of respect was common practice. In religious and historical contexts, being "in the good books" referred to being included in records of virtue or goodness, as opposed to being "in the bad books," which implied disfavor or wrongdoing. This idea has since evolved into a more general expression for being in someone's favorable regard.

In the workplace, an employee might be "in the good books" of their manager if they consistently deliver high-quality work, meet deadlines, or contribute positively to the team's goals. This favorable status can lead to benefits such as promotions, raises, or greater opportunities for growth within the organization. Conversely, losing this position might result from poor performance, lack of reliability, or actions that go against company values.

In personal relationships, being "in the good books" often means maintaining harmony, trust, and mutual respect. For example, a friend who is always supportive or a family member who goes out of their way to help others is likely to be "in the good books" of those around them. This standing can lead to stronger bonds, greater willingness to offer assistance, or simply a deeper sense of appreciation and loyalty.

The phrase also applies to situations where one seeks to gain favor, such as trying to impress a teacher, mentor, or influential person. In these cases, individuals may take specific actions, like demonstrating hard work, showing kindness, or displaying loyalty, to ensure they remain "in the good books" of those they wish to impress or build relationships with.

Maintaining a position "in the good books" requires consistent effort, integrity, and an understanding of what others value. It involves not only performing well or being agreeable but also demonstrating qualities such as honesty, reliability, and empathy. This favorable status is often seen as a reward for positive behavior and can be a valuable asset in both professional and personal realms.

In conclusion, being "in the good books" means enjoying the favor and approval of others due to positive actions, qualities, or contributions. It reflects a state of trust and respect that can lead to numerous benefits, whether in a career, friendships, or family relationships. By understanding what it takes to stay "in the good books," individuals can build stronger connections and create opportunities for growth and success.

Questions for Discussion

1. What actions or behaviors are most effective for getting into someone's "good books," and why do they matter?
2. How can being "in the good books" influence opportunities and relationships in professional and personal settings?
3. Is it possible to remain "in the good books" consistently, or are there situations where it's inevitable to fall out of favor?
4. How does being "in the good books" compare to seeking genuine connection versus simply aiming to gain favor?
5. What role does authenticity play in staying "in the good books," and can trying too hard backfire?