

Without looking at a dictionary, how would you explain what the word 'get' means?

How many different expressions and phrasal verbs with the word 'get' can you think of.

Work with a partner and in two minutes, write down as many meanings and uses of the word 'get' that you can think of.

phrasal verbs:

e.g. get in touch with

GET

different meanings:

e.g. receive - 'What did you get for your birthday?'

expressions

e.g. get a life

1

In each of the sentences below replace the word 'get' with one of the words or phrases in the box. You may need to change the tense or the preposition that follows the verb.

understand	catch	arrive	capture	fetch
buy	hear	receive	pay for	obtain

GET

j The police got him while he was trying to climb out the window.

a What did you get for your birthday?

b I need you to get some information for me.

c I'm going to the shop do you want me to get anything for you?

d I forgot the car keys can you get them for me?

e I usually get to the office around 8.30.

f I'll get these drinks, it's my treat.

g I don't get why you would do that. It doesn't make sense.

h Can you repeat that please? I didn't get what you said.

i She got malaria on holiday and was quite ill.

2

- A** Read the following text conversation.
How would you replace the underlined parts of the conversation using expressions or phrasal verbs with "get"?



- B** Watch the clip and check your answers to part A.

3

into
on with someone

in touch with
out of something

through to someone
on with something

through
over

together
behind someone

round
away with

Complete the table below to make the appropriate phrasal verb using the words in the box above.

meaning	phrasal verb
1. to make someone understand something	get
2. start to do something or become interested in	get
3. live through a difficult period	get
4. to meet, especially with friends	get
5. to support a person, organisation, team cause, etc.,	get
6. have a good relationship with	get
7. contact	get
8. avoid punishment or consequences for doing something wrong	get
9. recover from a bad or difficult experience or trauma	get
10. avoid going somewhere or to an event that you don't want to go to	get
11. to start or continue doing something such as work or study	get
12. avoid a rule or a law without breaking it	get



4

Discuss the following questions in pairs or small groups.

- Do you have any hobbies? How did you **get into** them?
- How often do you **get together** with your friends? What do you usually do?
- When you are working from home, how easy is it for you to **get on with** your work? Should employers trust staff to **get on with** their work or should they be monitored to ensure they are working?
- If someone that you hadn't spoken to in a very long time **got in touch** with you out of the blue, how would you react? Would you find it unusual? Why / why not?
- Is it true that people who are rich and powerful **get away with** things that others do not? Why? What kinds of things do they most commonly **get away with**?
- Do you **get on with** your in-laws / work colleagues? What kind of people do you find it most difficult to **get on with**?
- Should governments crack down on companies that relocate their Head Office or registered address in order to **get round** stricter laws (e.g. higher taxes)? Why / why not?
- If your boss invited you to an event that you really didn't want to attend and said "I think you should go!", would you try to **get out of** it? Why / why not? What would you say?
- What kinds of experience are the most difficult to **get over**?
- In times of national crisis should the public **get behind** the government regardless of how they voted or is it important to hold the government to account no matter the circumstances?
- When was the last time you had difficulty **getting through to someone** and felt like you were talking to a brick wall? What happened and how did you deal with the situation?
- In your country is there any assistance from the state to help vulnerable people (e.g. pensioners or those on low incomes) **get through** winter? Do you think there should be?



5

common expression with 'get'
A Match the expressions on the left with the alternative way of saying the same thing on the right.

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. get stuffed (get knotted, get lost) | a. control your emotions, calm down and behave appropriately |
| 2. get a life | b. I am very angry with you, please go away |
| 3. get a grip | c. stop criticising me, stop annoying me with the same complaint and request |
| 4. get one's act together | d. you are concentrating on something that hasn't happened yet, focus on the present |
| 5. get ahead of one's self | e. organise yourself so that you can be effective and deal with something |
| 6. get off my back | f. stop being so boring, go and find something exciting to do |

B Complete the sentences below by filling the gaps with one of the expressions from part A. Make any changes you think are necessary.

- A. Slow down! You're _____. First of all we need to make sure the bank will give us a mortgage and only then can we buy the apartment. Don't start shopping for furniture yet.
- B. I'm saying this as your friend, but you need to try and control yourself. I know your upset but you're in a hospital. Calm down and _____.
- C. For some strange reason no one else is interested in my collection of bus tickets. Whenever I try to explain why bus tickets are so interesting they just tell me to _____ and walk away.
- D. You can't just lie around the house all day watching TV and complaining. It's been 3 weeks since you were laid off. _____ and start looking for a new job.
- E. My boss asked me to work on Sunday morning but he didn't want to pay me double time. I told him to _____.
- F. I know you're stressed but everything is under control. We still have one week to finish the report and it's eighty percent done. It'll be finished on time. _____ and stop phoning me every two hours to check.