

THE 'GET' MASTERCLASS

Your guide to...

COLLOCATIONS

**SENTENCE
STRUCUTRES**

VERB FORMS

IDIOMS

PHRASAL VERBS

AND MORE!

The 'Get' Masterclass

Welcome to this week's masterclass focused entirely on 'get'! In this lesson, we're going to look at the many functions of the word 'get', making it easier for you to use this versatile word correctly. You'll learn about 'get' with adjectives, nouns and various verb forms. We'll also cover how 'get' is used in special sentences and end with some common phrases with 'get'. Let's get into it!

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● Verb Forms

Let's start with the verb form '**get**', which is an irregular verb.

Present Simple	
get → /get/	
Past Simple	
got → /gɒt/	
Past Participle	
British	American
got → /gɒt/	gotten → /'gɒtn/

'**Gotten**' is also used in some regional varieties of British English. In this lesson, I'm going to use 'got' as the past participle, but you can use either. Now, let's look at our first usage of 'get'.

● Get + Adjective

We use **get** followed by an adjective to talk about things changing and to say we reach a particular state or condition.

In this context, you might think of **get** as **become**.

- It's **getting** dark. → It's **becoming** dark.
- I'm **getting** tired. → I'm **becoming** tired.

Let's look at a few more examples on the next page.



- Eat up - your dinner's **getting** cold.
- It was cold this morning but it's **getting** warmer now.
 - We can use comparative adjectives, like '**warmer**'.
- We **got** married last year.
 - '**Married**' is an adjective.
- I **got** used to waking up early when my children were little.
 - '**Get used to**' is a phrase meaning to become familiar.

We can also use **get** + **object** + **adjective** to say that we make someone or something change in some way.

- **Can** you **get the dog ready** to go for a walk, please?

● Get + Noun/Noun Phrase

Now, let's talk about some more uses of get when it is followed by a noun or a noun phrase. We're going to do a little quiz!

Read these four sentences that have **get** in them. I will also give you four verbs that have the same meaning as 'get' in each sentence.

Can you match the uses of **get** to the verbs?

- | | |
|--|---------|
| 1. I got a new dress for my birthday. | buy |
| 2. We got a bus to the airport. | receive |
| 3. We got to Rome at 5pm. | take |
| 4. Will is going to get a new coat in the sale. | arrive |

Alright, let's go through the answers:

1. **receive** - I **got/received** a new dress for my birthday.

Get can mean '**receive**'. Here are a couple more examples:

- I hope Julie **gets** a good mark on her physics exam.
- The orchestra **got** a huge round of applause.

2. **take** - We **got/took** a bus to the airport.

Get can mean '**take a form of transport**.' You can 'get a taxi' or 'get a train'.

3. **arrive** - We **got to/arrived** in Rome at 5pm.

So, **get** can mean '**arrive**'. 'Get' is often followed by the preposition 'to'. 'Arrive' is usually followed by 'in' or 'at'. Remember that 'get home' is a common exception - we don't use a preposition!

- I **got to** the restaurant 10 minutes early.
- I **arrived** at the restaurant 10 minutes early.

4. **buy** - Will **is going to get/buy** a new coat in the sale.

Get also means '**buy**', as in the example sentence. It also means '**obtain**'. 'To obtain' means 'to receive something by making an effort'. For example, we often say you 'get a job', which has this meaning. So, let's recap:

1. **get** = receive
2. **get** = take a form of transport
3. **get** = arrive
4. **get** = buy/obtain

Note:

Yes, 'got' could mean 'bought' here. However, in no. 4, 'got' cannot mean 'received'.



Let's look at 4 more sentences with 4 new verbs that could replace **get**.

5. I'm getting a headache.	develop
6. Can you get me my phone, please?	bring
7. It got to 6 o'clock and they still weren't there.	understand
8. I didn't get the joke.	reach

Let's see how you did!

5. **develop** - I'm **getting/developing** a headache.

We often use **get** to talk about having an illness or an illness starting.

- I **got** the flu last winter and I was in bed for two weeks.

6. **bring** - Can you **get/bring** me my phone, please?

We can use **get** to mean '**bring**'. Often, we use two objects after 'get' with this meaning. Here, 'me' is the first object (the indirect object) and 'my phone' is the second object (the direct object). Here's another example:

- I **got/brought** you some books from the library.
 - The two objects are 'you' and 'some books'.

7. **reach** - It **got** to/**reached** 6 o'clock and they still weren't there.

Finally, **get** can mean '**reach**', as in reach a time or stage. Notice that in the example sentence, it was 'got to' but just 'reach', without a preposition.

- I can't believe I **got** to 50 without ever breaking a bone!



8. understand - I **didn't get/understand** the joke.

Get can also be used to mean 'understand'. We often use it with jokes or regarding information, like a lesson or film. For example -

- I **didn't get** the point of the film.

To recap again:

1. **get** = develop/have an illness
2. **get** = bring/give
3. **get** = reach a time/stage
4. **get** = understand

● **Get + -ing verb/to-infinitive**

Now let's look at what happens when **get** is followed by an **-ing verb** or a **to-infinitive**.

Get + -ing verb

Get + -ing verb often means 'start' or 'happen'. With an object, it means 'make something start' or 'make something happen'.

- Sorry, I'm late. I **got talking** to Jessica.
 - I started talking to Jessica.
- I **can't get the car going**. I think the battery's flat.
 - I can't make the car start. The car is the object.

Get + to-infinitive

We use **get + to-infinitive** to talk about managing to do something, being allowed to do something or having the opportunity to do something.



- I **didn't get to see** him.
- We **got to ride** the roller coaster twice.

These examples could have any of the meanings I mentioned above - you might have to ask the person speaking to clarify.

● Have/Has Got

Now I want to talk about **got** as part of the structure '**have**' or '**has got**'.

'**Have got**' means the same as 'have' when we talk about things like possession, illnesses and relationships. We often use contractions - I've got, she's got - instead of the full form. You can only use it in the present simple tense.

- **Have** you **got** a pen?
- Camilla's **got** a headache.
- I've **got** one sister and two brothers.
- I **haven't got** any brothers or sisters.

'Have got' is considered less formal than 'have' in these sentences. You're more likely to hear it in spoken English. 'Have got' is also more common in British English than in American English in this context. In more formal language or in American English, people tend to use 'have' more often.

- Do you **have** a pen?
- Camilla **has** a headache.
- I don't **have** any brothers or sisters.

We also use 'have' or 'has got' when we talk about obligation. In this case, it is followed by a **to-infinitive**. We replace 'have/has to' with 'have/has got to'.

- **Have** you **got to finish** all that work today?
- I've **got to go**, sorry.

You'll often hear 'have got to' contracted to '**gotta**' /'gɒtə/ - **I gotta go**. Again, 'have got to' is less formal than 'have to' and 'gotta' is really informal!

● The Passive Voice and Causative Structures

We use **get** in several ways in the passive voice and in causative structures.

1. **Get** can replace '**be**' in passive sentences with the structure '**get + past participle**'. Using 'get' is more informal.

- Kathy **got promoted** yesterday.

Note:

'Get' and 'be' actually function as auxiliary verbs in this structure.

2. **Get** can replace '**have**' in causative structures. Again, 'get' is less formal than 'have'. We use the causative when we talk about causing people to do things or causing something to happen. In active sentences, the structure is '**get + person + to-infinitive**'.

- I'll **get my grandpa to make** us some sandwiches before our hike tomorrow.
 - I'll persuade my grandpa to do this.

In passive causative sentences, the structure is **get + object + past participle**.

- Pete **got his teeth whitened**.
 - Someone whitened Pete's teeth.

3. **Get** can also replace '**have**' in sentences with the **get + object + past participle** structure with a different meaning. We use it to say that something happened to us, often something negative.

- We **got our van broken into** last night.
 - We did not arrange for someone to break into our van; it just happened!

Alright, I think it's time we shift gears and learn some phrasal verbs, collocations and idioms that use 'get'.



● Phrasal Verbs

We're starting with phrasal verbs. Most of these phrasal verbs also have multiple meanings; I'm introducing one of the most common meanings and uses here.

1. **to get away** /,get ə'weɪ/ - to go on holiday

- We want to **get away** for a few days in August.

2. **to get over sth./sb.** /,get 'əʊvə/ - to feel better after an illness or a bad experience

- It took me a week to **get over** my cold.
- You really need to **get over** her!

3. **to get back** /,get 'bæk/ - to return to a place

- I **got back** late last night.

4. **to get on** /,get 'ɒn/ - to have a good relationship

- My parents and I have always **got on**.

Note:

We often add 'well' - 'get on well'.

'Get on' is often followed by 'with someone' - you '**get on with someone**'.

- Do you **get on with** your workmates?

'Get along' or 'get along with' is a synonym for 'get on'. And I have a bonus idiom now: '**get on like a house on fire**', meaning '**like someone very much and become friends quickly**'. It's one of my favourite idioms!

- I met her at school and we **got on like a house on fire**.

5. **get together** /,get tə'geðə/ - to meet someone, often to talk about something

- Kerry and I will **get together** next week to discuss the party.

'Get together' can also be followed by 'with someone' - get together with someone.

- I **got together with** my colleagues to plan the upcoming event.



Finally, **'get-together'** /'get təgeðə/ is also a noun. A 'get-together' is an informal meeting or party, often for a particular purpose.

- We're having a **get-together** on Saturday to say goodbye to Abdullah.

And here are 5 additional phrasal verbs I think you should know and, more importantly, start using.

- **to get through (to sb./sth.)** /,get θru:/ - to successfully make contact with someone (usually by telephone)
 - Dave finally **got through** to the customer service department after waiting on hold for an hour.
- **to get (sth.) across** /,get ə'krɒs/ - to successfully communicate an idea or a message
 - Mario struggled to **get** his point **across** during the presentation.
- **to get ahead** /,get ə'hed/ - to make progress, particularly in life or work
 - She's really working hard to **get ahead** in her music career.
- **to get around to** /,get ə'raʊnd tu:/ - to find the time to do something
 - I haven't **got around to** cleaning the garage yet.
- **to get by** /,get 'baɪ/ - to manage to survive or to do okay with the resources available
 - After Haruka lost her job, they had to **get by** on a single income.

● Collocations

Next, let's look at some common collocations with 'get'.

1. **get to know** - to slowly start to learn more about someone and become more familiar with them
 - I really want to **get to know** my colleagues better.



2. **get in trouble** - to face problems because you've done something wrong or against the rules

- I need to get home in time or I'll **get in trouble** with my parents.

You can use 'in' or 'on' in this sentence:

- 'In time' suggests arriving before a deadline to avoid negative outcomes.
- 'On time' implies meeting a scheduled or expected time precisely.

3. **get the impression** - to form an opinion or get a feeling about someone or something

- We **got the impression** that Jules was bored.

4. **get the joke** - to understand the joke

- Everyone laughed but I didn't **get the joke**.

You'll often hear people say, 'I **don't get it**', meaning I don't understand the joke, or just 'I **don't understand what's happening**.'

5. **get some sleep** - used to suggest it's a good idea to go to bed and rest

- I need to **get some sleep** before my exam tomorrow.

6. **get a reaction** - to make someone show how they feel

- I didn't **get a reaction** from my boss when I shared my idea.

7. **get permission** - to be allowed to do something by someone else

- You need to **get permission** from your mum to use her iPad.

8. **get the message** - to understand what someone is trying to tell you without saying it directly

- I **got the message** loud and clear when she stopped returning my calls.

9. **get a/the chance** - to have the opportunity to try or do something

- I'm excited to have **got the chance** to show you all what I can do!

10. **get the point** - to understand the main idea of what someone is saying

- You cut out there for a second but I think I **get the point**.

● Idioms

In our final section of this masterclass, I want to take a look at **5 idioms** with 'get'. But first, it's quiz time again! Read each of the sentences containing the idioms with one word missing. Then, I want you to choose a word from the list I give you to complete them. Here are the sentences and the words:

- | | |
|--|--------|
| 1. That loud noise is really getting on my _____. | rid |
| 2. I need to get _____ of my old school books. | feel |
| 3. You're going to have to get your _____ together if you want to pass the exam. | nerves |
| 4. I'm starting to get a _____ for this place. | act |
| 5. You can't always get your own _____! | way |

How did you do? And do you know what those idioms mean? Don't worry if not, I'm going to explain them now.

- to get on sb.'s nerves** - to annoy
 - The students' constant chatter is **getting on my nerves**.
- to get rid of sth.** - to throw something away or remove something or someone
 - I need to **get rid of** some of the old clothes in my wardrobe.
- to get your own way** - to get or do what you want, often despite other people trying to stop you
 - My daughter wanted to wear her pyjamas to the supermarket today, and of course, she **got her own way**.

Note:

You can replace 'your' with other possessive adjectives, like 'my' and 'her'.



4. **to get your act together** - to become organised or behave more responsibly
 - Rich finally **got his act together** and now he's got a job and he's saving for a flat.
5. **to get a feel for sth.** - to begin to understand something
 - After a few lessons, Johan started **getting a feel for** playing the guitar.
 - I'm **getting a feel for** how to use the word 'get'.

I also said that I would give you additional 'get' idioms, so here are 5 more really great idioms.

6. **to get cold feet** - to start feeling nervous or scared about a decision or something you have planned to do
 - Joanna was excited about skydiving but **got cold feet** when she saw the aeroplane.
7. **to get the hang of sth.** - to learn how to do something or use something
 - After practising for a week, I finally **got the hang** of driving a manual car.
8. **to get the ball rolling** - to start something, especially something important
 - We're ready to **get the ball rolling** on the new project.
9. **to get a grip (on yourself)** - to gain control over your emotions or a situation
 - You need to **get a grip** on yourself before the interview.
10. **to get out of hand** - to become difficult to control
 - The party **got out of hand** when too many people showed up unexpectedly.

● Test

Read the passage below and decide how many words or phrases you could replace with 'get' or a phrase containing 'get'.

When I left university, I obtained a job with a law firm in London. Unfortunately, two months before I was due to start, I received some bad news.

Because of some financial problems, I would have to start my job a year later than I had expected. I was so disappointed that I wouldn't have the opportunity to move to London with all of my friends. The firm was giving me £10,000 to say sorry, but it didn't help.

I spent a month feeling sorry for myself, but then I became more organised and made a plan. I was going to go on holiday for a bit. I knew I might never have the chance to spend a few months doing nothing ever again. So, I threw away loads of old clothes and asked my parents to store some things at their house. I set off with nothing but a tiny backpack and a plane ticket. It was the best year of my life.

Continue to the next page to reveal the answer.



● Test Answers

There are a total of **8 words and phrases** that can be replaced with 'get' or a phrase containing 'get'.

When I left university, I **obtained** a job with a law firm in London. Unfortunately, two months before I was due to start, I **received** some bad news.

Because of some financial problems, I would have to start my job a year later than I had expected. I was so disappointed that I wouldn't **have the opportunity to** move to London with all of my friends. The firm was giving me £10,000 to say sorry, but it didn't help.

I spent a month feeling sorry for myself, but then I **became more organised** and made a plan. I was going to **go on holiday** for a bit. I knew I might never **have the chance** to spend a few months doing nothing ever again. So, I **threw away** loads of old clothes and **asked** my parents to store some things at their house. I set off with nothing but a tiny backpack and a plane ticket. It was the best year of my life.

Continue to the next page to see the text rewritten with 'get' and phrases containing 'get'.



● Test Answers

Here is the rewritten text containing 'get' and phrases containing 'get'.

When I left university, I **got** a job with a law firm in London. Unfortunately, two months before I was due to start, I **got** some bad news.

Because of some financial problems, I would have to start my job a year later than I had expected. I was so disappointed that I wouldn't **get to** move to London with all of my friends. The firm was giving me £10,000 to say sorry, but it didn't help.

I spent a month feeling sorry for myself, but then I **got my act together** and made a plan. I was going to **get away** for a bit. I knew I might never **get the chance/get** to spend a few months doing nothing ever again. So, I **got rid** of loads of old clothes and **got** my parents to store some things at their house. I set off with nothing but a tiny backpack and a plane ticket. It was the best year of my life.