

## English Verbs – 'to get'

(get / got / gotten / getting)

**A. Meanings.** The verb 'get' has many meanings in English. Here are some examples:

- **obtain**  
(obter/pegar/conseguir/tirar) I need to **get a driving license**.  
I **got 90%** in my maths test.
- **receive**  
(ganhar/receber) I **got a lot of presents** on my birthday.  
A: Did you **get my e-mail**? B: Yes – I **got it**.  
John **got a promotion** at work.
- **become**  
(ficar/virar) She **got sick** after her trip to India.  
Your English is **getting better**.  
It's **getting cold**.  
My mother **is getting old**. She doesn't go out any more.
- **arrive (at)**  
(chegar) What time did you **get to work** today?  
How will you **get to the airport**?
- **understand**  
(entender/compreender) A: Did you **get** what I said? B: Yes, I **got it!**  
My husband really **gets me**.
- **catch**  
(pegar/prender/capturar) I went fishing and I **got two fish!**  
The police **got the man** who stole my phone.  
I **got a ride** with a friend to work.  
I **get the bus** every day at 8am.
- **buy**  
(comprar) We **got a new car** yesterday.  
Where did you **get that shirt**?
- **fetch/pick up**  
(pegar/buscar/trazer) I have to **get my son** from school at 6pm.  
I'll **get a glass of beer** for you.  
Can you **get a pen** for me, please?

**Suggested videos:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FnxVPTluJRc> (7 mins)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yC3H33ONPkA> (8 mins)

**Exercise.** Rewrite these sentences, replacing the highlighted verbs with the verb 'get', conjugating as necessary:

1. He **became** angry when he discovered the truth.

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2. We **arrived at** work at 8am.

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3. What **did** you **receive** for your birthday from your husband?

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4. I **have obtained** a bank loan for a new car.

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5. I **will fetch** a sandwich for you.

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6. It's OK. There's no need to explain. I **understood** it.

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7. I'm **going to buy** a new TV tomorrow.

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8. What time **do** you **catch** the bus every day?

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## B. Idiomatic expressions

There are many idiomatic expressions in English, and many use the verb 'get'. Here are some examples:

### 1. **Get lost!**

*This means:* Go away!

### 2. **Get a life!**

*This means:* Do something interesting with your life!

### 3. I need to **get some Z's**.

*This means:* I need to sleep.

### 4. I **got out of bed on the wrong side** today.

*This means:* I am in a bad mood.

### 5. Asking John to buy you a drink is like **getting blood out of a stone!**

*This means:* A nearly impossible thing.

### 6. Be careful what you say to the boss. You will **get your fingers burned**.

*This means:* You will regret what you say.

### 7. OK. No more small talk. Let's **get down to business**.

*This means:* Let's start talking about the important things.

### 8. What's your problem? **Get it off your chest**.

*This means:* Share your problems to feel better.

### 9. Every time I think about asking Mary to marry me, I **get cold feet**.

*This means:* I am nervous and anxious.

### 10. He really **got into deep water** when he accepted the project.

*This means:* He accepted something which is beyond his capabilities.

### 11. That's why you can't have a dog. Do you **get the picture** now?

*This means:* to understand a situation

### 12. Don't be a wimp. **Give as good as you get!**

*This means:* to fight back

**Suggested video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jV98x8WdQKM> (18 mins)