

## The Three Meanings of "Get"

"Get" is one of the most common words in English, but can be very confusing because it has many different meanings. This worksheet will focus on the 3 main meanings of get. The first and most basic meaning of "get" is to receive something.

Eg. "Every Christmas Tommy gets a lot of presents from his family"



### 1. Ask and answer the questions with a partner

- a) What did you get last Christmas?
- b) When you go grocery shopping, what do you usually get?
- c) How many days off do you get every year?
- d) If you had one million dollars, what type of house would you get?
- e) If you could get any animal as a pet, what animal would you get?

### 2. Read the story and put the underlined "get" structures in the tense categories below. There are 2 examples of each tense.

I usually don't get that many emails from friends and family, but every day I get spam emails from people trying to sell me things. They want me to buy cars, holidays, clothes, everything. Usually I don't even read them, but yesterday I got a very interesting email from a man in Nigeria who says he's the son of a very rich man. He said his father died two weeks ago and left him 10 million dollars! Unfortunately, he won't get the money if he doesn't give the bank \$5000. He said if I give him five thousand dollars, I will get \$100,000 in a few months for helping him. Of course I sent him the money, what an opportunity! But he emailed me yesterday to say he didn't get it, and that I should send it again.



<i>Tense</i>	<i>Examples</i>
Present Simple (in general, always true)	<i>Don't get, I get</i>
Past Simple (finished, in the past)	<i>Got, didn't get</i>
Future Simple (in the future)	<i>Won't get, will get</i>

Another meaning of “get” is to come to or arrive at a place.  
 Eg. “Every day I *get* home at 6pm and feed my cat.”



3. Complete the questions below using the 3 tenses from exercise 1 and the word “get”.

- a) When *do* you *get* home every day?
- b) When *did* you *get* home yesterday?
- c) When *will* you *get* home tonight?
- d) How *do* you normally *get* to work?
- e) When *did* you *get* back from your last holiday?



4. Now ask your partner the questions above

“Get” can also be used to describe a change into a different state or situation.  
 Eg. “My boss *gets* angry when I tell him he is late.”  
 “It *will get* dark soon, we should go.”



5. Use “get” and the adjectives in the box below to complete the sentences story below. You will have to change the statements to one of the three tenses from exercise 1.

angry	married	cold	nervous	drunk
excited	tired	sick	wet	

- a) My son always *...e.g. gets excited...* before Christmas.
- b) I think he *will get angry* when he finds out you ate his lunch.
- c) Every time I *get sick* I drink some lemon tea and take some medicine.
- d) I *got tired* and went to bed early last night.
- e) You should put on a jacket, it *will get* cold tonight.
- f) Every year at the Christmas party my boss drinks a lot and *gets drunk*.
- g) She’s not great at public speaking, so I think she *will get nervous* before her presentation next week.
- h) My phone *got wet* when I went swimming and now it’s not working.
- i) We *will get married* in a big church next year in autumn. It will be very romantic.



### 6. Ask and answer the questions below with a partner

- When was the last time you got sick?
- Do you know anyone who gets angry easily?
- When do you get nervous?
- If you are married, when did you get married?
- Do you get tired easily? What makes you tired?

“Get” is also used in many phrasal verbs. A phrasal verb is when we add a preposition behind the verb to change the meaning. For example *“break”* has a different meaning than to *“break up with”*



### 7. Match the phrasal verbs with “get” on the left with their meaning on the right.

- |                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| a) To get ready <b>6</b>              | 1. To enter or board transport               |
| b) To get along with someone <b>4</b> | 2. To throw away or remove something         |
| c) To get on <b>1</b>                 | 3. To recover                                |
| d) To get up <b>6</b>                 | 4. To have a good relationship with a person |
| e) To get over something <b>3</b>     | 5. To leave your bed in the morning          |
| f) To get rid of <b>2</b>             | 6. To prepare for                            |



### 8. Ask and answer the questions with a partner

- Do you get up right away in the morning, or do you like to start your day slowly?
- What is something in your house or apartment you would like to get rid of?
- Who is someone you really get along with? Why?
- Who is someone you really don't get along with? Why?
- How long does it usually take you to get over a cold or flu?
- How long does it take you to get ready in the morning?