

Get cold feet

Meaning

To suddenly become too afraid to do something.

I was going to try bungee jumping, but I got cold feet.

Read the dialogue. Are Peter and Susan enjoying working on their latest film?

S: What are you getting up to at the weekend?

P: I am going out with Tom and Catherine even though I don't get on with them that well. How about you?

S: Not much I guess. I'm still getting over the flu. Do you think I can get away with taking Monday off?

P: You can ask the director.... but probably not. He's the worst director I've ever worked with. He's really getting at us, isn't he?

S: Yes, I wish we could get rid of him.

P: Yes, you're right. I'm glad we got out of doing that last scene today because of the bad weather. We got off lightly for once.

S: Yes, I've tried to get through to him that we are working too hard.

P: I know, but we shouldn't get too wound up about it. After all we are earning 17 million each for this film.

I get wound up about doing laundry

st = something

so = someone

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|----------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| A. get up to | ☐ | 1) be successful in something |
| B. get on with (so) | ☐ | 2) Avoid something you don't want to do |
| C. get over (st,so) | ☐ | 3) Get angry about something |
| D. get away with (st) | ☐ | 4) recover from |
| E. get at (so) | ☐ | 5) To experience less suffering than expected |
| F. get rid of (st,so) | ☐ | 6) Successfully explain something |
| G. get out of (doing st) | ☐ | 7) do |
| H. get off lightly | ☐ | 8) have a good relationship |
| I. get through to (so) | ☐ | 9) criticise someone repeatedly |
| J. get wound up (about st) | ☐ | 10) Remove/throw away something unwanted |

Complete the sentences

- 1) I think criminals _____ in this country. They never get sent to prison for long enough.
- 2) This washing machine is too old. We need to _____ it.
- 3) I don't know how we managed to win. We should never have got that penalty. We really _____ it this time.
- 4) He still hasn't _____ losing his job. I've never seen him so depressed.
- 5) I want to _____ doing that boring project because I am busy.
- 6) I can't _____ my students about the importance of speaking English. They only want to do written exercises.
- 7) I didn't _____ much last weekend. I just stayed in and watched DVDs.
- 8) I _____ because of the neighbour's dog. It's always barking and keeps me awake at night. I'm getting angry.
- 9) I don't _____ my mother-in-law. She's always telling me what to do and she is really annoying.

Speaking time

- 1) What lies have you told to get out of doing something?
- 2) Who gets at you? What about?
- 3) Tell about how you got over a disappointment
- 4) Is there anyone who you find it difficult to get through to? What's the problem?
- 5) Is there anyone you don't get on with at work/school/university? What's the problem?
- 6) Tell us about a time when you did something bad at school and you got off lightly.
- 7) What did you get up to last weekend?
- 8) How well do you get on with everyone in your family?
- 9) Do you prefer to get rid of old things or keep them forever?
- 10) When was the last time you got wound up? What about?