



When a woman says nothing's wrong, that means everything's wrong. And when a woman says everything's wrong, that means everything's wrong.

Homer Simpson,
cartoon character

3A Don't get mad, get even

1 READING & SPEAKING

- a Read the ten top break-up lines from a website. Which one do you think is the least hurtful way of explaining to someone that you want to break up with them?

It's not you, it's me.

I love you, but I'm not in love with you.

You are like a brother / sister to me.

I think we'd be better off as friends.

I don't love you any more.

I need some time to be on my own.

You're a fantastic person, but you're too good for me.

I think I'm just too young to settle down.

We're at very different points in our lives now.

I think we rushed into this relationship too fast.

- b Now read an article about how a French artist replied to the break-up email from her former partner. What do you think her motivation was?

- 1 She wanted to humiliate him.
- 2 She wanted them to get back together.
- 3 She wanted to help herself get over the break-up.
- 4 She wanted to make art.

- c Choose the right word for gaps 1–10 in the article.

- | | | |
|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1 a turned out | b turned off | c turned up |
| 2 a fear | b pain | c joy |
| 3 a getting | b sending | c writing |
| 4 a included | b involved | c covered |
| 5 a instead of | b according to | c because of |
| 6 a praised | b blamed | c ridiculed |
| 7 a married | b arrested | c avoided |
| 8 a get back | b get over | c get rid of |
| 9 a returned | b revived | c replaced |
| 10 a Though | b Because | c Despite |

- d Read the article again and answer in groups.

- 1 Why do you think the exhibition was so successful?
- 2 Do you think Sophie Calle was justified in making the man's email public?
- 3 How do you think he felt about the exhibition?
- 4 Do you think men enjoyed it as much as women?
- 5 What do you think the moral of the story is?



Getting your own back

The exhibition *Prenez soin de vous* ('Take care of yourself') was first a huge success at the Venice Biennale and then at the Bibliothèque Nationale in Paris. It has since toured in Europe and the Americas, and has been published as a book with the same title.

One day, Sophie Calle's mobile beeped. It was an email from her boyfriend. He was dumping her electronically, adding that it hurt him more than it hurt her. Here is a short extract:

Whatever happens, you must know that I will never stop loving you in my own way – the way I've loved you ever since I've known you, which will stay part of me, and never die... I wish things had ¹ differently. Take care of yourself...

Sophie was heartbroken. But she is one of France's best-known avant-garde artists, specializing in turning private ² into public art, and two days after ³ the email she started a new project:

I received an email telling me it was over.
I didn't know how to respond.
It was almost as if it hadn't been meant for me.
It ended with the words, 'Take care of yourself'.
And so I did.
I asked 107 women, chosen for their profession or skills,
to interpret this letter.
To analyse it, comment on it, dance it, sing it.
Dissect it. Exhaust it. Understand it for me.
Answer for me.
It was a way of taking the time to break up.
A way of taking care of myself.



Sophie Calle in front of what the editor did.

The women Sophie sent the email to⁴ an actress, an editor, an opera singer, a criminologist, a linguist, a lyricist, and her mother. She asked them to read the email and to analyse it or interpret it⁵ their job, while she filmed or photographed the result. Sophie's mother, who clearly knows her well, wrote:

You leave, you get left, that's the name of the game, and for you this break-up could be the wellspring of a new piece of art – am I wrong?

The editor⁶ the boyfriend's grammar, the lyricist wrote a song, and the criminologist had this to say about the email writer:

He is proud, narcissistic, and egotistical (he says 'I' more than 30 times in a letter with 23 sentences). It is possible that he studied literature. He probably prefers jazz to rock. I can imagine him wearing polo-neck sweaters rather than a suit and tie. He must have a small kitchen and cook up tasty little meals. He must have charm, but not be classically handsome. He is an authentic manipulator, perverse, psychologically dangerous, and / or a great writer. To be⁷ at all costs.

It was therapy for Sophie, and she quickly began to⁸ the end of her relationship. 'After a month I felt better. There was no suffering. It worked. The project had⁹ the man.'

With hindsight, Sophie's ex almost certainly wishes that he had followed his first instinct (*It seems to me it would be better to say what I have to say to you face-to-face*).¹⁰ he isn't named in the exhibition, it's a sure bet that when he dumps his partners in the future, he'll never again say, 'Take care of yourself.'

2 PRONUNCIATION

words and phrases of French origin

- a **② 2)** Look at the extract from the text. How do you pronounce the **bold** word? Listen and check.

Sophie was **heartbroken**. But she is one of France's best-known **avant-garde** artists...

Fine-tuning your pronunciation: French words used in English

A number of French words and phrases are commonly used in English, e.g. *café* /kə'fɛ/, *ballet* /'bælət/, *coup* /ku:p/. They are usually said in a way that is close to their French pronunciation, so they do not necessarily follow normal English pronunciation patterns.

- b Underline a French word or expression in each sentence below. What do you think they mean? Do you use any of them in your language?

- 1 I made a real **faux pas** when I mentioned his ex-wife.
- 2 When we were introduced I had a sense of **déjà vu**, though I knew we'd never met before.
- 3 We used to have a secret rendezvous every Thursday in the National Gallery.
- 4 She's engaged to a well-known local entrepreneur.
- 5 I know it's a cliché, but it really was love at first sight.
- 6 On our anniversary, he always buys me a huge bouquet of flowers!
- 7 I met Jane's fiancé last night. They're getting married next year.
- 8 They knew their parents wouldn't want them to get married, so they did it anyway and presented them with a **fait accompli**.

- c **② 3)** Listen and focus on how the French expressions are pronounced. Then practise saying the sentences.

3 VOCABULARY phrases with get

- a With a partner, try to remember these expressions with *get* from the article.

- 1 *get* _____ on someone (= take revenge on someone)
- 2 *get* _____ a break-up (= recover from a break-up with someone)
- 3 *get* _____ (*informal*) (= to cause somebody the same amount of trouble or harm as they have caused you)
- 4 *get* _____ (= to start a romantic relationship with somebody again, after having finished a previous relationship with the person)

- b ➤ p.162 **Vocabulary Bank Phrases with get**.

4 **② MP3)** SONG 50 Ways to Say Goodbye

Phrases with get

VOCABULARY BANK

1 EXPRESSIONS WITH GET

- a Complete the sentences with the expressions in the list.

a shock hold of into trouble with out of the way rid of the chance
the impression the joke to know (my / your, etc.) own back on

- 1 I get *the impression* you're a bit annoyed with me.
- 2 You'll get _____ when you see him. He looks awful.
- 3 Since we stopped working together, we hardly ever get _____ to see each other.
- 4 Everyone else laughed, but I didn't get _____.
- 5 When you get _____ him, I think you'll really like him.
- 6 I need to speak to Martina urgently, but I just can't get _____ her.
- 7 I want to get _____ that awful painting, but I can't because it was a wedding present from my mother-in-law.
- 8 I'm going to get _____ my brother for telling my parents I got home late. Now I won't lend him my bike.
- 9 He's going to get _____ his wife if he's late again.
- 10 I tried to walk past him, but he wouldn't get _____.

- b **2.4**) Listen and check. What do the expressions mean?

2 IDIOMS WITH GET

- a Match sentences 1–10 to A–J.

- 1 **I** Get real!
- 2 **II** Get a life!
- 3 **III** I'm not getting anywhere with this crossword.
- 4 **IV** She really gets on my nerves.
- 5 **V** She really needs to get her act together.
- 6 **VI** They get on like a house on fire.
- 7 **VII** You should get a move on.
- 8 **VIII** Your grandfather must be getting on a bit.
- 9 **IX** My boyfriend just never gets the message.
- 10 **X** She always gets her own way.

- A It's just too difficult for me.
- B Is he in his eighties now?
- C They have exactly the same tastes and interests.
- D Her exam is in two weeks and she hasn't even started studying.
- E If you don't leave soon, you'll miss the train.
- F Everything about her irritates me, her voice, her smile – everything!
- G He just does whatever she tells him to.
- H I keep dropping hints about us getting engaged, but he takes no notice.
- I There's no way you can afford that car!
- J You're 40 and you're still living with your parents!

- b **2.5**) Listen and check. What do the idioms mean?

3 PHRASAL VERBS WITH GET

- a Match the bold phrasal verbs to A–L.

- 1 **J** How often do you **get together with** your extended family?
- 2 **II** How long do you think it usually takes people to **get over** a break-up?
- 3 **III** How do you react if somebody **interrupts** you when you're trying to **get on with** some work?
- 4 **IV** Do you have any friends who you find it difficult to **get through to** in spite of trying to talk to them honestly?
- 5 **V** What are the best subjects to study in your country if you want to **get into** politics?
- 6 **VI** What's the best way to **get around** your city, on foot or by public transport?
- 7 **VII** Have you ever cheated in an exam but **got away with** it?
- 8 **VIII** What's the minimum amount of money you would need to **get by** if you were living alone in your town?
- 9 **IX** If you **get a bit behind** with your work or studies during the week, do you make up for it at the weekend?
- 10 **X** Does bad weather ever **get you down**?
- 11 **XI** In your family, who is best at **getting out of** doing their share of the housework?
- 12 **XII** If you leave people a message, does it annoy you if they don't **get back to** you immediately?

- A recover from
- B start a career or profession
- C move from place to place
- D make sb understand
- E manage with what you have
- F fail to make enough progress
- G depress you
- H respond to sb by speaking or writing
- I avoid a responsibility or obligation
- J meet socially
- K continue doing
- L do sth wrong without getting caught

- b **2.6**) Listen and check.

activation Ask and answer the questions in 3

5 SPEAKING & LISTENING

- a Have you ever been on a blind date or a date set up by friends? If yes, how did it go? If no, would you consider going on one?



Blind Date

The Guardian has a weekly feature called *Blind Date*, where two readers are matched and a date is organized at a restaurant. Stef and Graham met in London at Miss Q's, an American restaurant with pool tables and a dance floor.

- b Read the introduction about Stef and Graham's date. Who do you think said the following – Stef about Graham, or Graham about Stef?
- 1 First impressions: 'Effortlessly beautiful and unforgivably late.'
 - 2 Table manners: 'Impeccable even though it was burgers.'
 - 3 Best thing about them: 'Really genuine and friendly.'
- c ► **Communication** *Blind date A* p.105 *B* p.109. Check your answers to b and find out what else they said about each other.
- d You're going to listen to a radio programme about first dates. Before you listen, guess what the missing words are in tips 1–6.

Dos

- 1 Choose the _____ carefully.
- 2 Make an effort with your _____.
- 3 Be _____, even if you think the date is going nowhere.

Don'ts

- 4 Don't forget your _____.
- 5 Don't _____ to be anything you're not.
- 6 Don't make an instant _____.

- e (28) Listen to the programme and check. Were your answers exactly the same? If not, did they mean the same thing?

- f Listen again. Answer questions 1–6 with a partner.

What do the tips say about...?

- 1 the best place for a first date
- 2 looking good
- 3 lying
- 4 politeness
- 5 exaggeration
- 6 first impressions

- g Which do you think are the top two dating tips? Are there any you don't think are important?

LEXIS IN CONTEXT

- h (29) Listen to some extracts and complete the phrasal verbs and idioms. What do you think they mean?

- 1 The advantage of keeping the first date _____ ... is that if you don't like each other, you don't have to make it through a seven-course meal together.
- 2 ... if you turn up with unwashed hair, wearing yesterday's clothes, you aren't likely to _____ anyone.
- 3 Don't tell someone that you'll phone and that you can't wait to see them again if you have absolutely no intention of _____!
- 4 Turn off your phone, and if the other person is _____ the _____, do remember to say 'thank you'.
- 5 It can be very tempting to exaggerate, or to _____ the truth, or just to plain lie...
- 6 Many of us _____ our whether we like someone in the first few seconds or minutes of meeting them.
- 7 Try not to _____ someone _____ straightforwardly.
- 8 If you make a snap decision, you may risk _____ on the love of your life.



6 GRAMMAR *get*

- a Look at some sentences from the listening script which contain phrases with *get*. Answer the questions with a partner.

- A By **getting your hair done**, say, or wearing something you know you look good in, those kinds of things show that you care.
B Try not to yawn even if you're **getting a bit tired**.
C It can be very tempting to exaggerate, or to dress up the truth, or just to plain lie to try to **get your date interested**.

In which phrase...?

- 1 does *get* mean *make*
- 2 does *get* mean *become*
- 3 could you replace *get* with *have* with no change in meaning

- b ➤ p.144 Grammar Bank 3A. Learn more about *get*, and practise it.

- c Work in pairs. Read the *get* questionnaire and tick (✓) eight questions you'd like to ask your partner. Then ask and answer the questions. Explain your answers.

get questionnaire

- Are you the kind of person who regularly **gets rid of** old clothes, or do you tend to keep things forever?
- Did you use to **get into trouble** a lot when you were a child?
- Do you consider yourself a person who usually **gets their own way**? Why (not)?
- Do you tend to keep up to date with your work or studies, or do you often **get behind**?
- Do you think young drivers **get stopped** by the police more than older drivers? Do you think this is fair?
- Have you ever **got caught** cheating in an exam? Have you ever cheated in an exam and **got away with it**?
- Do you think going on holiday together is a good way to really **get to know** people?
- How often and where do you usually **get your hair cut**?
- If an electrical appliance doesn't work, do you try to sort it out yourself or do you immediately **get an expert to come** and fix it?
- If you were able to **get just one room** in your house redecorated, which would it be and why?
- Do you think women are better than men at **getting presents** for people?
- If you were invited to a karaoke evening, would you try to **get out of** going?
- If you were supposed to **get a flight** the day after there had been a serious plane crash, would you cancel it?
- Is there anyone in your family or group of friends who really **gets on your nerves**?
- What kinds of things do / did your parents **get you to do** around the house?

