18 EXPRESSIONS WITH THE VERB *TO GET!*

The verb *to get* is one of the most common verbs in English. And native English speakers use it all the time. So, it's important to understand its **meanings***, even if you don't use the verb yourself while speaking. In this lesson, we'll be looking at some useful expressions with the verb *to get* that have the idea of **succeeding** at something, **overcoming** a problem or doing something difficult. For example, if you "get to sleep", you manage to sleep even though it's difficult for you. Learning about these verbs will really improve your understanding of English. After reading over the examples, try the exercises on the following page.

1 Get rich

If you "get rich", you **manage** to become rich: "She got rich through all her clever business deals."

2 Get to sleep

If you "get to sleep", you finally manage to fall asleep: "With all that noise outside last night, I found it hard to get to sleep."

3 Get past

If you "get past" someone or something, you manage to pass them: "There were lots of passengers blocking the exit on the train and it was really hard to get past them."

4 Get back

If you "get back", you finally arrive home (for example), after a difficult journey: "I got lost in the centre of Paris, but we eventually got back to the hotel."

5 Get to a place

If you "get to a place", you arrive there, often after some problems: "There was a train **strike**, but we managed to get to the party by taking a taxi."

6 Get someone to do something

If you "get someone to do something", you convince or force them to do that thing for you: "We got the client to do the extra work for free by **threatening** to cancel the project if they didn't do it."

7 Get permission

If you "get permission" to do something, you convince someone to let you do that thing: "We got permission to film the movie scene in the train station."

8 Get better

If something or someone "gets better", their condition improves, and they stop being ill or sick: "My friend is getting better after his accident."

9 Get over an illness

If you "get over" an illness, you finally feel good again after being ill or sick: "I had a cold and felt really sick for a couple of weeks, but I finally managed to get over it."

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10 Get over a relationship or problem

If you "get over" a relationship (for example), you finally feel good again after **suffering**: "I was sad when my girlfriend suddenly left me, but I got over it after about 3 months."

11 Get into a place

If you "get into a place", you enter it, often with difficulty:

A: How did you get into the apartment without a key?

B: I got in through an open window on the first floor.

12 Get out

If you "get something out" of a place, you take it out, often with difficulty: "The coin I put in the **vending machine** was **stuck**, but I managed to get it out with some **wire**."

13 Get someone in

If you "get someone in" to a place, you help them enter that place: "Even though I wasn't a member of the club, she got me in."

14 Get to do something

If you "get to do something", you have the opportunity to do it even though there isn't much time: "While you were on the business trip in Amsterdam, did you get to visit many museums?"

15 Get it

If you "get it", you manage to understand something complicated: "Oh, I get it – you want me to do all the work while you sit at home doing nothing!"

*MEANINGS OF THE VERB *TO GET*

Here are some of the most common meanings of the verb *to get*:

- **To arrive:** *He got home later than normal.*
- **To take (transport):** *We got a train to Southampton.*
- **To receive:** *She got a video game for her birthday.*
- **To buy:** *I'm going to get some bread.*
- **To earn / to receive (money):** *She gets more than $3,000 a month.*
- **To become:** *get hungry, get thirsty, get stressed, get married, get divorced...: They got lost in the airport.*
- **To fetch:** *Could you get the bag that's on the table, please?*

16 Get the message / get the picture

If you "get the message", you understand something, even though someone is saying it indirectly:

A: I can't go out this weekend, or the following one either.

B: Oh, right, I get the message – you're **breaking up with me**, are you?"

17 Get across (a message, point, idea...)

If you "get across" a message (for example), you manage to make other people understand what you're trying to say: "The new ideas were difficult to explain, but I think I got the main points across."

18 Get the message out

If you "get the message out", you help or make many people understand something complicated: "The government created a series of **adverts** to get the message out about the dangers of drinking and driving."

GLOSSARY

to overcome = if you "overcome" a problem, you find a solution to it so it isn't a problem any more
to succeed = if you "succeed" at something, you do that thing very well
to manage = if you "manage" to do something, you do it in the end even though it's difficult
a strike = when there's a "strike", workers stop working because they're angry about their salaries, conditions...
to threaten = if someone "threatens" to do something bad to you, they say they'll do that bad thing if you don't do what they want
to suffer = if someone "suffers", they feel pain in their body or mind
a vending machine = a machine that gives you a snack (a sandwich, chocolate, crisps...) or drink (water, coffee...) if you put money in it
stuck = if you're "stuck" somewhere, you can't leave that place and you're trapped there
wire = a long, thin piece of metal
to break up with = if you "break up with" your partner, you stop having a relationship with them
an advert = a poster, picture, photo, piece of text, song, video, etc. that tries to persuade you to buy a product or service

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EXERCISES TO HELP YOU REMEMBER THE WORDS AND EXPRESSIONS!

Answers on page 50

1 Sentence completion

Complete the sentences with the words from below.

wire | nothing | points | ages | museums | breaking | boyfriend | club | window

1. That cold I had took me _____ to get over.
2. I was sad when my _____ left me, but I got over it fairly quickly.
3. I got into the apartment through an open _____ on the first floor.
4. I managed to get the coin out of the vending machine with some _____ .
5. Even though I wasn't a member of the _____ , she got me in.
6. While you were on the business trip in Amsterdam, did you get to visit many _____ ?
7. Oh, I get it – you want me to do all the work while you sit at home doing _____ !
8. Oh, right, I get the message – you're _____ up with me, are you?
9. The new ideas were difficult to explain, but I think I got the main _____ across.

2 Gap-fill exercise

Complete the words in the sentences below.

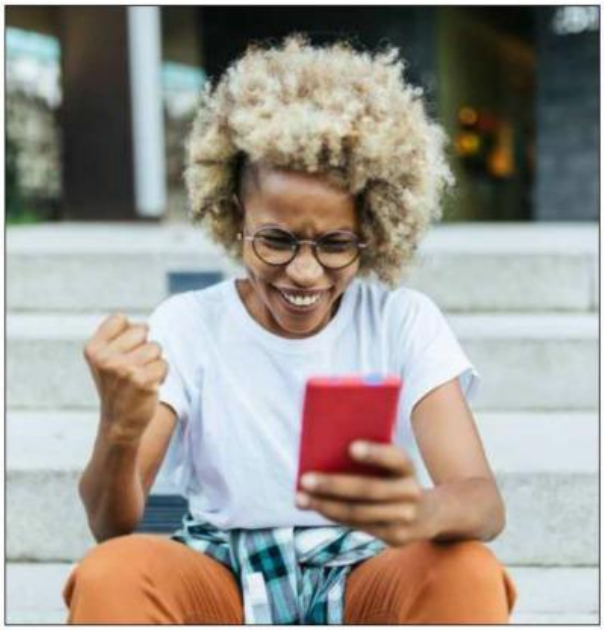
1. To become wealthy = to get ri_____
2. To finally manage to fall asleep = to get to sl_____
3. To manage to pass someone who is blocking you = to get pa_____ someone
4. To finally arrive home (for example), after a difficult journey = to get ba_____
5. To arrive somewhere, often after some problems = to get to a pla_____
6. To convince or force someone to do something for you = get someone to d_____ something for you
7. To convince someone to let you do something = to get perm_____ to do something
8. To stop being ill or sick = to get be_____
9. To feel good again after being ill or sick = to get ov_____ an illness
10. To enter a place, often with difficulty = to get i_____ a place
11. To take something out of a place, often with difficulty = to get something o_____ of a place
12. To help someone enter a place = to get someone i_____ a place
13. To have the opportunity to do something even though there isn't much time = to get to d_____ something
14. To understand something, even though someone is saying it indirectly = to get the mes_____
15. To manage to make other people understand what you're trying to say = to get the main points ac_____
16. To make many people understand something complicated = to get the message o_____

3 Sentence completion

Complete the sentences with the words from below.

hotel | driving | station | deals | accident | project | noise | train | taxi

1. She got rich through all her investments and clever business _____ .
2. I found it hard to get to sleep because of all the _____ outside.
3. It was hard to get past all the passengers who were blocking the exit on the _____ .
4. I got lost in the centre of Paris, but we eventually got back to the _____ .
5. There was a train strike, but we managed to get to the party by taking a _____ .
6. We got the client to do the extra work for free by threatening to cancel the _____ if they didn't do it.
7. We got permission to film the movie scene in the train _____ .
8. My friend is getting better after his _____ .
9. The government created some adverts to get the message out about the dangers of drinking and _____ .



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