2 Familiar words, new meanings

A Using words and phrases figuratively

Familiar words may appear with an unfamiliar meaning (often a figurative meaning), or surrounded by other words that together form an idiom or common phrase.

As I **crawled** along the motorway, I was **having second thoughts about** staying with Marcus. **I'd been in two minds about** going in the first place, but it was **sweet of** him to invite me, and I **wasn't tied up**, so I said 'yes'. But now it **struck me that** perhaps he wanted to go out with me! How could I be so **thick**? Marcus was very nice, but a romantic relationship **was the last thing on my mind**. How can I **get out of** this, I wondered? Just then, the traffic suddenly started to speed up, and something went into the back of me. I pulled my mobile out of my bag. 'Is that you Marcus? Listen, **you're not gonna believe this**, but …'

GLOSSARY

crawl	(of a vehicle) move very slowly
have second thoughts (about sth)	start having doubts about a decision you have made
be in two minds about sth	be unable to decide what to do about sth
sweet (of sb)	kind (of sb): *It was **sweet of** you to come.*
be tied up	be busy and unable to do other things
strike sb (that) …	(of a thought or idea) suddenly come into sb's mind
thick *inf*	stupid
be the last thing on sb's mind	be the thing that sb is least likely to be thinking about
get out of sth	avoid doing sth
you're not gonna believe this	used to introduce surprising and often unwelcome news (**gonna** *inf* = going to)

1 Make sentences from the jumbled words.

1 gonna / not / lost / this / I / but / you're / believe. _____
2 homework / out / I / this / get / doing / of / how / can ? _____
3 going / two / about / I'm / minds / to / in / Greece. _____
4 thing / on / university / mind / is / the / last / my. _____
5 it / take / of / sweet / to / us / was / him. _____

2 Complete the dialogues with a word or phrase.

1 Do you still want to go? ~ Actually, I'm having _____.
2 Are you thinking of getting married? ~ No, that's the last thing _____!
3 Do you want to go to the wedding? ~ Not really, but I can't _____ it.
4 You're not gonna _____, but … ~ You've lost my keys, again! How could you?
5 Did he invite all of you? ~ Yes, it was very _____ of him. He's a lovely man.
6 Are you going or not? ~ I'm still in _____ about it, actually.
7 Did you think she looked like her sister? ~ Yes, I was _____ by how similar they are.
8 Could we talk about it this morning? ~ I'm afraid I'm _____ this morning.
9 Why are you so late? ~ Half the road was closed. We were _____ along for ages.
10 He may not have understood the instructions. ~ Yeah, he's a bit _____.

3 Complete the sentences using words from above with their more usual literal meanings.

1 Leyla is only eight months, so she's still _____ across the living room floor.
2 It's a very _____ book – almost 1,000 pages.
3 These oranges are lovely. They're very _____.
4 The men were _____, with both hands behind their backs.
5 I saw him _____ the dog with a large stick. I was really angry.
6 The policeman stopped me and asked me to _____ the car.
7 I've just had a _____, Carrie. Do you think we could hire a car for the weekend?
8 I think his _____ was disturbed when he had that accident.

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B Common verbs with less familiar meanings

The words in **bold** in the examples are very common when the verbs are used with the meanings in the table.

Verb	Examples	Meaning
get sb/sth to do sth	*I couldn't **get** him to leave the house.* *I finally **got** the car to start.*	make or persuade sb/sth to do sth
see what/how, etc. ...	*We may be able to help. **I'll see** what Rob says.* *It may be ok. **Let's see** what happens.*	find out sth by looking, asking or waiting
keep	*We must eat the grapes – they won't **keep**.*	remain fresh
put	*I think he **put** it very well in his essay.*	say or write sth in a particular way ALSO **put sth into words**
push sb/yourself	*Some parents **push** their kids really hard.*	make sb work harder
leave sth to/with sb	*We need to book a table. **I'll leave that to you.***	allow sb to take care of sth
make sth sth	*My watch says 10.20. What time do you **make it?*** *He bought ten more; I **make that** 25 now.*	think or calculate sth to be a particular time or number
bring sb/sth + adverb/preposition	*It was the war that **brought** him to power.* *What **brings** you here? ~ I've got a meeting.*	cause sb/sth to reach a particular condition or place
come with/in sth	*I'm sure the radio **comes with** batteries.* *The chairs **come in** four different colours.*	be sold or produced with a particular feature
do (for sb/sth)	*I peeled six potatoes. Will that **do?*** *Will these shoes **do for** the wedding?*	be enough/ acceptable in a particular situation

4 **One word is missing in each sentence. What is it, and where does it go?**

1 How did you him to do it? ~ I offered him money. .....
2 These batteries in all sorts of different sizes. .....
3 If both brothers come, that will it 20 altogether. .....
4 It's the fishing that most people to this part of the coast. .....
5 When I speak to the staff tomorrow, I'll what they think. .....
6 We'd better finish the cream: it won't after today. .....
7 He has great ideas but finds it difficult to them into words. .....
8 I've got a packet of noodles. Do you think that will for six people? .....

5 **Complete the dialogues with suitable verbs.**

A Hello. What **(1)** ..... you to this part of the building?
B I can't **(2)** ..... this new clock to work, and it didn't **(3)** ..... with instructions.
A OK, **(4)** ..... it with me. I'll **(5)** ..... what I can do.
B Thanks. Oh, one other thing, we've run out of paper for the photocopier.
A Er, there's some over there. Will that **(6)** ..... ?
B Yeah, that's plenty.

A What are the bookings like for this evening?
B We had two more this morning, so I **(7)** ..... that 36 now.
A Ok, but we'll need more tables. Can I **(8)** ..... that with you?
B Well, I'll **(9)** ..... how things go, but I may have to **(10)** ..... Mario to do it.
A OK, but don't **(11)** ..... him too hard; he's had a very tough week.

6 ABOUT YOUR LANGUAGE **Translate the verbs in the table into your own language. What verbs are used?**

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