

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

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|----------------------------------|--|
| 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): <i>It was sweet of you to come.</i> |
| 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.



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

