

A

Different meanings of go

- When we leave a place in order to do an activity, especially for enjoyment, we often express it with **go + -ing** or **go (out) for a + noun**.
We could **go shopping / sightseeing / swimming / clubbing** [to a nightclub] tomorrow.
Why don't we **go (out) for a walk / drive / drink / meal / picnic** at lunchtime?
- Go** can also describe a changing state (usually to a bad one) with certain adjectives.
My dad's **going grey** [his hair is becoming grey] and my uncle is **going bald** [losing his hair].
My grandmother is **going deaf** [deaf = cannot hear].
Our 12-year-old dog is **going blind** [blind = cannot see].
He'll **go mad** if you wear his jacket. [become very angry; *informal*]
- We use **go** when we want to ask/say if a road or form of transport takes you somewhere.
Does this bus **go** to the National Gallery?
I think this road **goes** through the village.
- Go** can also mean 'disappear'.
When I looked in the drawer, my watch **had gone** [it was there before, but not now].
- Go and get** means **fetch** [go to a place and bring something back with you].
You stay here, and I'll **go and get** the bags from the car.



going bald

B

Phrasal verbs and expressions

A: What's **going on** in here? [happening]

A: Shall we wait for George or **go on to** the theatre? [continue or move to another place/thing]

B: I don't know. I touched this switch and the lights **went out** [stopped working].

B: Er, I'm not sure of the way; let's wait for George.

A: How's the business?

B: Well, it was **going well** [successful; *opp* **going badly**] up until the summer, but since then a few things have **gone wrong** [there have been problems], and we've lost a few customers.

A: Are you **going away** this year? [going on holiday]



B: Yes. We had a lovely time in Italy last year, so we've decided to **go back** in June. [return]

A: I think I'll have the chicken. How about you?

B: I'm **going for** the roast beef. [choosing]

A: **How's it going?** [How are you? *informal*]

B: Not bad. And you?

Exercises

84.1 Complete the sentences with an *-ing* noun, e.g. riding, or (out) for a + noun, e.g. (out) for a walk.

- 1 I went shopping this morning and bought some new clothes.
- 2 It was a lovely day, so we made some sandwiches and decided to go
- 3 Why don't we go in that nice new café near the square?
- 4 I wanted to go because it was my first time in Rome.
- 5 My brother has just got a new sports car. We could go at the weekend.
- 6 The pool is at the end of the road, so we often go
- 7 I'm just going to take the dog
- 8 We went last night and didn't get home until three this morning.
- 9 It was my father's birthday, so we decided to go

84.2 Replace the underlined words with a different word or phrase. Keep a similar meaning.

- 1 He went mad when he saw me. got angry
- 2 Hi Sue. How's it going?
- 3 Could you go and get my handbag from the other room?
- 4 Do you want to go on and do the next exercise?
- 5 What's going on in the next classroom?
- 6 When I got back, the others had gone.
- 7 I can't stay for the weekend; I have to go back on Friday.
- 8 Excuse me. Does this road go to the bus station?
- 9 My girlfriend had fish but I went for the chicken dish.

84.3 Complete the dialogues with a phrasal verb or expression using *go*.

- 1 A: I hear you had problems with your exam?
B: Yes, everything went wrong. I couldn't answer any of the questions.
- 2 A: Can't he see very well?
B: No, I'm afraid he's
- 3 A: Your uncle's just opened a new restaurant, hasn't he? How's it doing?
B: Great. It's
- 4 A: I imagine your parents were angry that you had a party when they were away.
B: They were. My dad
- 5 A: Simon isn't losing his hair already, is he?
B: Yes, I'm afraid he's
- 6 A: Are the books downstairs in the staffroom?
B: Yes. Could you them for me?
A: Yeah, sure.
- 7 A: Are you having a holiday this year?
B: Yes, we're hoping to in the summer.
- 8 A: What have you done?!
B: I don't know. The lights just

84.4 Over to you

Answer the questions. If possible, ask someone else the same questions.

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| Do you often go swimming in the summer? | Do you often go for a walk on your own? |
| Do you go clubbing most weekends? | Do you like going out for a meal? |
| Do you often go shopping with a friend? | Do you often go sightseeing on holiday? |
| Did you often go for picnics as a child? | Do you enjoy going out for a drive in the country? |