

# Get cold feet

## Meaning

To suddenly become too afraid to do something.

I was going to try bungee jumping, but I got cold feet.

**Read the dialogue. Are Peter and Susan enjoying working on their latest film?**

**S:** What are you getting up to at the weekend?

**P:** I am going out with Tom and Catherine even though I don't get on with them that well. How about you?

**S:** Not much I guess. I'm still getting over the flu. Do you think I can get away with taking Monday off?

**P:** You can ask the director.... but probably not. He's the worst director I've ever worked with. He's really getting at us, isn't he?

**S:** Yes, I wish we could get rid of him.

**P:** Yes, you're right. I'm glad we got out of doing that last scene today because of the bad weather. We got off lightly for once.

**S:** Yes, I've tried to get through to him that we are working too hard.

**P:** I know, but we shouldn't get too wound up about it. After all we are earning 17 million each for this film.

## ***I get wound up about doing laundry***

st = something

so = someone

- |                            |                          |   |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| A. get up to               | <input type="checkbox"/> | 1) be successful in something                 |
| B. get on with (so)        | <input type="checkbox"/> | 2) Avoid something you don't want to do       |
| C. get over (st,so)        | <input type="checkbox"/> | 3) Get angry about something                  |
| D. get away with (st)      | <input type="checkbox"/> | 4) recover from                               |
| E. get at (so)             | <input type="checkbox"/> | 5) To experience less suffering than expected |
| F. get rid of (st,so)      | <input type="checkbox"/> | 6) Successfully explain something             |
| G. get out of (doing st)   | <input type="checkbox"/> | 7) do   |
| H. get off lightly         | <input type="checkbox"/> | 8) have a good relationship                   |
| I. get through to (so)     | <input type="checkbox"/> | 9) criticise someone repeatedly               |
| J. get wound up (about st) | <input type="checkbox"/> | 10) Remove/throw away something unwanted      |

## **Complete the sentences**

- 1) I think criminals \_\_\_\_\_ in this country. They never get sent to prison for long enough.
- 2) This washing machine is too old. We need to \_\_\_\_\_ it.
- 3) I don't know how we managed to win. We should never have got that penalty. We really \_\_\_\_\_ it this time.
- 4) He still hasn't \_\_\_\_\_ losing his job. I've never seen him so depressed.
- 5) I want to \_\_\_\_\_ doing that boring project because I'm busy.
- 6) I can't \_\_\_\_\_ my students about the importance of speaking English. They only want to do written exercises.
- 7) I didn't \_\_\_\_\_ much last weekend. I just stayed in and watched DVDs.
- 8) I \_\_\_\_\_ because of the neighbour's dog. It's always barking and keeps me awake at night. I'm getting angry.
- 9) I don't \_\_\_\_\_ my mother-in-law. She's always telling me what to do and she is really annoying.

## **Speaking time**

- 1) What lies have you told to get out of doing something?
- 2) Who gets at you? What about?
- 3) Tell about how you got over a disappointment
- 4) Is there anyone who you find it difficult to get through to? What's the problem?
- 5) Is there anyone you don't get on with at work/school/university? What's the problem?
- 6) Tell us about a time when you did something bad at school and you got off lightly.
- 7) What did you get up to last weekend?
- 8) How well do you get on with everyone in your family?
- 9) Do you prefer to get rid of old things or keep them forever?
- 10) When was the last time you got wound up? What about?