

50 ways to leave your lover

1 READING

a Read the article quickly. Which act of revenge caused the most damage?

Revenge is sweet

According to writer Claire Gillman, **getting even** is becoming increasingly popular as life gets more stressful. In her book *Revenge is Sweet* Claire reveals that men are much more vengeful, except over romantic matters, when it is women who are most likely to take revenge. Here are some of her favourite tales from the book.

LOTUS ESPRIT TURBO



FOR SALE:
50p

SOLD

1

The wife of a radio DJ **saw red** when she heard her husband flirting with a glamorous model on air. She immediately posted an advert for his £30,000 Lotus Esprit Turbo sports car on eBay* for 50p and sold the car within five minutes. Later she told journalists that she didn't care about the money. 'I just wanted to get my own back,' she admitted.



2

After a long-running **dispute** between neighbours, one of the parties went on holiday for two weeks in the summer. The other neighbour took advantage of their absence to put two pints** of maggots*** through the neighbour's letter box. The family returned to a house full of flies.



3

An 80-year-old woman was in front of a judge, **charged with** shoplifting. He asked her what she had stolen. 'A can of peaches,' replied the woman. 'How many peaches were in the can?' asked the judge. She replied that there were six. 'Then I'll give you six days in jail,' said the judge. Before he had time to speak further, the woman's husband added, 'She also stole a tin of peas.'



4

Rude customers tend to drive staff in restaurants crazy. One chef confessed that after a customer had demanded that the sauce be removed from his burger, she **licked** the sauce off it with her tongue and then sent it back via the waiter.



5

A computer technician was **angered** when his temporary position was terminated so he deliberately **brought down** five of eight network servers. All the data in the servers was deleted and none was **recoverable**. As a result the company was forced to shut its New York office for two days and sustained losses of more than \$100,000.



6

A doctor was called out at 2 a.m. one night to visit a patient who lived some distance away. On his arrival he discovered that it was, in fact, a non-urgent case, and the patient could perfectly well have waited until the next day to visit him in his surgery. Imagine the patient's surprise when the doctor **popped by** in the early hours of the following morning to check he was OK!

* **eBay** a website on the Internet where people can auction goods

** **pint** a unit for measuring liquids.
1 pint = 0.568 litres

*** **maggot** a creature like a short worm which is the young form of a fly

b Read the article again and match the headings (A–F) to the stories (1–6).

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| A Dedicated to the profession | ☐ |
| B Welcome home | ☐ |
| C Clean plate | ☐ |
| D Stabbed in the back | ☐ |
| E Silent sabotage | ☐ |
| F His pride and joy | ☒ |

4 VOCABULARY expressions with *get*

a Match the sentence halves.

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1 I'll call you back as soon as I get | ☒ |
| 2 I wanted to get | ☐ |
| 3 I'm going to get | ☐ |
| 4 I can't get past. Can you get | ☐ |
| 5 When I left the house, I got | ☐ |
| 6 The heating isn't working. Can you get | ☐ |
| 7 Max hit me but I got my | ☐ |
| 8 My colleagues didn't trust me until they got | ☐ |

- a own back by kicking him.
- b hold of someone in maintenance?
- c to know me.
- d out of the way?
- e rid of my parents before my boyfriend arrived.
- f the chance.
- g a shock because my car wasn't on the drive.
- h into trouble if I'm late again.

b Complete the idioms with these words.

act anywhere house life message ~~nerves~~ stick way

- 1 My sister gets on my nerves. She's always borrowing my clothes without asking me.
- 2 I've bought my boyfriend an electric shaver in the hope that he'll get the _____ about his beard.
- 3 Laura's parents don't know how to say no. She always gets her own _____.
- 4 I'm not getting _____ with this essay. I don't know where to start.
- 5 My flatmate needs to get a _____. He hasn't got any friends and he never goes out.
- 6 Ben got the wrong end of the _____ about the party. He thought it was next Friday not this Friday.
- 7 Luckily, my mum and my girlfriend have got on like a _____ on fire ever since they first met.
- 8 You really need to get your _____ together and start packing if you're going to get to the airport on time.