

A

Uses

Get is an informal word and is very common in spoken English. It can have many different meanings.

OBTAIN	I got a ticket from my brother.	I need to get some help.
RECEIVE	I got a new phone for my birthday.	Did you get my email?
BUY	Where did you get that watch?	I went to get a magazine.
ARRIVE	What time did you get here?	I'll phone when I get home.
BECOME	It gets dark very early in winter.	My hands are getting cold.
FETCH	 Could you (go and) get my glasses from the kitchen for me?	
ANSWER the door/phone	A: Is that the door?	B: Yes, I'll get it.



I need to get my hair cut.

DO a task, or arrange for someone to do it for you, using get + past participle

I'll never **get** this essay finished; it's too difficult.
I need to **get** my hair cut.
I **got** my watch repaired today.

B

Phrases

You can **get in touch with** me via email. [make contact by email, phone or letter]
A bedtime story helps children **get to sleep** [start sleeping].
The salsa classes are a chance for us to **get together** [meet and spend time together].
I'm sorry I **got** the number **wrong** [said or wrote something that was not correct].
My cold is **getting worse** [becoming more unpleasant; *opp* **getting better**].
I'd like to **get rid of** my old CDs. [throw them away, give them away, or sell them]
I **got to know** lots of Americans when I stayed in San Francisco. [met and became friends with]

C

Phrasal verbs

He stopped the car and I **got out** [left the car; also leave a building].
I gave her £25, but I'll **get it back** tomorrow. [have it returned to me]
The door was locked so we couldn't **get in** [enter a place, especially when it is difficult].
Our train should **get in** around midnight. [arrive]
What time did you **get up** this morning? [get out of bed]

Exercises

83.1 Write a synonym for **get** in each of these sentences.

- 1 I usually get about five emails a day. *receive*
- 2 Where can I get something to eat round here?
- 3 I'm just going to get some paper from the office. I'll be back in a minute.
- 4 What time did they get here last night?
- 5 He got very angry when I told him what you did with his CDs.
- 6 I couldn't get a room; all the hotels were full.
- 7 The phone's ringing. Could you get it for me?
- 8 Molly sent me a card but I never got it.

83.2 Complete the dialogues using **getting** + a suitable adjective. Add other words if necessary.

- 1 A: It's *getting cold in here*.
B: Yes, it is. I'll turn on the heating.
- 2 A: I'm
B: Me too. Let's have something to eat.
- 3 A: I'm
B: Yes, me too. I'll open the window.
- 4 A: It's
B: Yes, it is. I'll put the lights on.
- 5 A: It's
B: Yes, it is. I think I'll go to bed.
- 6 A: My English is
B: No, it isn't – it's much better now.

83.3 Rewrite the sentences using a phrase or phrasal verb with **get**. Keep a similar meaning.

- 1 Will the books be returned to you?
Will you *get the books back*?
- 2 We must meet up and have a meal.
We must
- 3 How do you meet people and make friends in this country?
How do you
- 4 I must contact the travel company.
I must
- 5 I'd like to throw away these old magazines.
I'd like to
- 6 The train won't arrive before 10 o'clock.
The train won't
- 7 The doors were locked; we couldn't leave.
The doors were locked; we couldn't
- 8 I was awake for hours last night.
I couldn't

83.4 Continue these statements in a suitable way.

- 1 The window is broken. We *need to get it repaired*.
- 2 My hair is getting long. I
- 3 This essay is taking me hours. I
- 4 My watch isn't working. I
- 5 Lola has still got my CDs. I

83.5 Write down examples of **get** that you see or hear, and try to group your sentences according to the different meanings. This will help you to understand how this important word is used in English.