

Phrasal verbs with get

CEFR B1-B2 · 20 questions · A4 / US Letter

One small verb, a score of meanings: the get phrasal verbs learners meet every day.

The rule

Movement: up, on, off, in, into, out of

- Get up: leave your bed or stand up. "I get up at seven."
- Get on and get off: board and leave a bus, train, plane or bike. "Get on the train; we are late."
- Get in and get into: enter a car or a building. "She got into the taxi."
- Get out of: leave a vehicle or a place. "Get out of the car."
- Get back: return. "We got back at midnight."

Relationships: along, together, over

- Get along with or get on with someone: have a good relationship. "I get along with my sister."
- Get together: meet socially. "Let us get together on Friday."
- Get over something: recover from an illness or a bad experience. "He is still getting over the flu."
- Get on with it: continue a task. "Stop talking and get on with it."

Work and progress: through, down to, behind, ahead, by

- Get through: finish a task or reach someone by phone. "I got through the report by lunch."
- Get down to: start work seriously. "Let us get down to business."
- Get behind: fall behind schedule. "I got behind with my emails."
- Get ahead: make progress in a career. "She works hard to get ahead."
- Get by: survive with what you have, often with little money. "We get by on one salary."

Problems and people: away with, rid of, out of, at, across

- Get away with something: escape punishment. "He got away with cheating."
- Get rid of something: remove or throw it away. "We got rid of the old sofa."
- Get out of something: avoid a duty. "She tried to get out of the meeting."
- Get at something: hint at or mean something. "What are you getting at?"
- Get across: communicate an idea successfully. "She got her message across clearly."
- Get away: escape, or take a short holiday. "We need to get away for a few days."

Separable and inseparable patterns

- Most get phrasal verbs are inseparable: the object goes after the whole verb. "I got over the illness."
- A few are separable: the object can sit between get and the particle. "She got her message across" or "She

got across her message."

- With pronouns, separable verbs must split: "get it across", never "get across it".
- Three-part verbs such as get on with, get away with and get out of never split. "I get on with her" is the only order.

Questions

Write your answer on the line under each question. Check your work with the answer key on the last page.

1. I usually ___ at seven o'clock.

2. She ___ well with her new colleagues.

3. He is still ___ the flu.

4. How do you ___ on such a low salary?

5. We should ___ more often.

6. I have to ___ this report before lunch.

7. She ___ the bus at the wrong stop.

8. He always ___ doing no work.

9. I cannot ___ this cold.

10. Let us ___ business.

11. The train ___ at platform two.

12. She wants to ___ her message clearly.

13. He tried to ___ paying the fine.

14. I ___ with my emails after the holiday.

15. She works hard to ___ in her career.

16. We are planning to ___ for a few days next month.

17. What are you trying to ___?

18. The children ___ the car quickly.

19. He ___ his bike and rode away.

20. We ___ home at midnight.

Answer key

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1. **get up** — Get up means leave your bed, which is what happens at seven in the morning.
2. **gets along** — Get along with someone means have a good relationship.
3. **getting over** — Get over means recover from an illness: getting over the flu.
4. **get by** — Get by means survive or manage, often with little money.
5. **get together** — Get together means meet socially.
6. **get through** — Get through means finish a task: get through the report.
7. **got off** — Get off means leave a bus or train: she got off at the wrong stop.
8. **gets away with** — Get away with something means escape punishment for it.
9. **get rid of** — Get rid of means remove something, here the cold.
10. **get down to** — Get down to means start work seriously: get down to business.
11. **gets in** — Get in means arrive for a train or bus: the train gets in at platform two.
12. **get across** — Get across means communicate an idea successfully.
13. **get out of** — Get out of something means avoid a duty or payment.
14. **got behind** — Get behind means fall behind schedule: I got behind with my emails.
15. **get ahead** — Get ahead means make progress, especially at work.
16. **get away** — Get away means take a short holiday or escape: get away for a few days.
17. **get at** — Get at something means hint at or mean something: What are you getting at?
18. **got into** — Get into means enter a car or a building: got into the car.
19. **got on** — Get on means board a bike, bus or train: he got on his bike.
20. **got back** — Get back means return: we got back home at midnight.