

THE MANY WAYS TO GET

A SMALL WORD. A BIG JOB.

"Get" is one of the most common words in English. It's a verb, a noun, a connector, an idiom—and it shows up everywhere.



AT ITS CORE

"Get" often means to come into possession, reach a state, or cause something to happen.

FORMS OF "GET"

	VERB	get – gets – got – gotten getting
	NOUN	a get (informal) <i>That was a good get!</i>
	ADJECTIVE	gettable (informal) <i>It's a very gettable goal.</i>
	PHRASAL VERB (BASE)	used in many phrasal verbs (see below)
	IDIOMATIC EXPRESSIONS	Dozens! (see below)

CORE MEANINGS



1. OBTAIN / RECEIVE

Get your ticket here.
To come into possession of something.



2. REACH / ARRIVE

We got home late.
To reach a place or destination.



3. BECOME / TURN

It's getting cold.
To come to be in a certain state.



4. UNDERSTAND

I get it now!
To understand or comprehend.



5. CAUSE / MAKE

This joke always gets me.
To cause someone to feel or do something.

COMMON IDIOMS WITH "GET"



get over it
Move on; recover emotionally.



get a grip
Calm down; control yourself.



get by
Manage with the basics; survive.



get the hang of
Learn how to do something.



get in the way of
Cause a problem or interfere.



get the picture
Understand the idea or point.

POWERHOUSE: PHRASAL VERBS

"Get" teams up with particles to create rich meaning.



There are 100+ phrasal verbs with "get"!

FREQUENT COLLOCATIONS

→ get ready	Prepare.
→ get help	Receive assistance.
→ get support	Receive backing.
→ get attention	Be noticed.
→ get a chance	Have an opportunity.
→ get started	Begin.
→ get involved	Participate.
→ get results	Achieve outcomes.

TIP:
Notice how "get" works in formal writing, conversation, songs, news, email—everywhere!

THE "GET" FAMILY

— obtain (= to get)	
— acquire (= to get)	
— receive (= to get)	
— gain (= to get)	
— earn (= to get)	
— secure (= to get)	
— procure (= to get)	

GET

USAGE NOTES

- "Get" is informal but acceptable in most situations.
- It can replace many more formal verbs.
- Be mindful in formal writing—vary your vocabulary.
- In questions and negatives, "get" often acts as an auxiliary.

Do you get what I mean?

QUICK CHECK

Can you use "get" here?

- I need to _____ a new phone.
- I'll _____ back to you soon.
- I don't _____ it.
- She's really _____ into painting.
- They finally _____ the job done.

(Answers: 1.get 2.get 3.get 4.getting 5.got)



WHY "GET" MATTERS

Mastering "get" helps you sound more natural, understand native speakers better, and express ideas clearly—whether you're chatting, writing, or presenting.

GET GOOD WITH "GET"!

VALIDATION SUGGESTIONS

- ✓ Frequency data (COCA / BNC)
- ✓ Phrasal verb list (Cambridge Dictionary)
- ✓ Idiom usage (Oxford Learner's Dictionary)
- ✓ Collocations (SKELL / COCA)
- ✓ Learner level notes (CEFR)