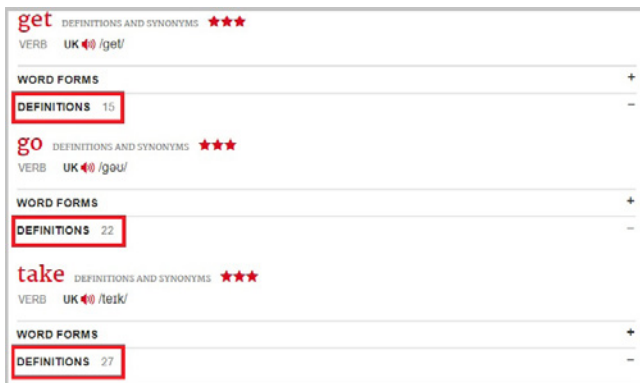


Getting the hang of *get*, *go* and *take*

According to the Global Language Monitor, English has the largest number of words in the world: an incredible 1,062,759! But how can you learn so many words?! You could start by *learning the most commonly used English verbs*. Three of the top ten are: *get*, *go* and *take* with a combined total of 64 definitions in the Macmillan online dictionary (see screenshots), including phrases, phrasal verbs and idioms. Try the following activities and learn a selection of expressions using these three important verbs.



Activity 1

Complete the expressions with *get*, *go* or *take*.

- take* advantage of something
- _____ without something
- _____ someone for granted
- _____ on a diet
- _____ rid of something
- _____ it in turns
- _____ your own back
- play hard to _____
- _____ a move on

Activity 2

Complete the sentences with an expression from activity 1.

- I've put on so much weight recently. I really must go *on a diet*.
- _____ or we'll miss our flight.
- We _____ steering the boat.
- I think she's just pretending to be busy so that you become interested in her. I'm sure she's just _____.
- He had to _____ sleeping for two days.

VOCABULARY BUILDERS

- f. He was bitter, determined to _____.
- g. I shouted at my boss because I hate that he _____ me _____.
- h. We're moving, so we have to _____ a lot of our furniture.

Activity 3a

Match the expressions in A with their definitions in B.

A

- 1 get your act together
- 2 get something off your chest
- 3 get the hang of something
- 4 go bankrupt
- 5 go on about something
- 6 go pear-shaped
- 7 take effect
- 8 take up residence
- 9 take something personally

B

- a. to start to produce the results that were intended
- b. to feel that a failure or unpleasant situation is your fault and be upset about it
- c. officially admit you do not have money and cannot pay what you owe
- d. to learn a skill or activity
- e. to start living somewhere
- f. to talk so much that people become bored or annoyed
- g. to organise your life or work in a better way, especially by having clear goals and a plan for achieving them
- h. to become unsuccessful
- i. to talk to someone about something that has been worrying you, so that you feel better about it

Activity 3b

Decide if the actions in activity 3a have positive or negative consequences. Put a tick in the correct column.

	⊕	⊖
1 get your act together	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2 get something off your chest	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3 get the hang of something	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4 go bankrupt	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5 go on about something	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6 go pear-shaped	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7 take effect	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8 take up residence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9 take something personally	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

VOCABULARY BUILDERS

Activity 4

Complete the sentences with an expression from activity 3.

- He came to see me because he wanted to get something off his chest.
- At that point, things started to _____ for the business.
- She tends to _____ how clever her children are.
- Many of the companies that they had invested in _____.
- Skiing is not very tiring once you _____.
- Try to relax for a couple of hours until the pills _____.
- Try not to _____ it _____ when your child will not go to sleep.
- If you want to be finished by Monday, you'll have to _____.

Activity 5

Ask and answer the questions with your partner.

- Do you often go on a diet?
- Do you think playing hard to get is a good idea?
- Have you ever been on a holiday that went pear-shaped?
- Do you find it easy to get the hang of English grammar?
- What's the longest time you've gone without sleeping?
- What sort of things do you take for granted?