

get

- 1 I **got** a message today asking me on a date!
If you're going to the post office, could you **get** me some stamps?
Let's not bother with a taxi – we can **get** the bus.
When do you think we'll **get to** Paris?
- 2 We'd better go home. It's **getting dark**.
I seem to have **got** very **forgetful** recently.
The traffic **gets worse** in the city centre every day.
I don't think my mother will ever **get used to** living on her own.
- 3 Did you know Dan **got sacked** last week?
My husband **got caught** on the motorway driving at 150 km/h.
- 4 I'm going to **get my hair cut** next week.
I need to **get my passport renewed** – it runs out in a couple of months.
- 5 Could you **get Jane to finish** the report? I'm too busy to do it this afternoon.
We need to **get someone to fix** the central heating – it's not working properly.



- get is one of the most common verbs in English and can be used in many different ways.

- 1 **get + noun / pronoun** usually means 'receive', 'bring', 'fetch', 'obtain', 'buy', or 'catch'; with to + a place it means 'arrive at / in'.
 - 2 We use **get + adjective or comparative adjective** to mean 'become'.
• Compare **be + adjective** and **get + adjective**:
It's dark. It's getting dark.
I'm used to the climate in England now. I'm getting used to the climate in England.
 - 3 We can use **get + past participle** instead of **be to** to make a passive structure. This is more **informal** than using **be** and is often used to talk about **bad or unexpected things that have happened**.
 - 4 In informal spoken English, we sometimes use **get + object + past participle** instead of **have + object + past participle** to say that you ask or pay another person **to do something for you**.
See 1A p.142.
 - 5 We can use **get + object + infinitive** with to to mean 'make', 'tell', 'persuade' somebody (to) do something.
- **have** can also be used in this way (**without to**), especially in American English, e.g. *I'll have someone send you the details.*

- a Replace **get** with another verb in the correct form so that the sentences mean the same.

- He **got** blamed for the break-up of their marriage. was
- 1 My father **is getting** increasingly bad-tempered in his old age. _____
 - 2 Do you know anywhere near here where I can **get** something to eat? _____
 - 3 Could you **get** your brother to lend you the money? _____
 - 4 We had to **get** the roof repaired, as it was damaged in the storm. _____
 - 5 I **got** an email out of the blue today from an old school friend. _____
 - 6 If I **get** the 7.30 train, would you be able to pick me up at the station? _____
 - 7 What time do you think we'll **get to** the hotel? _____
 - 8 If you're going upstairs, could you **get me** my jacket? It's on the bed. _____
 - 9 You're going to **get** fined if you park there. _____
 - 10 How can I **get** you to change your mind? _____

- b Complete the sentences with the correct form of **get** and the words in brackets.

- I think we ought to stop playing now. It's getting cold. (cold)
- 1 I only just _____ in time. It was about to run out. (my work permit / renew)
 - 2 My husband has only been in the UK for two months and he just can't _____ on the left. (used / drive)
 - 3 Monica's fiancé _____ in a car crash. He only just survived. (nearly / kill)
 - 4 I can _____ tomorrow night so we can go out. (my sister / babysit)
 - 5 If you can't find your keys, we'll have to _____. (all the locks / change)
 - 6 We _____ by the police today. They were looking for a stolen car. (stop)
 - 7 I went to the optician's yesterday to _____. (eyes / test)
 - 8 We could drive there if you could _____ their car. (your parents / lend)
 - 9 My job has _____ over the last few years. (more stressful)
 - 10 We really want to _____ soon. (the kitchen / replace)

discourse markers (2): adverbs and adverbial expressions

Expression	Use
A I really like your shirt. Hasn't Harry got one just like it? B Yes he has. Talking of / Speaking of Harry, did he get the job?	To change the direction of a conversation, but making a link with what has just been said.
So let's meet at five o'clock then. By the way / Incidentally , could you possibly lend me some money?	To introduce something you have just thought of, or to change the subject.
A Did you see the match last night? B No. Actually / In fact / As a matter of fact , I don't really like football.	To introduce additional surprising or unexpected information.
We didn't go away at the weekend because I had too much work. In any case / Anyway the weather was awful, so we didn't miss much.	To introduce the idea that what you said before is less important than what you are saying now, or to return to the main topic after a digression.
Yes, it was a bad accident. At least nobody was killed, though. Tom's coming to the meeting, or at least , he said he was.	To introduce a positive point after some negative information, or to qualify what you have just said or to make it less definite.
As I was saying , if Mark gets the job, we'll have to reorganize the department.	To return to a previous subject, often after you have been interrupted.
He's still a great director but, on the whole , I prefer his earlier films.	To generalize.
I like both flats, but all in all , I think I prefer the one next to the cathedral.	To say that you are taking everything into consideration.
I think we should buy them. After all , we'll never find them anywhere cheaper than this.	To introduce an argument that the other person may not have considered.
I don't think I'll come to Nick's party. It will finish very late. Besides , I won't know many people there.	To introduce an additional point.
Basically , my job involves computer skills and people skills.	To introduce the most important or fundamental point.
Obviously , you can't get a real idea of life in Japan unless you can speak the language.	To introduce a fact that is very clear to see or understand.
She's very selfish. I mean , she never thinks about other people at all.	To make things clearer, or give more details.
A lot of people booed and some people even left early. In other words , it was a complete disaster.	To say something again in another way.
Try not to make a mess when you make the cake. Otherwise I'm going to have to clean the kitchen again.	To say what the result would be if something did not happen or were different.
...and that's all you need to know about the travel arrangements. As far as accommodation is concerned, ... As regards / Regarding the accommodation, ...	To introduce a new topic or to announce a change of subject.
There are plans to help first-time buyers. That is to say , mortgages will be more easily available.	To introduce an explanation or clarification of a point you have just made.
On the one hand , more young people today carry knives. On the other hand , the total number of violent crimes has dropped.	To balance contrasting facts or points. • <i>On the other hand</i> is also used alone to introduce a contrasting fact or point.

a Circle the correct discourse marker.

- A** What a good film! I really enjoyed it. And you?
B Actually / *Incidentally* I didn't like it very much.
A Why not?
B ¹*Basically* / *After all*, I thought the plot was completely unbelievable.
A I wouldn't call it unbelievable. ²*In other words* / *In any case*, it wasn't supposed to be a true story.
B I know, but it was set in a specific historical period. ³*Otherwise* / *Obviously*, you can't expect the dialogue to be totally authentic, ⁴*I mean* / *on the other hand*, nobody knows exactly how people spoke in Roman times, but ⁵*besides* / *at least* the details should be right. There were cannons in the battle scene and they weren't invented till a thousand years later! ⁶*All in all* / *That is to say*, I thought it was a pretty awful film.
A We'll have to agree to disagree then. ⁷*By the way* / *As a matter of fact*, do you know what time the last bus leaves? I don't want to miss it. ⁸*Otherwise* / *In any case*, I'll have to get a taxi home.
B 11.40. Don't worry, we've got plenty of time. ⁹*In fact* / *Besides*, I think we've even got time to have something to eat. There's a good Italian restaurant just round the corner.
A Good idea. ¹⁰*As I was saying* / *Talking of* Italian food, I made a wonderful mushroom risotto last night...

b Complete the sentences with a discourse marker. Sometimes more than one answer is possible.

- The film was a box office disaster. *That is to say*, it cost more to produce than it made in receipts.
- A** Did you buy the shoes in the end?
B No, they were too expensive. And _____, I decided that I didn't really like them that much.
 - I really think you ought to apply for the post of Head of Department. _____ you've got nothing to lose.
 - A** I've just read a brilliant book that Simon lent me.
B _____ Simon, did you know he's moving?
 - A** How was your day?
B Fine. I finished work earlier than usual. _____, did you remember to get a birthday present for Mum?
 - _____ salary, you will be paid on the last day of each month, with a bonus in December.
 - It was a very overcast day, but _____ it didn't rain.
 - I'm not sure what the best solution is. _____, buying our own place would mean not paying rent, but _____, I'm not sure we can afford a mortgage.
 - They've employed me as a troubleshooter – _____, somebody who sorts out any problems.
 - The food was delicious and the service was excellent. _____, the meal was a great success.
 - A** Do your wife's parents live near you, then?
B _____, they live in the flat below us. It's not ideal, but it does have some advantages.
 - You'd better hurry up with your homework, _____ you won't be able to watch TV tonight.