Get

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Get meaning 'fetch', 'receive', 'obtain'

We commonly use *get* + object or *get* + indirect object + direct object when we mean, very generally, 'fetch' or 'receive' or 'obtain'. In these examples the object is underlined:

*When are you going to **get** <u>your new car</u>?*

*They were all dismissed from the firm but two of them managed to **get** <u>new jobs</u> within a week.*

These examples have an indirect object (io) and a direct object (do):

*Can you **get** [IO] me [DO] an ice-cream? Thanks.*

*Can we stop here? I need to **get** [IO]Fiona and Steven [DO]some cash from the cash machine.*

Get meaning 'become'

We commonly use *get* + adjective to mean 'become' or to describe a change of state or situation:

*Put your coat and scarf on or you'll **get** cold.*

*Let's hope she **gets** better soon.*

*It's **getting** dark.*

Get describing negative events

We can use *get + -ed* form to describe things that happen to us, often things which are unfortunate and which we don't want to happen. We call this pattern the *get passive*:

*The cottage **got** really badly damaged in the floods last year.*

*Sorry we're late. The train **got** delayed for over an hour outside Manchester.*

Get meaning 'cause something to happen'

When we use *get* + object (o) + *-ed* form, we say that we cause something to happen or to be done. It is a less formal way of saying *have something done*:

*I'm **getting** the computer **repaired** on Monday.*

*I'm going to the supermarket so I'll **get** your jacket **cleaned** if you like.*

We also use *get* + noun phrase object (o) + object complement (oc) to mean that we cause something to happen:

[at a hotel reception desk]

*Sorry to keep you waiting. We're just **getting** [O]the bill [OC]ready for you now.*

Get + object + infinitive with *to*, and *get* + object + *-ing* form have similar meanings of 'cause or persuade to happen':

*They **got** me **to talk** to the police, even though I knew it wouldn't help.* (They persuaded me to talk to the police …)

*Can you help me **get** this printer work**ing**?*

Get is a word with many different meanings. You will find other meanings of *get*, and phrasal verbs with *get*, in a good learner's dictionary.