

# get

See also: gēt, get., -get and ge- -t

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## English

### Pronunciation

- IPA<sup>(key)</sup>: /ɡɛt/, /ɡɪt/, [ɡɛʔ]
- Audio (US)  0:00
- Rhymes: -ɛt

### Etymology 1

From Middle English *geten*, from Old Norse *geta*, from Proto-Germanic *\*getanƷ* (compare Old English *ġietan*, Old High German *pi-gezzan* (“to uphold”), Gothic 𐍪𐍺𐍲𐍳𐍴𐍶𐍴𐍺 (*bigitan*, “to find, discover”)), from Proto-Indo-European *\*g<sup>h</sup>ed-* (“to seize”). Cognate with Latin *prehendo*.

## Verb

**get** (third-person singular simple present **gets**, present participle **getting**, simple past **got** or (archaic) **gat**, past participle (North American only for the senses "have" and "have to") **got** or (North American and regional UK) **gotten**)

1. (*transitive*) To obtain; to acquire.

*I'm going to **get** a computer tomorrow from the discount store.*

2. (*transitive*) To receive.

*I **got** a computer from my parents for my birthday  
You need to **get** permission to leave early  
He **got** a severe reprimand for that.*

3. (*transitive, in a perfect construction, with present-tense meaning*) To have. See usage notes.

*I've **got** a concert ticket for you.*

4. (*copulative*) To become.

*I'm **getting** hungry; how about you?  
Don't **get** drunk tonight.*

5. (*transitive*) To cause to become; to bring about.

*That song **gets** me so depressed every time I hear it.  
I'll **get** this finished by lunchtime.  
I can't **get** these boots off (or on).*

6. (*transitive*) To fetch, bring, take.

*Can you **get** my bag from the living-room, please?  
I need to **get** this to the office.*

7. (*transitive*) To cause to do.

*Somehow she **got** him to agree to it.  
I can't **get** it to work.*

8. (*intransitive, with various prepositions, such as into, over, or behind; for specific idiomatic senses see individual entries: get into, get over, etc.*) To adopt, assume, arrive at, or progress towards (a certain position, location, state).

*The actors are **getting** into position.  
When are we going to **get** to London?  
I'm **getting** into a muddle.  
We **got** behind the wall.*

9. (*transitive*) To cover (a certain distance) while travelling.

*to **get** a mile*

10. (*transitive*) To cause to come or go or move.

11. (*transitive*) To cause to be in a certain status or position

12. (*intransitive*) To begin (doing something).

*We ought to **get** moving or we'll be late.  
After lunch we **got** chatting.*

13. (*transitive*) To take or catch (a scheduled transportation service).

*I normally **get** the 7:45 train.  
I'll **get** the 9 a.m. [flight] to Boston.*

14. (*transitive*) To respond to (a telephone call, a doorbell, etc).

*Can you **get** that call, please? I'm busy*

15. (*intransitive, followed by infinitive*) To be able, permitted (to do something); to have the opportunity (to do something).

*I'm so jealous that you **got** to see them perform live!  
The finders **get** to keep 80 percent of the treasure.*

16. (*transitive, informal*) To understand. (compare get it)

*Yeah, I **get** it, it's just not funny  
I don't **get** what you mean by "fun". This place sucks!  
I mentioned that I was feeling sad, so she mailed me a box of chocolates. She **gets** me.*

17. (*transitive, informal*) To be subjected to.

*"You look just like Helen Mirren." / "I **get** that a lot."*

18. (*informal*) To be. Used to form the passive of verbs.

*He **got** bitten by a dog.*

19. (*transitive*) To become ill with or catch (a disease).

*I went on holiday and **got** malaria.*

20. (*transitive, informal*) To catch out, trick successfully.

*He keeps calling pretending to be my boss—I **get** me every time.*

21. (*transitive, informal*) To perplex, stump.

*That question's really **got** me.*

22. (*transitive*) To find as an answer

*What did you **get** for question four?*

23. (*transitive, informal*) To bring to reckoning; to catch (as a criminal); to effect retribution.

*The cops finally **got** me.  
I'm gonna **get** him for that.*

24. (*transitive*) To hear completely; catch.

*Sorry, I didn't **get** that. Could you repeat it?*

25. (*transitive*) To getter.

*I put the getter into the container **to get** the gases.*

26. (*now rare*) To beget (of a father).

27. (*archaic*) To learn; to commit to memory; to memorize; sometimes without.

*to **get** a lesson; to **get** out one's Greek lesson*

28. (*imperative, informal*) Used with a personal pronoun to indicate that someone is being pretentious or grandiose.

***Get** her with her new hairdo.*

29. (*imperative, informal*) Go away; get lost.

30. (*euphemistic*) To kill.

*They're coming **to get** you, Barbara.*

31. (*intransitive, obsolete*) To make acquisitions; to gain; to profit.

## Usage notes

- The meaning "to have" is found only in perfect tenses but has present meaning; hence "I have got" has the same meaning as "I have". (Sometimes the ~~form~~ *got* is used to mean "had", as in "He said they couldn't find the place because they'd got the wrong address".) In speech and in all except formal writing, the word "have" is normally reduced to /v/ and spelled "-ve" or dropped entirely (e.g. "I got a God-fearing woman, one I can easily ~~find~~", *Slow Train*, Bob Dylan), leading to nonstandard usages such as "he gots" = "he has", "he doesn't got" = "he doesn't have".
- Some dialects (e.g. American English) use both *gotten* and *got* as past participles, while others (e.g. British English) use only *got*. In dialects that use *gotten*, *got* is used for the meanings "to have" and "to have to", while *gotten* is used for all other meanings.<sup>[1]</sup> This allows for a distinction between "I've gotten a ticket" (I have received or obtained a ticket) vs. "I've got a ticket" (I currently have a ticket).
- "get" is one of the most common verbs in English, and the many meanings may be confusing for language learners. The following table indicates some of the different constructions found, along with the most common meanings of each:

Construction	Most common meanings
<i>get</i> + inanimate object	to receive, to obtain, to take
<i>have got</i> + inanimate object	to have
<i>get</i> + person	to understand or to catch
<i>get</i> + concept	to understand
<i>get</i> + adjective	to become
<i>get</i> + person + adjective	to cause to become
<i>get</i> + location adverb	to arrive
<i>get</i> + to + location	
<i>get</i> + to + verb	to be able to
<i>get</i> + person + to + verb	to cause to do
<i>get</i> + verb + -ing	to begin doing
<i>get</i> + verb + -ed/-en	to be (passive voice)

1. ^ <http://www-personal.umich.edu/~jlawler/aue/gotten.html> and <http://www.miketodd.net/encyc/gotten.htm> (http://www.miketodd.net/encyc/gotten.htm)

## Synonyms

- (*obtain*): acquire, come by, have
- (*receive*): receive, be given
- (*fetch*): bring, fetch, retrieve
- (*become*): become
- (*cause to become*): cause to be, cause to become, make
- (*cause to do*): make
- (*arrive*): arrive at, reach
- (*go, come*): come, go, travel
- (*adopt or assume (a position or state)*): go, move
- (*begin*): begin, commence, start
- (*catch (a means of public transport)*): catch, take
- (*respond to (telephone, doorbell)*): answer

- *(be able to; have the opportunity to do)*: be able to
- *(informal: understand)*: dig, follow, make sense of, understand
- *(informal: be (used to form the passive))*: be
- *(informal: catch (a disease))*: catch, come down with
- *(informal: trick)*: con, deceive, dupe, hoodwink, trick
- *(informal: perplex)*: confuse, perplex, stump
- *(find as an answer)*: obtain
- *(bring to reckoning; to catch (as a criminal))*: catch, nab, nobble
- *(physically assault)*: assault, beat, beat up
- *(informal: hear)*: catch, hear
- *(getter)*: getter

Antonyms

- *(obtain)*: lose

Derived terms

Terms derived from <i>get</i>
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Translations

to obtain
to receive
to become
to cause to become
to fetch
to don
to doff
to cause to do
to betake
to arrive at
to adopt, assume (a position)
to go or come
to begin
to take, catch (transportation)
to respond to (a telephone call, a doorbel, etc)
to be able to, be permitted, have opportunity
colloquial: to understand
colloquial: to be
to become ill with
to catch out
to perplex
to find as an answer
to bring to reckoning
to physically assault
to hear completely
to getter — see <u>getter</u>
to beget — see <u>beget</u>

*The translations below need to be checked and inserted above into the appropriate translation tables, removing any numbers. Numbers do not necessarily match those in definitions. See instructions at [Wiktionary:Entry layout#Translations](#).*

Translations to be checked
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Noun

**get** *(plural gets)*

1. *(dated)* Offspring.
2. Lineage.
3. *(sports, tennis)* A difficult return or block of a shot.

- 4. Something gained.

Etymology 2

Variant of *git*

Noun

**get** (*plural gets*)

- 1. (*Britain, regional*) A **git**.

Etymology 3

From Hebrew גֵּט (*gēṭ*).

Noun

**get** (*plural gittim or gitten*)

- 1. (*Judaism*) A Jewish writ of divorce.

Quotations

- For quotations of use of this term, seeCitations: get

Anagrams

- GTE, TGE, teg

Ladino

Etymology

From Hebrew גֵּט.

Noun

**get** גֵּט (*Latin spelling*)

- 1. divorce

Limburgish

Etymology

From Middle Dutch *iewet*, *iet*. The diphthong /iɛ/ developed into /jɛ/ word-initially, as it did in High German, and the onset was then enclitically hardened to (g) (*j*/*j*). Cognate with Dutch *iets*, Central Franconian *jet*, northern Luxembougish *jett*, *gett*, English *aught*.

Pronoun

**get**

- 1. something

Mauritian Creole

Verb

**get**

- 1. *Medial form of* **gete**

Middle English

Alternative forms

- geet, gete, jet, gette, geete, jete, jeete

Etymology

From an northern form of Old French *jayet*, *jaiet*, *gaiet*, from Latin *gagātēs*, from Ancient Greek Γαγάτης (*Gagátēs*).

Pronunciation

- IPA<sup>(key)</sup>: /dʒɛːt/, /dʒɛt/

Noun

**get** *(uncountable)*

- jet, hardened coal
- A bead made of jet.
- A jet-black pigment.

Descendants

- English: jet

References

- “ğēt (n.(2))” in *MED Online*, Ann Arbor, Mich.: University of Michigan 2007, retrieved 2018-04-24.

Old Swedish

Etymology

From Old Norse *geit*, from Proto-Germanic *\*gaits*.

Pronunciation

Noun

gēt *f*

- goat

Declension

Declension of <i>gēt</i> (consonant stem)
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Descendants

- Swedish: get

Romanian

Etymology

From French *Gétes*, Latin *Getae*, from Ancient Greek

Noun

get 𐌿 *(plural* geți*, feminine equivalent* getă*)*

- Get, one of the Getae, Greek name for the Dacian people

Synonyms


- dac

Swedish

Etymology

From Old Swedish *gēt*, from Old Norse *geit*, from Proto-Germanic *\*gaits*, from Proto-Indo-European *\*gʰayd-* (“goat”).

Pronunciation

- audio  0:00
- IPA<sup>(key)</sup>: /je:t/

Noun

get ⓘ

- 1. goat

Declension

Declension of <i>get</i>				
	Singular		Plural	
	Indefinite	Definite	Indefinite	Definite
Nominative	get	<u>geten</u>	<u>getter</u>	<u>getterna</u>
Genitive	<u>gets</u>	<u>getens</u>	<u>getters</u>	<u>getternas</u>

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