

2 I can use familiar words in a new way

A Phrases and figurative meaning 🎧

Familiar words may appear with an unfamiliar meaning (often a figurative meaning), or surrounded by other words that form an idiom or set phrase.

As I **crawled** along the motorway, I was **having second thoughts** about staying with Marcus. I'd **been in two minds about** going in the first place, but it was **sweet of** him to invite me, and I **wasn't tied up**, so I said, 'Yes'. But now it **dawned on** me that he may have had an **ulterior motive**: he wanted to go out with me! How could I be so **thick**? Marcus was very nice, but a romantic relationship **was the last thing on my mind**. How can I **get out of** this, I wondered? Just as the traffic started to speed up, something went into the back of me and **sent** the car **flying** off the road. Dazed but OK, I pulled my mobile out of my bag. 'Is that you, Marcus? Listen, **you're not gonna believe this**, but ...'



Glossary

crawl	(of a vehicle) move very slowly.
have second thoughts	start having doubts about a decision you have made.
be in two minds about sth	be unable to decide what to do about sth.
sweet (of sb)	kind (of sb).
be tied up	be busy and unable to do other things.
dawn on sb	If sth dawns on you, you begin to realize it for the first time.
ulterior motive	a reason for doing sth that you keep hidden.
thick	INF stupid.
be the last thing on sb's mind	be the thing that sb is least likely to be thinking about.
get out of sth	avoid doing sth.
send sth/sb flying	make sth/sb move quickly and without control.
you're not gonna believe this	used to introduce surprising and often unwelcome news (gonna INF = going to).

1 Complete the dialogues with a word or phrase.

- 1 Do you still want to go? ~ Actually, I'm having _____.
- 2 Are you thinking of getting married? ~ That's the last thing _____!
- 3 Do you want to go to the wedding? ~ No, but I can't _____ it.
- 4 You're not gonna _____, but ... ~ You've lost my keys again! How could you?
- 5 Did he bump into you? ~ Yes, he sent me _____ across the room.
- 6 Are you going or not? ~ I'm afraid I'm still in _____ about it.
- 7 I'm sure it's just an innocent request. ~ Mm. I think he has an _____ motive.
- 8 Could we talk about it this morning? ~ I'm afraid I'm _____ this morning.

2 Complete the sentences using words from the glossary with their more common meanings.

- 1 She's only eight months old, so she's still _____ across the living room floor.
- 2 It's a very _____ book: almost 1,000 pages.
- 3 These oranges are lovely; they're very _____.
- 4 The men were _____, with both hands behind their backs.
- 5 The morning _____ with a clear blue sky after the storm.