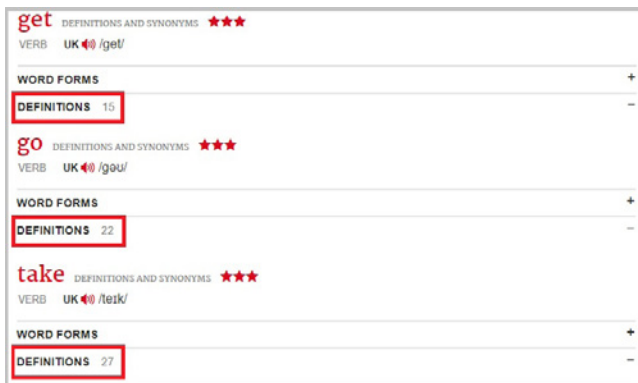


## Getting the hang of *get*, *go* and *take*

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                              | B  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1 get your act together        | a. to start to produce the results that were intended  |
| 2 get something off your chest | b. to feel that a failure or unpleasant situation is your fault and be upset about it                            |
| 3 get the hang of something    | c. officially admit you do not have money and cannot pay what you owe  |
| 4 go bankrupt                  | d. to learn a skill or activity  |
| 5 go on about something        | e. to start living somewhere   |
| 6 go pear-shaped               | f. to talk so much that people become bored or annoyed   |
| 7 take effect                  | g. to organise your life or work in a better way, especially by having clear goals and a plan for achieving them |
| 8 take up residence            | h. to become unsuccessful  |
| 9 take something personally    | 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?