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The big 'three'. Expressions with *get*, *go* and *take*

Worksheet

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Introduction

Three of the most common verbs used in English are: *get*, *go* and *take*. They combine with a vast number of other words to form common phrases, phrasal verbs and idioms. The following activities focus on a selection of these expressions. Use the [dictionary](#) to help you.

► Activity 1

Complete the expressions with *get*, *go* or *take*.

- a take advantage of something
- b _____ without something
- c _____ something/someone for granted
- d _____ on a diet
- e _____ rid of something/someone
- f _____ it in turns
- g _____ your own back
- h play hard to _____
- i _____ a move on

► Activity 2

Complete the sentences with an expression from activity 1.

- a I've put on so much weight recently. I really need to go on a diet.
- b Come on. It's getting late. We need to _____.
- c My brother and I _____ to do the washing up.
- d I think she's just pretending to be busy so that you become interested in her. I'm sure she's just _____.
- e They had to _____ food and drink for two days.

f One day I'll _____ on him, I swear!

g Children often _____ their parents _____.

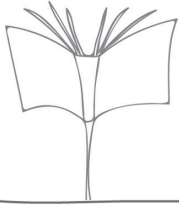
h We need to _____ this old table. It takes up too much space.

► Activity 3a

Match the expressions in A with their definitions in B.

- | A | B |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 1 get your act together | a start to produce the intended results |
| 2 get something off your chest | b be offended by something |
| 3 get the hang of something | c not have enough money to pay what you owe |
| 4 go bankrupt | d learn how to do or use something |
| 5 go on about something | e stop giving your attention to what is important |
| 6 go pear-shaped | f talk a lot about something in a boring way |
| 7 take effect | g organise yourself better in order to achieve something |
| 8 take your eye off the ball | h go wrong |
| 9 take something personally | i talk about something that has worried you for a long time so you feel less anxious |

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► Activity 3b

Now 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 your eye off the ball	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9 take something personally	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

► Activity 4

Complete the sentences with an expression from activity 3.

- a** Why don't you talk to me about your worries?
It's good for you to get them off your chest.
- b** Their relationship started off very well but after a few years things began to _____.
- c** I wish she'd stop _____ her problems all the time. It's so boring.

d Sadly, the company _____ last year.

e This mobile phone's not difficult to use once you _____.

f How long will it take for the aspirin to _____?

g Try not to _____ his comment _____.

h He really needs to _____ if he wants to pass his exams.

For discussion

Ask and answer the questions with your partner.

- a** Do you often go on a diet?
- b** Do you think playing hard to get is a good idea?
- c** Have you ever been on a holiday that went pear-shaped?
- d** Do you find it easy to get the hang of English grammar?
- e** What's the longest time you've gone without sleeping?
- f** What sort of things do you take for granted?