

# MACMILLAN DICTIONARY



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

### Teacher's Notes

[www.macmillandictionary.com](http://www.macmillandictionary.com)

### Introduction and aim

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. In the following activities students use the dictionary to help them increase their understanding and use of a selection of these expressions.

The lexis contained in the worksheet can all be found in the [Macmillan Dictionary](#) and the definitions are based on those in MD.

### Time and materials

Allow five minutes for each activity so a total of 25 minutes.

Students need a copy of the worksheet and access to the [dictionary](#) for checking answers.

### Procedures

#### ► Activity 1

- 1 Ask your students to complete the expressions with the verbs *go*, *get* or *take*. Encourage them to use their dictionaries to check the answers.
- 2 Go through the answers as a class and then discuss the meanings of the expressions.

### Answers

- a [take advantage of something](#): make the most of something
- b [go without something](#): manage without something you normally need
- c [take something/someone for granted](#): be so used to something/someone that you don't recognise its/their true value
- d [go on a diet](#): eat a limited amount or variety of food to lose weight
- e [get rid of something/someone](#): remove something/someone that is annoying or unwanted
- f [take it in turns](#): do something one after the other to make sure it is done fairly
- g [get your own back](#): take revenge
- h [play hard to get](#): pretend not to be interested in someone to make them interested in you
- i [get a move on](#): hurry up

#### ► Activity 2

- 1 Ask the students to complete the sentences with an expression from activity 1.
- 2 Check the answers as a class.

### Answers

- |                |                   |                        |                       |
|----------------|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| a go on a diet | b get a move on   | c take it in turns     | d playing hard to get |
| e go without   | f get my own back | g take ... for granted | h get rid of          |

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### ► Activity 3a

- 1 Ask the students to match the expressions in A with their definitions in B.
- 2 Go through the answers as a class.

### Answers

1 g 2 i 3 d 4 c 5 f 6 h 7 a 8 e 9 b

### ► Activity 3b

Ask the students to consider the meaning of the expressions and decide whether the actions have positive or negative consequences.

### Answers

😊: 1, 2, 3, 7 ☹️: 4, 5, 6, 8, 9

### ► Activity 4

- 1 Ask the students to complete the sentences using an expression from activity 3.
- 2 Check the answers as a class.

### Answers

a [get them off your chest](#)    b [go pear-shaped](#)    c [going on about](#)  
d [went bankrupt](#)    e [get the hang of it](#)    f [take effect](#)  
g [take ... personally](#)    h [get his act together](#)

- 3 Before going on to the final activity, recap on the vocabulary in activities 1 to 4 by asking questions such as:  
What's another way of saying 'go wrong'? (*go pear-shaped*)  
What's another way of saying 'hurry up'? (*get a move on*)  
What's another way of saying 'talk about something for a long time in a boring way'? (*go on about something*)
- 4 Elicit the answers to a few of these questions as a class and then ask the students to test each other in pairs by asking similar questions.

### For discussion

In this activity some of the new language is activated. Remind students that activating the language is essential to aid recall later. Ask them to form pairs to ask and answer the questions. Encourage them to use the new words and to develop the conversations as much as possible.

### Follow-up

- 1 Ask students to look out for and record other expressions containing the verbs *go*, *get* and *take*.
- 2 Get students to choose some of the new expressions and make sentences illustrating their meaning.