

2 Familiar words, new meanings

A Using words and phrases figuratively

Familiar words may appear with an unfamiliar meaning (often a figurative meaning), or surrounded by other words that together form an idiom or common 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 **struck me that** perhaps 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 then, the traffic suddenly started to speed up, and something went into the back of me. 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 (about sth) | 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): <i>It was sweet of you to come.</i> |
| be tied up | be busy and unable to do other things |
| strike sb (that) ... | (of a thought or idea) suddenly come into sb's mind |
| 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 |
| you're not gonna believe this | used to introduce surprising and often unwelcome news (gonna inf = going to) |

1 Make sentences from the jumbled words.

- gonna / not / lost / this / I / but / you're / believe.
- homework / out / I / this / get / doing / of / how / can?
- going / two / about / I'm / minds / to / in / Greece.
- thing / on / university / mind / is / the / last / my.
- it / take / of / sweet / to / us / was / him.

2 Complete the dialogues with a word or phrase.

- Do you still want to go? ~ Actually, I'm having
- Are you thinking of getting married? ~ No, that's the last thing
- Do you want to go to the wedding? ~ Not really, but I can't it.
- You're not gonna, but ... ~ You've lost my keys, again! How could you?
- Did he invite all of you? ~ Yes, it was very of him. He's a lovely man.
- Are you going or not? ~ I'm still in about it, actually.
- Did you think she looked like her sister? ~ Yes, I was by how similar they are.
- Could we talk about it this morning? ~ I'm afraid I'm this morning.
- Why are you so late? ~ Half the road was closed. We were along for ages.
- He may not have understood the instructions. ~ Yeah, he's a bit

3 Complete the sentences using words from above with their more usual literal meanings.

- Leyla is only eight months, so she's still across the living room floor.
- It's a very book – almost 1,000 pages.
- These oranges are lovely. They're very
- The men were, with both hands behind their backs.
- I saw him the dog with a large stick. I was really angry.
- The policeman stopped me and asked me to the car.
- I've just had a, Carrie. Do you think we could hire a car for the weekend?
- I think his was disturbed when he had that accident.



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B Common verbs with less familiar meanings

The words in **bold** in the examples are very common when the verbs are used with the meanings in the table.

| Verb | Examples | Meaning |
|--|---|--|
| get sb/sth to do sth | <i>I couldn't get him to leave the house. I finally got the car to start.</i> | make or persuade sb/sth to do sth |
| see what/how, etc. ... | <i>We may be able to help. I'll see what Rob says. It may be ok. Let's see what happens.</i> | find out sth by looking, asking or waiting |
| keep | <i>We must eat the grapes – they won't keep.</i> | remain fresh |
| put | <i>I think he put it very well in his essay.</i> | say or write sth in a particular way ALSO put sth into words |
| push sb/yourself | <i>Some parents push their kids really hard.</i> | make sb work harder |
| leave sth to/with sb | <i>We need to book a table. I'll leave that to you.</i> | allow sb to take care of sth |
| make sth sth | <i>My watch says 10.20. What time do you make it? He bought ten more; I make that 25 now.</i> | think or calculate sth to be a particular time or number |
| bring sb/sth + adverb/preposition | <i>It was the war that brought him to power. What brings you here? ~ I've got a meeting.</i> | cause sb/sth to reach a particular condition or place |
| come with/in sth | <i>I'm sure the radio comes with batteries. The chairs come in four different colours.</i> | be sold or produced with a particular feature |
| do (for sb/sth) | <i>I peeled six potatoes. Will that do? Will these shoes do for the wedding?</i> | be enough/ acceptable in a particular situation |

4 One word is missing in each sentence. What is it, and where does it go?

- How did you **get** him to do it? ~ I offered him money.
- These batteries **come** in all sorts of different sizes.
- If both brothers **bring**, that will **do** it 20 altogether.
- It's the fishing that most people **put** to this part of the coast.
- When I speak to the staff tomorrow, I'll **see** what they think.
- We'd better finish the cream: it won't **keep** after today.
- He has great ideas but finds it difficult to **put** them into words.
- I've got a packet of noodles. Do you think that will **do** for six people?

5 Complete the dialogues with suitable verbs.

- A Hello. What **(1)** you to this part of the building?
 B I can't **(2)** this new clock to work, and it didn't **(3)** with instructions.
 A OK, **(4)** it with me. I'll **(5)** what I can do.
 B Thanks. Oh, one other thing, we've run out of paper for the photocopier.
 A Er, there's some over there. Will that **(6)** ?
 B Yeah, that's plenty.
 A What are the bookings like for this evening?
 B We had two more this morning, so I **(7)** that 36 now.
 A Ok, but we'll need more tables. Can I **(8)** that with you?
 B Well, I'll **(9)** how things go, but I may have to **(10)** Mario to do it.
 A OK, but don't **(11)** him too hard; he's had a very tough week.

6 ABOUT YOUR LANGUAGE Translate the verbs in the table into your own language. What verbs are used?



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