

# 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	
<b>crawl</b>	(of a vehicle) move very slowly
<b>have second thoughts (about sth)</b>	start having doubts about a decision you have made
<b>be in two minds about sth</b>	be unable to decide what to do about sth
<b>sweet (of sb)</b>	kind (of sb): <i>It was <b>sweet of</b> you to come.</i>
<b>be tied up</b>	be busy and unable to do other things
<b>strike sb (that) ...</b>	(of a thought or idea) suddenly come into sb's mind
<b>thick inf</b>	stupid
<b>be the last thing on sb's mind</b>	be the thing that sb is least likely to be thinking about
<b>get out of sth</b>	avoid doing sth
<b>you're not gonna believe this</b>	used to introduce surprising and often unwelcome news ( <b>gonna inf</b> = 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.



TEST YOURSELF

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



TEST YOURSELF