

Get with infinitives and -ing forms

Get can be followed by -ing forms and infinitives. There is usually a difference of meaning.

Get + -ing form is sometimes used to mean 'start doing something'. Common expressions are: *get going and get moving*.

Let's get going.

The structure get + object + -ing form means 'make somebody / something start doing something'.

Don't get her talking about her problems.

When get is followed by an infinitive, it means 'manage' or 'have an opportunity'.

When do I get to see you again? (= When will I have an opportunity to see you again?)

I didn't get to see him. (= I didn't manage to see him.)

Although we lived in the same apartment for several years, I never really got to know him.

He is getting to be a naughty boy.

You will get to drive more confidently as time goes by.

You will get to speak fluent English as time goes by.

The structure get + object + infinitive means 'make somebody / something do something'.

There is often an idea of difficulty.

I couldn't get him to sign that paper.

I couldn't get the car to start.

I couldn't get the baby to drink the milk.

I can't get that child to go to bed.