

The many meanings of *get*

Name _____

Date _____

DIRECTIONS

Every sentence below uses a form of *get* — *gets*, *getting*, *got*, *gotten* — printed in bold. Read each group and notice how the meaning shifts, and how the sign changes along with it. Then write your own sentences on the blank lines.

1 OBTAIN

to come to have something

- ♦ I will **get** a radio tomorrow.
- ♦ Would you like to **get** a better job?
- ♦ Sally **got** flowers from David.

2 BECOME

to change into a new condition

- ♦ I **got** well again.
- ♦ That is just a “**get** rich quick” scheme.
- ♦ People are realizing that garlic can help prevent one from **getting** sick.

3 EARN

to receive something in return for work

- ♦ He **got** a reward for turning in the thief.
 - ♦ He spends all his time **getting** and spending.
 - ♦ How much do you **get** an hour?
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4 CONTACT

to reach someone by phone, radio, or signal

- ♦ She hasn't **gotten** a hold of her parents.
 - ♦ I finally **got** a line through to Ethiopia.
 - ♦ Were you able to **get** Germany yet?
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5 UNDERSTAND

to take in someone's meaning

- ♦ I must **get** this by heart.
 - ♦ Do you **get** his point?
 - ♦ Am I **getting** this across to you?
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6 ARRIVE

to reach a place or a point

- ♦ When will you **get** to New York?
 - ♦ We never **got** to that point.
 - ♦ I didn't think we would ever **get** there!
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7 BUY

to purchase; to pay for something

- ♦ Did you **get** your new DVD yet?
 - ♦ I finally broke down and **got** a new car.
 - ♦ What kinds of vegetables did you **get**?
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8 HAVE (OWN)

it already belongs to you

- ♦ I've **got** a large collection of books.
 - ♦ What kinds of trees have you **got** in the orchard?
 - ♦ How many cars have you **got**?
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9 PREPARE

to make something or someone ready

- ♦ You sit down and I'll **get** dinner.
 - ♦ Please wait while I finish **getting** ready.
 - ♦ Please go in the other room while I **get** the baby changed.
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10 BRING

to go fetch something and come back with it

- ♦ Please go **get** the ball.
 - ♦ I'll **get** him in here, and you can talk to him.
 - ♦ John went to **get** her.
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11 MUST

you are required to do it

- ♦ I have **got** to go.
 - ♦ We have **got** to do something about your hair!
 - ♦ After that last test, she has **got** to do something about her poor study habits.
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12 REVENGE

to pay someone back for what they did

- ♦ I'll **get** you for that remark.
 - ♦ He swears he'll **get** back at him.
 - ♦ She **got** him by telling what really happened.
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13 HIT

to strike something, or land a blow on it

- ♦ That blow **got** him on the chin.
 - ♦ I **got** just the very edge of the curb with my tire.
 - ♦ You really **got** him that time! He's out!
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14 DESTROY

to ruin or wipe out completely

- ♦ The frost **got** our tomato crop.
 - ♦ The tornado **got** every house on our street.
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15 CAPTURE

to catch someone who was getting away

- ♦ The police **got** him.
 - ♦ See! You ran as fast as you could, but I **got** you anyway!
 - ♦ I hope they **get** that rabid dog before he bites someone else.
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16 PUZZLE

you cannot figure it out; it baffles you

- ♦ Her attitude **gets** me.
 - ♦ What **gets** me is the poor way in which they chose to handle the situation.
 - ♦ I sure **got** her with that last joke!
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17 BOTHER

it irritates you or upsets you

- ♦ Noisy eaters really **get** me.
 - ♦ It really **gets** to me when I hear about child abuse.
 - ♦ Nails on a chalkboard really **get** me.
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18 GET ON (BOARD)

to catch a bus, a train, or a plane

- ♦ I can't talk now; I have to **get** the train.
 - ♦ If I don't **get** this bus, I'll be late.
 - ♦ What time do you **get** the bus in the morning?
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19 GO (LEAVE NOW)

an order to leave right this minute

- ♦ **Get** out!
 - ♦ **Get** going!
 - ♦ Now **get**!
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20 WALK (GET AROUND)

to move about on your own two feet

- ♦ He **gets** about by himself now.
 - ♦ **Getting** around is slow for someone with arthritis.
 - ♦ It takes several months to start **getting** about again after major surgery.
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21 ATTEND (GET AROUND)

to show up everywhere; to be out and social

- ♦ Irving **gets** around to all parties!
 - ♦ Social climbers make it a point to **get** around.
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CHALLENGE

Two phrases on this sheet show up twice, in groups that mean completely different things. *Gets me* appears in group 16 and group 17. *Get around* appears in group 20 and group 21. Write one sentence for each of the four. Then explain how a signer tells them apart when the English words are identical.

THINK ABOUT IT

Twenty-one groups, one English word — and in ASL, twenty-one different signs. Almost none of them share a sign with any other. Choose five of your own sentences from anywhere on this sheet and be ready to sign them for the class.