

Miranda (BBC, UK), "Before I Die" (S02E02)

1. What was your last good deed?
2. Have you ever done anything for charity?
3. What sort of things do people do to help charities?

Part One: The Funeral (1:50 - 7:45)

First, match the difficult vocabulary with the meaning:

a tax return	to contact
After Eights and 99s	a game show where contestants open boxes with money inside
to pick up	a man (or woman) who works in the Church of England.
Deal or No Deal	feeling sad usually after a loss/death
savoury	difficult
grief	two different chocolate products.
greed	the opposite of sweet; salty foods
to get hold of someone	to answer the phone
tricky	a declaration of tax to the government
vicar	desiring more than you need

Now watch the video and answer the following questions:

- a) Why does Stevie write "1" and "7" on the paper?
- b) Why do the girls scream when Gary enters?
- c) Why didn't Miranda's mum call her?
- d) Why doesn't Miranda want to give a speech at the funeral?
- e) Why does Miranda start singing?
- f) What does Miranda mean when she says "I wish the ground could have swallowed me up"?

Part Two: Good Deeds (7:45 - 20:00)

The next part is particularly difficult because of the language of the two "posh" characters. Make sure you understand what is going on by ordering the events:

Order	Event
	A man hands out a sponsorship form for a skydive he is doing for charity.
	Chris and Alison ask Gary to be the Godfather of their child and tell Miranda that she is "in the running" for Godmother.
1	Colin and Gary laugh at Miranda because she tells them about falling in a grave.
	Miranda and the boys imagine what will be said at her funeral.
	Miranda announces she will do a parachute jump.
	Miranda fills in the form for the skydive but doesn't have any ID.
	Miranda gets a visit from the council with "meals on wheels" and a bus pass because they think she's 96.
	Miranda gets chucked out of the care home.
	Miranda wants to join the planning to prove she is charitable.
	Miranda's mother and Tilly sit down to start organising a charity wine tasting event.
	The girls criticise Miranda's behaviour in social situations because she usually "gets chucked out" of events.
	The girls talk about the "nibbles" at their event.

Part Three: Birthing Partner, (20:00 - End)

Match the difficult vocabulary with the meaning:

a good deed (n.)	a child's toy which can be controlled by a person to form a character
bladder (n.)	where NGOs sell second hand donations to raise money
a charity shop (n.)	a person who gives a lot of orders to others
<i>Mein Kampf</i> (n.)	an organ of the body which holds urine
puppet (n.)	bad behaviour
bossy (adj.)	a gesture helping other people
to cope (v.)	valiant
naughty (adj.)	a book written by Adolf Hitler
brave (adj.)	to find a way to function in a difficult situation

1. Why do the couple ask Miranda to be birthing partner and not the woman's husband?
2. Why has Miranda changed her mind about wanting to be Godmother?
3. Why is Miranda in the library?
4. Why does the woman from the council give Miranda some flowers?
5. Why does Miranda punch the vicar?
6. Why is Miranda happy at the end?

Grammar: Get

This episode contains many examples of the word "get" being used in different ways:

"OK, I get it" = Miranda explains that she understands Stevie's criticism.

"You never get any messages" = Miranda is surprised she has received a phone message.

"You've got to go" = Stevie doesn't think Miranda should miss the funeral.

"I'd better get ready" = Miranda needs to prepare herself for the funeral.

"I've been trying to get hold of you" = Miranda hasn't been able to contact her mother.

"Miranda, hi! Glad you got my message." = She is happy Miranda received the message.

"It's a sad, sad situation, and it's getting more and more absurd..." = Miranda sings Elton John.

"I must get on." = The girls want to get started on their planning.

"Get out!" = Miranda wants the charity fundraiser to leave because she is jealous.

"And you've got a bus pass!" = The council send Miranda a bus pass.

"Don't get chucked out and ruin it!" = Tilly doesn't want someone to ask Miranda to leave.

"Oh, I'm not sure I've got anything." = Miranda doesn't have any ID.

"Is that the instructor you get strapped to for the jump?" = Miranda wants to be close to the man!

"I've got to get out of their lives." = Miranda looks for the exit.

"I got caught reading *Mein Kampf* to children." = The librarian catches Miranda at a bad moment!

"We can give the gift of getting involved in another child's life." = The couple want to give Miranda an opportunity to share their joy.

"I will do something drastic to get out of being god mother" = Miranda wants to escape.

Match the quotes from the show (previous page) with the functions of "get" listed below:

1. Phrasal verbs with "get": get off, get on, get along with, get through something etc.
2. Passive voice: an alternative to "be" when someone else is the agent of the action, "I got my hair cut yesterday" etc.
3. Set expressions with "get": to get married, to get ready, to get divorced etc.
4. "Get" to mean "become": to get angry, to get drunk, to get depressed, to get better etc.
5. "Get" to mean "understand": "I don't get this exercise", "Did you get the joke?" etc.
6. "Have got" as an alternative to just "have": "I've got three sisters", "I've got to visit my friend" etc.
7. "Get" to mean "receive": "Did you get my email?", "I've got three new messages" etc.

Conversation: Questions Using Get

Put the words below in the correct questions, make sure you understand why *get* is being used and which of the seven contexts above it is, then discuss your answers to the questions.

birthday	along	out	up
gift	addicted	on	chucked
involved	messages	ready	do
word	excited	caught	married

1. Did you get _____ with your siblings when you were growing up?
2. Have you ever got _____ breaking the speed limit? What happened?
3. What was the first thing you did after getting _____ this morning?
4. What are you planning to do when you get _____ of work on Friday evening?
5. Have any of your friends recently got _____ ? Did you go to the wedding?
6. What did your mother get you for your last _____ ?
7. Do you get _____ before big sporting events like the World Cup or the Olympics?
8. How long does it take you to get _____ before a night out?
9. When you are reading a book and you don't get a _____, do you stop and look it up in the dictionary?
10. Is there anything important that you've got to _____ at the weekend?
11. How many _____ have you got today on your mobile phone?
12. Would you ever consider getting _____ in charity work? What would you do?
13. Have you ever got _____ to a TV show? What did you like about it?
14. If you have something important to do, do you usually get _____ with it or do you tend to procrastinate?
15. Have you ever got _____ out of a party or a club? What happened?
16. Have you ever got a mystery _____ through the post or at work?