Contextual Bilingual Dictionaries: A Case Study of the Verb "Get"

Mogahed M. F. Abu Al-Fadl, Arab Society of English Language Studies

Available at: https://works.bepress.com/arabworldenglishjournal-aewj/157/
Contextual Bilingual Dictionaries: A Case Study of the Verb "Get"

Mogahed M. F. Abu Al-Fadl
English Department, Qassim Private Colleges
Saudi Arabia

Abstract
The main question of this study is whether some current bilingual dictionaries (English-Arabic) present contextual clues to the reader to get the meaning. It sought to investigate these dictionaries in terms of compiling expressions with preposition, e.g. the verb "get". It presented the characteristics of bilingual dictionaries and the importance of contextual dictionaries. It explored four comprehensive and widely used bilingual dictionaries (English-Arabic). It used the case study method: the verb "get." It provided an applied part, e.g. the verb "get". The findings indicate that these bilingual dictionaries lack contexts to a great extent; context plays a crucial role in getting meaning even in bilingual dictionaries. It is hoped that this study will usher the fulfillment of a comprehensive contextual bilingual dictionary (English-Arabic). Based on the findings, it is recommended that a team get together to carry out this project.

Keywords: Arabic-English dictionaries, case study, Contextual Bilingual Dictionaries, expressions with preposition, get
Introduction
The making of dictionaries, notably bilingual ones, has had a history of around 3000 years, but the total number of dictionaries compiled over the last one hundred years is far greater than those produced in the preceding three millennia.

In fact, no dictionary can exhaust all the items in the lexicon of a language, but there is a long tradition of considering the dictionary as a word list or a wordbook providing information about orthography, pronunciation and meaning of words in language. In addition, lexicographers offer, Yong and Peng, argue (2007), additional information concerning word histories (i.e. etymology), lexical sense relations (i.e. synonymy, antonymy), meaning differentiation, lexical pragmatics and so on. These voluntary actions are taken to enhance the utility and informativity of their work and to cater for extremely varied user needs.

The problem is that some current bilingual dictionaries (English-Arabic) lack contextual clues for getting the meaning of words, such as An-Nafees: The 21st Century English-Arabic Dictionary (2000) and Al-Muhit Oxford Study Dictionary (English-Arabic) (2003). They present entries collectively without giving context. So the reader is left without much help to get the right meaning he/she is searching for.

Background
The development of text linguistics has made it theoretically possible and necessary to review and assess the traditional ways of looking at the dictionary and view the dictionary from an entirely different perspective. Yong and Peng (2007) confirm that from a structural point of view, the dictionary bears striking resemblance to text. When examined on the microstructural level, it is even easier to see that the dictionary is actually composed of tiny texts. No matter whether they are dictionary articles or entry articles, they are again organized in much the same manner as any text. These similarities lead metalexicographers to believe that the dictionary can be described in terms of text linguistics.

A serious attempt in this connection was made by Frawley (1989, pp. 231–248), who put forward his proposition “the dictionary as text.” The goal of his proposition is “to consider the dictionary as a kind of text”. The idea of treating the dictionary as text gives a new drive to lexicographic studies and provides enlightening insights into how dictionary entries should be handled on textual principles, how dictionary text should be organized, and how dictionary text should be made more accessible.

Bilingual dictionary types
A proper typology of dictionaries contributes to the establishment of lexicography as an academic discipline. A good typology locates dictionaries of different types in their right positions, so that special attention is be given to those distinctive features of an individual type which single it out from other types. This is due to the fact that each type has its own characteristic features that should be observed. Bilingual dictionaries may be classified in terms of lexicographic purposes (Yong & Peng, 2007).

- General and specific
A general bilingual dictionary is designed for the general public of the source and/or the target language and meets the general purpose of consulting for information concerning the meaning, spelling and pronunciation of the vocabulary involved. It attempts to cover as wide a

A specific bilingual dictionary is compiled to meet the special needs of specific user groups. One such dictionary can serve only one purpose. It may provide the user with the signification and sometimes the use of only scientific and technical terms of the source language in a special field or fields such as business or commerce, such as Dictionary of Political, Economy & Sociological Terms (Arabic-English) (1990) and Dictionary of Chemistry & Pharmacy (English-Arabic) (2003).

- **Language pair**


  On the other hand, Arabic-English dictionaries are arranged according to the Arabic language, the target language, for example Dictionary of Modern Written Arabic (Arabic-English) (1976) and Al-Mawrid: A Modern Arabic-English Dictionary (1995).

**Dictionary presentation**

There are three common approaches to the presentation of the information in the bilingual dictionary: alphabetically, semantically and pictorially (Yong & Peng, 2007).

- A dictionary is usually arranged alphabetically which characterizes most of the dictionaries. Alphabetization is the most effective means of realizing the dictionary text.
- The semantic/ subject/ topic approach is another common means of realizing the dictionary text. This approach is based on the sense relations that exist between lexical units. It is characterized by semantic categorization and grouping; Oxford Picture Dictionary (English-Arabic) (2008) for instance.
- The information may be presented pictorially in the bilingual dictionary. Pictorial presentation may be a dot, a line, a table, a diagram, a drawing or a photograph. What is illustrated may be a single object, a group of objects, etc. Although it is most often used of concrete things, it is also found effective in representing certain types of abstract concepts or abstract relations, like spatial, temporal, functional, or various other relations, such as Al-Mawrid Junior Illustrated Dictionary (English-Arabic-Arabic) (2007).

**Directionality**

- **Monodirectional bilingual dictionaries**

  A monodirectional bilingual dictionary is a one-in-one dictionary, for example either English-Arabic or Arabic-English.

- **Bidirectional bilingual dictionaries**
In form, a bidirectional bilingual dictionary is a two-in-one dictionary, but in substance, it does not mean it is made simply by reversing the order of the monodirectional bilingual dictionary (Yong & Peng, 2007).

Users
Before compiling a bilingual dictionary, users should be defined clearly due to the different needs and expectations of different users as follows:

a. General users: speakers of the source language vs. speakers of the target language (Yong & Peng, 2007):

Bilingual dictionaries compilers have at least two general types of users to cater for and many more if these two types are subdivided. They will have to decide whether their dictionary is designed for speakers of the source language or for speakers of the target language, and for which subtype if the situation requires it to be differentiated. Different intended user groups and subgroups will generate different types of relationships between compilers and users, which will in turn lead to different lexicographic choices and decisions in dictionary making.

b. Language learners: reference-oriented users vs. active learning users (Yong & Peng, 2007):

Bilingual dictionary users may be divided into reference-oriented users and active learning ones. For the reference-oriented user, bilingual dictionaries should shift their focus on to lexicographic information that meets the need for decoding text. For active-learning users, bilingual dictionaries should focus on the active use of language, thus concentrating more on their encoding function than on their decoding function. This basic distinction leads to essential differences in entry selection, lexical coverage and density, methods of defining words, information range, and so on. In entry selection, for example, an Arabic-English dictionary for active learners will mainly be concerned with the basic vocabulary stock of the source language, with neologisms, regionalisms and technical terms accounting for a small proportion of the wordlist. But an Arabic-English dictionary for reference-oriented users is likely to include a higher percentage of neologisms, regionalisms, technical terms, which are generally excluded from the vocabulary list of bilingual dictionaries for active learning.

Contextual dictionary
Word meaning can only be described accurately if the word is put into context.

Getting word meaning in context is a skill that is still in its infancy. Many roads will be tried. In current bilingual dictionaries, context has been very largely neglected or at best regarded as a sort of optional extra. In dictionaries of the future, contextualization and phraseology will come to take centre stage (Hanks, 2012). The best way to learn expressions containing prepositions in use is to see them in context, and then figure out the meaning for yourself. It seems that if users do this, they can get a clearer idea of the meaning, and a better understanding of how the prepositions are used, than they would by just memorizing a definition or a synonym. But figuring out a phrasal verb’s meaning by seeing just one example of its use can be difficult, so in this dictionary you are given a translation of the example sentences. To check a new preposition in use, start off by reading the expression with preposition, the explanation beside it, the example in English and the translation of the example in Arabic.
An expression with preposition
This means an expression that contains a preposition or more than a preposition. This expression may be one of the following:

- A prepositional phrase
- A collocation
- A phrasal verb
- An idiom
- A proverb

The choice of "expressions with preposition" is due to the fact that these expressions containing prepositions pose real problems for the users consulting bilingual dictionaries, especially English-Arabic ones. Moreover, available bilingual dictionaries (English-Arabic) do not provide much help for the users in getting the exact meaning of these expressions, as will be clarified by real examples from some current English-Arabic bilingual dictionaries. The verb 'get' will be taken as a case study.

Research Method
The study adopts a case study of the verb "get" in some current bilingual dictionaries (English-Arabic) in terms of describing and analyzing how it is presented when it combines with prepositions and how the reader can get the meaning. Then an applied part is proposed to show how expressions with preposition should be presented in bilingual dictionaries, particularly English-Arabic.

The problem
A problem arises when a user looks up an expression containing a preposition in a number of current English-Arabic bilingual dictionaries; these dictionaries are selected due to their comprehensiveness and wide use. The study is limited to the printed dictionaries. The verb "get" is taken as an example.

Analysis
Following is a description and an analysis of the verb "get" when it combines with prepositions in some current bilingual dictionaries (English-Arabic):


Some examples will be presented to show how this dictionary presents to a great extent many meanings out of context and does not cover all meanings under study.

For the expression "get off", this dictionary gives the entry as follows:


As a user, when you see the expression "get off" in a sentence and consult this dictionary for meaning, what do you get? A lot of meanings out of context and you are confused, which is which? Additionally, these meanings are not inclusive, as will be shown in the applied part of this study.
For the expression "get down", this dictionary gives the entry as follows:

ْنَزَلَ (من على ...)

When the user finds sentences containing this expression and consults this dictionary, he/she find himself/herself helpless, such as:

e.g. He was followed by a group of reporters trying to get down every word he said.

أحاط به مجموعة الصحفيين بدون كل كلمة يقولها.

e.g. I knew I'd feel better once I'd got some food down.

أدركت أنني سأشعر بتحسن إذا تناولت الطعام.

e.g. We need to get down to some serious talking.

علينا أن نشرع في شيء من الحديث الجاد.

In addition, the user cannot find the expression "get for", but it has many meanings for example:

e.g. I want you to get some information for me.

أريد منك أن تحصل على بعض المعلومات من أجلي.

e.g. You can get a decent PC for about £500 now.

يمكنك شراء حاسوب خاص مناسب بحوالي 500 دولار الآن.

e.g. He gets £4 an hour for stacking shelves.

يحصل على أربعة دولارات في الساعة مقابل رص البيضاعة على الأرفف (تستيف).

e.g. You should get a couple of hundred pounds for your old car.

يجب أن تحصل على بعض مئات الجنيهات مقابل سيارتك القديمة.

As for the expression "get in", the user find this dictionary gives this entry:

ْنَخَلَ. ْعَسَتْحَضَرَ. ْجَلَبَ. ْوَقَصَ.

These meanings are out of context and they are cover all meanings as follows:

e.g. What time does the bus get in?

متى يصل الأتوبيس؟

e.g. We didn't get in until late.

لا نصل إلى البيت إلا في وقت متأخر.

e.g. The Conservatives have promised to increase spending on health and education if they get in.
Contextual Bilingual Dictionaries: A Case Study of the Verb "Get"

Abu Al-Fadl

Some examples will be presented to show how this dictionary presents to a great extent many meanings out of context and does not cover all meanings under study.

With reference to the expression "get into", this dictionary gives the following entries:

1. دخل
   get into the way of …

2. ارتدى
   get into one's head that

Noticeably, they lack context and they are not inclusive, for example:

1. What time do we get into New York?
2. He first got into parliament in 1982.
3. She got into UCLA.


e.g. I applied to Bristol University, but I didn't get in.

 Came to University, but I didn't get in.

e.g. I must remember to get some food in for the weekend.

على تذكر شراء بعض الطعام لعبة آخر الأسبوع.

e.g. The whole village was involved with getting the harvest in.

شاركت القرية كلها في حزن الحصاد/ جمع الغلال/ جمع المحصول وتخزينه.


Some examples will be presented to show how this dictionary presents to a great extent many meanings out of context and does not cover all meanings under study.

With reference to the expression "get into", this dictionary gives the following entries:

1. دخل
   get into the way of …

2. ارتدى
   get into one's head that

Noticeably, they lack context and they are not inclusive, for example:

1. What time do we get into New York?
2. He first got into parliament in 1982.
3. She got into UCLA.


Some examples will be presented to show how this dictionary presents to a great extent many meanings out of context and does not cover all meanings under study.

With reference to the expression "get into", this dictionary gives the following entries:

1. دخل
   get into the way of …

2. ارتدى
   get into one's head that

Noticeably, they lack context and they are not inclusive, for example:

1. What time do we get into New York?
2. He first got into parliament in 1982.
3. She got into UCLA.


Some examples will be presented to show how this dictionary presents to a great extent many meanings out of context and does not cover all meanings under study.

With reference to the expression "get into", this dictionary gives the following entries:

1. دخل
   get into the way of …

2. ارتدى
   get into one's head that

Noticeably, they lack context and they are not inclusive, for example:

1. What time do we get into New York?
2. He first got into parliament in 1982.
3. She got into UCLA.


Some examples will be presented to show how this dictionary presents to a great extent many meanings out of context and does not cover all meanings under study.

With reference to the expression "get into", this dictionary gives the following entries:

1. دخل
   get into the way of …

2. ارتدى
   get into one's head that

Noticeably, they lack context and they are not inclusive, for example:

1. What time do we get into New York?
2. He first got into parliament in 1982.
3. She got into UCLA.


Some examples will be presented to show how this dictionary presents to a great extent many meanings out of context and does not cover all meanings under study.

With reference to the expression "get into", this dictionary gives the following entries:

1. دخل
   get into the way of …

2. ارتدى
   get into one's head that

Noticeably, they lack context and they are not inclusive, for example:

1. What time do we get into New York?
2. He first got into parliament in 1982.
3. She got into UCLA.


Some examples will be presented to show how this dictionary presents to a great extent many meanings out of context and does not cover all meanings under study.

With reference to the expression "get into", this dictionary gives the following entries:

1. دخل
   get into the way of …

2. ارتدى
   get into one's head that

Noticeably, they lack context and they are not inclusive, for example:

1. What time do we get into New York?
2. He first got into parliament in 1982.
3. She got into UCLA.


Some examples will be presented to show how this dictionary presents to a great extent many meanings out of context and does not cover all meanings under study.

With reference to the expression "get into", this dictionary gives the following entries:

1. دخل
   get into the way of …

2. ارتدى
   get into one's head that

Noticeably, they lack context and they are not inclusive, for example:

1. What time do we get into New York?
2. He first got into parliament in 1982.
3. She got into UCLA.


Some examples will be presented to show how this dictionary presents to a great extent many meanings out of context and does not cover all meanings under study.

With reference to the expression "get into", this dictionary gives the following entries:

1. دخل
   get into the way of …

2. ارتدى
   get into one's head that

Noticeably, they lack context and they are not inclusive, for example:

1. What time do we get into New York?
2. He first got into parliament in 1982.
3. She got into UCLA.


Some examples will be presented to show how this dictionary presents to a great extent many meanings out of context and does not cover all meanings under study.

With reference to the expression "get into", this dictionary gives the following entries:

1. دخل
   get into the way of …

2. ارتدى
   get into one's head that

Noticeably, they lack context and they are not inclusive, for example:

1. What time do we get into New York?
2. He first got into parliament in 1982.
3. She got into UCLA.


Some examples will be presented to show how this dictionary presents to a great extent many meanings out of context and does not cover all meanings under study.

With reference to the expression "get into", this dictionary gives the following entries:

1. دخل
   get into the way of …

2. ارتدى
   get into one's head that

Noticeably, they lack context and they are not inclusive, for example:

1. What time do we get into New York?
2. He first got into parliament in 1982.
3. She got into UCLA.


Some examples will be presented to show how this dictionary presents to a great extent many meanings out of context and does not cover all meanings under study.

With reference to the expression "get into", this dictionary gives the following entries:

1. دخل
   get into the way of …

2. ارتدى
   get into one's head that

Noticeably, they lack context and they are not inclusive, for example:

1. What time do we get into New York?
2. He first got into parliament in 1982.
3. She got into UCLA.
e.g. How did you first get into script writing?

كيف بدأت الاهتمام بكتابة السيناريو؟

e.g. I first got into jazz when I was at college.

بدأ اهتمامي بموسيقى الجاز حين كنت بالجامعة.

e.g. I don't know how she managed to get into those trousers.

لا أدرى كيف تمكنت من ارتداء هذا البنطلون.

Regarding the expression "get to", it presents the following entries:

1. أدرك، وصل إلى
2. وصل إلى محل عمله
   get to work
   ب. شرع يعمل

They are out of context as well as not inclusive. The following contextual examples show:

e.g. We got to Paris that evening.

وصلنا مدينة باريس ذلك المساء.

e.g. It's getting to be a problem.

أصبحت مشكلة.

e.g. I couldn't get the engine to start.

لم أستطيع تشغيل المحرك/ الآلة.

e.g. I have to get this pizza home to my parents before it gets cold.

وجب أن أوصلي هذه البيتزا إلى والدي باليت قبل أن تبرد.

e.g. The remark got home to her.

أصاب التنويه معها./ وقعت الملحوظة موقفها في نفسها.

e.g. I'll get Saleh to check the wiring for me.

سأفتح صالح بремحاجة الكتابة لي.

e.g. We got to meet all the stars after the show.

أتيحتنا فرصة مقابلة النجوم بعد العرض.

Some examples will be presented to show how this dictionary presents to a great extent many meanings out of context and does not cover all meanings under study.
With regard to the expression "get through", it provides the following entry:

أنتهى؛ استنفد؛ نجح – في امتحان؛ اتصل هاتفياً

These meanings are out of context and they do not provide all meanings of the expression "get through" as follows:

e.g. We got through half the application forms this morning.

أنجزنا/ انتهينا من نصف استمارات التقدم/ نماذج الطلب هذا الصباح

e.g. You wouldn't believe the amount of food children can get through in a week!

إن تصدق كمية الطعام التي يستهلكها الأطفال في أسبوع!

e.g. He can get through £100 in one evening.

ينفق 100 دولار في أمسية واحدة.

e.g. I don't know how we're going to get through the winter.

لا أدري كيف سننجز الشتاء.

e.g. It was their love that got me through those first difficult months.

ساعدني حبهم على اجتياز تلك الشهور العصيبة الأولى.

e.g. I finally managed to get through my driving test.

في النهاية وقفت إلى النجاح في اختبار القيادة.

e.g. Aid agencies have been unable to get through to the thousands of refugees stranded on the border.

لم تتمكن وكالات الهجرة من الوصول إلى آلاف اللاجئين الذين تقطعت بهم السباب على الحدود.

e.g. I tried phoning her office, but I couldn't get through.

حاولت الاتصال مكتبتها بال teléfono، إلا أنني لم أنجح في ذلك.

e.g. Once again we failed to get the Bill through Parliament.

مرة أخرى أخفقتنا في جعل مشروع القانون يجوز البرلمان.

Regarding the expression "get up", it presents the following entries:

قام - ظهر - وقف - جهر - نظم; علم - اكتسب معرفة; أنتج (طريقة معينة); إرتدى زيًا; تهدأ.
These meanings are out of context and they do not provide all meanings of the expression "get up" as follows:

e.g. We didn't get up until lunch time.

لم ننهض من الفراش حتى وقت الغداء.

e.g. He got up and walked over to the window.

قام على قدميه وذهب إلى النافذة.

e.g. The wind got up at noon.

هيّت الريح في منتصف النهار.

e.g. How long will it take to get up the mountain?

كم المدة يسغّرق صعود الجبل؟

e.g. The child got up against his father to stay warm.

اقترب الطفل من أبيه بشدة حتى يشعر بالدفء.

e.g. She got herself up in a bizarre outfit.

لبست ليستًا مستغربًا.

e.g. He got up an entertainment for Christmas.

أقام حفلة ترفيهية بمناسبة عيد الميلاد.

e.g. I must get up my history.

وجب أن أحسن مستوى في التاريخ.


Some examples will be presented to show how this dictionary presents to a great extent many meanings out of context and does not cover all meanings under study.

As for the expression "get out", it provides the following entry:

(1) يستخرج (2) بخرج، يفر (3) يلعع عن

These meanings are out of context and they do not provide all meanings of the expression "get out" as follows:

- You ought to get out into the fresh air.

عليك أن تخرج لتنعم بالهواء النقي.

- Some of the animals had got out.

هرب/ أفلت بعض الحيوانات.

- It's important to get these people out as soon as possible.
Some examples will be presented to show how this dictionary presents to a great extent many meanings out of context and does not cover all meanings under study.

As for the expression "get back", it provides the following entry:

- She got **out** her violin and started to play.
- We have to make absolutely certain that none of this gets **out**.
- We're hoping to get the new catalogue **out** next week.
- I wanted to tell him I loved him, but couldn't get the words **out**.
- See if you can get **out of** that meeting tomorrow.
- I wanted to get **out of** teaching.

**Al-Shamel: An English-Arabic Dictionary (2006)**

Some examples will be presented to show how this dictionary presents to a great extent many meanings out of context and does not cover all meanings under study.

As for the expression "get **back**", it provides the following entry:

- I'll talk to you when I get **back**.
- He'll probably go out with her just to get **back** at me.
- Have you ever thought about getting **back into** teaching?
- I'll get my own **back on** her one day.
- He got **back to** the office just before lunchtime.

Examples:

- She got **out** her violin and started to play.
- We have to make absolutely certain that none of this gets **out**.
- We're hoping to get the new catalogue **out** next week.
- I wanted to tell him I loved him, but couldn't get the words **out**.
- See if you can get **out of** that meeting tomorrow.
- I wanted to get **out of** teaching.

**Al-Shamel: An English-Arabic Dictionary (2006)**

Some examples will be presented to show how this dictionary presents to a great extent many meanings out of context and does not cover all meanings under study.

As for the expression "get **back**", it provides the following entry:

- I'll talk to you when I get **back**.
- He'll probably go out with her just to get **back** at me.
- Have you ever thought about getting **back into** teaching?
- I'll get my own **back on** her one day.
- He got **back to** the office just before lunchtime.

**Al-Shamel: An English-Arabic Dictionary (2006)**

Some examples will be presented to show how this dictionary presents to a great extent many meanings out of context and does not cover all meanings under study.

As for the expression "get **back**", it provides the following entry:

- I'll talk to you when I get **back**.
- He'll probably go out with her just to get **back** at me.
- Have you ever thought about getting **back into** teaching?
- I'll get my own **back on** her one day.
- He got **back to** the office just before lunchtime.

**Al-Shamel: An English-Arabic Dictionary (2006)**

Some examples will be presented to show how this dictionary presents to a great extent many meanings out of context and does not cover all meanings under study.

As for the expression "get **back**", it provides the following entry:

- I'll talk to you when I get **back**.
- He'll probably go out with her just to get **back** at me.
- Have you ever thought about getting **back into** teaching?
- I'll get my own **back on** her one day.
- He got **back to** the office just before lunchtime.

**Al-Shamel: An English-Arabic Dictionary (2006)**

Some examples will be presented to show how this dictionary presents to a great extent many meanings out of context and does not cover all meanings under study.

As for the expression "get **back**", it provides the following entry:

- I'll talk to you when I get **back**.
- He'll probably go out with her just to get **back** at me.
- Have you ever thought about getting **back into** teaching?
- I'll get my own **back on** her one day.
- He got **back to** the office just before lunchtime.
Contextual Bilingual Dictionaries: A Case Study of the Verb "Get"  

Abu Al-Fadl

The applied part: The verb "get" (due to the limitation of 7000 words for this paper)

The entry: "Get"

The need for this dictionary:

- News words are added every now and again.
- New meanings are added
- New usages are invented
- The dictionary is organized in a new way:
  - each meaning has a new entry
  - each structure has a new entry
- Meaning is understood via context
- More than one meaning of the same entry or structure is sometimes added
- The type of each entry is added, e.g. verb (v.).
- The kind of object is added, e.g. sb or sth
- Translation of the contexts in Arabic is added

Characteristics of this dictionary

- Bilingual
- Language pair: English-Arabic
- Type: general in its entries, but it is specific in terms of expressions with preposition
- Presentation: it is arranged alphabetically
- Directionality: monodirectional
- Users: speakers of the target language; reference-oriented users; active learning users

Key to Abbreviations
Long form | Short form
---|---
adjective | Adj.
American English | AmE
Australian English | AustE
British English | BrE
conjunction | conj.
preposition | prep.
somebody | sb
something | sth
verb | v.

↔: this symbol means that the object may come before or after the preposition

- **get about** (to go or travel to different places)
  - She's eighty now, and doesn't get *about* much any more.
  لا تزال السيدة العجوز قادرة على التحالن من غير مساعدة.
  - The old lady is still able to get *about*.
  لا تزال السيدة العجوز قادرة على التحالن من غير مساعدة.

- **get about** (if news or information gets about, it is told to a lot of people)
  - I don't really want this to get *about*.
  لا أريد لهذا الأمر أن ينتشر فعلاً.
  - The news soon got *about*.
  المأجور أذاع أن ذاع في كل مكان.

- **get above oneself**
  - He got *above* himself.
  شبب عن الطوق. / عاش طموحه. / أسرف في حسن التظن نفسه.

- **get/ have/ keep one's head above water** (literal, to get one's head above the surface of the water while swimming)
  - He finally got his head *above* water and was able to get a good breath.
  في النهاية رفع رأسه فوق مستوى سطح الماء وتمكن من أخذ نفس عميق.

- **get/ have one's head above water** (figurative, to manage to get oneself caught up with one's work or responsibilities)
  - I can't seem to get my head *above* water. Work just keeps piling up.
  لا أستطيع إنجاز الأعمال، فهي تتراكم على.
• **get sth ↔ across**
  - It took him ages to get his point across.
  - We must get across the simple fact that drugs are dangerous.
  - The message isn't getting across.

• **get across to**
  - It is to get at the truth.
  - We spent a long time trying to get at the answer.
  - I can't understand what you're trying to get at.

• **get at sb (informal, to use threats to influence the decision of people who are involved in a court case)**
  - Do you think some of the jury have been got at?
  - It is important that we get this message across to voters.

• **get ahead (in/of sth) (to advance in one's employment, school, or life in general)**
  - She soon found that it wasn't easy to get ahead in the movie business.
  - "We cannot get ahead of the Arabs," said one Western diplomat.
  - I work hard every day, but I can't seem to get ahead in my job.

• **get along (with)**
  - We've always got along quite well.
  - They seem to get along with each other.

• **get along (to deal with a job or situation or to make progress)**
  - How's Omar getting along at university?
  - How is your father getting along? Is he any better?
get along without
- Don't worry, we'll get along without you.

get along famously (if people get along famously, they have an exceedingly good relationship)
- I really enjoyed meeting your brother. We got along famously.

get among
- The government would be made up of members of the parties who could get among themselves a two-thirds majority in the assembly.

get around (sth) (to go or travel to different places)
- We had to use public transport to get around.

get around (sth) (if news or information gets around, it is told to a lot of people)
- News of the accident soon got around.

get around sth
- I think we should be able to get around most of these problems.

get around to sth
- I meant to phone her yesterday, but I never got around to it.

get around to doing sth
- We finally got around to clearing out the garage.

get one's head around sth/ get one's mind around sth/ wrap one's mind around sth
(informal, if you get your head around sth, you come to understand it even though it is difficult to comprehend, usually negative)
- He's tried to explain the rules of the game dozens of times but I just can't get my head around them.

كيف حال والدك؟ هل هو على ما يرام؟

- لا تقلق/ أطمئن، لن نحتاجك معنا في هذه المهمة.

- استمتعت فعلاً بقاء أختك، فقد توقعت بيننا علاقة جماعية.

- ستكون الحكومة من أعضاء من الأحزاب الذين يمكِّنهم تشكيل أغلبية من بينهم تمثل ثلثي البرلمان.

- من السهل جداً التنقل في مدينة لندن.

- ما لبث خبر الحادث أن انتشر/ ذاع ذاع خبر احتمال إغلاق الإدارة/ القسم/ المصلحة.

- أرى أننا نتعين علينا التغلب على أغلب هذه المشكلات.

- حاولت الاتصال بها بالโทรศون أمس، ولكني لم أتمكن من ذلك.

- تمكننا أخيراً من إزالة القماش.
• **get at** sb/sth (to keep criticizing sb in an unkind way)
  - Why is he always getting at me?
  - لماذا ينتال مني دائمًا?

  - He felt he was being got at by the other students.
  - شعر بأن الطلاب الآخرين يضربون منه.

• **get at** sth (to be able to reach sth)
  - We had to move the washing machine out to get at the wiring behind it.
  - اضطررنا إلى تحريك الغسالة من مكانها حتى نصل إلى شبكة الأسلاك خلفها.

  - He felt he was being got at by the other students.
  - شعر بأن الطلاب الآخرين يضربون منه.

• **get at** sth (to discover information, especially the truth about a situation)
  - I was determined
  - هل تظن أن بعض هيئة المحلفين حصلوا على رشوة؟

  - He had been got at by government officials.
  - رشح بعض المسئولين الحكوميين.

• **get-at-able** (adj., slang, accessible)
  - a very getatable man
  - رجل سهل المورد/سهل المنال

• **get alarmed by/at** sth (worried or frightened)
  - Environmentalists get alarmed by the increase in pollution.
  - يزعج خدوء علوم البيئة من زيادة التلوث.

• **getaway** (n., an escape or quick departure, especially after committing a crime)
  - The thugs made their getaway.
  - لاذ المجرمون (البلطية) بالفرار.

• **getaway** (n., informal, a vacation)
  - a perfect family getaway
  - إجازة عائلية ممتازة

• **getaway** (n., the destination or accommodations for a vacation)
  - a popular island getaway
  - وجهة السفر في جزيرة مشهورة/شكن الإجازة في جزيرة معروفة

• **get away** (from) (to leave a place, especially when this is not easy)
  - The meeting dragged on, and I didn't get away until seven.
  - طال الاجتماع، ولم أنصرف منه حتى السابعة.

  - I like to get away from London at the weekend.
  - أحب الخروج بعيدًا عن مدينة لندن في عطلة آخر الأسبوع.

• **get away** (informal, to take a holiday away from the place you normally live)
  - Will you manage to get away this summer?
  - هل ستتمكن من القيام بإجازة خارجية هذا الصيف؟
- **get away**! (BrE, spoken, used to say you are very surprised by sth or do not believe it)
  - ‘These tickets didn't cost me a thing.’
  - ‘Get away!’

  "لم تكنَُ هذه التذكَّر أي شيء!"

  "غير مفقول!" وبالعربية: يا شيخ سيئتكم الكلام ده!/ اطلع من دول!

- **get away from** sb/sth (to avoid sth that is difficult or unpleasant for you, or sth that limits what you can do in some way)
  - I needed to get **away from** the pressures of work.

  كنت بحاجة إلى التخلص من ضغوط العمل.

  - There is no getting **away from** this fact.

  لا مناص من هذه الحقيقة.

- **get away from** sb/sth (to begin to talk about other things rather than the subject you are supposed to be discussing)
  - I think we're getting **away from** the main issue.

  في رأيي نحن نخرج عن القضية الرئيسة.

- **get away from** it all
  - You need to get **away from** it all for a couple of weeks.

  يتعين عليك القيام بإجازة تستغرق فيها لبضع أسابيع.

- **get away** (from)/(with) (to escape from sb who is chasing you or trying to catch you)
  - The three men got **away** in a stolen car.

  هرب الأشخاص الثلاثة في سيارة مسروقة.

  - We knew it wouldn't be easy to get **away from** the police.

  أدركتا أنه من الصعب الفرار/ الهرب من الشرطة.

  - The thieves got **away with** jewellery worth over £50,000.

  هرب اللصوص بجوهرت تزيد قيمتهم على 50.000 دولار.

- **Get away scot-free/ Get off scot-free** (If sb gets away scot-free, they are not punished when they have done something wrong)
  - If you don't take out a complaint against him he'll get off scot-free!

  إذا لم تشكَّك سيفلت من العقاب.

- **get away to**
  - We're hoping to get **away to** Scotland for a few days.

  نأمل في القيام بإجازة إلى اسكتلندا لبضع الأيام.

- **get away with** sth (to not be caught or punished when you have done sth wrong)
  - Watch Bassem - he'll cheat if he thinks he can get **away with** it.

  انتبه يا باسم – سيغش إذا ظن أنَّه يمكنه الإفلات من العقاب.

  - No one insults my family and gets **away with** it!

  لا يهين أحد عائلتي ويفلت من العقاب!
• **get away with** sth (to receive only a small punishment for sth)
  - The charge was reduced to manslaughter, and she got away with three years in prison.

• **get away with** sth (to do sth without experiencing any problems or difficulties, even though it is not the best thing to do)
  - At school he had always got away with doing the bare minimum amount of work.

• **get away with (blue) murder** *(informal, to not be punished for doing sth wrong)*
  - Some of those children get away with murder!

• **get carried away** *(figurative, to be overcome by emotion or enthusiasm, in one's thinking or actions)*
  - Calm down, Jane. Don't get carried away.

• **get back**
  - I'll talk to you when I get back.

• **get back at sb**
  - He'll probably go out with her just to get back at me.

• **get back into**
  - Have you ever thought about getting back into teaching?

• **get your own back (on sb)** *(BrE, informal, to do sth unpleasant to sb because they have done sth unpleasant to you)*
  - I'll get my own back on her one day.

• **get back on the horse that bucked you** *(American proverb, when you start drinking again after being hungover from drinking the previous night.)*
  - There comes a time when you feel like you’re ready to get back on the horse that bucked you.

• **get back to**
  - He got back to the office just before lunchtime.

  - Let's get back to the main point of the discussion.
Well, I must get back to work.

Life was beginning to get back to normal.

I couldn't get back to sleep.

Do you think they'll get back together?

Did you get your books back?

I'll get you back for this!

I didn't catch to get my bait back.

He got his breath back again.

I don't want to get behind with my work.

You can always catch up later if you get behind.

The crowd really got behind them and cheered them on.
- get/go beyond a joke (if a situation gets beyond a joke, it becomes extremely serious and worrying)
- He's drunk more nights than he's sober these days – this has got beyond a joke.

- get by
- I don't earn a huge salary, but we get by.

- get by on
- Sometimes they had to get by on very little.

- get aroused by (to feel excited)
- His jealousy got aroused by their behaviour.

- get sb down
- His lack of social life was beginning to get him down.

- get sth ↔ down
- He was followed by a group of reporters trying to get down every word he said.

- get sth down (sb) (to eat or drink sth, or persuade sb else to eat or drink sth)
- I knew I'd feel better once I'd got some food down.

- get down (BrE, to leave the table after a meal - used by children or when you are talking to children)
- Please may I get down?

- get down to sth
- It's time we got down to work.

- We need to get down to some serious talking.
get down/ come to brass tacks - get down to bedrock – get down to the nitty gritty (slang) - get down to cases (figurative, to begin to talk about important things things; to get down to business)

- Let's get down to brass tacks. We've wasted too much time chatting.

- We really need to get down to bedrock.

- He has a way of getting down to the nitty gritty.

- Let's get down to cases.

- get down to business
  - If the introductions are over I'd like to get down to business.

- get down to doing sth
  - I always find it hard to get down to revising.

- get one's head down (BrE, informal, to direct all your efforts into the particular task you are involved in)
  - I'm going to get my head down and try and finish this report before I go home today.

- get/be even (with sb) (informal)
  - I'll get even with you for this.

- get sth for sb (v.)
  - I want you to get some information for me.

- Let's get down to brass tacks. We've wasted too much time chatting.

- We really need to get down to bedrock.

- He has a way of getting down to the nitty gritty.

- Let's get down to cases.

- get down to doing sth
  - I always find it hard to get down to revising.

- get one's head down (BrE, informal, to direct all your efforts into the particular task you are involved in)
  - I'm going to get my head down and try and finish this report before I go home today.

- get/be even (with sb) (informal)
  - I'll get even with you for this.

- get sth for sb (v.)
  - I want you to get some information for me.

- We really need to get down to bedrock.

- He has a way of getting down to the nitty gritty.

- Let's get down to cases.

- get down to doing sth
  - I always find it hard to get down to revising.

- get one's head down (BrE, informal, to direct all your efforts into the particular task you are involved in)
  - I'm going to get my head down and try and finish this report before I go home today.

- get/be even (with sb) (informal)
  - I'll get even with you for this.

- get sth for sb (v.)
  - I want you to get some information for me.

- We really need to get down to bedrock.

- He has a way of getting down to the nitty gritty.

- Let's get down to cases.
Mohamed's going to get tickets for all of us.

- get sth for $20/£100/50p etc (v.)
- You can get a decent PC for about £500 now.

Conclusion

Based on the previous description, analysis and discussion, some points could be reached:

- Having reviewed many English-Arabic dictionaries, it appeared that they are lacking in many prepositional entries.
- Expressions with prepositions needs more attention.
- "Context" plays a great role in getting the meaning of the expressions with prepositions
- It is useless to write the meanings of the entry without adding any context
- There is a continuous need to update current bilingual dictionaries, particularly English-Arabic.
- It is hoped that in this way learners of English will find meanings of prepositions easy to understand and remember.
- The compilation of a comprehensive contextual bilingual dictionary (English-Arabic) is a project that should be carried out by a team of experts.

About the Author:

Dr Mogahed Mohamed Fathi Abu Al-Fadl is an assistant professor of EFL/ESL curriculum, instruction and translation, working at Qassim Private Colleges, Department of English; he published many articles, studies, books, particularly "A Primer on Legal Translation", "Translation: Theories, Models & Key Terms".

References


