

## Verb *to give*

The verb *to give* is one of those verbs in English which collocates with a great number of nouns and in those collocations it takes on different meanings. The meaning of this verb is most commonly connected with the physical activity of providing something, performing something or communicating something. For example,

- ❖ Has the director *given* you *permission* to sign that?
- ❖ *Give* me *a call* when you get back from holiday.
- ❖ The mayor *will give* *a press conference* after the meeting.

In some cases the expressions in which *to give* is followed by a noun can be substituted by a single verb. The collocations with *to give* are usually considered to be more formal than single verbs.

to give someone a call	=	to call
to give someone a permission	=	to permit
to give someone an answer	=	to answer
to give someone help	=	to help
to give priority to something	=	to prioritise
to give someone a push	=	to push
to give some thought about something	=	to think
to give a welcome to someone	=	to welcome
to give someone a shock	=	to shock
to give something a polish	=	to polish
to give a speech	=	to speak
to give a performance	=	to perform

A Rewrite the following sentences using single verbs instead of the collocations with the verb *to give* in italics.

1. I'll just *give my shoes a quick polish*.
2. The Mayor *gave a welcome* to delegates attending the exhibition.
3. When you create your profile, try to add as much information as possible and *give some thought about* the information you choose to add.
4. Jane took her bag and *gave him a push* towards the door.
5. My parents *gave me some help* with my bank loan.

*Key: 1. quickly polish my shoes, 2. welcomed, 3. think about, 4. pushed him, 5. helped me*

B Complete the sentences with one of the following words: *a piece of advice, a short laugh, evidence, top priority, a warm welcome, a sharp twist, for your car, your honest opinion, a sigh of pleasure, a shrug of her shoulders*.

1. She was called to give \_\_\_\_\_ at the trial because she was a witness of the accident.
2. I think the government should give \_\_\_\_\_ to this project.
3. Let me give you \_\_\_\_\_ on loans!
4. We gave \_\_\_\_\_ when they approved our proposal.
5. They always give us \_\_\_\_\_ when we visit them.
6. The president just gave \_\_\_\_\_ when he realised his mistake.

7. The door won't open unless you give the handle \_\_\_\_\_.
8. When I asked Jen about her plans for Christmas, she gave \_\_\_\_\_.
9. How much did the dealer give you \_\_\_\_\_?
10. Could you give me \_\_\_\_\_ of the script?

*Key: 1. evidence, 2. top priority, 3. a piece of advice, 4. a sigh of pleasure, 5. a warm welcome, 6. a short laugh, 7. a sharp twist, 8. a shrug of her shoulders, 9. for your car, 10. your honest opinion*

C There is a number of idiomatic expressions containing the verb *to give*. Complete the sentences with one of the following expressions: *given half a chance, will give it to me, to give and take, give or take, gave rise to, was given to understand, don't give a damn, gave as good as he got, give me, will give your best*.

1. The CEO's rambling speech \_\_\_\_\_ rumours in the company.
2. The meeting will last about an hour, \_\_\_\_\_ a few minutes.
3. I \_\_\_\_\_ that the president would not come to the meeting of the Assembly.
4. The editor \_\_\_\_\_ if I miss the deadline for the article.
5. If the dispute is to be resolved, both parties will need \_\_\_\_\_.
6. I don't like modern writers at all: \_\_\_\_\_ Shakespeare any time!
7. I really \_\_\_\_\_ whether I pass the test or not.
8. Cameron \_\_\_\_\_, attacking Labour as the "party of unlimited benefits".
9. If you really want something, you \_\_\_\_\_ to achieve it.
10. I think we can really do it, \_\_\_\_\_.

*Key: 1. gave rise to, 2. give or take, 3. was given to understand, 4. will give it to me, 5. to give and take, 6. give me, 7. don't give a damn, 8. gave as good as he got, 9. will give your best, 10. given half a chance*