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## go<sup>1</sup>(go)

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**Pronunciation:** /gō /

*verb* (**goes, going**; past **went** /went/; past participle **gone** /gôn, gän/)

**1** [no object] move from one place or point to another; travel:

he **went out** to the store

she longs to **go back** home

we've got a long way to go

travel a specified distance:

you just have to go a few miles to get to the road

travel or move in order to engage in a specified activity or course of action:

let's **go and** have a beer

[with infinitive] :

we **went to** see her

[with present participle] :

she used to go hunting

(**go to**) attend or visit for a particular purpose:

we went to the movies

he went to Brown University

[in imperative] begin motion (used in a starter's order to begin a race):

ready, set, go!

(**go to**) (of a rank or honor) be allotted or awarded:

the top prize went to a twenty-four-year-old sculptor

(**go into/to/toward**) (of a thing) contribute to or be put into (a whole); be used for or devoted to:

considerable effort went into making the operation successful

pass a specified amount of time in a particular way or under particular circumstances:

sometimes they **went for** two months without talking

used to indicate how many people a supply of food, money, or another resource is sufficient for or how much can be achieved using it:

the sale will **go a long way toward** easing the huge debt burden

a little luck can **go a long way**

(of a thing) lie or extend in a certain direction:

the scar started just above her ankle and went all the way up inside her leg

change in level, amount, or rank in a specified direction:

prices **went up** by 15 percent

*informal* used to emphasize the speaker's annoyance at a specified action or event:

then he **goes** and spoils it all

[with present participle] :

don't go poking your nose where you shouldn't

*informal* said in various expressions when angrily or contemptuously dismissing someone:

**go and** *get stuffed*

**2** [*no object*] leave; depart:

*I really must go*

(of time ) pass or elapse:

*the hours **went by***

*three years **went past***

come to an end; cease to exist:

*a golden age that has now gone for good*

*11,500 jobs are due to go by next year*

leave or resign from a post:

*I tried to persuade the Chancellor not to go*

be lost or stolen:

*when he returned minutes later, his equipment was gone*

die (used euphemistically):

*I'd like to see my grandchildren before I go*

(of money) be spent, especially in a specified way:

*the rest of his money **went into** medical expenses*

**3** (**be going to be/do something**) intend or be likely or intended to be or do something; be about to (used to express a future tense):

*I'm going to be late for work*

*she's going to have a baby*

**4** [*no object*] pass into a specified state, especially an undesirable one:

*the food is going bad*

*her mind immediately went blank*

*he's gone crazy*

(**go to/into**) enter into a specified state, institution, or course of action:

*she turned over and went back to sleep*

*the car went into a spin*

*no one went hungry in our house*

make a sound of a specified kind:

*the engine went bang*

(of a bell or similar device) make a sound in functioning:

*I heard the buzzer go four times*

[*with direct speech*] *informal* say:

*the kids go, "Yeah, sure."*

(**go by/under**) be known or called by (a specified name):

*he now goes under the name Charles Perez*

**5** [*no object*] proceed in a specified way or have a specified outcome; turn out:

*how did the weekend go?*

*it all **went off** smoothly*

be successful, especially in being enjoyable or exciting:

*the hosts had to struggle to make things go*

be acceptable or permitted:

*underground events where **anything goes***

(of a song, account, verse, etc.) have a specified content or wording:

*if you haven't heard it, the story goes like this*

**6** [no object] be harmonious, complementary, or matching:

*rosemary **goes with** roast lamb*

*the earrings and the scarf don't really go*

be found in the same place or situation; be associated:

*cooking and eating **go together***

**7** [no object] (of a machine or device) function:

*my car won't go*

continue in operation or existence:

*the committee was **kept going** even when its existence could no longer be justified*

**8** [no object] (of an article) be regularly kept or put in a particular place:

*remember which card goes in which slot*

fit or be able to be accommodated in a particular place or space:

*you're trying to fit a round peg into a square hole, and it just won't go*

**9** [no object] *informal* use a toilet; urinate or defecate.

*You may notice that you need to pass water more often; have very little warning before you need to go, and sometimes do not reach the lavatory in time.*

**noun (plural *goes*)**

*informal*

**1** an attempt or trial at something:

*I thought I'd **give it a go***

*chiefly British* a state of affairs:

*this seems a rum sort of go*

*chiefly British* an attack of illness:

*he's had this nasty go of dysentery*

a project or undertaking that has been approved:

*tell them the project is a go*

*chiefly British* used in reference to a single item, action, or spell of activity:

*he put it to his lips then knocked it back in one go*

**2** *dated* spirit, animation, or energy:

*there's no go in me at all these days*

vigorous activity:

*it's **all go** around here*

**adjective**

[predic.] *informal*

functioning properly:

*all systems go*

### Phrases

**as (or so) far as it goes**

bearing in mind its limitations (said when qualifying praise of something):

*the book is a useful catalog as far as it goes*

**as — go**

compared to the average or typical one of the specified kind:

*as castles go, it is small and old*

**from the word go**

*informal* from the very beginning.

*It really is best to get the facts straight from the word go.*

**go figure!**

*informal* said to express the speaker's belief that something is amazing or incredible.

*Well, all the good looking women were sitting with the physicists' table (go figure!) so I had to settle for sitting next to Steve Case.*

**go great guns**

see GUN.

**go halves**

share something equally.

*The asking price was IR £40,000, but we were strapped and couldn't afford it and neither could the other couple, so we decided to go halves, taking an acre apiece.*

**going! (, going!) gone!**

an auctioneer's announcement that bidding is closing or closed.

*Going, going, gone will be heard all tomorrow as the hammer comes down at Debenham's on Manningham Lane, Bradford.*

**going on — (British also going on for —)**

approaching a specified time, age, or amount:

*I was going on fourteen when I went to my first gig*

**go (to) it**

*British informal* act in a vigorous, energetic, or dissipated way:

*Go it, Dad! Give him what for!*

**go it alone**

see ALONE.

**go to show (or prove)**

(of an occurrence) serve as evidence or proof of something specified.

*Evidently none of the guys who ended up there are terribly happy with their new positions either, so it just goes to prove that it's not just me, but the whole situation...*

**have a go at**

**1** make an attempt at; try:

*let me have a go at straightening the rim*

**2** chiefly *British* attack or criticize (someone):

*she's always having a go at me*

**have — going for one**

*informal* used to indicate how much someone has in their favor or to their advantage:

*Why did she do it? She had so much going for her*

**make a go of**

*informal* be successful in (something):

*he's determined to make a go of his marriage*

### **on the go**

*informal* very active or busy:

*he's been on the go all evening*

### **to go**

(of food or drink from a restaurant or cafe) to be eaten or drunk off the premises:

*order one large cheese-and-peppers pizza, to go*

### **what goes around comes around**

*proverb* the consequences of one's actions will have to be dealt with eventually.

*And it's a powerful belief, offering both hope to the oppressed - suffering cannot last forever  
- and a warning to the oppressor - take care, what goes around comes around.*

### **who goes there?**

said by a sentry as a challenge.

*Three hundred metres further on Police Superintendent John Trott halted the marchers by  
standing in the roadway and calling 'who goes there?'*

### **Phrasal Verbs**

#### **go about**

**1** begin or carry on work at (an activity); busy oneself with:

*you are going about this in the wrong way*

**2** *Sailing* change to the opposite tack.

#### **go after**

pursue or hunt down (someone).

*You don't just go after medium-sized guys, you go after the big guys.*

#### **go against**

oppose or resist:

*he refused to go against the unions*

be contrary to (a feeling or principle):

*these tactics go against many of our instincts*

(of a judgment, decision, or result) be unfavorable for:

*the tribunal's decision went against them*

#### **go ahead**

proceed or be carried out without hesitation:

*the project will go ahead*

#### **go along with**

give one's consent or agreement to (a person or their views):

*the group has decided to go along with the committee's proposal*

#### **go around**

**1** (*chiefly British* **go round**) spin; revolve:

*the wheels were going around*

**2** (*chiefly British* **go round**) (especially of food) be sufficient to supply everybody present:

*there was barely enough food to go around*

(of an aircraft) abort an approach to landing and prepare to make a fresh approach.

#### **go around with**

be regularly in the company of:

*he goes around with some of the neighborhood kids*

### go at

energetically attack or tackle:

*he went at things with a daunting eagerness*

### go back

**1** (of a clock) be set to an earlier standard time, especially at the end of daylight saving time.

*By now even the most unobservant should have realised that British Summer Time is dead and that clocks have gone back one hour.*

**2** (of two people) have known each other for a specified, typically long, period of time:

*Victor and I go back longer than I care to admit*

### go back on

fail to keep (a promise):

*he wouldn't go back on his word*

### go down

**1** (of a ship or aircraft) sink or crash:

*he saw eleven B-17s go down*

be defeated in a contest:

*they went down 2-1*

**2** (of a person, period, or event) be recorded or remembered in a particular way:

*his name will now **go down in history***

**3** be swallowed:

*solids can sometimes go down much easier than liquids*

**4** (of a person, action, or work) elicit a specified reaction:

*my slide shows went down reasonably well*

**5** *informal* happen:

*you really don't know what's going down?*

**6** *British informal* leave a university, especially Oxford or Cambridge, after finishing one's studies:

*Dobbins went down last spring*

**7** *vulgar slang* have sexual intercourse (said by a male of a female).

### go down on

*vulgar slang* perform oral sex on.

### go down with

*British* begin to suffer from (a specified illness):

*I went down with an attack of bronchitis*

### go for

**1** decide on; choose:

*I wished that we had gone for plan B*

tend to find (a particular type of person) attractive:

*Dionne went for the outlaw type*

**2** attempt to gain or attain:

*he went for a job as a delivery driver*

**(go for it)** strive to the utmost to gain or achieve something (frequently said as an

exhortation):

*sounds like a good idea—go for it!*

**3** launch oneself at (someone); attack:

*she went for him with clawed hands*

**4** end up having a specified value or effect:

*my good intentions **went for nothing***

**5** apply to; have relevance for:

*the same goes for money-grubbing lawyers*

### go forward

(of a clock) be set to a later standard time, especially daylight saving time.

*Now the clocks have gone forward, we must move forward with them.*

### go in for

like or habitually take part in (something, especially an activity):

*I don't go in for partying as much as Jesse and Rachel do*

### go into

**1** take up in study or as an occupation:

*he went into bankruptcy law*

**2** investigate or inquire into (something):

*there's no need to go into it now*

**3** (of a whole number) be capable of dividing another, typically without a remainder:

*six will go into eighteen, but not into five*

### go off

**1** (of a gun, bomb, or similar device) explode or fire.

*It was believed that on three of the devices the detonators went off but the bomb failed to explode.*

(of an alarm) begin to sound.

*Already the air was filled with the blaring sounds of alarms going off, and a few armed guards ran off towards us as we broke out of the door.*

*informal* become suddenly angry; lose one's temper:

*if you got in an argument with him, he'd just go off*

**2** chiefly British (especially of food) begin to decompose; become unfit for consumption.

*Milk goes off more rapidly and can harbour pathogenic (food poisoning) bacteria.*

**3** *informal, chiefly British* begin to dislike:

*I went off men after my husband left me*

**4** go to sleep:

*I went off as soon as my head hit the pillow*

### go on

**1** [often with present participle] continue or persevere:

*I can't go on protecting you*

talk at great length, especially tediously or angrily:

*she **went on about** how lovely it would be to escape from the city*

continue speaking or doing something after a short pause:

[with direct speech] :

*"I don't understand," she went on*

*informal* said when encouraging someone or expressing disbelief:

*go on, tell him!*

**2** happen; take place:

*my mom knows what went on*

**3** [often with infinitive] proceed to do:

*she went on to do postgraduate work*

**go out**

**1** (of a fire or light) be extinguished.

*Tal saw the light from the fire go out, and decided that it would be wise to return to his own hut.*

cease operating or functioning:

*the power went out on our block last night*

**2** (of the tide) ebb; recede to low tide.

*Water subsided in some areas as the tide went out but the diversion signs were back up again at high tide on Thursday morning and Thursday evening.*

**3** leave one's home to go to an entertainment or social event, typically in the evening:

*I'm going out for dinner*

carry on a regular romantic, and sometimes sexual, relationship:

*he was **going out with** her best friend*

**4** used to convey someone's deep sympathy or similar feeling:

*the boy's heart went out to the pitiful figure*

**5** Golf play the first nine holes in a round of eighteen holes. Compare with COME HOME (see HOME).

*Faldo, playing with Ian Poulter, one of the next generation of English young guns, got off to a great start with birdies at the second and fourth holes to go out in 34.*

**6** (in some card games) be the first to dispose of all the cards in one's hand.

*The play ends when a player goes out, i.e. disposes of all the cards in hand.*

**go over**

**1** examine, consider, or check the details of (something):

*I want to go over these plans with you again*

**2** change one's allegiance or religion:

*he **went over to** the Democratic Party*

**3** (especially of an action or performance) be received in a specified way:

*his earnestness would go over well in a courtroom*

**go round**

*chiefly British* See GO AROUND.

**go through**

**1** undergo (a difficult or painful period or experience):

*the country is going through a period of economic instability*

**2** search through or examine carefully or in sequence:

*she started to go through the bundle of letters*

**3** (of a proposal or contract) be officially approved or completed:

*the sale of the building is set to go through*

**4** *informal* use up or spend (available money or other resources).

*Charlie had spent the entire morning shopping, and had already gone through the money Adam had given her.*

**5** (of a book) be successively published in (a specified number of editions):

*within two years it went through thirty-one editions*

### go through with

perform (an action or process) to completion despite difficulty or unwillingness:

*he bravely went through with the ceremony*

### go under

(of a business) become bankrupt.

*His dad couldn't get any money out of the country and the business went under.*

(of a person) die or suffer an emotional collapse.

*I would think it was a very tearful and desperate time for him and I think this has probably been the closest he has come to going under.*

### go up

**1** (of a building or other structure) be built:

*housing developments went up*

**2** explode or suddenly burst into flames:

*last night two factories **went up in flames***

**3** *British informal* begin one's studies at a university, especially Oxford or Cambridge.

*Well I think really it began to falter when I went up to Oxford University to study chemistry.*

### go with

**1** give one's consent or agreement to (a person or their views).

*The choice to go with the proposal seemed risky, so the NSNU board approved the first ad.*

**2** have a romantic or sexual relationship with (someone).

*I had been engaged to this girl for eight months and I had been going with her for a couple of years.*

### go without

suffer lack or deprivation:

*I like to give my children what they want, even if I have to go without*

### Origin:

Old English *gān*, of Germanic origin; related to Dutch *gaan* and German *gehen*; the form *went* was originally the past tense of WEND

### Usage

The use of **go** followed by **and**, as in *I must **go and** change*; (rather than *I must **go to** change*), is extremely common but is regarded by some grammarians as an oddity. For more details, see AND (USAGE) .



