

Answer Key

HAVE and HAVE GOT With Explanations

English Grammar in Use — Unit 17

January 31, 2026

How to Use This Answer Key

After attempting each exercise, check your answers here.

Pay special attention to the explanations — they clarify WHY each answer is correct, especially for auxiliary verb choices.

— EASY EXERCISES —

1 Exercise 1: HAVE or HAVE GOT — Rewrite

Answers

1. She has three children. → **She's got three children.**
2. We've got a big garden. → **We have a big garden.**
3. He's got a headache. → **He has a headache.**
4. I have an appointment tomorrow. → **I've got an appointment tomorrow.**
5. They've got two dogs and a cat. → **They have two dogs and a cat.**
6. Our house has a small garden. → **Our house has got a small garden.**
7. Have you got any questions? → **Do you have any questions?**
8. Does she have a car? → **Has she got a car?**
9. I haven't got any money. → **I don't have any money.**
10. We don't have enough time. → **We haven't got enough time.**

Key Point

For possession, relationships, and states, **have** and **have got** are interchangeable in meaning. The difference is:

- **Have** uses DO/DOES in questions and negatives
- **Have got** uses HAVE/HAS in questions and negatives

Both forms are equally correct in British and American English.

2 Exercise 2: Make Questions — DO or HAVE?

Answers

1. Yes, she has two sisters.
→ **Does she have two sisters?** OR **Has she got two sisters?**
2. No, I don't have any pets.
→ **Do you have any pets?** OR **Have you got any pets?**
3. Yes, they've got a swimming pool.
→ **Have they got a swimming pool?** OR **Do they have a swimming pool?**
4. No, he hasn't got a driving license.
→ **Has he got a driving license?** OR **Does he have a driving license?**
5. Yes, our flat has a balcony.
→ **Does your flat have a balcony?** OR **Has your flat got a balcony?**
6. No, I haven't got my passport with me.
→ **Have you got your passport with you?** OR **Do you have your passport with you?**

Tip for Learners

When you see **haven't/hasn't** in the answer → question uses **Have/Has ... got?**
 When you see **don't/doesn't** in the answer → question uses **Do/Does ... have?**
 But remember: both question forms are correct!

3 Exercise 3: HAVE for Actions — Complete the Sentences

Answers

1. What time do you usually **have** breakfast?
2. We **had** a great time at the party last night.
3. **Did** you **have** a good holiday?
4. I'm going to **have** a shower before dinner.
5. She **has** lunch with her colleagues every day.
6. They didn't **have** any problems finding the hotel.
7. We're **having** a party next Saturday. Would you like to come?
8. **Do** you usually **have** coffee in the morning?
9. I **had** a dream last night about flying.
10. Let's **have** a break. I'm tired.

Critical Distinction

When HAVE means an **action/experience** (have breakfast, have a shower, have fun):

- NEVER use “have got” — ~~I've got breakfast~~ ✓ *I have breakfast*
- Questions use DO/DOES/DID — ~~Have you a good time?~~ ✓ *Did you have a good time?*
- CAN use continuous forms — ✓ *We're having a wonderful time!*

4 Exercise 4: Past Tense — HAD

Answers

1. When I was young, I **had** long hair.
2. She **had** a beautiful dress at her wedding.
3. Did you **have** a car when you were living in Paris?
4. They **had** a big house before they moved to an apartment.
5. I didn't **have** time to go shopping yesterday.
6. **Did** Lisa **have** any brothers or sisters?
7. We **had** a wonderful holiday in Italy last summer.
8. He **had** a really bad cold last week.

Past Tense Rule

For past possession/states, use **had** — NOT “had got.”

Questions and negatives use **DID**: *Did you have...? / I didn't have...*

“Had got” only appears in **past perfect** (earlier past before another past).

Why We Avoid “Had Got” — A Detailed Look

The reason we don't say “I had got” very often is because “got” and “have got” are already acting as substitutes for other words.

When we move into the past tense, the language naturally simplifies. Here's the breakdown:

1. “Have got” is a Present Tense “Cheat”

In British English, we use “have got” to mean “possess” right now.

- **Present:** “I have a car” = “I have got a car.”
- **Logic:** Even though “got” looks like past participle, “have got” functions as present tense.

2. Past Tense is Simpler

We already have a perfectly good, short word: **had**. Adding “got” feels redundant.

- **Present:** “I've got a new job.” (Natural)
- **Past:** “I **had** a new job.” (Standard)
- **Past:** “I **had got** a new job.” (Clunky, unnecessary)

3. Confusion with “Obtaining”

“Get” has two meanings: **possess** and **obtain/become**. We save “had got” for obtaining actions.

Meaning	Present	Past
Possession	I've got a cold	I had a cold
Obtaining	I get coffee daily	I had got coffee before the meeting

4. Negatives and Questions

“Hadn't got” sounds old-fashioned to modern ears:

- **Natural:** “I **didn't have** any money.”
- **Rare/Clunky:** “I **hadn't got** any money.”

Summary: If talking about **owning** something in the past → use **had**. If talking about the **action of receiving** before another past event → use **had got/gotten**.

— MEDIUM EXERCISES —**5 Exercise 5: DO/DOES or HAVE/HAS? — Choose the Correct Auxiliary****Answers**

1. **Do** you have any brothers or sisters?
(*Also correct: Have you got...?*)
2. **Has** she got a new job?
(*Also correct: Does she have...?*)
3. **Do** they have breakfast together every morning?
(*Routine/habit → DO; this is “have breakfast” = action*)
4. **Have** you got time to help me?
(*Also correct: Do you have...?*)
5. How often **do** you have English classes?
(*“How often” = routine → DO required*)
6. **Has** your house got a garden?
(*Also correct: Does your house have...?*)
7. What time **does** he usually have lunch?
(*“Usually” = routine; “have lunch” = action → DOES required*)
8. **Have** you ever had problems with your computer?
(*Present perfect for experience up to now*)
9. **Does** Maria have a car, or does she take the bus?
(*Also correct: Has Maria got...?*)
10. **Have** you got your passport with you?
(*Also correct: Do you have...?*)

Auxiliary Verb Logic

Must use DO/DOES:

- Routines with “how often,” “usually,” “always” + have
- HAVE for actions (have breakfast, have a shower)

Can use HAVE/HAS or DO/DOES:

- Present possession (Have you got...? = Do you have...?)

Must use HAVE/HAS:

- Present perfect (Have you ever had...?)

6 Exercise 6: DID or HAD? — Past Tense Distinctions

Answers

1. I was very busy yesterday. I **didn't** have time to call you.
(Simple past — state at a specific past time)
2. I couldn't contact you because I **didn't have** my phone.
(Simple past — didn't have phone [cause] → couldn't contact [result])
3. **Did** you have any problems on your trip?
(Simple past question — general query about past period)
4. By noon yesterday, I **hadn't** had time to eat — but later I did.
(Past perfect — “by noon” marks a point before another past reference)
5. **Did** she have a good time at the party?
(Simple past — “have a good time” = action)
6. He was hungry because he **hadn't** had breakfast.
(Past perfect — cause [not eating] before result [was hungry])
7. We **didn't** have any trouble finding the restaurant.
(Simple past — fact about the past; “have trouble” = action)
8. I couldn't pay because I **hadn't** brought my wallet.
(Past perfect — cause [not bringing] before result [couldn't pay])
9. **Did** they have enough money to buy the house?
(Simple past question — asking about state at time of purchase)
10. The meeting was cancelled because she **hadn't** had time to prepare.
(Past perfect — cause [no time] before result [meeting cancelled])

Decision Rule

Ask yourself: Is there a CAUSE that happened BEFORE a RESULT?

- **Yes** (two past timepoints in sequence) → **HAD/HADN'T** (past perfect)
- **No** (single past timeframe) → **DID/DIDN'T** (simple past)

Common patterns for past perfect:

- “because I hadn't...” (cause before result)
- “by [time], I hadn't...” (reference point)
- “couldn't... because hadn't...” (inability due to earlier state)

7 Exercise 7: Why Is This Wrong? — Auxiliary Verb Analysis

Answers

1. *How often have you a shower?*

Correction: How often **do you have** a shower?

Why wrong? “Have a shower” = action, not possession. Routines with “how often” require DO/DOES. “Have you...?” without “got” is possible for possession but sounds old-fashioned and is NEVER used for actions.

2. *Was your trip OK? Had you had any problems?*

Correction: Was your trip OK? **Did you have** any problems?

Why wrong? This is a general question about the trip (single past period). Past perfect would only be appropriate if asking about problems BEFORE some other past event (e.g., “Had you had any problems before the trip was cancelled?”).

3. *Yesterday I was very tired. I hadn't had enough sleep.*

Correction: **CORRECT** (✓)

Why correct? Past perfect is appropriate here: lack of sleep (earlier state) CAUSED tiredness (result). The sequence is: hadn't slept enough → was tired.

4. *Have you got breakfast yet?*

Correction: **Have you had** breakfast yet?

Why wrong? In everyday speech, “Have you got breakfast yet?” is common and understood. However, textbook grammar teaches: **have got** = possession/state, **have/had** = action. Since “have breakfast” is an action (something you do), we use “Have you had...?” to keep the rule clear.

5. *We didn't got time to finish the project.*

Correction: We didn't **have** time to finish the project.

Why wrong? After **didn't**, the verb must be in base form: **have**, not “got.” For simple past, we use “had” usually without “got” — the standard form taught in English Grammar in Use.

6. *How long have you had got this car?*

Correction: How long **have you had** this car?

Why wrong? In present perfect for duration (“how long”), we use “have had,” NOT “have had got.” The past participle of “have” is “had.”

8 Exercise 8: Choose the Correct Form

Answers

1. **B)** I **had** trouble finding the place.
(“Have trouble” = action; talking about completed past experience; explains why late)
2. **B)** Did you **have** a good time at the concert last night?
(“Have a good time” = action; simple past question about specific past event)
3. **A)** didn’t **have** her license with her.
(Simple past: didn’t have license [cause] → couldn’t drive [result])
4. **B)** Had you ... **had** sushi before you went to Japan?
(Past perfect: asking about experience BEFORE another past event)
5. **B)** ’re **having** a wonderful time.
(“Have a ... time” = action, can use continuous; happening now)
6. **A)** do you **have** your car serviced?
(“How often” = routine; requires DO; “have something done” = causative)
7. **A)** Did you **have** any experience when you applied?
(Simple past: asking about state at time of application)
8. **A)** ’ve **got** two children.
(Possession; continuous “are having children” would mean giving birth now!)
9. **B)** was **having** a shower.
(Past continuous: action in progress when phone rang)
10. **A)** Had you **had** problems before the software was installed?
(Past perfect: problems BEFORE the installation [another past event])

Watch Out!

Item 8 is a classic trap:

- “They’ve got two children” = possession (✓)
- “They’re having two children” = in the process of giving birth! (wrong meaning)

Items 7 vs 10:

- Item 7: Single past timeframe (when you applied) → simple past
- Item 10: Two past points (problems BEFORE installation) → past perfect

9 Exercise 9: Complete the Dialogues

Answers

1. At a hotel reception:

Receptionist: “**Do/Have** you **have/got** a reservation?”

Guest: “Yes, I **have/I've got** a booking for two nights.”

(Present possession — both forms acceptable)

2. At a job interview:

Interviewer: “**Do/Have** you **have/got** any experience in this field?”

Candidate: “Yes, I **have/I've got** three years of experience.”

(Present possession — both forms acceptable)

3. At a restaurant:

Waiter: “**Did** you **have** a nice meal?”

Customer: “Yes, we **had/have had** a wonderful time. Thank you!”

(“Have a meal/time” = action; uses *DID* in questions)

4. Between friends:

A: “Why couldn't you come to the party last night?”

B: “I **didn't have** time. I **had** too much work to finish.”

(Past state; simple past preferred in EGU approach)

5. Doctor's appointment:

Doctor: “How long **have** you **had** this headache?”

Patient: “I **'ve had** it for about three days now.”

(Present perfect for duration — “how long have you had...”)

6. After an exam:

A: “**Did** you **have** any difficulty with the test?”

B: “Yes, I **had** trouble with the last question.”

(“Have difficulty/trouble” = action; uses *DID* in questions)

Context Determines Form

- **Present possession** (items 1, 2): Either form works
- **Actions** (items 3, 6): Must use DO/DID forms
- **Duration with “how long”** (item 5): Present perfect “have had”
- **Past inability** (item 4): Can use either simple past or past perfect

— HARD EXERCISES —

10 Exercise 10: Error Correction — Find and Fix

Answers

1. *I didn't have breakfast this morning, so I'm hungry now.*
CORRECT (✓) — Simple past for completed action; “have breakfast” = action.
2. *Have you a moment? I need to ask you something.*
Acceptable but formal/old-fashioned. More natural: “**Do you have** a moment?” or “**Have you got** a moment?”
3. *We didn't have enough money, so we couldn't buy tickets.*
CORRECT (✓) — Simple past with cause-result relationship.
4. *Did you have got any problems with your visa application?*
Error: Cannot combine “did” with “got.”
Correction: “**Did you have** any problems...” OR “**Had you got** any problems...”
5. *She has got long hair when she was a child.*
Error: “When she was a child” = past; cannot use present “has got.”
Correction: “She **had** long hair when she was a child.”
6. *We're having a wonderful holiday — the weather is perfect!*
CORRECT (✓) — “Have a holiday/time” = action; continuous OK.
7. *How often are you having meetings with your team?*
Error: “How often” = routine; routines use simple, not continuous.
Correction: “How often **do you have** meetings with your team?”
8. *I couldn't enter because I hadn't my key.*
Error: “Hadn't” alone (without “got”) is incomplete for possession.
Correction: “...because I **didn't have** my key.”
9. *Have you ever had an accident?*
CORRECT (✓) — Present perfect for experience; “have an accident” = action.
10. *Yesterday was terrible. I hadn't had time for anything.*
Likely error: No clear sequence requiring past perfect.
Better: “Yesterday was terrible. I **didn't have** time for anything.”
(However, “hadn't had” could be correct if emphasizing cause-result)

11 Exercise 11: Tense Sequence Analysis

Answers

1. **A:** *I didn't have time yesterday.*
B: *I hadn't had time, so I couldn't finish the report.*

Explanation:

- **Sentence A (simple past):** States a fact about a single past timeframe. "Yesterday" = one point in time. No sequence needed.
- **Sentence B (past perfect):** Shows TWO points in the past with a cause-result relationship. The lack of time (earlier) CAUSED the inability to finish (later).

2. **A:** *Did you have any problems on the trip?*
B: *Had you had any problems before the trip was cancelled?*

Explanation:

- **Sentence A (simple past):** General question about the trip as one completed experience. Asking about the whole trip period.
- **Sentence B (past perfect):** Asks about problems BEFORE another past event (the cancellation). Two past timepoints in sequence: problems → cancellation.

3. **A:** *She didn't have her passport.*
B: *She couldn't board the plane because she didn't have her passport.*

Explanation:

- **Sentence A (simple past):** Simple statement of fact. No consequence mentioned, no sequence shown.
- **Sentence B (past perfect):** The "because" clause shows cause-result. Not having passport (earlier state) → couldn't board (later result). Past perfect emphasizes the sequence.

Key Insight

Simple past (DID/DIDN'T): Reports facts within a single past timeframe.

Past perfect (HAD/HADN'T): Creates a sequence showing:

1. An earlier past state/action
2. A later past result/action
3. A cause-effect or time-sequence relationship between them

If you can identify TWO past points where one CAUSED or PRECEDED the other, past perfect is appropriate.

12 Exercise 12: Write Your Own Sentences

Model Answers

1. Simple past negative — state at a specific past time:
(not have / enough money / yesterday)
→ **I didn't have enough money yesterday.**
(Simple past: single past timeframe, no sequence)
2. Past perfect — cause before result:
(couldn't buy / because / not have / wallet)
→ **I couldn't buy the book because I hadn't got my wallet.**
(Past perfect: hadn't brought/obtained wallet [cause] → couldn't buy [result])
Note: "hadn't got" here means the action of bringing/obtaining, not simple possession.
3. Present perfect — experience up to now:
(ever / problems / with your phone?)
→ **Have you ever had problems with your phone?**
(Present perfect with "ever" for life experience)
4. Simple present — routine/habit:
(how often / a shower?)
→ **How often do you have a shower?**
(Routine with "how often" → DO; "have a shower" = action)
5. Present continuous — action happening now:
(we / a great time / at the beach)
→ **We're having a great time at the beach!**
("Have a ... time" = action; continuous for current experience)
6. Simple past question — general query about past period:
(any difficulty / finding the hotel?)
→ **Did you have any difficulty finding the hotel?**
(Simple past: "have difficulty" = action; general past query)

Summary of Auxiliary Choices

Context	Auxiliary	Example
Past fact (single timeframe)	DID/DIDN'T	<i>I didn't have time</i>
Past cause → past result	HAD/HADN'T	<i>I couldn't... because I hadn't...</i>
Experience up to now	HAVE/HAS	<i>Have you ever had...?</i>
Routine/habit	DO/DOES	<i>How often do you have...?</i>
Action happening now	BE + -ing	<i>We're having a great time</i>

— REAL-LIFE & EXAM EXERCISES —

13 Exercise 13: Real-Life Situations

Answers

Situation A: At the Airport

- (1) **Do** you **have** / **Have** you **got** any liquids...
(Present possession — both forms acceptable)
- (2) Yes, I **have** / **I've got** a bottle of water.
(Present possession)
- (3) **Have** you **had** any problems on previous flights...
(Present perfect for experience up to now)
- (4) No, I'**ve** never **had** any issues before.
(Present perfect with “never” for life experience)

Situation B: Job Interview Follow-up

- (5) **Have** you **had** / **Did** you **have** time to think...
(Either present perfect or simple past acceptable depending on whether emphasizing “up to now” or “since we last met”)
- (6) Yes, I **had** / **'ve had** a long discussion...
(Simple past or present perfect both acceptable)
- (7) **Have** you ever **had** any conflicts...
(Present perfect with “ever” for life experience)
- (8) I'**ve** always **had** good relationships...
(Present perfect with “always” for ongoing state)

Situation C: Medical Appointment

- (9) I'**ve been having** / **'ve had** terrible headaches...
(Present perfect continuous emphasizes ongoing; present perfect also acceptable)
- (10) How long **have** you **had** these symptoms?
(Present perfect for duration with “how long”)
- (11) I **had** a similar problem last year...
(Simple past: “last year” = specific past time)
- (12) **Have** you **been having** / **had** any stress...
(Present perfect for recent experience)
- (13) I'**ve got** / **have** a very demanding project...
(Present possession)

14 Exercise 14: Cambridge FCE — Key Word Transformations

Answers

1. She owns three cars. (GOT)
She **has got / 's got** three cars.
2. I couldn't call you because I left my phone at home. (HADN'T)
I couldn't call you because I **hadn't got my phone** with me.
(Past perfect showing cause before result)
Note: The constraint "HADN'T" requires past perfect; "hadn't got" = hadn't brought.
3. When did you start working here? (LONG)
How **long have you had** this job?
(Present perfect with "how long" for duration)
4. Is there a garden in your house? (GOT)
Has **your house got a** garden?
5. We enjoyed ourselves at the party. (TIME)
We **had a good/great time** at the party.
("Have a good time" = enjoy oneself)
6. Did you experience any difficulties during the project? (TROUBLE)
Did **you have any trouble** during the project?
("Have trouble" = experience difficulties)

FCE Key Word Transformation Tips

- You must use the key word **without changing it**
- Use between **2-5 words** including the key word
- The meaning must be **the same** as the original
- Watch for tense changes and auxiliary verb requirements

15 Exercise 15: Writing Task — Model Answers

Model Answer A: Problems During a Trip

Last summer, I **had** a terrible experience during my trip to Rome. When I arrived at the airport, I realized I **didn't have** my wallet with me — I **had** left it at home! I **didn't have** any money or credit cards. Fortunately, my friend **had** her phone, so she called my family. They **had** a spare key to my apartment and were able to send me money through an app. It was stressful, but I **had** a wonderful time once everything was sorted out. Now I always check that I **'ve got** everything before I leave.

Model Answer B: Daily Routine

I **have** a pretty regular daily routine. I usually **have** breakfast at 7:30 — just coffee and toast because I **don't have** much time in the mornings. I **have** a shower before work, and I **have** lunch with my colleagues around noon. We **have** meetings twice a week, usually on Mondays and Thursdays. After work, I often **have** a quick rest before dinner. I **'ve got** a small apartment, so I **don't have** space for a home office, but I **have** a nice desk in my bedroom where I can work if needed.

Final Summary: HAVE and HAVE GOT

Complete Auxiliary Verb Reference

PRESENT

Meaning	Form	Example
Possession NOW	have/have got	<i>I have a car / I've got a car</i>
Action NOW	be + having	<i>We're having a great time</i>
Routine/habit	do/does + have	<i>How often do you have meetings?</i>
Experience up to now	have/has + had	<i>Have you ever had sushi?</i>

PAST

Meaning	Form	Example
State/fact at past time	did/didn't + have	<i>I didn't have time yesterday</i>
Past action	had (simple)	<i>Did you have a good time?</i>
Cause before result	had/hadn't + had/got	<i>I couldn't pay because I hadn't got my wallet</i>
Before another past event	had/hadn't + had	<i>Had you had sushi before you went to Japan?</i>

Common Errors to Avoid

1. ~~How often have you a shower?~~ → How often do you have a shower?
2. ~~Have you got breakfast yet?~~ → Have you had breakfast yet?
3. ~~She had got long hair when she was young.~~ → She had long hair...
4. ~~Did you have got any problems?~~ → Did you have any problems?
5. ~~How long have you had got this car?~~ → How long have you had this car?
6. ~~They're having three children.~~ → They've got three children.

Congratulations on completing all exercises!

Review any exercises where you made errors, focusing on the explanations.