

## CAUSATIVES

What are causative verbs?

They are “HAVE, GET TO, MAKE, LET and HELP”

Function:

We use a causative verb when we want to talk about something that someone else did for us or for another person. It means that the subject caused the action to happen but didn't do it themselves. Maybe they paid, or asked, or persuaded the other person to do it.

EXAMPLES:

*You don't repair your own car. You go to a mechanic.*

*You **have the mechanic repair** your car.*

*You don't cut your own hair. You go to a hair dresser.*

*You **have the hairdresser cut** your hair.*

ACTIVE CAUSATIVES:

**Have somebody do something (have + somebody+ V1)**

We usually use 'have somebody do something' when we are talking about paying someone to do something for us. It's often used for services. In other words, we **CAUSE** somebody to do something. We give somebody the responsibility of doing something. We use 'subject + have + somebody + infinitive'.

- I **have** the students write the answers on the whiteboard. (present tense)
- She **has** the students write the answers on the whiteboard. (present tense)
- She **has had** the students write the answers on the whiteboard. (present perfect tense)
- The teacher **had** the students write the answers on the whiteboard. (past tense)
- The teacher **had had** the students write the answers on the whiteboard. (past perfect tense))
- The teacher **will have** the students write the answers on the whiteboard. (future tense)
- The teacher **should have** the students write the answers on the whiteboard. (present modals)
- The teacher **might have** the students write the answers on the whiteboard. (present modals)
- Please, **have** the students write the answers on the whiteboard. (imperatives)



## Get somebody to do something (get + somebody + TO + V1)

We can use 'get + someone + to + infinitive'. Again, this means that you cause the other person to do the action, maybe by paying them to do it, or by asking them to do it, or by persuading/convincing them to do it. We encourage somebody to do something. We can also use “get to” when we trick somebody into doing something.

\*\*\*\* We generally use “have” and “get to” interchangeably. That is to say, we can use “get to” instead of “have”.

- I **get** my son **to** do his homework by promising him ice cream. (present tense)
- She **gets** her son **to** do his homework by promising him ice cream. (present tense)
- She **got** her son **to** do his homework by promising him ice cream. (past tense)
- She **has got** her son **to** do his homework by promising him ice cream. (present perfect tense)
- She **had got** her son **to** do his homework by promising him ice cream. (past perfect tense)
- She **will get** her son **to** do his homework by promising him ice cream. (future tense)
- She **can get** her son **to** do his homework by promising him ice cream. (modals)
- She **should get** her son **to** do his homework by promising him ice cream. (modals)
- Please, **get** your son **to** do his homework by promising him ice cream. (imperatives)

## PASSIVE CAUSATIVES

### Have + object + Verb 3 (have something done)

We usually use 'have something done' when we are talking about paying someone to do something for us. It's often used for services. We give somebody the responsibility of doing something. The form is 'subject + have + object + past participle'.

- I **have** the answers written on the board. (present tense)
- She **has** the answers written on the board. (present tense)
- I **have had** the answers written on the board. (present perfect tense)
- I **had had** the answers written on the board. (past perfect tense)
- I **will have** the answers written on the board. (future tense)
- I **must have** the answers written on the board. (modals)
- I **can have** the answers written on the board. (modals)
- **Have** the answers written on the board. (imperatives)

### Get + object + Verb 3 (get something done)

We can also use 'subject + get + object + past participle'. This has the same meaning as 'have', but is less formal. We can also use “get to” when we trick somebody into doing something.

- I **get** my son's homework done by promising him ice cream. (present tense)
- She **gets** her son's homework done by promising him ice cream. (present tense)
- She **got** her son's homework done by promising him ice cream. (past tense)
- She **has got** her son's homework done by promising him ice cream. (present perfect tense)
- She **had got** her son's homework done by promising him ice cream. (past perfect tense)
- She **will get** her son's homework done by promising him ice cream. (future tense)
- She **can get** her son's homework done by promising him ice cream. (modals)
- She **should get** her son's homework done by promising him ice cream. (modals)
- **Get** your son's homework done by promising him ice cream. (imperatives)



## OTHER ACTIVE CAUSATIVES

### Make somebody do something (make + somebody+ V1)

**Make** is stronger than 'have/get'. It constitutes only one structure as it does not take anything 'passive' as its object. Make is used when we force or require somebody to do something.

\*\*\*\*\* "Have" and "get" have passive forms but "make" doesn't have a passive form.

- The school **requires** the students **to wear** uniforms.
- The schools **make** the students wear uniforms. (present tense)
- She **makes** the students wear uniforms. (present tense)
- The schools **have made** the students to wear uniforms. (present perfect tense)
- The schools **made** the students wear uniforms. (past tense)
- The schools **had made** the students wear uniforms. (past perfect tense)
- The schools **will make** the students wear uniforms. (future tense)
- The schools **must make** the students wear uniforms. (modals)
- The schools **might make** the students wear uniforms. (modals)
- **Make** the students wear uniforms. (imperatives)

### Let somebody do something (let + somebody+ V1)

"Let" means permit or allow something to happen. Remember: The past tense of **let** is also **let**; there is no change!

- I **let** my children watch comedies. (present tense)
- She **lets** her children watch comedies. (present tense)
- She **has let** her children watch comedies. (present perfect tense)
- She **let** her children watch comedies. (past tense)
- She **had let** her children watch comedies. (past perfect tense)
- She **will let** her children watch comedies. (future tense)
- She **should let** her children watch comedies. (modals)
- She **might let** her children watch comedies. (modals)
- **Let** your children watch comedies. (imperatives)

**Note:** The verbs **allow** and **permit** are more formal ways to say "let." However, with **allow** and **permit**, we use **to + verb**:

- I don't **allow** my kids **to watch** violent movies.
- Our boss doesn't **permit** us **to eat** lunch at our desks.



## Help somebody do something (help + somebody+ V1)

AND

## Help somebody to do something (help + somebody+ to + V1)

Help means assist someone in doing something. After “help,” you can use “to” or not – both ways are correct. In general, the form *without* “to” is more common:

- He **helped** me **carry** the boxes.
- He **helped** me **to carry** the boxes.
- Reading before bed **helps** me **relax**.
- Reading before bed **helps** me **to relax**.

### Examples without “TO”:

- I help her carry the boxes. (present tense)
- She helps me carry the boxes. (present tense)
- She has helped me carry the boxes. (present perfect tense)
- She helped me carry the boxes. (past tense)
- She had helped me carry the boxes. (past perfect tense)
- She will help me carry the boxes. (future tense)
- She should help me carry the boxes. (modals)
- She might help me carry the boxes. (modals)
- Help me carry the boxes. (imperatives)

### Examples with “TO”:

- I help her to carry the boxes. (present tense)
- She helps me to carry the boxes. (present tense)
- She has helped me to carry the boxes. (present perfect tense)
- She helped me to carry the boxes. (past tense)
- She had helped me to carry the boxes. (past perfect tense)
- She will help me to carry the boxes. (future tense)
- She should help me to carry the boxes. (modals)
- She might help me to carry the boxes. (modals)
- Help me to carry the boxes. (imperatives)