

Lecture three
- Explaining has and have
By
Samah Ahmed jameil

Explaining has and have

the meaning of “has” and “have.” Both words are present tense forms of the verb “to have.” The verb “to have” is commonly used to express possession or ownership.

Definition and function

The main difference between “has” and “have” lies in which subjects they use. “Has” is used with the third-person singular subjects “he,” “she,” and “it,” or a singular noun. “Have” is used with first-person (“I,” “we”), second-person (“you”), and third-person plural (“they”) subjects.

Examples:

Johnny has to leave soon.

I have not called the doctor.

Do you have a question?

Let’s explore the applications of “has” and “have” in various contexts.

Indicating possession

“Has” and “have” can indicate possession.

For example:

He has a PhD in English.

In this example, “has” is used with the singular pronoun “he” to indicate the subject’s possession of a PhD.

We have clothes to give out.

“Have” is used with “we,” a third-person plural pronoun, to indicate the possession of clothes.

Indicating possibility

“Have” and “has” can describe actions that could happen but have not occurred yet. As noted earlier, “have” is used with the pronouns “I,” “you,” “we,” and “they.” “Has” is used with “he,” “she,” and “it.”

For example:

You have to go there today.

She has to submit her homework by Monday.

These actions haven’t occurred yet, but there is a possibility of them happening.

Indicating a completed action

“Has” and “have” are used with other verbs to indicate that an action has been completed. To use them in this way, you must use the verbs in the present perfect tense.

For example:

She has completed the homework.

My neighbors have moved out of the house.

Janet has played the piano for two years.

These examples show actions that have been completed alongside verbs in their present perfect tense.

Questions and negations

“Has” and “have” are also used in questions and negations. To use them as questions, we need to invert the subject and verb.

For example:

Has she finished her homework?

Have you seen the movie?

To form negations, we need to use “not” after “have” or “has.”

For example:

I have not been there before.

She has not completed the project.

| Subjects | Verb | Examples |
|----------|------|--|
| I | have | <i>I have</i> two jobs |
| You | | <i>You have</i> a busy schedule |
| We | | <i>We have</i> a meeting with the CEO |
| They | | <i>They have</i> a big family |
| He | | He has a new car |
| She | has | <i>She has</i> three cats |

It

It **has** a collar

The singular and plural usage

One major confusion people experience with has vs. have is around which subject to use with which verb. Let's clarify:

“Has” is used with third-person singular subjects (“he,” “she,” and “it”).

“Have” is used with first, second, and third-person plural subjects (“I,” “you,” “we,” and “they”).

Here's a conjugation table for the verb “to have” focusing on “has” and “have”:

Note: You can check out this [article on plural rules](#) to better understand singular and plural subjects.

Usage of has

Let's look at the usage of “has” in different verb forms, contexts, and sentence structures.

Simple present tense

In the simple present tense, “has” is used to describe actions happening right now or habitual actions for third-person singular subjects.

For example:

He has a beautiful garden.

She has an adorable dog.

Chris has a new bicycle.

Present perfect tense

When we want to talk about actions that started in the past but have a connection to the present, we use “has” with verbs in the present perfect tense.

Check out these examples:

He has written a fascinating story.

She has completed her homework.

Keanu Reeves has won several awards.

The book has been a bestseller for weeks.

In the present perfect tense, “has” indicates completion or ongoing impact.

Usage of have

Let’s delve into the use of “have” in the simple present tense, present perfect tense, and other verb forms.

Simple present tense

In the simple present tense, “have” is used with first-person, second-person, and third-person plural subjects.

For example:

You have a talent for playing the guitar.

We have three cats as pets.

I have a skateboard.

They have a great sense of humor.

Remember, “have” accompanies these subjects in the simple present tense.

Present perfect tense

When we want to express an action that started in the past and still impacts the present, we use the present perfect tense with “have.”

Let’s explore some examples:

They have finished their project.

You have visited Paris.

They have seen the Grand Canyon.

We have won three swimming competitions.

In the present perfect tense, “have” signifies completion or ongoing relevance.

Other verb forms

Aside from the simple present and perfect tenses, “has” and “have” can also be used in other verb forms. Let’s look at their usage in progressive and past tense forms.

Certainly, I can help you revise your explanation to address the editor’s comment. Here’s an improved version:

Progressive form

The progressive form involves adding “-ing” to “have” or sentences with “has” to describe ongoing actions. In this form, the verb “to be” (is, am, are, was, were) is conjugated based on the subject, followed by “having” or the present participle (-ing form) of the main verb.

Examples:

1. Original sentence: She has a great time at the party.

Progressive form: She is having a great time at the party.

2. Original sentence: The families have dinner together every night this week.

Progressive form: The families are having dinner together every night this week.

3. Original sentence: Joey has a housewarming party tonight.

Progressive form: Joey is having a housewarming party tonight.

By using the progressive form, we are able emphasize the ongoing nature of the action, giving a sense of immediacy and activity to the sentences.

Past tense

When referring to the past, we replace “has” with “had.” For example:

They had a fantastic picnic last weekend.

He had a vacation last summer.

She had a great time at the concert.

Has vs. have in different verb forms

Has

Have

**Simple present
tense**

Beyoncé **has** a beautiful voice.

I **have** a soccer game tomorrow.

**Present perfect
tense**

*He **has visited** Paris.*

*They **have finished** their
project.*

Progressive form

*She **has** been **having** fun learning to
play the guitar.*

*I am **having** a blast at the
amusement park.*

Past tense

*He **had** a great time at the concert.*

*We **had** a delicious dinner last
night.*