



Causative Verbs

Grammar > Advanced 7



Exercise 1 – Learning

Causative Verbs are used when somebody causes something to happen or causes someone to do something.

Here is how to use the causative verbs **let, make, have, get**:

let/make/have + person + verb

get + person + to + verb

Let

We use 'let' in two ways.

1. To **let somebody do something** is to give them permission to do it.

- I **let** my children play outside before doing their homework.

2. To **let something happen** is to allow it to happen.

- Don't **let** the water spill from the cup.



Make

To **make someone do something** is to force them to do something that they may not want to do.

- I will **make** him tell the truth.
- Don't **make** her do what she doesn't want to do.

Have

To **have someone do something** means to give someone the responsibility for some action.

- I will **have** my secretary print the documents out.

We also commonly use the passive form, to **have something done**.

- I will **have** the documents printed out.



Get

'**Get**' means '**to arrive**', as in "I *got* to the train station at 6".

It therefore has this sense of '**arriving somewhere**' or '**achieving some state**'.

When you '**get**' someone to do something, you put in effort or do a lot of things to make them do it.

To **get someone to do something** is to persuade them to do something.

- I don't know how to **get** everybody to listen to me.
- I have to **get** him to try it out.

Note that unlike '**let**'/'**make**'/'**have**', '**get**' is followed by a **to-infinitive verb**.

- I will **make** him tell me the truth.
- I will **let** him tell me the truth.
- I will **have** him tell me the truth.
- I will **get** him *to* tell me the truth.



Exercise 2 – Multiple Choice

Choose the correct answers to complete the sentences.

1. The professor _____ his teaching assistant correct the students' essays.

- a) had
- b) gets

2. We need to somehow _____ companies to respect the environment.

- a) get
- b) let

3. Every year, teachers _____ their students' parents come in to discuss the students' progress.

- a) have
- b) make

4. He didn't _____ his children use too much technology.

- a) get
- b) let



5. I finally _____ my husband to wash the dishes.

- a) made
- b) got

6. My company _____ me work remotely, so I don't have to go into the office.

- a) lets
- b) make

7. My company doesn't _____ us come to work at a certain time. We come whenever we want.

- a) make
- b) let

8. How can we _____ this company to agree to work with us?

- a) have
- b) get



Exercise 3 – Sentence Construction

Use what you learned in class to create sentences with your tutor.

Example: do community service. → The government will make him do community service.

Content:

1. pay \$1000 in fines.
2. go to jail.
3. walk the dog.
4. leave the country.
5. sell his house.
6. give up her children.