

Grammar: The causative

- 16** We use *have something done* to describe something that is done to us rather than us doing it ourselves. It often describes a service that we have arranged someone else to do for us:

I'm having my hair cut next week. My hairdresser is cutting my hair next week:

but it may also describe something unpleasant and out of your control:

I've had my pay frozen. My boss has frozen my pay:

It is usually unnecessary to say who performs the service, but if we want to give this information, we add *by* + agent, e.g. *by my boss*.

Instead of *have*, we can use *get*. It is slightly more informal.

1 Re-write these sentences using the causative.

- a** A decorator is repainting our lounge.

We _____.

- b** A sculptor made a statue of Shakespeare for the council.

The council ...

- c** A burglar burgled my house.

I _____.

- d** Our house is far too small, so a builder is going to build an extension.

Our house is far too small, so we _____.

2 Now practise talking about something you have had done recently, or are having done soon.

