

## Have something done

A

Study this example situation:



LISA

The roof of Lisa's house was damaged in a storm. So she called a builder, and yesterday a man came and repaired it.

Lisa **had** the roof **repaired** yesterday.

This means: Lisa arranged for somebody else to repair the roof. She didn't repair it herself.

We use **have something done** to say that we arrange for somebody else to do something for us. Compare:

- ☐ Lisa **repaired** the roof. (= she repaired it herself)
- ☐ Lisa **had** the roof **repaired**. (= she arranged for somebody else to repair it)
- ☐ 'Did you **make** those curtains yourself?' 'Yes, I enjoy making things.'
- ☐ 'Did you **have** those curtains **made**?' 'No, I made them myself.'

B

Be careful with word order. The *past participle* (**repaired/cut** etc.) is after the *object*:

have	object	past participle
Lisa <b>had</b>	the roof	<b>repaired</b> yesterday.
Where did you <b>have</b>	your hair	<b>cut</b> ?
Your hair looks nice. Have you <b>had</b>	it	<b>cut</b> ?
Our neighbour has just <b>had</b>	a garage	<b>built</b> .
We are <b>having</b>	the house	<b>painted</b> this week.
How often do you <b>have</b>	your car	<b>serviced</b> ?
I think you should <b>have</b>	that coat	<b>cleaned</b> .
I don't like <b>having</b>	my picture	<b>taken</b> .

C

## Get something done

You can also say '**get** something done' instead of '**have** something done':

- ☐ When are you going to **get the roof repaired**? (= have the roof repaired)
- ☐ I think you should **get your hair cut** really short.

D

Sometimes **have something done** has a different meaning. For example:

- ☐ Paul and Karen **had their bags stolen** while they were travelling.

This does not mean that they arranged for somebody to steal their bags. 'They **had their bags stolen**' means only: 'Their bags were stolen'.

With this meaning, we use **have something done** to say that something happens to somebody or their belongings. Often what happens is not nice:

- ☐ Gary **had** his nose **broken** in a fight. (= his nose was broken)
- ☐ Have you ever **had** your bike **stolen**?