Causatives:
get and *have*

LEVEL
Intermediate

NUMBER
EN_BE_3820G

LANGUAGE
English

Goals

- Can identify and accurately use 'have' and 'get' in causative sentences.

- Can explain what I do myself and what I have done by others.

Ever wondered how you say that you had **something done for you**?

Let's take a look at the different ways we can say that you **caused** something to be done, but that you **didn't do it yourself**.

Preview and warm-up

- In this lesson, you will learn how to use *get* and *have* in order to give other people responsibility.

I **had** my bicycle **repaired**.

Have as a causative verb

- To talk about things that you will have done or that have been done by someone else you use this structure:
  - **subject + have or had + the object + verb in the past participle.**
- This means that the subject of the sentence **didn't do the action that was done**, but that **they caused the action to happen** by, for example, paying for it or asking for it to occur. This is why **have** is called a **causative verb**.

In these examples someone other than the subject did the action
I had my hair washed and trimmed. (past)
Adrian will have his dog vaccinated. (future)
I had my house painted yesterday.
Molly will have her wedding dress altered.
We had engagement photos taken.

Have as a causative verb

■ Remember that when you use the **have + object + verb past participle** construction, you are saying **that it was not you who did the action, but someone else**!

I had my flat professionally **cleaned** because it was too much work for me. I only paid the cleaner €100, so it was a real bargain!

Have as a causative verb when you want to say who did the action

- When you want to say **who did the action**, you can use the following structure:
- **have + person who did the action + verb in the infinitive form.**

- I **had my brother clean** my house.

- I **had the veterinarian vaccinate** my dog.

- I **will have the electrician fix** my lighting.

- I will **have my mother repair** my trousers.

Compare

Compare:
- **have + object + verb in the past participle** and
- **have + the person who did the action + verb in the infinitive.**

Here are some further examples showing the difference between the two uses of **have** when you want to say that you had something done.
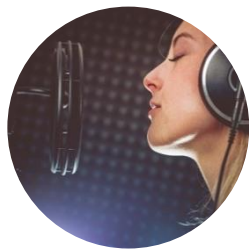
I **had my** house **designed**.

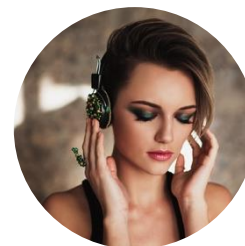I **had an architect design** my house.

More examples of *have* as a causative verb

■ Pay close attention to the form of the verbs in these sentences.

I **had** my headphones **fixed**.

I **had** my friend **fix** my headphones.

I **had** my examination results **translated** into English.

I **had** my teacher **translate** my examination results into English.

Use either the have + object + past participle or have + person + verb in the infinitive to complete these sentences

Sonia

had/have

her clothes
the seamstress

repair/repaired

Matthew

had/have

his computer
the technician

clean/cleaned

Time to prune the roses?

Nathan

had/have

his roses
the gardener

prune/pruned

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Poor George: Fill in the gaps

Based on what you have learnt, fill in the gap with the correct form of the following verbs:

prune; weed; pay; give; cut; take; order

It was a sunny day and George had his daughter _____ the dog out for a walk. His joints had become too sore for an early morning walk, but he had the nurse _____ some more medication to help with his arthritis and he had promised Blighty the dog that he would walk him in the afternoon. He watched the sun slowly settle across the garden. He will have the garden beds _____ in the coming weeks, he thought, but the gardener will not be very enthusiastic about it. He too has a bad back. He had the trees _____ by the neighbour's gardener last month and he had hoped that his own gardener would be able to do the roses. His daughter had the lawn _____ only a month earlier, but it was already a little long. And then there were so many extra bills this season. He had his wife _____ the last bill, and he was quite sure she had been shocked by how expensive it was. Then there was the house. It needed repainting. George had the local painter _____ him an estimate of how much it would cost to repaint the house, and it was far more expensive than he had expected. Poor George! He had asked for a good year, but it was turning out to be a very difficult one.

Who had what done and who did they get to do it?

Describe what is happening in these photos. Use a causative sentence to say who had what done and then who did what. You need to imagine a subject for each sentence. For example: *John had his car repaired. John had the mechanic repair his car.*

Georgia's day: What did Georgia have done? What do you have done?

Using causative sentences state what Georgia had done throughout her day. For example: *Georgia had her teeth cleaned. Georgia had the dentist clean her teeth*. Then practise describing a typical day in your life and the things that you have done by other people.

Georgia is at the dentist. → Georgia is at the chemist. →

Georgia is at a work meeting.

Georgia is at home trying to organise dinner. ← Georgia is at her son's football training. ←

Using *get* as a causative verb

- *Get* is also used as a **causative verb**. As with *have*, *get* is used in the following way:
- **Get + object + past participle of the verb.**
- *Get* **is more informal than** *have*, **but it means the same thing.**
- **As with the examples given for** *have*, **the action being performed in these sentences is done by someone else.**

Get as a causative verb
I get my gutters cleaned every three months.
Samantha gets her hair coloured twice a year.
I get my dog's nails clipped regularly.
The builders get their hard hats painted for fun.
Most people get their tattoos redone when they begin to fade.

Get and *got* as causative verbs

- You can also use the construction:
  - **got + the object + the past participle of the verb** if the action happened in the past.
- Remember that the **difference between *have* and *get* is the formality of the verb**.
- *Get* is more commonly used **in spoken English** whereas *have* **and** *had* are more commonly used in **written English**.

- The elephants **got their tusks sharpened** this year.

- The monkeys **got their toenails clipped** last month.

- The zoo keepers **got their salaries paid** on time this week.

- The zoo **got** their rare snake programme **sponsored** this year.

When you want to say who performed the action with *get*: get + person + infinitive verb with *to*

- As with **have**, **get** can be used when you want to say who did the action that you caused to happen. This construction sounds like the subject has **persuaded or asked** another person **to do the action for them**.

- Remember that **to** is **not used** with the **verb *have* in a** causative sentence.

He **gets** his **boss to do** all his tax returns because he finds it too difficult.

Further examples

Here are some further examples of using **got** and **get** with the **person + infinitive verb with** *to*.

I **got** the boy next door **to shut** the gate.

I **get** the beekeeper **to check** the hives for disease.

Turn these have/had sentences into get/got sentences

1. Angelo had his mother drive him to football training. → Angelo got his mother to drive him to football training.

2. Robin had her hairdresser cut her fringe really short. → _____

3. Julian has his uncle barter with travelling salesmen. → _____

4. Julia had her boyfriend make her dinner. → _____

5. Hasan had his friend tune the piano. → _____

Using *get* or *got* + object + past participle, write a sentence describing these actions. Are there any that would be better with the verb *have*?

Mary's beer was refilled.

Tom's clothes were washed.

Adrian's school fees were paid.

Simon's rent was paid.

Damian's car was repaired.

Julissa's engagement ring was reshaped to fit her finger.

Using *get* and *got* to say someone did something

Who did Jonathon get to do these actions?

Who does Samantha get to do these actions?

Take turns with your teacher and make sentences using get and got.

For example: *Jonathon gets his mother to wash his clothes, but Samantha gets her boyfriend to help her wash her clothes.*

take out the rubbish	talk to grumpy relatives	repair flat tyres
put the children to bed	clean the bathroom	rake the leaves
prepare dinner on a Friday night	pay the bills	wash the dishes

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Using reflexive pronouns to emphasise that we did something ourselves

■ When we want to emphasise that we did an action for ourselves, rather than getting someone else to do it for us (as with causative verbs), we often use reflexive pronouns: **myself, himself, herself, ourselves.**

I wanted to make sure I didn't have to ride up too many hills and I didn't trust the group leader, so I worked out the route **for myself** and everything worked out fine.

Using causative verbs from this lesson create a role play about responsibility

Simon and Frankie share an apartment and are having a discussion about responsibility.

What do Simon or Frankie do for themselves? What does Simon get Frankie to do? What does Frankie get Simon to do? What have others got Simon to do for them? What has Frankie done to make her life more organised?

■ Simon loves to party. He cheers everyone else on and is always offering to help others, but he is very messy and has no idea how to organise anything.

■ Frankie is grumpy. She does most things for herself and she doesn't understand why Simon offers to do things for other people when he can't even clean his own dishes or cook for himself.

What do you get done for you and what do you do for yourself?

I get my boss to do all the difficult tasks.

I get my sister to walk the dog.

I got my accountant to do all my tax returns.

I prefer to do things for myself.

I got my mother to collect my mail last week.

Reflect on the goals

Go back to the second slide of the lesson and check
if you have achieved all the goals of the lesson.

yes

no

Reflect on this lesson

Think about everything you have seen in this lesson.
What were the most difficult activities or words? The easiest?

+ _____
_____

+ _____
_____

− _____
_____

− _____
_____

If you have time, go over
the most difficult slides again

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Exercise p. 10

Sonia had her clothes repaired; Sonia had the seamstress repair her clothes; Matthew had his computer cleaned; Matthew had the technician clean his computer; Nathan had his roses pruned; Nathan had the gardener prune his roses.

Exercise p. 11

take, order, weeded, pruned, cut, pay, give.

Exercise p. 18

Robin got her hairdresser to cut her fringe really short. Julian got his uncle to barter with the travelling salesmen. Julia gets her boyfriend to make her dinner. Hasan got his friend to tune the piano.

Exercise p. 19

These actions could have taken place in a formal setting, so *have* may have been a better verb to use, but there is no rule that says you have to use *have* instead of *get*. Adrian's school fees were paid. Simon's rent was paid.

Homework

Write four sentences for each topic using the causative verbs structures covered in this lesson:

subject + have or had + the object + past participle
subject + have + person who did the action + infinitive
subject + get or got + object + past participle
get or got + person who did the action + to + infinitive

What is he getting done for him?

fixed my mobile phone

edited my assignment

made my bed

walked the dog

paid for my internet downloads

my glass bottles recycled

make all the appointments

Homework writing activity

Write a paragraph that explains the things that you get or have done for you and things that you do for yourself.

I had my neighbour clean my gutters this year because I am afraid of heights, but I do most other things around the house myself. Of course, I had an accountant do my taxes and I occasionally get my husband to mow the lawn...

Exercise p. 28

I had my mobile phone fixed; I had a technician fix my mobile phone; I got my mobile phone fixed; I got the technician to fix my mobile phone.

I had my assignment edited; I had a friend edit my assignment; I got my assignment edited; I got my friend to edit my assignment.

I had my bed made; I had my boyfriend make the bed; I got my bed made; I got my boyfriend to make my bed.

I had my dog walked; I had my sister walk the dog; I got my dog walked; I got my sister to walk the dog.

I had appointments made for me; I had the doctor make the appointments for me; I got the appointments made for me; I got the doctor to make the appointments for me.

I had my internet downloads paid for; I had my dad pay for my internet downloads; I got my internet downloads paid for; I got my dad to pay for my internet downloads.

I had my glass bottles recycled; I had a friend recycle my glass bottles; I got my glass bottles recycled; I got my friend to recycle my glass bottles.

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