

GRAMMAR

# Causatives: *have and get*

**LEVEL**

Upper-Intermediate  
(B2)

**NUMBER**

EN\_B2\_1092G

**LANGUAGE**

English



## Learning outcomes

- I can accurately form causative sentences with 'have' and 'get'.
- I can use a causative sentence as part of a conversation.



# Causatives

- We use a **causative verb** to talk about something that someone else did for us or for another person. The subject **caused** the action to happen, but **didn't do it** themselves.



I **got** my hair cut last week.

Tina **had** her TV fixed yesterday.



# Have + object + past participle

- One causative construction is: **have** + **object** + **past participle**.
- We use this for things we **arrange** or **pay** someone to do for us.

|        | <i>have</i>   | object                      | past participle  |            |
|--------|---------------|-----------------------------|------------------|------------|
| We are | <b>having</b> | <b>our kitchen cabinets</b> | <b>delivered</b> | next week. |
| Sophie | <b>had</b>    | <b>her house</b>            | <b>cleaned</b>   | last week. |

# Get + object + past participle

- We can also use: **get** + **object** + **past participle**
- It has the same meaning, only *get* is slightly **more informal** than *have*.

|           | <i>get</i>     | object           | past participle |                  |
|-----------|----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Is Thomas | <b>getting</b> | <b>his car</b>   | <b>fixed</b>    | this week?       |
| We        | <b>got</b>     | <b>our nails</b> | <b>done</b>     | for the wedding. |



# Match the two halves of the sentence

**1** Charlie and Josh had...

**2** Are you still getting...

**3** Linda is getting...

**4** I'm having...

**5** We're getting...

**a** ...her hair cut on Saturday.

**b** ...my washing machine fixed this week.

**c** ...our website translated into Spanish.

**d** ... their new bathroom installed on Friday.

**e** ...your sofa delivered this week?



# Transform the sentences

Use the causative verb in parentheses.

1 Sophie washed her car. (*have*)



Sophie **had** her car **washed**.

2 I cut my hair every six weeks. (*get*)



3 We translated the documents. (*have*)



4 They fixed the washing machine. (*get*)



5 I repaired my computer. (*have*)



6 Tim painted his bedroom. (*get*)





# Transform the sentences

Use the causative verb in parentheses.

7 Nina cleaned her carpets. (*have*)



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8 We cut the grass last week. (*get*)



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9 He edited the article (*have*)



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10 She's making a dress (*get*)



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11 I'm delivering the shopping tomorrow. (*have*)



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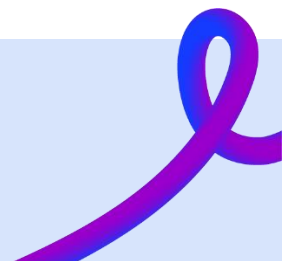
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12 They want to dye their hair (*get*).



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# Choose three verbs

1. **Write** three causative sentences about yourself.
2. **Check** your sentences with a partner in breakout rooms.
3. **Share** your sentences with the class.



cut

dye

fix

deliver

clean

paint

make

check

wash

Ex.

I **got** my hair **cut** two weeks ago.

# Have + person + bare infinitive + object

- We also use **have** + **person** + **bare infinitive** (= infinitive without 'to') + **object**.
- The meaning is similar to *have something done*.
- Here we say **who** we asked to do something for us.

|     | <i>have</i> | person     | bare infinitive | object     |
|-----|-------------|------------|-----------------|------------|
| I   | had         | my brother | write           | my essay.  |
| She | had         | a designer | make            | her dress. |

# Get + person + full infinitive + object

- Our final construction is **get** + **person** + **full infinitive** + **object**.
- This structure means to **ask** or to **persuade** someone **to do** something.
- Its meaning is **less neutral** than *have someone do something*.

|     | <i>get</i> | person     | full infinitive | object     |
|-----|------------|------------|-----------------|------------|
| I   | got        | my brother | to write        | my essay.  |
| She | got        | a designer | to make         | her dress. |



I **finally** got my boss to give me more money!

We often use **finally** with this construction.

It stresses the **difficulty** or **length of time** it took to persuade someone.



# Summary of causative structures

| Form   | Use   | Examples  |
|--|---|---|
| <b><i>Have / get</i> + object + past participle</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>When we arrange or pay someone to do something for us.</li></ul>                      | I <b>had</b> my car <b>washed</b> .<br>We <b>got</b> our nails <b>painted</b> .                   |
| <b><i>Have</i> + person + bare infinitive + object</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>When we ask, arrange or pay someone to do something, and we say who did it.</li></ul> | I <b>had</b> my brother <b>wash</b> my car.<br>We <b>had</b> my Mum <b>paint</b> our nails.       |
| <b><i>Get</i> + person + full infinitive + object</b>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>When we persuade someone to do something, and we say who did it.</li></ul>            | I <b>got</b> my brother <b>to wash</b> my car.<br>We <b>got</b> my Mum <b>to paint</b> our nails. |



# Transform into causative sentences

**Start** your sentence with **I**. Remember to include **who** did the action.

1 The gardener mowed the lawn. (*have*)



I **had** the gardener **mow** the lawn.

2 The client sent me the invoice. (*have*)



3 The waiter brought us the bill. (*have*)



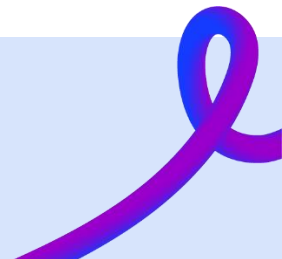
4 The students stopped talking in class (*get*)



5 My husband took care of the children. (*get*)



6 My daughter ate her vegetables. (*get*)





# Form causative sentences

Use the structure **get + person + to do something** in your answers.

1 My teenage son / wake up / on time



I **got** my teenage son **to wake up** on time!

2 My sister / pay for / our holiday



3 My husband / remember / our anniversary



4 My boss / increase / my pay



5 My mother / stop ringing / every night



6 My colleague / speak up / in our meetings





# Role-play

- **Choose** a statement from the last slide.
- **Plan** a conversation between you and a friend.
- **Explain** how you managed to persuade the person to do something!



*I got my teenage son to wake up on time!*

*Oh, really? How did you manage that?*

*Well, I told him that if he wakes up on time, I'd make him breakfast!*





# End of the lesson

Idiom

***to twist someone's arm***

**Meaning:** to persuade someone to do something they don't want to do.

**Example:** I've **twisted his arm** and he's going to give you a discount on the tickets.



# Additional practice



# Choose the correct option

1 Before we left for Tom's graduation, we \_\_\_\_\_ in front of our house.

a. had a family picture taken

b. got a family picture to take

2 The shop owner \_\_\_\_\_ as soon as the police got here.

a. had arrested the thieves

b. had the thieves arrested

3 Sonia lives in a dangerous neighbourhood and she \_\_\_\_\_

a. is always stealing her bike

b. is always getting her bike stolen





# Choose the correct option

4 We have to clear out the basement. Next week, we \_\_\_\_\_ painted.

a. are having it

b. are getting it to

5 The headteacher \_\_\_\_\_ a report about the incident.

a. got a member of staff to write

b. had a member of staff written

6 \_\_\_\_\_ Paul call a doctor for me, please.

a. Get

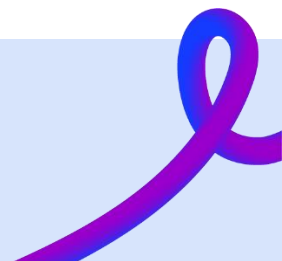
b. Have



# Complete the sentences

Use the words in parentheses to form a causative sentence.

- 1 We usually \_\_\_\_\_ (*the bedrooms, redecorate*) every few years.
- 2 He didn't fix his car himself, he \_\_\_\_\_ (*it, fix*) at the garage.
- 3 If you're struggling to see properly, you should \_\_\_\_\_ (*your eyes, test*).
- 4 The company \_\_\_\_\_ (*their logo, redesign*) last year for their 10 year anniversary.
- 5 I didn't have time to go to the supermarket, so I \_\_\_\_\_ (*the food, deliver*) to my house.



# Fill in the gaps

**Use** the words in parentheses to form a causative sentence.

1. If you would be so kind as to give me your email address, I \_\_\_\_\_ (*will, my team, send*) you a proposal this afternoon.
2. I'm sorry to hear about your lost luggage. I'll contact our baggage team and \_\_\_\_\_ (*them, investigate*) the matter right away.
3. Should I \_\_\_\_\_ (*a native speaker, proofread*) my CV one last time before I apply?
4. I'm thinking of \_\_\_\_\_ (*Cristina, translate*) my profile into Spanish before my move to Madrid.
5. We \_\_\_\_\_ (*top agency, redesign*) the website last year. It looks so much more modern now!





# Answer key

**P. 6:** 1.d, 2. e, 3. a, 4. b, 5. c

**P. 7-8:**

2. I get my hair cut every six weeks.
3. We had the documents translated.
4. They got the washing machine fixed.
5. I had my computer repaired.
6. Tim got his bedroom painted.
7. Nina has her carpets cleaned.
8. We got the grass cut last week.
9. He had the article edited.
10. She's getting her dress made.
11. I'm having the shopping delivered tomorrow.
12. They want to get their hair dyed.





# Answer key

- P. 14:**
- 2. I had the client send me the invoice.
  - 3. I had the waiter bring us the bill.
  - 4. I got the students to stop talking in class.
  - 5. I got my husband to take care of the children.
  - 6. I got my daughter to eat her vegetables.

- P. 15: Suggested answers:**
- 2. I got my sister to pay for our holiday.
  - 3. I got my husband to remember our anniversary.
  - 4. I got my boss to increase my pay.
  - 5. I got my mother to stop ringing every night.
  - 6. I got my colleague to speak up in our meetings.



# Answer key

**P. 20-21:** 1. a, 2. b, 3. b, 4. a, 5. a, 6. b

**P. 22:**

1. have/get the bedrooms redecorated.
2. had/got it fixed.
3. have/get your eyes tested.
4. had/got their logo redesigned.
5. had/got the food delivered.

**P. 23:**

1. will have my team send
2. have them investigate
3. have a native speaker proof-read
4. having Cristina translate
5. had a top agency redesign.



# Summary

## Causative structures

- We use a **causative verb** to talk about something that someone else did for us or another person.
- The subject **caused** the action to happen, but **didn't do it** themselves.
- *I **got** my hair cut last week; Tina **had** her TV fixed yesterday.*

## Have / get + object + past participle

- When we **arrange** or **pay** someone to do something for us. *Get* is more **informal** than *have*.
- *I **had** my car **washed***
- *We **got** our nails **painted**.*

## Have + person + bare infinitive + object

- When we **ask**, **arrange** or **pay** someone to do something and we say **who** did it.
- *I **had** my brother **wash** my car.*
- *We **had** my Mum **paint** our nails.*

## Get + person + full infinitive + object

- When we **persuade** someone to do something and we say **who** did it.
- *I **got** my brother **to wash** my car.*
- *We **got** my Mum **to paint** our nails.*



# Vocabulary

to have something done

to get something done

to have someone do something

to get someone to do something

to mow



## Notes

