

Causative verbs- Let, Make, Have & Get

Causative verbs designate the action necessary to cause another action to happen. In "The devil made me do it." the verb "made" *causes* the "do" to happen. Here is a brief list of causative verbs.

let, help, allow, have, require, allow, motivate, get, make, convince, hire, assist, encourage, permit, employ, force.

Let / Make / Have / Get

The verbs 'let', 'make', 'have' and 'get' cause a considerable amount of confusion. Here is an overview of their functions and meanings when speaking.

Let= This construction usually means "to allow someone to do something"

- Ramesh **let me drive** his new car.
- Will your parents **let you go** to the party?

Make= This construction usually means "to force someone to do something"

- My teacher **made me apologize** for what I had said.
- She **made her children do** their homework.

Have= This construction usually means "to give someone responsibility to do something".

- Dr.Soni **had his nurse take** the patient's temperature.
- Please **have your secretary fax** me the information.
- I **had the mechanic check** the brakes.

Causative verbs

Get = This construction usually means "to convince to do something" or "to trick someone into doing something."

- Sujan **got her son to take** the medicine even though it tasted terrible.
- How can parents **get their children to read** more?
- The government TV ads. are trying to **get people to stop** smoking.

Get v/s Have

Sometimes "get" and have is interchangeable but these expressions do not mean exactly the same thing.

- I **got the mechanic to check** my brakes.
(at first, the mechanic didn't think it was necessary, but I convinced him to check the brakes.
- I **had the mechanic check** my brakes.
(I asked the mechanic to check the brakes)