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Chapter Four

Uses of the verb- Get, Have & Do

Verb ‘Get’ can be used in a number of patterns and has a number of meanings.

to get + direct object = to obtain, to receive, to buy

- I got my passport last week. (to obtain)
- I got a letter from my friend in Nigeria. (to receive)
- We got a new television for the sitting room. (to buy)

to get + place expression = reach, arrive at a place

- How are you getting home tonight?
- We got to London around 6 p.m.
- What time will we get there?
- When did you get back from New York?

to get + adjective = to become, show a change of state

- I am getting old.
- By the time they reached the house they were getting hungry.
- I'm getting tired of all this nonsense.
- My mother is getting old and needs looking after.
- It gets dark very early in the winter.
- Don't touch the stove until gets cool.

Phrasal verbs of “Get” with meanings

| Phrasal verb | Meaning |
|------------------|---|
| to get at | try to express |
| to get away with | escape punishment for a crime or bad action |
| to get down | depress, descend |
| to get off | leave a form of transport (train, bus, bicycle, plane) |
| to get on | 1. enter/sit on a form of transport (train, bus, bicycle, plane) 2. have a relationship with someone |
| to get out of | avoid doing something, especially a duty |
| to get over | recover (from an illness, a surprise) |
| to get up | leave your bed |

Example-

- I think I see what you're **getting at**. I agree.
- I can't believe you **got away with** cheating on that test!
- This rain is really **getting me down**.
- We **got off** the train just before the bomb exploded.
- He **got on** his bicycle and rode down the street.
- Amy and I really **get on** well.
- She **got out of** the washing-up every day, even when it was her turn.
- Have you **gotten over** your cold yet?
- He **gets up** at 6.00 a.m. every morning.

Get is sometimes used in place of **be** in a passive sentence.

Using a **get**-passive instead of a **be**-passive is considered to be informal usage. However, there are some instances when a **be**-passive and a **get**-passive are not interchangeable.

In the speech, we use a **get**-passive to express small details about a particular situation that a **be**-passive cannot express.

verb get

| Sentence using “be” | Sentence using “get” |
|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| I was hit by a bird. | Man, I got hit! |
| I became upset. | I got upset. |
| I cleaned myself up. | I got myself cleaned up. |
| <i>I had the barber</i> wash my hair. | I got my hair washed. |
| I was hit by a car driver. | I got hit! |
| I was hurt by the airbag. | I got hurt/injured. |
| She was upset by her experience. | She got upset. |
| She was frightened. | She got frightened. |
| She was selected/chosen for award. | She got selected/chosen/picked. |
| She was asked to make a speech. | She got asked to make a speech. |
| She was taken/sent to Hollywood. | She got taken/sent to Hollywood. |
| She was caught. | She got caught. |
| She was fired/expelled/jailed | She got fired/expelled/jailed |

Uses of the verb-Have

For non-native English learners, the verb to have could cause difficulties as it functions in various ways.

1. **To Have as a main verb-** In all the simple tenses, the verb "have" can be used as the **main verb** and it implies the meaning of possession.

For example, when one says: have a car; have a house; I have a book, one means that a person possesses a car, a house, or a book.

The forms of the verb to have are as simple as any other verb:

- I have; you have; she has; he has, we have- they have- it has
- I had; you had; she had; he had; we had; they had; it had

For showing possession/ custody

- I have hundred rupees in my pocket.
- I have a garden in my house.

For showing parts of body e.g. I have two hands.

For showing deceases. e.g. I have jaundice./ I have diabetes.

For showing relatives e.g. I have two cousins.

For showing emotion & experience

- I have pain in my legs. / We have enjoyment in that water park.
- I have a problem in doing that sum

For showing that tea, lunch etc has been taken

- I had dinner / breakfast / lunch

For showing that you have received something like-letter, phone-call, profit, loss, appointment, ticket etc.

- I had call-letter yesterday.
- We had a doctor's appointment at 2.00 p.m.
- We had lost in that deal.

2. To Have as an auxiliary- The verb to have is also used as an auxiliary to help other verbs create the perfect tense, for example-

- I have studied English for five years, or I have visited Vietnam.

3. “Have” is non-continuous verb *when it means "to possess"*

- I have a headache (correct) I am having a headache (wrong)
However, you can write “I am having lunch” “I am having bath”

4. Use of “have/has had” together in a sentence

Generally non-native English learner feels confusion when they find “have & had together”.

- have you had tea? Yes, I have had.

In the above sentences ***had*** means ***taken***.

Another example- Doctor asked, “Have you ever had malaria ?”

Patient “ Yes I have just had malaria”

In these sentences “have” is used as Auxiliary and its past participle “had” as the main verb.

5. We use “have to” for showing that you have to do something.

- I have to visit my brother tonight./ She has to see the doctor.
- We had to write a paragraph./ I have to go to Chicago on Monday.

This form can have the same meaning as 'must' but 'must' is generally used to speak about strong personal obligation (For example- I must talk to Peter).

6. The uses of- Will have to do:

“Will have to do something” is used to speak about **future obligations**, and “had to do something” is used to speak about **past obligations**.

The negative form “don't/didn't have to do something” refers that an action is not required for someone, even though it was possible for the doer.

'Must not' refers to something that is prohibited.

Present Examples:

- Mona has to get up early every day.
- They have to work hard on Saturdays.

Past Examples:

- They had to leave early to catch the flight.
- Rupal had to explain the situation to Paresh.

Future Examples:

- He will have to get up early tomorrow.
- Dhara will have to decide whether she wants to marry him or not.
- You will have to complete that work.
- You shall have to attend that business meeting.
- Who will have to pay the expense of that function?

To Have something happen / happening-experiences

Have + object(s) + base form of verb (or) -ing form

This form is used to speak about experiences that have happened, or experience in general.

- We have people visit us all the time.
- Sherry had her children playing in the garden.

To Have something done- arrangements

Have + object(s) + past participle

This form is used to speak about something that you arrange to have done for you. This form is also known as the causative 'have' because it expresses something which someone else causes to happen.

- She had them delivered to her home.
- We had Jack promoted to director.

Have & have got- “Have got” and “have” are used to talk about-

(1) possession.

- I've **got** a new house / I **have** a new house.
- **Has** she **got** a car? / **Does** she **have** a car?

(2) relationships.

- **Have** you **got** a girlfriend? / **Do** you **have** a girlfriend?
- He's **got** three brothers / He **has** three brothers.

(3) illnesses.

- I've **got** a headache / I **have** a headache.

(4) characteristics.

- Her office **has got** a nice view / Her office **has** a nice view.
- Why **has** he **got** a tattoo? / Why **does** he **have** a tattoo?

Additional points

have is more common than *have got* when talking in the past.

- She **had** a pink guitar when she was 13. – *more common*
- She **had got** a pink guitar when she was 13. – *less common*
- **Did** you **have** a headache yesterday? – *more common*
- **Had** you **got** a headache yesterday? – *less common*

Uses of the verb-Do

To do is also an unusual verb and can be confusing to non-native English learners. They understand that “to do=to make” This, however, is not always true.

The verb “**to do**” functions as a main verb with its own meaning that is very different from make.

- I do my homework every day.
- I do my laundry every Saturday, but, I make coffee every morning.
- I make dinner every night.

More functions for the verb *to do*

While the verb to do works as a main verb, it also functions in two separate ways: as an emphasis the verb and as an auxiliary verb in the question form.

(1) For emphasis:

The verb to do may be used to **emphasize** another verb.

For an example- when one says: *Do come in*, *Do sit down*; *Do call at any time*; one is emphasizing the verb come, sit, and call.

The verb *to do* here is merely used for purpose of emphasizing action to be done.

(2) For questions and negative statements:

The verb **to do** is also used as an auxiliary verb that helps create questions.

For example, one must ask- Did you go to school yesterday?

And not- You went to school yesterday?

To do is used to make action verbs negative, as in, I don't get up early or Bill didn't come to class.