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Causative Verbs – Have / Get 1

The causative verbs in English are: **HAVE**, **GET**, **LET**, **MAKE**, and **HELP**. We use them to show that the subject caused the action to happen without actually doing it themselves. There are three structures with **HAVE** / **GET**. We often use them to talk about people who deliver **services**, e.g. a mechanic, a plumber, a dry-cleaner, etc. In each case using **get** is more informal:

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|--|---|---|---|
| 1. have / get + object + past participle
We do not know who did the action, or it is not important. The subject can take credit for something they do not do! | I had / got my tyres changed (by the mechanic). |  | TIP! have / get act as state verbs , so no continuous tenses, apart from present continuous for future |
| 2. have + person + infinitive + object
We say who did the action for us | I had the mechanic change my tyres. | | |
| 3. get + person + to + infinitive + object
We say who did the action for us | I got the mechanic to change my tyres. | | |

1. Write five sentences with **have / get + object + past participle** and the given tense:

Ex. **pa/sim** living room We had our living room decorated (by Frank) last week.

- a) **pr/sim** carpet _____
- b) **pr/cont** tax return _____
- c) **pa/sim** portrait _____
- d) **pa/cont** piano _____
- e) **fu/going to** package _____

2. Write five sentences with **have + person + infinitive + object** and the given tense:

Ex. **pr/sim** dentist I have the dentist look at my teeth fairly regularly.

- f) **pr/perf** designer _____
- g) **modal verbs** doctor _____
- h) **imperative form** plumber _____
- i) **1st cond** electrician _____
- j) **2nd cond** dietician _____

3. Write five sentences with **get + person + to + infinitive + object** and the given tense:

Ex. **pa/perf** waiter We'd got the waiter to bring us a jug of water before our meal arrived.

- k) **modal verbs** bakery _____
- l) **pa/perf** builder _____
- m) **3rd cond** vet _____
- n) **zero cond** gardener _____
- o) **fu/perf** mechanic _____

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Answers will vary. Sample answers:

1. Write five sentences with **have / get + object + past participle** and the given tense:

- a) *pr/sim* carpet We have our carpet cleaned (by a specialist) once a month.
- b) *pr/cont* tax return I'm getting my tax return done (by my accountant) next week.
- c) *pa/sim* portrait Jane had her portrait painted (by an artist) yesterday.
- d) *pa/cont* piano They were having their piano tuned (by a piano tuner) earlier on.
- e) *fu/going to* package I'm going to get my package delivered (by courier) tomorrow.

2. Write five sentences with **have + person + infinitive + object** and the given tense:

- f) *pr/perf* designer They have had a designer create the wedding dress just for them.
- g) *modal verbs* doctor We can have the doctor make an appointment at the hospital for you.
- h) *imperative form* plumber Have the plumber fix that leaky tap immediately!
- i) *1st cond* electrician If we have the electrician check our boiler, it will be much safer!
- j) *2nd cond* personal trainer If I had a dietician create an eating plan, I might lose more weight!

3. Write five sentences with **get + person + to + infinitive + object** and the given tense:

- k) *modal verbs* bakery I might get the bakery to make Terry's birthday cake.
- l) *pa/perf* builder We'd got the builder to fix the wall, but then the roof collapsed.
- m) *3rd cond* vet If I'd got the vet to look at my rabbit earlier, he might've saved him.
- n) *zero cond* gardener If we get our neighbour's gardener to cut the grass, he always does a really good job.
- o) *fu/perf* mechanic Jan will have got the mechanic to fix her car by the end of the day.