

CAUSATIVE VERBS: HAVE/GET SOMETHING DONE

Have something done and *Get something done* are both used to refer to actions which are done for the subject rather than by the subject. Causative verbs are used instead of passive verbs to show that the subject causes the action to be done.

1. *Have something done*

*I don't know how to repair cars, so I'm **having mine repaired** at the garage round the corner.*

2. *Get something done*

*I really must **get my eyes tested**. I'm sure I need glasses.
Get your hair cut!*

NOTE: The differences between *have* and *get something done* are that *have* is slightly more formal than *get*, and that *get* is more frequent than *have* in the imperative form.

NON-CAUSATIVE USES OF HAVE AND GET

Have and *get* are also used to refer to events which happened to someone, but were outside their control.

*After being late for work every day for two weeks, Billy **had his pay reduced**.
I stood so close to the fire that I **got my legs burnt**.*

EXERCISE 1

Rewrite these sentences using *have* or *get*.

1. The mechanic changed the oil in my car.

2. The hairdresser cut my hair in a completely different style.

3. A decorator has repainted our house.

4. A friend of mine, who's an electrician, is going to repair my DVD player next week.

5. My jacket is being cleaned at a specialist cleaner's.

6. The town hall has just been rebuilt for the council.

EXERCISE 2

Match a word from 1-8 with something that is done by that person or in that place. Then make sentences using all the information and the verb in brackets.

You may have to change the words or add new ones. An example is given.

1. hairdresser's	vaccinate dogs (have)
2. optician's	do annual accounts (have)
3. dentist's	service cars (get)
4. doctor's	test eyes (have)
5. vet's	design new houses (have)
6. garage	cut hair (get)
7. architect	take out teeth (have)
8. accountant	take blood pressure

Example:

1. Tomorrow *I'm going to the hairdresser's to get my hair cut.*
2. Yesterday...
3. This afternoon...
4. Last week...
5. Next Saturday...
6. The day before yesterday...
7. Last year...
8. Next week...

KEY CAUSATIVE VERBS: HAVE/GET SOMETHING DONE

EXERCISE 1

Rewrite these sentences using *have* or *get*.

1. The mechanic changed the oil in my car.

I had the oil in my car changed.

2. The hairdresser cut my hair in a completely different style.

I had my hair cut in a completely new style.

3. A decorator has repainted our house.

We have had our house repainted.

4. A friend of mine, who's an electrician, is going to repair my DVD player next week.

I'm going to have my DVD player repaired next week by a friend of mine, who's an electrician.

5. My jacket is being cleaned at a specialist cleaner's.

I'm having my jacket cleaned at a specialist cleaner's.

6. The town hall has just been rebuilt for the council.

The council have just had the town hall rebuilt.

EXERCISE 2

Match a word from 1-8 with something that is done by that person or in that place. Then make sentences using all the information and the verb in brackets.

You may have to change the words or add new ones. An example is given.

1. Tomorrow *I'm going to the hairdresser's to get my hair cut.*
2. Yesterday *I went to the optician's to have my eyes tested.*
3. This afternoon *I'm going to the dentist to have a tooth taken out.*
4. Last week *I went to the doctor's to have my blood pressure taken.*
5. Next Saturday *I'm going to the vet's to have my dog vaccinated.*
6. The day before yesterday *I went to the garage to get my car serviced.*
7. Last year *I saw the architect to have my new house designed.*
8. Next week *I'm talking my accountant to have my annual accounts done.*