Unit 41 Grammar

The causative

The causative

Form

subject + *have* in the correct form + object + past participle

Use

To show that someone arranges for someone else to do something for them

Tense / modal	Example
present simple	*Mrs Taylor* ***has her car cleaned*** *once a month.*
present continuous	*She* ***is having the tyres checked*** *at the moment.*
present perfect simple	*She* ***has had the windscreen replaced****.*
present perfect continuous	This is not usually used in the causative.
past simple	*She* ***had the car filled up*** *with petrol yesterday.*
past continuous	*She* ***was having the car repaired*** *when I last saw her.*
past perfect simple	*She* ***had had the engine checked****.*
past perfect continuous	This is not usually used in the causative.
will and other modals	*She* ***will have a car alarm fitted*** *when she can afford it.* *She* ***would have air bags put in*** *but it's too expensive.*
be going to	*She* ***is going to have a new car radio installed****.*
-ing form	*She might stop* ***having the car cleaned*** *so often.*

Helpful hints

- Look at the differences between a normal active sentence and a sentence in the causative.

  Normal active sentence: **Someone cleans Mrs Taylor's car every week.**

  In the causative: **Mrs Taylor has her car cleaned every week.**

- We can also use *get* instead of *have*. *Get* is more informal than *have*.
  ✓ *I'm going to* ***have*** *my hair cut tomorrow.* (more formal)
  ✓ *I'm going to* ***get*** *my hair cut tomorrow.* (more informal)

- Just as with the passive (see Unit 11), we can use *by* to show who does the action.
  ✓ *We're having a family photo taken* ***by*** *a local photographer.*

Watch out!

- With the causative, *have* always comes **before** the noun and the past participle always comes **after** the noun.

- When we ask questions using the causative, the past participle stays after the noun.
  ✓ *Did you have the furniture* ***delivered*** *yesterday?*
  ✗ ~~*Did you have* ***delivered*** *the furniture yesterday?*~~

- Some verbs have irregular past participle forms. See page 182.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

A Complete each second sentence using the correct form of *have* so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence.

1 Let's arrange for someone to knock that wall down.
Let's ..... that wall knocked down.

2 We paid someone to deliver the furniture.
We ..... the furniture delivered.

3 I'm going to pay someone to paint this wall.
I'm ..... this wall painted.

4 Has anyone printed the invitations for you yet?
..... you ..... the invitations printed yet?

5 You should arrange for someone to fix your mobile.
You should ..... your mobile fixed.

6 When did you dye your hair?
When ..... you ..... your hair dyed?

7 A vet is looking at Lucy at the moment.
They ..... Lucy looked at by a vet at the moment.

8 I haven't taken my suit to the dry-cleaner's yet.
I ..... my suit dry-cleaned yet.

B Complete using the correct form of the verbs in the box.

clean • cut • deliver • paint • repair • sign

1 I have my teeth ..... by a dentist every six months.
2 My mum has just had her hair ..... by a hairdresser in the town centre.
3 The car broke down, so we had it ..... by a mechanic.
4 Let's get a pizza ..... before the film starts.
5 Did you get your book ..... by the author?
6 Garry is going to have his face ..... blue for the party!

C If the phrase in bold is correct, put a tick (✓). If it is wrong, write the correct phrase.

1 Mandy **is having cut her hair** at the moment. .....
2 I might **have the house redecorated** next summer. .....
3 Our dog loves **having his back scratching**. .....
4 The receptionist **had the suitcases brought up** to the room. .....
5 We're not going to **have costumes make** for the play. .....
6 How often do you **have checked your teeth**? .....
7 You don't like **having your photo taken**, do you? .....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

D Look at the pictures and complete the sentences. Use the causative.

1 Three times a day, a giraffe called Gloria does the washing-up for Mr Lazylion.
Three times a day, Mr Lazylion has the washing-up done by a giraffe called Gloria .

2 At the moment, Harry Hippo is cleaning Mr Lazylion's car.
At the moment, Mr Lazylion ..... .

3 Later, the Mice Sisters will cook Mr Lazylion's supper.
Later, Mr Lazylion ..... .

4 Ellie Phant has just brushed Mr Lazylion's hair.
Mr Lazylion ..... .

5 Mr Lazylion loves it when Marty Monkey tickles his feet.
Mr Lazylion loves ..... .

6 George is making a suit for Mr Lazylion.
Mr Lazylion ..... .

E Circle the correct word or phrase.

Mr Lazylion had a problem. The animals were refusing to help him.
Mr Lazylion had had things (1) **doing / done** for him (2) **by / with** the other animals for so long that he didn't know what to do. He (3) **hadn't had / hadn't** his meals prepared for him for two days now, and he was starting to get hungry.
So, he had some Chinese food (4) **delivering / delivered** – all the way from China. That filled him up, but it's not easy to (5) **get / be** food delivered in the jungle. He couldn't do that every day. What was he going to do?
He felt very sad. He really wanted to have (6) **brushed his hair / his hair brushed** by Ellie and his feet (7) **tickling / tickled** by Marty, but they just said 'No'.
There was only one solution, and Mr Lazylion didn't like it at all. He would have to start doing things for himself.

LIVEWORKSHEETS