

## The causative

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

**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? ....



**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.