

98 to have something done



I have my house painted once every five years. I use a local company. They're very good.



1 Use

When you *have something done*, someone does it for you. It is usually a service that you pay someone to do because it is their job.

I have my hair cut every six weeks. (by the hairdresser)

Carol has her house painted once every five years. (by professional painters)

How often do you have your car checked? (by the garage)

We don't usually say who does the action. But if we say this, we use *by*:

Paula has her hair cut by Sergio at the hairdresser's in the high street.

NATURAL ENGLISH In everyday English, we can also say *get something done*:

I'm going to get my hair cut tomorrow.

Don't forget to get the car checked.

2 Form

We use *have* + object + the past participle of the verb:

AFFIRMATIVE AND NEGATIVE					
present simple	I/We/You/They	have	don't have	the house	painted.
	He/She/It	has	doesn't have		
past simple	I/He/She/It/We/You/They	had	didn't have		
present perfect	I/We/You/They	have had	haven't had		
	He/She/It	has had	hasn't had		

We can also use *will*, *can*, *must* and *should* + *have something done*:

I must have the windows cleaned soon.

The college will have a new library built next year.

We can ask questions:

How often do you have your hair cut?

Did you have the house painted last year?

Should we have the car checked before we drive to Scotland?

Will you have the TV repaired soon?

Practice

1 Choose the correct words in *italics*.

- 0 The car's very dirty. Shall I *make* / *(have)* it cleaned next time I go to the garage?
- 1 Mrs Aziz always *has* / *have* her hair done before a big party.
- 2 Davina's wedding photos were fantastic. She *had taken* / *had them taken* by a famous photographer.
- 3 Your computer's making a strange noise. I think you should *it have* / *have it* checked.
- 4 My neighbours have a beautiful garden. They *have* / *are having* the grass cut twice a week!
- 5 Don't forget to *get* / *got* my suit cleaned when you go to the dry cleaner's.
- 6 It was a special party so we had *prepared the food* / *the food prepared* by a professional chef.

2 Melinda is a film star. She has a big house and lots of people do things for her. Study the information. Then answer the question. Use the words in brackets ().

MELINDA'S STAFF:

- * The gardener cuts the grass
- * The cleaner makes the beds and washes the clothes
- * A famous chef prepares the meals
- * A professional hairdresser cuts Melinda's hair
- * Her assistant organises her diary
- * Her secretary types Melinda's letters



What does Melinda have done for her?

- 0 *She has her letters typed by her secretary.*..... (letters)
- 1 (meals)
- 2 (clothes)
- 3 (hair)
- 4 (beds)
- 5 (grass)
- 6 (diary)

3 GRAMMAR IN USE There are six more mistakes in the letter. Find and correct them.

Dear Mr Hanshaw,

Thank you for agreeing to advertise our house for sale.

We had a lot of things ^{done} do to the house and garden last year. Here is a list:

- We had the roof it repaired. Most of the roof is completely new.
- Last summer we have the outside of the house paint. We also had the kitchen and bathroom painting.
- We the new heating system had put in last winter.
- There were some improvements to the garden: we have some new trees planted and we had the walls repaired.