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.

_____

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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..._____.

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