

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.

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.

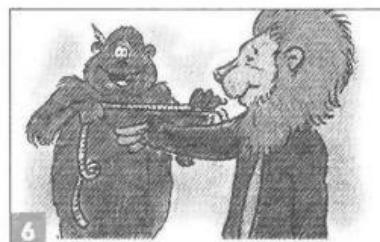
clean • cut • deliver • paint • repair • sign

- 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 is being cleaned.
- 3 Later, the Mice Sisters will cook Mr Lazylion's supper.
Later, Mr Lazylion will be cooked.
- 4 Ellie Phant has just brushed Mr Lazylion's hair.
Mr Lazylion has his hair brushed.
- 5 Mr Lazylion loves it when Marty Monkey tickles his feet.
Mr Lazylion loves his feet tickled.
- 6 George is making a suit for Mr Lazylion.
Mr Lazylion is having a suit made.

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.