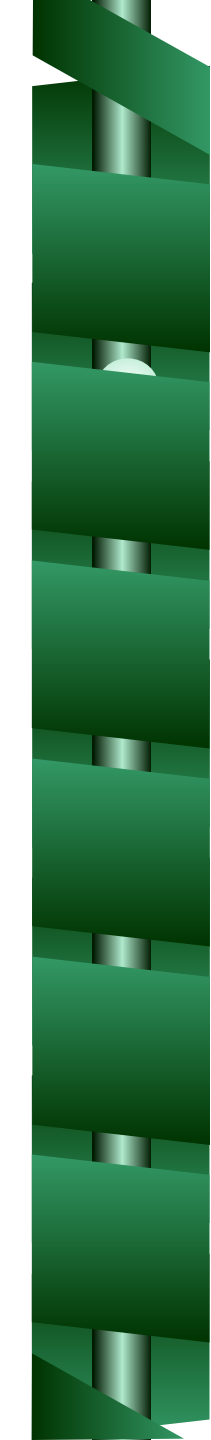# CAUSATIVE VERBS

Causative verbs are used to indicate that one person causes a second person to do something for the first person.
The causative are : have, get, make

• Have/ Get
the pattern Have active
    S + have + complement + verb in simple form
      (any tenses)   usually person   (
    V1)
 examples
1. Marry has John wash the car (present tense)
2. Marry had John wash the car (past tense)
3. Marry is having John wash the car (present continuous)
4. Marry has had John wash the car (present perfect)
5. Marry had had John wash the car (past perfect)
6. Marry will have John wash the car (future tenses)

The pattern Get Active

S + get + complement + verb in infinitive

(any tense)   (usually person)   (to + v1)

Examples

Marry gets John to wash the car (simple present)

Marry got John to wash the car (past tense)

Marry is getting John to wash the car (present continuous)
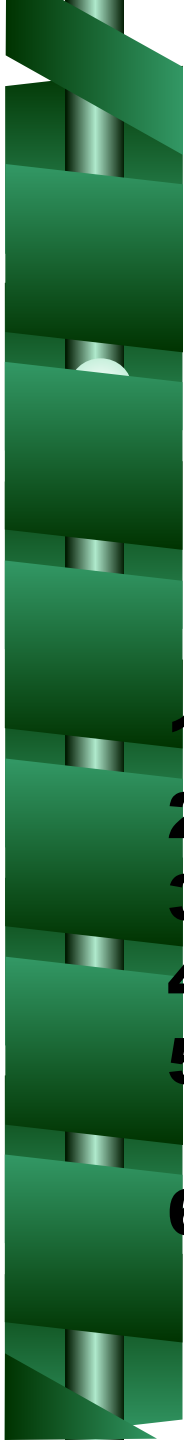

The pattern Have and Get Passive

S + Have/ Get + complement + verb in past participle

(any tense)   (usually thing)   V3

Examples

James has/gets his shirts cleaned at the drycleaners

Pat is having/is getting her car repaired this week

Anna had/got her paper typed by a friend.

Make→→ can be followed only by a clause in the active voice. It is stronger than have or get. It means force.

The pattern Make/force

S + make + complement + verb in simple form

　　any tense　　　　　　　　　　v1

S + force + complement + verb in Infinitive

　　any tense　　　　　　　　　to + v1

Examples

1. The teacher always makes the children stay in their class
2. The teacher always forces the children to stay in their class
3. The manager made the salesmen attend the conference
4. The manager forced the salesmen to attend the conference
5. The president is making his cabinet members sign this document
6. The president is forcing his cabinet members to sign this document

Let →→ is not actually causative, it means allow or permit.

The pattern Let/ permit/allow

S + let + complement + verb in simple form
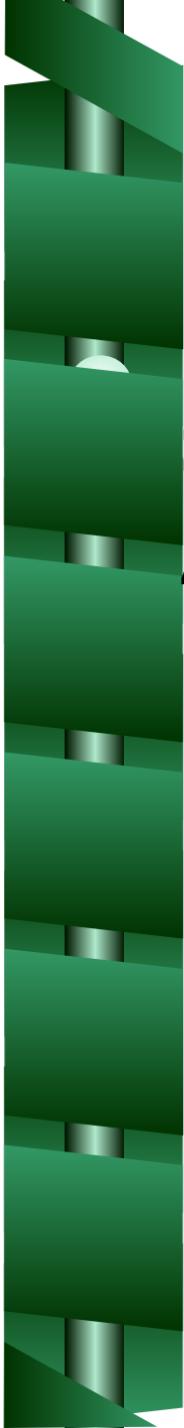
(any tense)   v1

S + permit + complement + verb in infinitive

allow

(any tense)   to + v1

Examples

1. John let his daughter swim with her best friend
2. John permitted/ allowed his daughter to swim with her best friend
3. Dr Jones is letting the students hand in the papers
4. Dr. Jones is permitting/allowing the students to hand in the papers

- Exercises

1. The teacher made Juan _____ (leave) the room.

2. Toshiko had her car _____ (repair) by a machine.

3. Ellen got Marvin _____ (type) her paper

4. We got our house _____ (paint) last week

5. Mark got his transcripts _____ (send) to the university

6. The teacher let Al _____ (leave) the classroom

causative verbs:

The causative verb is a common structure in English. It shows that somebody or something is indirectly responsible for an action. The subject doesn't perform the action itself, but causes someone or something else to do it instead. Pinker, (1988).

Basic causative structures in English.

- There are two basic causative structures. One is like an active, and the other is like a passive.

2.1. Active causative verbs?

- This structure is used when someone causes something to happen, or when a person causes another one to take an action. Consider:

- Railway station security had everyone show their tickets.

- The tutor made his students do an oral interpretation.

- I had Bill fix the van. I had the van fixed.

Sentence structure of active causatives

- **Active causatives use the following structure:**

- subject + causative verb + agent + bare infinitive -or- to-infinitive + object/complement. Downing and Locke (1992).

- The judge + had + the lawyer + defend + the suspect.

- The English department at the university + made + all staff members + attend + the stylistics seminar.

- The agent is the person/thing to whom is caused to take an action, such as: The judge had the lawyer defend the suspect. Here, the lawyer is the agent of the sentence.

active causatives

- It's also important to note that some causative verbs require the bare infinitive, namely when using have, let, and make. Other common causative actions require the to-infinitive, such as: Convince, allow , encourage, permit, employ, help, get, require, motivate, hire, assist, permit, command, force, order, remind, urge and force. For example:
- The lawyer convinced the judge to reduce the fine.
- The teacher encouraged his students to apply for the scholarships.
-   The boss required new employees to attend training sessions twice a week.
-   The magazine encouraged all readers to submit suggestions for future issues.

active causatives

- Modal verbs may also be used with the causative sentence structure. Mainly in offering a suggestion, such as: The magazine should encourage all readers to submit suggestions for future issues. The structure is:

- subject + modal auxiliary verb + causative verb + agent + object/complement

- teachers + should + ask + students + to make responses for every class they attend.

- The most very common causative verbs of those mentioned above are: Make, Get, Have, Let, Help. Thus these verbs are to be explained in more details as appears in the following lines:

Get (FORM: GET + PERSON + to + VERB)

- This construction usually means 'to convince someone to do something' or 'to trick someone into doing something'. Consider:

- I will GET my car maintained before this winter.

- How can teachers GET their students to read more?

- Al-Aqsa TV commercials are trying to GET people to stop smoking.

Have (FORM: HAVE + PERSON + VERB)

- This construction means 'to authorize someone to do something.'

- Here are some examples:

- The doctor HAD his nurse take the patient's temperature.

- Please HAVE your secretary forward me the e-mail.

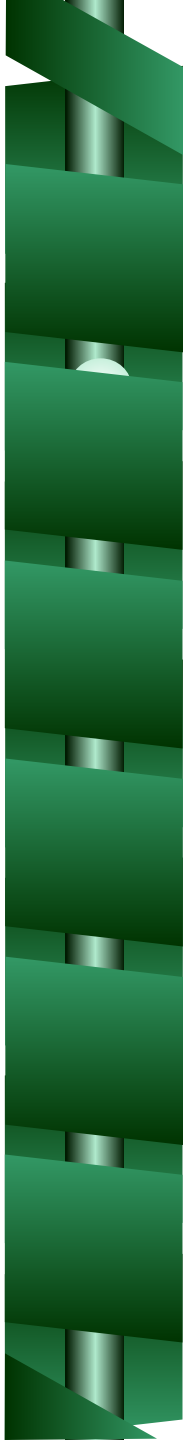- I HAD the technician check the photocopy machine.

Get vs. Have

- Sometimes 'get someone to do something' is interchangeable with 'have someone do something,' but these expressions are not semantically the same thing. For convenience consider the examples below:

- He GOT the mechanic to check his brakes.

- (At first the mechanic didn't think it was necessary, but he convinced him to check the brakes.)

- I HAD the mechanic check my brakes.

- (I asked the mechanic to check the brakes.)

Make (FORM: MAKE + PERSON + VERB)

- This construction means 'to force someone to do something.'

- Here are some examples:

- My dad MADE me apologize for what I had done.

- Did somebody MAKE you wear that ugly pant? .

- She MADE her kids tidy their beds.

Let (FORM: LET + PERSON + VERB)

- This construction means 'to allow someone to do something.' Consider the following examples:

- Mary LET me use her new laptop.

- Will your parents LET you go to the festival?

- I don't know if my boss will LET me take the day off .

The Passive causative structure

- This structure is used to talk about having something done by another person/thing. Consider the following example:

- Ahmed had his house repaired after the Forgan war on Gaza last year.

- President Obama had his speech written by a very talented group of writers.

- In both cases, the person (Ahmed and President Obama) arranged for something (repairing a house and writing a speech) to be done by a third person.

Passive sentence structure

- the word order of the sentence of passive causatives is as the following:
- subject + causative verb + object + past participle. Downing and Locke (1992).
- I + had + the van + tuned up.
- He + had + his home air conditioned system + installed a week ago.
- Our neighbors + will have + their house + renovated.
- I got my car washed and waxed at the new service station.
- Although she hates the dentist, she has had her teeth cleaned regularly.

Need and want

- Additionally. Need and want may be used in passive causative sentences. In some cases, the passive causative verb (had / got) may be dropped altogether.

- I need to have the van tuned up.

- I need the van tuned up.

- Modal auxiliary verbs may also be used with the causative sentence structure to express a suggestion by the speaker, such as: You should have your hair cut. Unlike need and want, though, the causative verb must always accompany the modal verb. Consider the example below:

- subject + modal auxiliary verb + causative verb + object + past participle
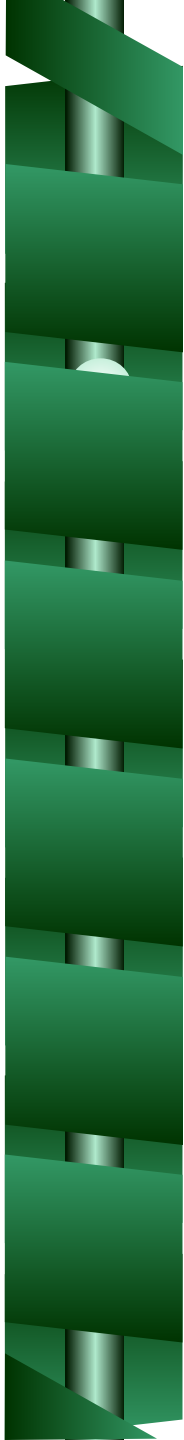 He + should + have + his pants + ironed.

USING CAUSATIVE VERBS: LET, MAKE, AND HAVE; USING HELP

- ## LET = Permit
- Please let me help you
- I let my brother carry my suitcase.
-

- ## MAKE = Gives the idea that there are no choices, no alternatives
- The doctor made the patient stay in bed.
- Mrs. Lee made her son clean up his room

HAVE: (both active and passive forms are possible) = ask someone to do something for you

- **Active:** have someone do something
- I had the jeweler repair my watch.
- Mrs. Crane had someone paint her house.
-

- **Passive:** Have something done by someone
- I had my watch repaired. (by the jeweler)
- Mrs. Crane had her house painted.

Let, Have and Make are followed by the simple form of the verb, not an infinitive.

GET: ***get someone to do something*** has basically the same meaning as ***have someone do something***

Active: Get someone to do something

I got my friend to drive to the airport

I had my friend drive me to the airport

Passive : Get something done

I will get the windows cleaned soon.

I got the house painted last year