Causative Verbs

Let / Make / Have / Get

What ON EARTH are Causative Verbs??????

- A causative verb is a verb that 'causes'.

- Examples.
  - He *had* them review the case. *(=caused)*
  - I *got* my friend to go skydiving with me! *(=convinced)*
  - He *let* me borrow his Lamborghini. (=allowed)
  - My teacher *made* me redo the homework! ☹ (=forced)

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Let

- Meaning: This construction means "to allow someone to do something."

- Form: [let + person + verb]

- Examples:

- *John let me drive his new car.*

- *Will your parents let you go to the party?*

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

Make

- Meaning/Use: This construction means "to force someone to do something."
- FORM
  - [make + person + verb]
- Examples:
  - My teacher made me apologize for what I had said.
  - Did somebody make you wear that ugly hat?
  - She made her children do their homework.

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Have

- Meaning/Use: "To give someone the responsibility to do something"
- FORM
  - [have + person + verb]

  Examples:
  - Dr. Smith had his nurse take the patient's temperature.
  - Please have your secretary fax me the information.
  - I had the mechanic check the brakes.

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Get

- Use/meaning: "This construction usually means "to convince to do something" or "to trick someone into doing something."
- FORM
  - [get + person + to + verb]

  Examples:
  - Susie got her son to take the medicine even though it tasted terrible.
  - How can parents get their children to read more?
  - The government TV commercials are trying to get people to stop smoking.

Get vs. Have

❖ Sometimes "get someone to do something" is interchangeable with "have someone do something," but these expressions do not mean exactly the same thing.

- Examples:
  - I got the mechanic to check my brakes.

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

  - I had the mechanic check my brakes.

  (= I asked the mechanic to check the brakes.

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- Source:
  - Focus on Grammar 4