

Causative Verbs

Let / Make / Have / Get



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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)



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.



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.



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.)*



- Source:

- Focus on Grammar 4



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