

have (5): + object + verb form

Have can be followed by object + infinitive (without *to*), object + *-ing*, and object + past participle.

1 causative: *have somebody do/doing something*

Have + object + infinitive can mean 'cause somebody to do something'. This is mostly used in American English, to talk about giving instructions or orders.

I'm ready to see Mr Smith. Have him come in, please.

The manager had everybody fill out a form.

The structure with an *-ing* form can mean 'cause somebody to be doing something' (BrE and AmE).

He had us laughing all through the meal.

For *get* + object + infinitive (meaning 'persuade somebody/something to do something'), see 224.2.

2 causative: *have something done*

Have + object + past participle can mean 'cause something to be done by somebody else'. The past participle has a passive meaning.

I must have my watch repaired. (= I want my watch to be repaired.)

I'm going to have my hair cut this afternoon.

If you don't get out of my house I'll have you arrested.

Get is used in a similar structure: see 224.3.

3 experience: *have something happen/happening*

In the structure *have* + object + infinitive/...*ing*, *have* can mean 'experience'.

I had a very strange thing happen to me when I was fourteen.

We had a gipsy come to the door yesterday.

It's lovely to have children playing in the garden again.

I looked up and found we had water dripping through the ceiling.

Note the difference between the infinitive in the first two examples (for things that happened), and the *-ing* form in the last two (for things that are/were happening). This is like the difference between simple and progressive tenses (see 461, 422). ▶