

8.3 HAVE/GET + OBJECT + PAST PARTICIPLE

8.3A We use this pattern to describe something which is done for the subject by someone else. We can use it in all tenses. *Get* is usually more informal than *have*:
 I had the washing machine repaired yesterday. (= The washing machine was repaired by an engineer.)

Do you get your hair done at Ebony's? (= Is your hair done at Ebony's?)
 There is an 'active' version of this pattern with *have* and *get* which means 'cause someone to do something'. The form with *have* is more common in US English:
 Have + object + infinitive:
 I had the mechanic repair my washing machine.

Get + object + to + infinitive:
 I will get the hairdresser to do my hair this afternoon.
 In British English we can use the *get* + object + to + infinitive pattern with a stronger meaning of 'make someone do something':
 After numerous letters from our solicitor we finally got them to give us a refund.

8.3B We can also use the pattern of *have/get* + object + past participle like a passive to describe something which is done to the subject by someone else, often something unpleasant or unexpected:
 Liz had her passport stolen. (= Her passport was stolen.)
 John got his tyres slashed by some hooligans.
 Out of the blue, Mark had his plan approved by the board yesterday.

8.3C We can use the causative in imperatives. Here it can be the person spoken to or someone else who will do the action:
 Have/Get that mess cleaned up at once!
 We can use the causative in future statements as commands or promises. Here it can be the subject of the sentence or someone else who will do the action:
 Don't worry, I'll have the report finished before the board meeting. (= I will do it or I will get it done.)

Choose the word or phrase (A, B, C or D) which best completes each sentence.

- I don't like
 A being B to have been C been D get
 been banned from driving. I was unable to rent a car on holiday.
- John enjoys being
 A Getting B Having C Being D To
 A bossing B boss C to boss D bossed
- They hated not having
 A been B be C being D get
 my secretary re-type the memo.
- her husband to put up some shelves in the kitchen.
 A got B get C had D having
- She them his cottage in the country.
 A got B had C have D is having
- They are getting their uncle
 A lend B lending C to be lending D to lend

- 2 1 B 2 D 3 A 4 C 5 A
 6 D 7 A 8 B 9 D 10 A
 11 C 12 B 13 D 14 B

Match parts 1-3 with A-C in each set.

- Set a
- Have him report to me
 - I had him reported
 - I had him report to me
- Set b
- We got the computer repaired
 - Get the computer repaired
 - We got the engineer to repair the computer
- A because I was his line manager.
 B when you see him later.
 C to his commanding officer.
 A or you'll be in trouble.
 B after he had fixed the printer.
 C because it had broken down.

- 4 Set a: 1 B 2 C 3 A
 Set b: 1 C 2 A 3 B

16.4 ASKING FOR AND GIVING/REFUSING PERMISSION

16.4A We use *can/can't* for permission granted or refused by the person being asked and for Present/future permission subject to some external authority such as the law:
'Can I use your phone?' 'Yes, of course you **can**./No, I'm afraid you **can't**.'
 (I give/refuse permission.)

You can't smoke on the underground. (The law doesn't allow you to do this.)
 In more formal situations we can use *may* and *may not* in the same way:

May I interrupt?

Candidates may not bring calculators into the examination room.

We use *could* or *might* to ask for permission in a more tentative way (*might* is very formal):
Excuse me, could I leave my coat here?
Might I ask the court for an adjournment at this point?

16.4B To describe general permission in the past we use *could/couldn't*:

Past *In the 1950s British children could leave school at the age of fourteen.*

But to talk about permission on a specific occasion in the past, we do not use *could*, we use *was/were allowed* to:

~~x I could leave early yesterday.~~ ✓ *I was allowed to leave early yesterday.*

2 16.1, 16.2

Match the situations (A-D) with the sentences (1-4).

A Samantha is going to work at a ticket agency next year.

B Judy went to the theatre yesterday and told the box office clerk that she was a theatre critic.

C Liz went to the theatre yesterday to buy some tickets. They didn't tell her about the special 'free ticket' offer.

D Carol works at a ticket agency.

1 She was able to get free tickets. 2 She can get free tickets.

3 She will be able to get free tickets. 4 She could have got free tickets.

A B C D

3 16.1, 16.2

Match the two parts (1-4 and A-D) to form sentences.

- 1 He could do it
- 2 He couldn't do it
- 3 He might have done it
- 4 He can't have done it

- A - he had plenty of opportunity.
 B - he wasn't even in the country.
 C - he seems a very capable person.
 D - he doesn't look old enough.

6 16.3, 16.4

Choose the correct description, A or B.

1 They allowed me to bring my dog. B They don't usually allow dogs.

A They usually allow dogs. B They don't usually allow dogs.

2 The doctor could see you at eleven. B I'm suggesting a time for an appointment.

A I'm not sure if she's free at eleven. B I'm suggesting a time for an appointment.

3 Might I borrow your calculator for a moment? B Talking to a clerk at the bank.

A Talking to your best friend. B Talking to a clerk at the bank.

4 Well, we could always go on the bus. B I really want to go on the bus.

A I don't really mind how we get there. B I really want to go on the bus.

5 I could wear anything I liked. B On the day I took my secretarial exams.

A When I worked as a secretary. B On the day I took my secretarial exams.

6 We can have a look at the shops. B I'm describing a future ability.

A I'm making a suggestion. B I'm describing a future ability.

7 May I interrupt? B At a family lunch.

A At a formal business meeting. B At a family lunch.

8 You may not bring drinks into the auditorium during the performance. B It's forbidden.

A It's up to you to decide. B It's forbidden.

9 I might see you after the show. B I'm not sure if I'll see you or not.

A I probably will see you. B I'm not sure if I'll see you or not.

10 We might as well go straight home. B I really want to go home.

A There's nothing better to do. B I really want to go home.

2 A 3 B 1 C 4 D 2

3 1 C 2 D 3 A 4 B

6 1 B 2 B 3 B 4 A 5 A
 6 A 7 A 8 B 9 B 10 A