

HAVE / GET SOMETHING DONE [Causative Form]

have / get + object + past participle

This sentence pattern is a mixture of **active** and **passive**; use '**get**' if the subject causes the action to be done. Both '**have**' and '**get**' something done can be used to express the following ideas:

- *when the subject of have / get does not do the action; someone else (usually someone who is paid to do it) does the action for the subject*
- *to say that something unpleasant happened to the subject; more usual to use 'have' in this pattern*
- *to say that the subject completes an action rather than leaving it in the middle or leaving it until later; more usual to use 'get' in this pattern*

Examples:

- I'm going to have / get my hair cut tomorrow.
- I'm having / getting my car repaired at the moment.
- You should have / get your eyes tested.
- She had her bag stolen last week.
- He had his leg broken in the accident.
- I must get this job done today.
- Let's get the house tidied and then we can go out.

PRACTICE

Rewrite these sentences using the correct form of **have** and **get** and the correct form of the verb in brackets. In some answers, both **have** and **get** can be used; in others, only one of them is possible.

- Workers collect our rubbish twice a week. (**collect**)
We
- If you finish all your work early, you can go home early. (**finish**)
If you
- The airline changed my flight for me yesterday. (**change**)
I
- We will have to arrange for someone to replace that broken window. (**replace**)
We will have to

- An engineer repaired my computer a couple of weeks ago. (**repair**)
I
- A well-known designer made the dress for her. (**make**)
She
- A professional cleaner cleans their house for them. (**clean**)
They
- A local hairdresser does her hair once a month. (**do**)
She
- My passport will expire soon. (**renew**)
I'll have to
- I solved the problem as quickly as I could. (solve)
I
- Someone broke into his car last week. (**break into**)
He
- A national newspaper published his letter. (**publish**)
He
- A company is going to develop these photographs for me next week. (**develop**)
I'm going to
- Let's do the washing-up now. (**do**)
Let's

ANSWER KEY

- have/get our rubbish collected twice a week
- get all your work finished early you can go home early
- had/got my flight changed yesterday
- have/get that broken window replaced
- had/got my computer repaired a couple of weeks ago
- had/got the dress made by a well-known designer
- have/get their house cleaned by a professional cleaner
- has/gets her hair done by a local hairdresser once a month
- have/get my passport renewed soon
- got the problem solved as quickly as I could
- had his car broken into last week
- had/got his letter published in a national newspaper
- have/get these photographs developed next week
- get the washing up done now

