

Causative verb:

Let / Make / Have / Get

The following is a mini-tutorial on the use of the causative verbs "let," "make," "have," and "get." After you have studied the tutorial, complete the associated exercises.

Let

FORM: [let + person + verb]

USE: means "to allow someone to do something."

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

FORM: [make + person + verb]

USE: means "to force someone to do something."

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

FORM: [have + person + verb]

USE

This construction means "to give someone the responsibility to do something."

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

FORM: [get + person + to + verb]

USE

This construction usually means "to convince to do something" or "to trick someone into doing something."

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.

Exercises with Keys

1. Sam really wanted a dog, but his parents wouldn't him have a pet.
2. I can't believe she you look at her vacation pictures again last night. We have to look at those stupid pictures every time we go to her house.
3. I don't know how you convince your children to clean up their rooms. I couldn't my children to clean up their rooms if my life depended on it.
4. Professor Yu each of her students write an essay describing their future goals in life.
5. Professor Yu her students use a dictionary while they were taking the test.
6. Debbie's husband hates the opera. But after days of nagging, she finally him to go see the new production of La Boheme.
7. Sally me take off my shoes before I went into her house. She said she wanted to keep the carpet clean.
8. Rebecca Smith requested a copy of that expense report, so I the courier take one over to her last week.
9. Diane thinks television is a waste of time, so she won't her children watch TV.
10. Mr. Levine his secretary call Ms. Jackson and reconfirm their meeting on Thursday.
11. Marcus me drive his new BMW. I couldn't believe how quickly it picked up speed.
12. How did you the doctor to make a house call? I haven't heard of a doctor actually going to a patient's house in years.
13. My boss me get him coffee, pick up his dry cleaning

and buy presents for his wife. He can't do anything by himself!

14. Tommy didn't want to go to his cousin's birthday party, but his mom him go.

15. I can't believe the zoo keeper you feed the snake. That was so cool!

16. The contract was very detailed, and it was essential that the wording be absolutely correct. Therefore, I the translator recheck his work several times to make sure there would be no misunderstandings.

17. Cheryl didn't want to wash her car, so with a little smooth talk she her boyfriend to wash it for her.

18. If you ask me nicely, I'll you lick the bowl after I make the cookies.

19. Dr. Jackson the nurse monitor the patient's condition overnight.

20. The news coverage of the recent tornado was incredibly moving. The interview with the little boy who lost his family in the tragedy everyone cry.

Keys

1. Make
2. Let
3. Get
4. Let
5. get

6. get
7. have
8. have
9. let
10. has

11. let
12. get
13. have
14. made
15. let

16. have
17. get
18. let
19. has
20. made

Exercises

1 - I'm going at the new hairdresser's

- ☒ to get my hair cut
☐ to cut my hair

2 - She needs to

- ☐ have her car repairs
☒ have her car repaired

3 - I really must get the central heating

- ☒ somebody to fix
☐ somebody fix

4 - They ought to have replace the broken windows

- ☐ somebody to
☒ somebody

5 - He while he was away on holiday

- ☒ had his flat burgled
☐ burgled his flat

6 - I my phone repaired after I dropped it

- ☒ had
☐ had to

7 - She didn't have time to get to the shops and

- ☒ get her film developed
☐ develop her film

8 - It took ages to get

- ☐ somebody do it
☒ somebody to do it

9 - I'll John to do it when he arrives

- ☒ get
☐ have

10 - She on the underground last week

- ☒ had her purse stolen
☐ got her purse stolen

11 - He tickets sent to his home address yesterday

- ☐ has had
☒ had

12 - You should a long time ago

- ☐ have it fixed
☒ have had it fixed

13 - They couldn't anyone to fix their burst pipes

- ☒ get
☐ have

14 - They had it by the same person who decorated their old house

- ☐ to do
☒ done

15 - After winning a fortune, she her family to do everything for her

- ☒ gets
☐ has

16 - I the house redecorated if I could afford it

- ☒ would have
☐ would have had

17 - He got a friend him at the airport

- ☐ meet
☒ to meet

18 - The teacher him do all the work again

- ☒ had
☐ got

19 - He his bags loaded onto the train by a porter

- ☒ had
☐ get

20 - I had my car a fortnight ago

- ☐ service
☒ serviced

21 - I'm going to have them ____ it

- ☒ fix
☐ fixed

My house is a mess!

1. I think the carpenter should fix my door.

I'll my door.

2. I think the cleaner should wash my windows.

I'll my windows.

3. I think the gardener should cut my grass.

I'll my grass.

4. I think the builder should fix my roof.

I'll my roof.

5. I think the plumber should mend my tap.

I'll my tap.