

Educational material to learn English

CAUSATIVES: HAVE AND GET.



We use a causative verb when we want to talk about something that someone else did for us or for another person. It means that the subject caused the action to happen, but didn't do it themselves. Maybe they **paid**, or **asked**, or **persuaded** the other person to do it.

FOR EXAMPLE



If we can say:

-**I cleaned my house.** (Limpié mi casa.) (This means I cleaned it **myself**).

If I **paid someone** to clean it, of course I can say:

- **A cleaner cleaned my house.** (Una aseadora limpió mi casa)



But, another way is to use a causative construction. So I can also say:

- **I had my house cleaned.** (Hice limpiar mi casa.)

In a sense, using a **causative verb** is similar to using a **passive**. The important thing is that the house is now clean. We **don't focus on who did** the cleaning.

HAVE + OBJECT + PAST PARTICIPLE (HAVE SOMETHING DONE)

We usually use 'have something done' when we are talking about **paying** someone to **do something for us**. It's often used for services.

- The **form** is: **'subject + have + object + past participle'**.

- **For example:**
 1. **I had my car washed.**
(Yo hice lavar mi carro)



- 2. **John will have his house painted.**
(John hará pintar su casa.)



3. **I will have my eyes checked**
(Yo haré revisar mis ojos).



GET + OBJECT + PAST PARTICIPLE (GET SOMETHING DONE)

This has the same meaning as 'have', but "**get**" is **less formal**. You always have to take into account the **context of the situation** in which you express yourself.

- The **form** is: **'subject + get + object + past participle'**.

- **For example:**
 1. **The students get their essays checked.**
(Los estudiantes hacen revisar sus ensayos.)



- 2. **I will get my hair cut** next week.
(Me haré cortar el pelo la próxima semana.)



- 3. **He got his washing machine fixed.**
(El hizo arreglar su lavadora.)

