

Causative: have, get

- Sometimes another person or organisation provides services for individual members of the public. The individual himself may pay for these services or not according to the particular circumstances. To indicate that another person provides the service, we use the forms *have*, and *has* followed by the direct object of the sentence followed by the past participle of the principal verb, e.g. *I have my car washed.* (have + object + participle)

I shall not wash my car. Somebody else will wash the car for me. I shall ask someone at the garage to wash the car. I shall cause him to perform a service for me. Consider:

- 1 *Jane has her hair done at an expensive hairdresser's.*
- 2 *They always have their garden looked after by a professional gardener.*

In 1 Jane does not look after her own hair by herself; she pays an expensive hairdresser to do it. The family are not amateur gardeners in the second example; they pay a man to look after the garden.

- The form *get* is often used instead of *have*. The future forms are *shall/will have* or *shall/will get*. Causative *have* and *get* are both constructed as finite verbs, that is, the auxiliary verbs (do, be, have, will, shall, etc.) are used to form the various forms.

NOTE: In the imperative *have* and *get* do not mean quite the same thing. Very often *get* seems much more imperative than *have*, or much less polite. Look at these examples.

- 1(a) *Have your shoes cleaned by the boot boy.*
(b) *Get your shoes cleaned!*
- 2(a) *Please have my evening suit pressed. I'm dining out.*
(b) *Get my trousers pressed! I'm dining out.*

- The remark in 1(a) could come from a hotel manager to a guest and 2(a) from a polite guest to the manager. The remark in 1(b) is what we might hear from an angry corporal or parent. In 2(b) we see a rather impolite demand for a service. It is peremptory in tone.

Rewrite these sentences using the *have/get* causative construction. The *have* subject is in italic type to help you. Convert it to *subject form* where necessary.

- 1 *Peter* takes his car to a garage for cleaning.
- 2 *Mary's* clothes are mended for her in Paris.
- 3 I go to the barber's *at* the corner for my haircut.
- 4 *The Smiths'* new house will be built on the hill.
- 5 *George* gives his suit for pressing to the shop in the High Street.
- 6 *Mrs Black* always asks shopkeepers to send the shopping home.
- 7 *Our* shoes are mended last week.
- 8 A man comes to clean *my* windows once a week.
- 9 A daily woman does heavy work for *Jane*.
- 10 *Our* teeth are inspected every six months.
- 11 *The manager's* letter typed for him.
- 12 Somebody posts *my* letter for me.
- 13 A maid cleans *my* room every morning.
- 14 I always request *them* to bring coffee to my room.
- 15 *David's* newspaper is delivered before breakfast.
- 16 An old man looks *at* *my* mother's garden.
- 17 Somebody does *my* dry for me.
- 18 A carpenter is making *a* new front door for *us*.
- 19 *We* are going to ask *them* to translate this.
- 20 *They* asked the baker to make a cake for them.

ANSWERS

Exercise 108

- 1 Peter has / gets his car cleaned
- 2 Mary has / gets her clothes made
- 3 I have / get my hair cut
- 4 The Smiths will have / get their new house built
- 5 George has / gets his suits pressed
- 6 Mrs Black has / gets her shopping sent
- 7 We get our shoes mended
- 8 They have / get their windows cleaned
- 9 Jane has / gets the heavy work done
- 10 We have / get our teeth inspected
- 11 The manager has / gets his letters typed
- 12 He has / gets them posted
- 13 I have / get my room cleaned
- 14 I always have / get my coffee brought
- 15 David has / gets his newspapers delivered
- 16 My mother has / gets her garden looked after
- 17 I have / get my laundry done
- 18 We are having / getting a new front door made
- 19 We are going to have / get this translated
- 20 They had / got a cake baked