

Causatives Verbs



1. Read the dialogue and answer the questions below.

Conor: Hey Jakob, how did the big move go on Saturday?

Jakob: It went well, I got my Dad to help me, we moved most of my furniture to the new apartment, but the fridge and washing machine are still at my old place. Unfortunately, my Dad isn't as strong as he used to be, and it just seemed too dangerous to have him lift them.

Conor: Well safety first I guess. Are you going to have them moved by professionals then?

Jakob: Well I'd rather not to be honest, I'm not sure I can afford to hire them. I was actually hoping that I could get you to help me.

Conor: Ah... sure, why not? When do you want to do it?

Jakob: How about next Saturday around 10?

Conor: Saturday at 10? Let me check... I'm sorry, I can't I'm having my hair cut then.



Jakob: Ok no problem, would Friday evening work for you?

Conor: Oh I'm sorry I can't, I need to take my car to the mechanic, winter is coming so I'm having my tires replaced with snow tires.

Jakob: You're having your tires replaced on a Friday evening? Really? What kind of mechanic is open on a Friday evening?

Conor: Well... I have a special late-night mechanic I go to.

Jakob: Sure. Well in that case, how about Sunday?

Conor: I'm... I'm having my house painted on Sunday. I'm sorry, it's a big job, probably going to take them all day, and I need to be there.

Jakob: Painters who work on a Sunday? You know what, never mind, I'll get someone else to help me.

Conor: Ah sorry buddy, maybe I'll be able to help next time.

a) Why can't Jakob's Dad help him move the fridge and washing machine? *He is not strong enough to lift without danger.*

b) Why doesn't Jakob want to use professional movers? *Too expensive*

c) Why is Conor having his tires replaced? *Because winter is coming and he needs snow tires.*

d) How do you think Jakob feels at the end of the conversation and why? *Frustrated because his friend is making excuses about why he can't come.*

e) What do you think the difference is between "I'm having my house painted" and "I'm painting my house"? *I'm having my house painted means you are paying someone else to do it.*

Causative Verbs

Causative verbs are verbs which show that something caused something else to happen.

Eg. "I made the kids clean the whole house."

"Make" normally means to create or build something, but as a causative verb it means to force someone to do something.

The structure is subject (I) + causative verb (made) + object (kids) + base verb (clean).

Common causative verbs are "let", "help", "make", "get" and "have."

"Help" and "let" mean the same thing they normally do as causative verbs, but "make", "get", and "have" have different meanings.

"Have" often means to pay someone to do something.

Eg. "I had my carpets professionally cleaned before I moved out."

Note: When using "have" as a causative verb, the main verb is in the past participle.

Eg. "I am having my car fix" ❌ "I am having my car fixed" ✅



2. Rewrite the sentences using the causative "have." You do not have to include the person who does the work, e.g. the plumber.

a) The plumber fixed Jane's sink.

Jane... *had her sink fixed.*

b) The builders replaced Carl's windows.

Carl *had his windows replaced.*

c) The dentist whitens my teeth every 2 years.

I *have my teeth whitened every 2 years.*

d) Mechanics changed the oil in her car yesterday.

She *had her oil changed yesterday.*

e) The hairdresser is cutting my hair tomorrow.

I *am having my hair cut tomorrow.*

f) The I.T guy is scanning my boss' computer for viruses.

My boss *is having his computer scanned for viruses.*



“Make” and “Get” as Causative Verbs

“Get” often means to convince someone to do something.

Eg. “*I got my boss to give me a holiday.*”

Note: When using “get” as a causative verb, the main verb has “to” in front of it.

Eg. “*I got my brother lend me his car*” ❌ “*I got my brother to lend me his car*” ✅

“Make” often means to cause something to happen.

Eg. “*The earthquake made the building fall down.*”

“Make” as a causative verb can also mean to force someone to do something they don’t want to.

Eg. “*My teacher is making me study causative verbs.*”



3. Complete the sentences with “make”, “get”, “have”, “let” or “help.” You may have to put the verb in a different form to fit the tense.

- a) Yesterday I*helped*..... my brother move house.
- b) She is *having* her house painted at the moment.
- c) She is so nice, she *helps* me do my homework every time I ask.
- d) My sister *lets / is letting* me stay in her house while she’s on holiday.
- e) The government *will make* businesses pay higher taxes next year.
- f) He never *lets* anyone help him, he’s too proud.
- g) Chamomile tea always *makes* me want to go to bed.
- h) Did you *have* your hair cut? It looks great!
- i) I *got* everyone to put some money together so we could buy you something nice.
- j) My boss *made* me apologize for yelling at a customer last week.
- k) Hey, can I *get* you to give me a lift to the airport?
- l) Cory *let* me borrow his car when he goes on holiday, it’s so much fun!





4. Put the words in the questions in the correct order.

a) had / When was / you / cut? / the last time / cut? / your hair

When was the last time you had your hair cut?

b) you / violent videogames? / your kids / play / let / Would

Would you let your kids play violent video games?

c) makes / happy? / feel / type of music / you / What

What type of music makes you feel happy?

d) makes / feel / food / you / What / sick?

What food makes you feel sick?

e) a friend / to help you / you / with something? / the last time / got / When was

When was the last time you got a friend to help you with something?

f) let / a tattoo? / give you / Would you / a friend

Would you let a friend give you a tattoo?



5. Ask and answer the questions from exercise 4 with a partner. Write down your partner's answers below. Feel free to ask them additional questions about their answers.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

6.



6. Complete the text below with “made”, “got”, “had”, “let” or “helped”.

John Presley was a 16 year old boy whose father, Elvis, was a famous musician. John loved math, and had dreamed of becoming an accountant his whole life, but his rock star father wouldn't *let* him. Every day his father *made* him practice the guitar and singing and dancing for hours, even though John couldn't stand it, and just wanted to study maths. His father hated math so much that just seeing his son studying it *made* him angry. His father didn't understand, but his mother (an engineer) did, and whenever she found him studying maths she *helped* him understand a few difficult equations. Whenever Elvis was on tour or holiday she secretly *had* a math tutor come to the house and teach John. Finally John *got* his father to agree to him studying accounting by telling him “I'll never be a great musician Dad, but I might be a great accountant. So either you *let* me study accounting, or I'll be nothing at all.” Finally his father understood, and even *helped* John fill out his application for university.

