



CAUSATIVES

Grammar:

CAUSATIVES

Causatives are very common structure in English. We usually use them when a person causes something or someone to do something. They can be active or passive, depending on the pattern.

1/ HAVE

a) Active :

The pattern is: **Subject+ HAVE/HAS+ someone +verb**

Example: I have Ellie wash the car. (=I arrange for the car to be washed by Ellie)

Subject	Causative verb	Agent	Action verb	Object
We	have	our children	do	their homework.
She	has	her apprentice	clean	the dishes.

b) Passive

The pattern is:

Subject + HAVE/HAS + something + past participle (3rd column of the irregular verbs)

Example: I have the car washed.(= I arranged for the car to be washed. 'The car doesn't wash, it is washed')

We usually do not refer to the agent in the passive form.

Subject	Causative verb	Object	Action verb
We	had	our door	fixed.
Yukiko	had	her hair	cut.
Sanjay	had	the windows	cleaned.



2/ OTHER CAUSATIVES

A few other common verbs such as HAVE can be used as causatives.

Some require the action verb to have "to" before it.

Verb	Meaning	Form of Action Verb	Examples
make	'to force'	Bare infinitive (v)	He made his younger sister switch channels.
get	Equivalent to "have"	"to" + v	The secretary gets her manager to sign the documents. She gets the documents signed.
let	'to allow'	Bare infinitive (v)	I will let you know when we celebrate Jenny's birthday.



Dialogue:

WEEKEND AT THE AMUSEMENT PARK

- Wentworth: Hi Sarah, how was your weekend? Did you enjoy the weather?
- Sarah: Totally. I went picnic with some friends. We sunbathed a bit. One friend took pictures, another one played the guitar. We ate some snacks and went back home before dark. What about you?
- Wentworth: My spouse and I took our kids to the amusement park called EXODUS.
- Sarah: The one in the business park, right?
- Wentworth: That one, exactly. It was brilliant, the kids loved it. There is a merry-go-round with Egyptian gods. You know those with an animal head.
- Sarah: I'm not really into Egypt or archeology... You mean the Sphinx?
- Wentworth: Well, he was there too, but there was also Anubis, the god with a dog face. There were cats, flamingos, crocodiles, beetles, snakes and monkeys! We had our kids ride them all! We took so many pictures. It was fun.
- Sarah: It sounds fun. You make me want to go there!
- Wentworth: You should! There were a lot parents and children, of course! Amusement parks are one of the best options for family outings...But, I was quite surprised, there were a lot of young adults as well. You could tell they were having a blast!
- Sarah: Really?
- Wentworth: There are hi-tech attractions and roller-coasters: one is in the shape of a snake, very beautiful and a bit scary. There is also a haunted house but the children are too young. And you can see people wearing beautiful roman costumes, many Cleopatras too. It is very entertaining. I recommend it!
- Sarah: Maybe I'll go next weekend with some friends. It sounds really nice.
- Wentworth: It is, definitely. The admission ticket is 35euros but it is really worth it.
- Sarah: It is not expensive for an amusement park.
- Wentworth: You won't regret it!
- Sarah: You really enjoyed it so I'll have a go! Who knows? It looks like it is worth it!
- Wentworth: Very good! Well, time to go! Bye
- Sarah: Bye!