

The Causative Structure

The causative structure in English is used to indicate that someone causes another person to do something or causes something to happen. This structure is useful for emphasizing the action performed by someone else on behalf of the subject.

A) The Active Causative Structure:

The active causative structure indicates that the subject causes someone else to do something.

have somebody do something

Tom had a mechanic repair his car.

Sony Corporation had a team of engineers design a new robot.

get somebody to do something

Sally got a hairdresser to dye her hair.

Sony Corporation got a team of engineers to design a new robot.

make somebody do something = force sb to do sth

The commander made the soldiers attack the demonstrators with tear gas.

The bank robber made the customers lie on the floor.

B) The Passive Causative Structure:

The passive causative structure indicates that the subject causes something to be done by someone else.

have something done

Tom had his car repaired.

Sony Corporation had a new robot designed.

get something done

Sally got her hair dyed.

Sony Corporation got a new robot designed.

be made to do something

The soldiers were made to attack the demonstrators with tear gas.

The customers were made to lie on the floor.

Differences Between "Have" and "Get" in the Causative Structure:

There is no difference between “have somebody do something” and “get somebody to do something” in terms of meaning, but they are slightly different in terms of register, that is say how formal or informal they are:

- **Formality:** "Have" is generally more formal than "get."
- **Usage:** "Get" is often used in more informal situations.

Let

“Let somebody do something” means “allow or permit somebody to do something”. *Let* is followed by *the bare infinitive* or what we call *the base form of the verb*.

let somebody do something

Mrs. Sullivan let her children stay up late last night.

let somebody not do something

Mrs. Sullivan let her children not go to bed early last night.

Help

The verb “**help**” can be used in different structures to indicate assistance or support. In American English, this verb is followed by the bare infinitive while it is followed by the infinitive (to + base form of the verb) in British English. However, if the verb which follows “help” is negative, we should use a negative infinitive (not + to + base form of the verb) in both American and British English.

help somebody do something (American)

Mary helped her husband give up smoking.

NATO didn't help Ukraine create a No-Flight zone in its air space, but they helped the Ukrainian army down some Russian jetfighters and helicopters.

help somebody to do something (British)

Mary helped her husband to give up smoking.

NATO didn't help Ukraine to create a No-Flight zone in its air space, but they helped the Ukrainian army to down some Russian jetfighters and helicopters.

help sb not to do sth (American & British)

Mary helped her husband not to smoke cigarettes.

NATO helped the Ukrainian army not to be defeated by the invading Russian troops.

Source:

<https://www.anglophone.ir/high2/>