

## Causatives: Overview

### FORM:

Causatives have both an active and a passive form.

**Passive Causatives:** Use the **past participle** after the verbs '**have**' and '**get**' to give the causative a passive meaning (the doer of the action is understood, obvious, or unimportant, so it is not stated). When used in the passive both '**have**' and '**get**' share the same meaning.

*Ex. I had the car washed. (by someone)*

*I got the car washed. (by someone)*

**Active Causatives:** Use the **simple form** of the verb, not an infinitive, after '**make**,' '**have**,' and '**let**'. With the active causative, the doer of the action is stated. The verb '**make**' means that the 'causer' **forces** the 'doer' to perform the action. '**Have**' means that the 'causer' **asks** the 'doer' to do something. '**Let**' suggests that the 'causer' gives the 'doer' **permission** to act.

*Ex. Mr. Anderson always makes his son cut the grass.*

*The teacher had the students clean her boards.*

*Gretchen lets her children stay up to watch the hockey match on Saturday nights.*

Use a **full infinitive** after the verb '**get**' to say that the 'causer' **persuades** the 'doer' to do something. Other causatives followed by the **full infinitive** are: **allow, permit, force, cause, require, motivate, encourage and want.**

*Ex: Rick will get his little brother to keep his secret from his parents.*

*The manager requires employees to be on time.*

**NOTE:** '**Help**' can be followed by either a **full infinitive** or the **simple form** of the verb.

*Ex: Could you help me lift these boxes?*

*I helped my husband to clean the garage.*

### USE:

**Make, have, and get** can be used to express the idea that person 'A' causes or arranges for person 'B' to do something.

*Create a passive or active causative sentence using MAKE, HAVE, or GET.*

1. Helen washes her windows every spring.

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Eva repaired her rocking chair.

\_\_\_\_\_

3. I must paint my house.

\_\_\_\_\_

4. She feeds the baby at six o'clock.

\_\_\_\_\_

5. George cleaned his garage.

\_\_\_\_\_

6. They mow the lawn every week.

\_\_\_\_\_

7. I must remove this stain.

\_\_\_\_\_

*Complete the sentences in the CAUSATIVE forms with the words in parentheses.*

1. Mr. Robinson had his lawn (mow) \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Nick needed a suit for his sister's wedding. He finally found one that he liked, but he needed to get the pants (shorten) \_\_\_\_\_ because they were too long.

3. The cold weather makes my eyes (water) \_\_\_\_\_.

4. Mrs. Thompson always gets the neighborhood kids (rake) \_\_\_\_\_ her leaves in the fall.

5. Before their long road trip, Thelma and Louise had the oil and tires (check) \_\_\_\_\_.

6. The doctor has made the patient (stay) \_\_\_\_\_ in bed for two weeks.