

**THE CAUSATIVE USE OF**  
**“HAVE” (or “GET”)**  
(Have something done)

**Look at these examples:**

1. (a) the mechanic serviced Ahmad's car.  
(b) Ahmad **had his car serviced** (by the mechanic) last week.  
(i.e. Ahmad **got the mechanic to service his car**; he didn't service it himself.)
  
2. (a) The laundry man cleaned Ali's coat and thobe.  
(b) Ali **had (or got) his coat and thobe cleaned**.  
(i.e. Ali didn't clean his coat and thobe himself; he took them to the laundry.)

When we get someone to do something for us, we use “have” (or “get”) causatively in the following pattern:

**HAVE/GET + SOMETHING + DONE (BY SOMEONE)**

The agent of the passive form (i.e. “by someone”) is usually omitted if it is vague (i.e. someone, them, him) or if it is understood through the meaning of the sentence.

## Exercise 34

A. Answer the following question in the negative, using HAVE causatively:

EXAMPLE: "Did they paint the house themselves?" "No, they had it painted."

1. "Did you tune up the engine yourself?" "No, I....."
2. "Did the patient stop a tooth himself?" "No, he ....."
3. "Did you check the tyre pressure yourself?" "No, I....."
4. "Did your brother vaccinate the children himself?" "No, he ....."

B. Make sentences, using the words in parentheses as shown in the example:

EXAMPLE: (Ali/a telephone/install/in his flat/last Thursday)

ANSWER: Ali had a telephone installed in his flat last Thursday.

1. (they/the house/paint/at the moment)
2. (I/hair/cut/yesterday)
3. (my father/blood pressure/check)
4. (a charitable institution/mosque/build/in the neighbourhood)

C. Now complete these sentences, using HAVE causatively as shown in the example. (Here, HAVE SOMETHING DONE does not mean "get someone to do something." It has the meaning "something unpleasant happened to someone".)

EXAMPLE: While Mr. X was riding a horse, he fell off and (leg/break).

ANSWER: While Mr. X was riding a horse, he fell off and had his leg broken.

1. While Nabeel was on holiday, (he/all his money/steal).
2. While Nabeel was away on holiday, (he/his house/burgle).
3. Because Mr. X drove carelessly, (he/his driving license/endorse).
4. Poor Mr. Y! (he/his shoulder/dislodge/in the accident).