

CAUSATIVES

have / get something done

We use *have / get* + object + past participle to mean that we arrange for another person to do something for us. We can use *by* + agent to mention the agent, but in many cases the agent is obvious and doesn't need to be mentioned.

*I'm going to **get my eyes tested** next week. (= by the optician)*

*I **had the parcel delivered** to my workplace. (= by the courier)*

Notice that we don't usually use *get something done* in the present perfect. (not *Have you ~~got~~ your hair cut?*)

We can also use *get* + object + past participle to say that the person did something themselves or something happened by accident.

*I'll try to **get the report finished** today. (= I'll do it myself)*

*She **got her fingers caught** in the elevator doors. (= by accident)*

I'll try to have the report finished today is also possible, but in this case it is unclear if the speaker or another agent will be involved.

We can use the verbs *want, would like, need* + object + past participle to talk about things we need or would like to be arranged to be done.

*We **need (to get) the roof repaired**. It's leaking.*

*I'd like (to get) **this suit cleaned** by next Thursday.*

► Exercise 1

have someone do / get someone to do

We can use *have* + person object + infinitive or *get* + person object + *to* + infinitive to describe that we are arranging for something to be done for us. We use these forms when we want to specify who the person doing the job is.

*I **had an architect draw** up some plans.*

*We need to **get a professional translator to do** this.*

get something to do / doing

We use *get* + object + *to* + infinitive to say that we managed or didn't manage to make something work.

*She **got the phone to switch** on again.*

*I couldn't **get the key to fit** in the lock.*

We sometimes use *get* + object + *-ing* to talk about things that we manage to set in motion.

*I'd like to **get the discussion going** with a question about ...*

*How did you manage to **get the washing machine working** again?*

► Exercises 2 and 3

EXPRESSIONS WITH GO AND GET

We use *go* or *get* + adjective like the verb *become*, to say that something has started to have that quality. Often it describes changes for the worse.

*These oranges are **going bad**. We can't eat them.*

*Sorry, I'm **getting confused**. Can you explain that again?*

Adjectives with *go* include: *go bad, go bald, go bankrupt, go blind, go crazy, go deaf, go missing, go quiet, go red in the face, go rusty, go sour, go well/fine, go wrong*

Adjectives with *get* include: *get angry, get annoyed, get confused, get dark, get ill/sick, get involved, get lost, get married, get old, get pregnant, get ready, get started, get tired, get upset*

With *somewhere, nowhere* and *anywhere*, *go* and *get* have a slightly different meaning.

*He's **going nowhere**. (= He is staying where he is.)*

*Are you **getting anywhere** in your discussions with John? (= making any progress)*

► Exercise 4

REPORTED SPEECH

We use reported speech to report someone's words or thoughts. When we report people's words, we put the verb we are reporting one step back in the past.

'I'm waiting for Jo.' → He said (that) he **was waiting** for Jo.

'I'll think about it.' → She said (that) she **would think** about it.

With the modal verbs *could, should, would, might, ought to* and with verbs in the past perfect, the verb remains the same.

*'You **should see** them.'* → He said (that) I **should see** them.

*'If I **had known**, I **would have left**.'* → She claimed that if she **had known**, she **would have left**.

If the situation you are reporting is still true when you report it (or true from your point of view at the time), the tense of the verb can stay the same.

*'I **hate** eating fish.'* → He said that he **hates / hated** eating fish.

*'I **didn't want** to go.'* → She said that she **didn't want / hadn't wanted** to go.

When we report questions, we don't use auxiliary verbs or question marks and the subject-verb order is affirmative.

- We use the same *wh*-question word to report questions.
'When are you leaving?' → He asked me **when I was leaving**.

- For *yes/no* questions, the reported question is introduced with *if* or *whether*.
'Have you heard of them?' → She asked **if I'd heard** of them.

When we report speech, we often need to change other words, such as time phrases or demonstrative pronouns.

*'I like **these** games.'* → He said (that) he liked **those** games.

*'I saw the film **yesterday**.'* → She said (that) she had seen the film **the day before**.

► Exercises 5 and 6

EXERCISES

1 Complete these conversations using *get* or *have* + object + past participle of the verbs given.

1

A: Your hair looks a different colour. Have you

¹ _____? (it / dye)

B: No, it's the same colour. I ² _____ last week, though. (cut)

2

A: Your finger looks very sore.

B: I know. I ³ _____ in a drawer at home. (it / stick)

A: You should ⁴ _____ by a doctor. (it / look at)

3

A: Our neighbours have an amazing house. They ⁵ _____ by a professional architect. (design)

B: When did they ⁶ _____? (do)

4

A: How's your book coming along? Have you written it?

B: No, I probably won't ⁷ _____ until the end of the year. (finish)

5

A: Is Sarah painting her bedroom?

B: Yes, but it's going very slowly. She's only managed to ⁸ _____ . (one wall / paint)

2 Choose the correct option to complete the sentences.

- 1** Can you have Francesca *call* / *to call* me as soon as she's free?
- 2** If you made a lot of mistakes, the teacher would get you *do* / *to do* the whole exercise again.
- 3** That documentary we saw last night got me *to think* / *thinking*. Why couldn't I do a cycle ride for charity?
- 4** It was so cold this morning that I couldn't get the car *started* / *starting*.
- 5** Because we didn't know much about Venezuela, we had a travel agent *organize* / *organized* the whole trip for us.
- 6** Can you help me get this window *to open* / *opening*? It seems to be stuck.
- 7** You'll never guess how much it cost me to get my suit *to dry clean* / *dry cleaned*.
- 8** Why did James have you *pick* / *to pick* him up at the airport? There's a bus that runs every fifteen minutes.

3 Put the words in order to make sentences.

- 1** your / need / tested / eyes / you / get / to

- 2** at work / the flowers / to / get / I'll / delivered / her

- 3** medium rare / would like / cooked / my steak / I

- 4** never / me / to / get / you'll / go / on a motorbike

5 the meeting / who / to / started / get / would like / ?

4 Complete the text with the correct form of *go* or *get*.

The company ¹ _____ out of business last month. I don't know what ² _____ wrong exactly, but I think it was because Jenny, the manager ³ _____ ill earlier in the year and had to take several months off. So she left her deputy in charge, but then the deputy took time off to ⁴ _____ married. The guy who took over didn't really know what he was doing and the whole thing ⁵ _____ from bad to worse. So in the end, Jenny, who was ⁶ _____ crazy by this point, went back to try and rescue the situation, but by then things had ⁷ _____ out of control. A lot of their customers had ⁸ _____ frustrated with the situation and had found other companies to work with.

5 Read the statements. Then complete the reported statements.

- 1** 'Have I seen that face somewhere before?'
I asked myself _____.
- 2** 'I will be here at the same time next week.'
He promised that _____.
- 3** 'I would like to come but I don't think I can.'
She said _____.
- 4** 'What would my father have done, if he were in this situation?'
I wondered _____.
- 5** 'Are you busy just now?'
She asked me _____.
- 6** 'You really ought to think hard before you make such a big decision.'
He advised me that _____.
- 7** 'Why didn't you ask for help two days ago?'
She questioned _____.

6 Find and correct the mistake in each sentence.

- 1** What do I have to do to get you understanding?

- 2** I like him as a teacher because he always gets you think.

- 3** I need to have my passport to be renewed.

- 4** I'm going to the hairdresser's to cut my hair.

- 5** She told me yesterday that she is having a horrible day at work.

- 6** I needed to know what time were they arriving.
