

# Have something done

A

Study this example situation:



LISA

The roof of Lisa's house was damaged in a storm. So she called a builder, and yesterday a man came and repaired it.

Lisa **had** the roof **repaired** yesterday.

This means: Lisa arranged for somebody else to repair the roof. She didn't repair it herself.

We use **have something done** to say that we arrange for somebody else to do something for us. Compare:

- Lisa **repaired** the roof. (= she repaired it herself)  
Lisa **had** the roof **repaired**. (= she arranged for somebody else to repair it)
- 'Did you **make** those curtains yourself?' 'Yes, I enjoy making things.'  
'Did you **have** those curtains **made**?' 'No, I made them myself.'

B

Be careful with word order. The *past participle* (**repaired/cut** etc.) is after the *object*:

	have	object	past participle
Lisa <b>had</b>		the roof	<b>repaired</b> yesterday.
Where did you <b>have</b>		your hair	<b>cut</b> ?
Your hair looks nice. Have you <b>had</b>		it	<b>cut</b> ?
Our neighbour has just <b>had</b>		a garage	<b>built</b> .
We are <b>having</b>		the house	<b>painted</b> this week.
How often do you <b>have</b>		your car	<b>serviced</b> ?
I think you should <b>have</b>		that coat	<b>cleaned</b> .
I don't like <b>having</b>		my picture	<b>taken</b> .

C

## Get something done

You can also say '**get something done**' instead of '**have something done**':

- When are you going to **get the roof repaired**? (= have the roof repaired)
- I think you should **get your hair cut** really short.

D

Sometimes **have something done** has a different meaning. For example:

- Paul and Karen **had their bags stolen** while they were travelling.

This does not mean that they arranged for somebody to steal their bags. '**They had their bags stolen**' means only: 'Their bags were stolen'.

With this meaning, we use **have something done** to say that something happens to somebody or their belongings. Often what happens is not nice:

- Gary **had** his nose **broken** in a fight. (= his nose was broken)
- Have you ever **had** your bike **stolen**?

# Exercises

45.1 Tick (✓) the correct sentence, (a) or (b), for each picture.

1



SARAH

- (a) Sarah is cutting her hair.  
(b) Sarah is having her hair cut.

2



BILL

- (a) Bill is cutting his hair.  
(b) Bill is having his hair cut.

3



JOHN

- (a) John is cleaning his shoes.  
(b) John is having his shoes cleaned.

4



SUE

- (a) Sue is taking a picture.  
(b) Sue is having her picture taken.

46.2 Put the words in the correct order.

- had / a few weeks ago / the house / we / painted  
We had the house painted a few weeks ago.
- serviced / her car / Sarah / once a year / has  
Sarah
- twelve pounds / have / cleaned / it / my suit / cost / to
- my eyes / I / two years ago / had / tested / the last time / was
- had / in the kitchen / fitted / some new cupboards / we've
- as soon as possible / need / translated / we / to get / this document

46.3 Write sentences in the way shown.

- Lisa didn't repair the roof herself. She had it repaired.
- I didn't cut my hair myself. I
- We didn't clean the carpets ourselves. We
- John didn't build that wall himself.
- I didn't deliver the flowers myself.

46.4 Use the words in brackets to complete the sentences. Use the structure **have something done**.

- We're having the house painted. (we / the house / paint) this week.
- I lost my key. I'll have to (another key / make).
- When was the last time (you / your hair / cut)?
- (you / a newspaper / deliver) to your house every day, or do you go out and buy one?
- A: What's happening in your garden?  
B: Oh, (we / a garage / build).
- A: (you / the washing machine / fix)?  
B: Not yet. There's someone coming to look at it next week.
- If you want to wear earrings, why don't you (you / your ears / pierce)?

Now use **'have something done'** with its second meaning (see Section D).

- Gary was in a fight last night. He had his nose broken. (he / his nose / break).
- Did I tell you about Jane? (she / her credit cards / steal).
- Security was very strict at the airport. (we all / our bags / search).

## UNIT 46

### 46.1

- 1 b
- 2 a
- 3 a
- 4 b

### 46.2

- 2 Sarah has her car serviced once a year.
- 3 It cost twelve pounds to have my suit cleaned.
- 4 The last time I had my eyes tested was two years ago.
- 5 We've had some new cupboards fitted in the kitchen.
- 6 We need to get this document translated as soon as possible.

### 46.3

- 2 I had it cut.
- 3 We had them cleaned.
- 4 He had it built.
- 5 I had them delivered.

### 46.4

- 2 have another key made
- 3 you had your hair cut
- 4 Do you have a newspaper delivered
- 5 we're having / we are having a garage built
- 6 Have you had the washing machine fixed / Did you have the washing machine fixed
- 7 have your ears pierced
- 9 She had her credit cards stolen.
- 10 We all had our bags searched.