



Verb To Have

The verb to have can be tricky to use in English as it's used in six different ways;

- 1) Main verb
- 2) Auxiliary verb (helping to create other tenses)
- 3) Have got
- 4) Have to / have got to
- 5) Casual have
- 6) Fixed expressions

Verb To Have: Main Verb

The verb to have expresses possession, relationships, illnesses and characteristics.

	Past	Present	Future
Simple	had	have / has	will have
Continuous	was/were having	am/are/is having	will be having
Perfect	had had	have/has had	will have had
Perfect Continuous	had been having	have/has been having	will have been having

I have three sisters.

We had a lovely day yesterday.

Do you have time to help me?

Verb To Have: Auxiliary Verb

As an auxiliary verb, the verb to have helps build perfect and perfect continuous tenses.

	Past	Present	Future
Perfect	I had + past participle You had + past participle He had + past participle We had + past participle They had + past participle	I have + past participle You have + past participle He has + past participle We have + past participle They have + past participle	I will have + past participle You will have + past participle He will have + past participle We will have + past participle They will have + past participle
Perfect Continuous	I had been + present participle You had been + present participle He had been + present participle We had been + present participle They had been + present participle	I have been + present participle You have been + present participle He has been + present participle We have been + present participle They have been + present participle	I will have been + present participle You will have been + present participle He will have been + present participle We will have been + present participle They will have been + present participle

I have waited for a long time now.

They had been watching TV before he arrived home.

Verb To Have: Have Got

Have got is used in exactly the same way as the main verb have but it's used more informally, especially in the UK. It is only used in the present simple tense.

Affirmative	Affirmative (Contracted)	Negative	Negative (Contracted)	Question
I have got	I've got	I have not got	I haven't got	Have I got?
You have got	You've got	You have not got	You haven't got	Have you got?
He has got	He's got	He has not got	He hasn't got	Has she got?
We have got	We've got	We have not got	We haven't got	Have we got?
They have got	They've got	They have not got	They haven't got	Have they got?

I've got 2 new customers.

He hasn't got a lot of money.

Verb To Have: Have To/ Gave Got To

We use “have to” in order to express an obligation. It must be followed by the infinitive form of another verb. You can also replace this with “have got to” (typical in the UK). When using have got to, it can only be used in the present simple tense.

	Past	Present	Future
Simple	had to	have / has to	will have to
Continuous	was/were having to	am/are/is having to	will be having to
Perfect	had had to	have/has had to	will have had to
Perfect Continuous	had been having to	have/has been having to	will have been having to

I have to do my homework.

She has had to wait until the renovations finish before she moves in.

Affirmative	Affirmative (Contracted)	Negative	Negative (Contracted)	Question
I have got to	I've got to	I have not got to	I haven't got to	Have I got to?
You have got to	You've got to	You have not got to	You haven't got to	Have you got to?
He has got to	He's got to	He has not got to	He hasn't got to	Has he got to?
We have got to	We've got to	We have not got to	We haven't got to	Have we got to?
They have got to	They've got to	They have not got to	They haven't got to	Have they got to?

We have got to do something about the danger.

Have they got to do the exam too?

Verb to Have: Causative Have

As a type of passive, we can use the expression “to have something done”. It can be used in any tense.

I am having my hair cut tomorrow.

She will have the house cleaned later.

Verb To Have: Fixed Expressions

There are numerous expressions that require the verb “have”. A few of the most common ones are;

To have children
To have breakfast/lunch/dinner/a drink
To have a shower
To have fun
To have a look
To have trouble
To have no idea
To have a word
To have a chat
To have a rest
To have a party
To have friends over
To have a laugh
To have a dream / nightmare
To have a go
To have an opportunity
To have a problem
To have a plan
To have a point
To have an accident
To have doubts
To have confidence
To have patience
To have energy

In summary, the verb “to have” is a complex but extremely useful verb in English and it’s important to be able to use it correctly.