

have something done

A Study this example situation:



The roof of Lisa's house was damaged. So she called a builder, and yesterday he 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.

If you **have something done**, you arrange for somebody to do it for you.

Compare:

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

B Study the word order:

have	object	past participle
Lisa had	the roof	repaired.
Where did you have	your hair	cut?
We are having	the house	painted.
I think you should have	that coat	cleaned.
I don't like having	my picture	taken.

We say:

- How often do you **have your car serviced?** (*not* have serviced your car)
- Our neighbour is **having a garage built.** (*not* having built a garage)
- Your hair looks nice. Did you **have it cut?**

C **get something done**

You can 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 We also use **have something done** with a different meaning. For example:

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




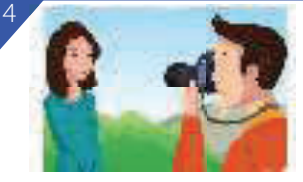
This does not mean that they arranged for somebody to steal their bags. 'They **had their bags stolen**' means only: 'Their bags were stolen'.

With this meaning, we use **have something done** to say that something happens to somebody or their belongings:

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

Exercises

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

1  SARAH	2  DAN	3  KATE	4  SUE
(a) Sarah is cutting her hair. (b) Sarah is having her hair cut.	(a) Dan is cutting his hair. (b) Dan is having his hair cut.	(a) Kate is painting the gate. (b) Kate is having the gate painted.	(a) Sue is taking a picture. (b) Sue is having her picture taken.

46.2 Put the words in the correct order.

- (painted / had / a few weeks ago / the house)
We had the house painted a few weeks ago.
- (serviced / car / once a year / her / has)
Sarah
- (had / your / recently / tested / eyes / you?)
Have
- (like / cut / my / having / don't / hair)
I
- (fifteen pounds / have / cleaned / my suit / cost / to)
It
- (as soon as possible / need / translated / to get / this document)
You

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
- Ben didn't build that wall himself. He
- I didn't deliver the flowers myself. I
- Sarah didn't repair her shoes herself. She

46.4 Which goes with which?

- My hair is getting long.
- I really like this picture.
- The washing machine is broken.
- I want to wear earrings.
- Can you recommend a dentist?
- I've lost my key.

- I need to get it fixed.
- I'll have to get a new one made.
- I need to get my teeth checked.
- ~~I should get it cut.~~
- I'm going to get my ears pierced.
- I'm going to get it framed.

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46.5 Use the words in brackets to complete the sentences.

- Did I tell you about Paul and Karen?
(They / their bags / steal) They had their bags stolen.
- Security at the airport was strict.
(We / our bags / search)
- I've had some good news!
(I / my salary / increase) I
- Joe can't get a visa.
(He / his application / refuse)

