English

Fourth stage
L2

Assistant Lecturer

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Causative Verbs

The **causatives** are the verbs that are used to indicate that one person causes another person to do something for the first person. One can cause somebody to do something for him/her by asking, paying, requesting, or forcing the person.

Causative Verbs:

- **Have**
- **Get**
- **Make**

This kind of verbs constitutes different structures for their sentences.

Have
Structure 1:

Subject + have (any tense) + object (usually person) + **base form of verb** + . . .
Example:
John had Alex **clean** the bedroom.
He always has me **do** his work.
Mary will have Alex **prepare** her homework.

Structure 2:

Subject + have (any tense) + object (usually thing) + **past participle form of verb** + ...
Example:

John had his car **washed**.
He always has his work **done**.
Mary will have her homework **prepared**.

Get
Structure 1:

Subject + get (any tense) + object (usually person) + **infinitive** + ...
Example:
John got Alex **to clean** the bedroom.
He always gets me **to do** his work.
Mary will get Alex **to prepare** her homework.

Structure 2:

Subject + get (any tense) + object (usually thing) + **past participle form of verb** + ...
Example:
John got his car **washed**.
He always gets his work **done**.
Mary will get her homework **prepared**.

Make
'**Make**' is stronger than 'have/get'. It constitutes only one structure
as it does not take anything 'passive' as its object.

Subject + make (any tense) + object (always person) + **base form of verb** + . . .
Example:

Robert made me **beat** that little child.
He always makes me **do** his work.
Mary will make me **prepare** her homework.
I made him **wash** my car.
He makes me **laugh** whenever I am down.

Note: According to the grammar rules and structures, there are two more similar verbs that are not causative verbs by definition but they constitute similar sentence structures.

<u>Those two verbs are:</u>
- **Let**
- **Help**

Let

'Let' means 'allow/permit' but the use of 'let' in the sentence is different from these words.

Structure:

Subject + let (any tense) + object (always person) + **base form of verb** +. . .
Example:
Robert let me **escape** the prison.
Let me **go**. (Subject 'you' is hidden)
The teacher let the students discuss among themselves.
I let him **drive** my car.
Let's (let us) **laugh** and **live** a happy life.

The verb 'permit'/'allow' does not follow this structure. It follows the regular sentence pattern of English language.

Subject + permit/allow + object + **infinitive** + ...
Example:
John allowed him **to drive** his car.
He always allows him **to do** that.
The teacher allowed me **to sit** for the exams.

Help
Help is not actually a causative verb either but is generally regarded as a causative verb because of its grammatical use in a sentence. It has two structures.
Structure 1:

Subject + help (any tense) + object (usually person) + **base form of verb** +. . .
Example:
Robert helped me **escape** the prison.
He helps me **prepare** my presentations.
The teacher had helped the students **understand** a complex theory.
I helped him **learn** driving.
It will help you **move** on.

Structure 2:

Subject + help + object + **infinitive** + ...
Example:
John helped him **to lift** his car.

He always helps me **to find** my stuff.

The teacher helped me **to understand** the topic.

Exercise

1. Can you help me _____ my living room next weekend?
    paint   painting   painted   paints

2. My mom always makes me _____ my room on Saturday mornings.
     to clean up   cleaning up   cleaned up   clean up

3. My little son wants us to let him _____ overnight at his friend's place.
     to stay   staying   stayed   stay

4. We had our landlord _____the broken window.
     to fix   fixing   fixed   fix

5. We got the computer guy _____the new software for us.
to install   installing   installed   install

6. My friend lets me ____ his car sometimes.
A. to borrow
B. borrowing
C. borrowed
D. borrow

7. I can help you _____into your new apartment if you want.
A. to move
B. moving
C. moved
D. moves

8. Your car engine is making some strange sounds. Why don't you have a mechanic _____at it?
A. to look
B. looking
C. looked
D. look

9. Her parents don't let her ___ out late on school nights.
A. to stay

B. stayed

C. stay

D. staying

10. Why don't you let me ____ supper tonight? You can have a rest.

A. to cook

B. cook

C. cooking

D. cooked

11. My boss made me _____overtime every day last week.

A. Work

B. worked

C. to work

D. working

12. We should get Ben ____ us some concert tickets when he goes to get his.

A. to buy B. buy C. buying   D. bought

13. Why don't you let me _____you around our new house?

A. to show

B. show

C. showing

D. showed

14. We've got to get our neighbors _____having loud parties every weekend.

A. stopping

B. to stop

C. stop

D. stopped

15. I hope the teacher can help me _____these math questions.

A. figuring out

B. figures out

C. figure out

D. figured out