Causatives

CEFR B2 · The full causative range: have/get someone to, make + passive

WS1 have/get someone to do · WS2 have vs get: Nuance · WS3 make + Passive & Other Patterns · WS4 Analysis & Writing · Answer Key

Worksheet 1: have/get someone to do something

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B2 (CEFR)

Reference: Causing a Person to Act

Besides *have/get something done* (a service), we can name the **person** we cause to act. The two verbs take **different patterns**: **have + person + base form**, but **get + person + to + infinitive**. Both mean "cause/persuade someone to do something".

Structure	Pattern	Example
have someone do	have + person + base	I'll **have the porter carry** your bags.
get someone to do	get + person + to-inf	I'll **get the porter to carry** your bags.
make someone do	make + person + base	She **made him apologise**.
get vs make	get = persuade; make = force	I **got** her **to agree** (persuaded).

> **have + person + base; get + person + to + infinitive.**

Part A – Complete with the Correct Pattern

1. The manager had the new assistant _____ (write) the report.
2. I finally got my brother _____ (help) with the move.
3. She had the electrician _____ (check) the wiring.
4. We couldn't get them _____ (change) their minds.

Part B – Rewrite with the Other Verb

Change *have someone do* to *get someone to do* (or the reverse).

1. I had the mechanic look at the engine. → _____
2. She got a colleague to cover her shift. → _____
3. We had a lawyer draft the contract. → _____

Score: ____ / 20

Worksheet 2: have vs get — Nuance

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B2 (CEFR)

Reference: Same Idea, Different Feel

have and **get** often overlap, but there are tendencies: **get** is more informal; **get** can suggest effort or persuasion (you had to work at it); **have** is neutral, more expected in formal/written English. With services, both work; with people, *get someone to* often implies overcoming reluctance.

Feature	have	get
Register	neutral/formal	informal
Effort implied	no special effort	often effort/persuasion
with a person	have him do (base)	get him to do (to-inf)
bad experience	had my car stolen	got my car stolen (informal)

Part A – Which Fits Better?

Choose *have* or *get* and justify with the nuance.

#	Sentence	have / get + reason
1	After hours of arguing, I finally _____ him to say sorry.	
2	The firm _____ its accounts audited every year. (formal report)	
3	I _____ my sister to lend me the money (she was reluctant).	
4	We _____ the documents translated by a certified agency.	

Part B – Register Rewrite

1. Make more formal: "I got a guy to fix the boiler." → _____
2. Make more informal: "I had my hair styled professionally." → _____

Part C – Effort or Neutral?

Decide whether each implies persuasion/effort or is neutral.

1. I got the committee to approve the plan. _____
2. I had the report printed. _____
3. She got her parents to agree at last. _____

Score: _____ / 25

Worksheet 3: make + Passive & Other Patterns

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B2 (CEFR)

Reference: Extending the Family

Several related patterns appear at B2. In the **passive**, *make* recovers its **to**: *He was made to wait*. **let** has no passive — we use *be allowed to* instead. **help** keeps its optional *to*. And **have someone doing** (participle) shows an ongoing action you cause or experience.

Pattern	Note	Example
make (active)	no to	They **made him leave**.
make (passive)	to reappears	He **was made to leave**.
let → be allowed to	let has no passive	We **were allowed to leave**.
have someone doing	ongoing action	I'll **have you laughing** in no time.
won't have + -ing	refuse to allow	I **won't have you speaking** to me like that.

Part A – Active to Passive

1. The teacher made the students stay behind. → The students _____.
2. Security made us open our bags. → We _____.
3. They let the visitors take photos. → The visitors _____.

Part B – Choose the Correct Pattern

1. He was made _____ (apologise) in front of everyone.
2. Children under 12 are not allowed _____ (enter) without an adult.
3. The comedian soon had the whole audience _____ (laugh).
4. I won't have you _____ (waste) your talent.

Part C – Correct the Mistake

#	Wrong sentence	Correction
1	He was made leave the building.	
2	We were let to go home early.	
3	I got him fix my computer.	
4	The boss had me to work overtime.	

Score: _____ / 30

Worksheet 4: Analysis & Writing

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: B2 (CEFR)

Part A – Passage Analysis

When the new director arrived, everything changed. Within a week she had the offices repainted and got the whole team to rethink how they worked. Staff who had never been made to justify their decisions suddenly found themselves questioned daily. Some resented it; others were relieved to have someone take charge. She didn't force people out — she simply got them to raise their own standards, and had underperformers quietly reassigned. By the summer, she'd had the department transformed.

1. Identify each causative structure and classify it (have sth done, get sb to do, make + passive, have sb do).
2. "had never been made to justify" is a passive causative. Rewrite it in the active and explain the *to*.
3. Contrast "she didn't force people out" with "got them to raise their own standards" — what does the causative choice imply about her method?
4. "she'd had the department transformed" — is this a service, a bad experience, or a result? Explain.

Part B – Extended Writing

Write 160–190 words about a person who brought about change (a leader, teacher, parent, coach). You must include and underline: (1) at least one **have/get something done**; (2) at least one **get someone to do**; (3) at least one **make + passive** or **have someone do**; (4) attention to the **have/get** nuance; (5) consistent register.

#	Line
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	

Structures: _____ / 3 Nuance: _____ / 1 Register: _____ / 1 Score: _____ / 35

Answer Key & Teacher Notes

For teacher use only — B2 Level, Causatives

Worksheet 1 – Part A

1 write (have + base) · 2 to help (get + to) · 3 check · 4 to change

Worksheet 1 – Part B

1 I got the mechanic to look at the engine. · 2 She had a colleague cover her shift. · 3 We got a lawyer to draft the contract.

The have/get split is the key contrast: have + bare infinitive; get + to-infinitive.

Worksheet 2 – Part A (model)

1 got — persuasion/effort ("after hours of arguing"). · 2 has — neutral/formal service. · 3 got — overcoming reluctance. · 4 have/had — neutral formal service (both acceptable; "have" fits the formal register).

Worksheet 2 – Part B (model)

1 I had a technician repair the boiler / I had the boiler repaired. · 2 I got my hair styled.

Worksheet 2 – Part C

1 effort/persuasion · 2 neutral · 3 effort/persuasion ("at last").

Worksheet 3 – Part A

1 The students were made to stay behind. · 2 We were made to open our bags. · 3 The visitors were allowed to take photos.

Worksheet 3 – Part B

1 to apologise · 2 to enter · 3 laughing · 4 wasting

Worksheet 3 – Part C

1 He was made to leave the building. · 2 We were allowed to go home early. · 3 I got him to fix my computer. · 4 The boss had me work overtime.

Two classic traps: passive *make* takes *to*; *let* has no passive (use *be allowed to*).

Worksheet 4 – Part A (model)

1 "had the offices repainted" (have sth done); "got the whole team to rethink" (get sb to do); "had never been made to justify" (make + passive); "have someone take charge" (have sb do); "got them to raise" (get sb to do); "had underperformers reassigned" (have sth done); "had the department transformed" (have sth done / result). · 2 Active: "no one had ever made them justify their decisions." In the active, make takes the bare infinitive (make them justify); the passive restores *to* (be made to justify). · 3 "force out" = direct compulsion, which she avoided; "got them to raise" = persuasion/influence, implying she led people to change themselves rather than coercing them. · 4 A result-focused "have sth done": she caused the transformation (arranged/brought it about), not a service she paid for nor a misfortune — the causative here foregrounds the achieved outcome.

Worksheet 4 – Part B: Marking Rubric

Criterion	Descriptor	Marks

have/get done + get sb to	Both structures, correct patterns	0–5
make+passive / have sb do	One correct advanced pattern	0–4
have/get nuance	Register/effort distinction observed	0–3
Task & length	160–190 words; consistent register	0–3