

Have and have got

A

Have and have got (= possess, own, etc.)

We can use **have got** rather than **have** alone. So you can say:

- We **have** a new car. or We've **got** a new car.
- Nancy **has** two sisters. or Nancy **has got** two sisters.

We also use **have** or **have got** for illnesses, pains, etc.:

- I **have** a headache. or I've **got** a headache.

In questions and negative sentences there are two possible forms:

| | |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Do you have any money? | I don't have any money. |
| Have you got any money? | I haven't got any money. |
| Does she have a car? | She doesn't have a car. |
| Has she got a car? | She hasn't got a car. |

When **have** means "possess," etc., you cannot use continuous forms (**is having / are having**, etc.):

- I **have / I've got** a headache. (*not I'm having*)

For the past we use **had** (without **got**):

- Ann **had** long blond hair when she was a child.

In past questions and past negative sentences we use **did/didn't**:

- Did they **have** a car when they were living in Miami?
- I **didn't have** a watch, so I **didn't** know the time.
- Ann **had** blond hair, **didn't** she?

I have a headache.

I've got a headache, too.



B

Have breakfast / have trouble / have a good time, etc.

Have (*but not have got*) is also used for many actions and experiences. For example:

| | |
|------|---|
| have | breakfast / dinner / a cup of coffee / something to drink |
| | a party / a safe trip / a good flight |
| | an accident / an experience / a dream |
| | a look (at something) |
| | a baby (= give birth to a baby) / an operation |
| | difficulty / trouble / fun / a nice time |

- Good-bye! I hope you **have** a nice time.
- Jennifer **had** a baby recently.

Have got is not possible in these expressions. Compare:

- I usually **have** a sandwich for lunch. (*not have got; have = eat*)
- but* I've **got** some sandwiches. Would you like one?

In the expressions in the box, **have** is like other verbs. You can use continuous forms (**is having / are having**, etc.) where appropriate:

- I got a postcard from Michael this morning. He's on vacation. He says he's **having** a wonderful time. (*not he has a wonderful time*)

In questions and negative sentences we use **do/does/did**:

- I **don't** usually **have** a big breakfast. (*not I usually haven't*)
- What time **does** Ann **have** lunch? (*not has Ann lunch*)
- Did you **have** any trouble finding a place to live?

Exercises

16.1 Write negative sentences with *have*. Some are present (*can't*), and some are past (*couldn't*).

- I can't make a phone call. (any change) *I don't have any change.*
- I couldn't read the letter. (my glasses) *I didn't have my glasses.*
- I can't climb up on the roof. (a ladder) I _____.
- We couldn't visit the museum. (enough time) We _____.
- He couldn't find his way to our house. (a map) _____.
- She can't pay her bills. (any money) _____.
- They can't get into the house. (a key) _____.
- I couldn't take any pictures. (a camera) _____.

16.2 Complete these questions with *have*. Some are present and some are past.

- Excuse me, *do you have* _____ a pen I could borrow?
- Why are you holding your face like that? _____ a toothache?
- _____ a bicycle when you were a child?
- "_____ the time, please?" "Yes, it's ten after seven."
- When you took the exam, _____ time to answer all the questions?
- I need a stamp for this letter. _____ one?
- "It started to rain while I was walking home." "Did it? _____ an umbrella?"

16.3 Write sentences about yourself. Choose four of the following things:

a car a bicycle a moped a guitar a computer a camera a driver's license
a job a dog / a cat (or other animal) a serious illness long hair

Do you have these things now? Did you have them ten years ago? Write two sentences each time using *I have / I don't have* and *I had / I didn't have*.

- | <i>now</i> | <i>10 years ago (or 5 if you're too young)</i> |
|--|--|
| 1. <i>I have a car. OR I've got a car.</i> | <i>I didn't have a car.</i> |
| 2. _____ | _____ |
| 3. _____ | _____ |
| 4. _____ | _____ |

16.4 Complete these sentences. Use an expression from the list, and put the verb into the correct form where necessary.

have a cold drink have a party have a nice time have a good flight
have a look have a baby have trouble ~~have lunch~~

- I don't eat much during the day. I never *have lunch* _____.
- We _____ last Saturday. It was great – we invited lots of people.
- Excuse me, may I _____ at your newspaper, please?
- I haven't seen you since you came back from your vacation. _____?
- Crystal _____ a few weeks ago. It's her second child.
- I was very hot after playing tennis, so I _____.
- You meet Jason at the airport. He has just arrived. *You say:*
Hello, Jason. _____?
- What's the matter? _____ opening that jar?