

# Have something done

**A**

Study this example situation:



LISA

The roof of Lisa's house was damaged in a storm, so she arranged for somebody to repair it. Yesterday a worker came and did the job.

Lisa had the roof repaired yesterday.

This means: Lisa arranged for somebody else to repair the roof. She didn't repair it herself.

We use **have something done** to say that we arrange for somebody else to do something for us. Compare:

- Lisa **repaired** the roof. (= she repaired it herself)
- Lisa **had the roof repaired**. (= she arranged for somebody else to repair it)

Study these sentences:

- Did Ann make the cake herself, or did she **have it made**?
- "Are you going to repair the car yourself?" "No, I'm going to **have it repaired**."

Be careful with word order. The *past participle* (repaired/cut, etc.) comes after the *object*:

	have	+	object	+	past participle	
Lisa	had		the roof		repaired	yesterday.
Where	did you have		your hair		cut?	
Our neighbors	have just had		air conditioning		installed	in their house.
We	are having		the house		painted	at the moment.
How often	do you have		your car		serviced?	
Why	don't you have		that coat		cleaned?	
I don't like	having		my picture		taken.	

**B**

You can also say "get something done" instead of "have something done" (mainly in informal spoken English):

- When are you going to **get the roof repaired**? (= have the roof repaired)
- I think you should **get your hair cut**.

**C**

Sometimes **have something done** has a different meaning. For example:

- Lisa and Eric **had all their money stolen** while they were on vacation.





Of course this does not mean that they arranged for somebody to steal their money. "They **had all their money stolen**" means: All their money was stolen from them.

With this meaning, we use **have something done** to say that something happens to somebody or their belongings. Usually what happens is not nice:

- James **had his nose broken** in a fight.
- Have you ever **had your passport stolen**?

# Exercises

43.1 Check (✓) the correct sentence, (a) or (b), for each picture.

<p>1.  SARAH</p> <p>a) Sarah is cutting her hair. b) Sarah is having her hair cut.</p>	<p>2.  BILL</p> <p>a) Bill is cutting his hair. b) Bill is having his hair cut.</p>	<p>3.  JOHN</p> <p>a) John is shining his shoes. b) John is having his shoes shined.</p>	<p>4.  SUE</p> <p>a) Sue is taking a picture. b) Sue is having her picture taken.</p>
---	--	--	--

43.2 Answer the questions using the structure *have something done*. Use one of these verbs: clean cut repair service

- Why did you take your car to the garage? *To have it serviced*
- Why did you take your jacket to the cleaner's? To \_\_\_\_\_
- Why did you take your watch to the jeweler's? \_\_\_\_\_
- Why did you go to the hair salon? \_\_\_\_\_

43.3 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 \_\_\_\_\_
- They didn't paint the house themselves. They \_\_\_\_\_
- Sue didn't make the curtains herself. \_\_\_\_\_

43.4 Use the words in parentheses to complete the sentences. Use the structure *have something done*.

- We *are having the house painted* (the house / paint) at the moment.
- I lost my key. I'll have to \_\_\_\_\_ (another key / make).
- When was the last time you \_\_\_\_\_ (your hair / cut)?
- \_\_\_\_\_ (you / a newspaper / deliver) to your home, or do you buy one on your way to work?
- A: What are those workers doing at your house?  
B: Oh, we \_\_\_\_\_ (air conditioning / install).
- A: Can I see the pictures you took when you were on vacation?  
B: I'm afraid I \_\_\_\_\_ (not / the film / develop) yet.
- This coat is dirty. I should \_\_\_\_\_ (it / clean).

43.5 Now use *have something done* with its second meaning (see Section C).

- Bill's nose was broken in a fight.  
What happened to Bill? *He had his nose broken in a fight*
- Sarah's bag was stolen on a train.  
What happened to Sarah? She \_\_\_\_\_
- John's electricity was turned off because he didn't pay the bill.  
What happened to John? \_\_\_\_\_
- Diane's passport was taken away by the police.  
What happened to Diane? \_\_\_\_\_