

1A have: auxiliary or main verb?

have as a main verb

- We **have** a large extended family.
Do you **have** any money on you?
She **has** a really bad cold at the moment.
- He **doesn't have** lunch at home.
I'm **having** problems with my Wi-fi.
- Do we really **have to** spend Christmas with your parents again?
- We're going to **have** the kitchen **repainted** next week.
I **had** my eyes **tested** when I got my new glasses.
Where do you **have** your hair **cut**?

When *have* is a **main verb**, we use auxiliary verbs, e.g. *be* or *do*, to make questions and negatives. We don't usually contract *have* when it is a main verb.

- We use *have* as a main verb for possession.
have with this meaning is a stative (non-action) verb and is not used in continuous tenses.
 - have* is also a stative verb when used to talk about relationships or illnesses.
- We use *have* + object as a main verb for actions and experiences, e.g. *have a bath, a drink, a chat, a problem, etc.*
have with this meaning is a dynamic (action) verb and can be used in continuous tenses.
- We use *have to* as a main verb to express obligation, especially obligation imposed by others, and rules and regulations.
- We use *have* as a main verb + object + past participle to say that you ask or pay another person to do something for you.

have as an auxiliary verb

- How many children **have** you **got**? I've **got** three, two boys and a girl.
They **haven't got** much money.
- I **haven't** the time to go to the bank.
- I've **got to** go now – I'm meeting my girlfriend for lunch.
- They've **been** married for 15 years.
How long **has** Anna **been going** out with James?
- She'll **have** finished lunch in a few minutes so you can phone her then.
I want to **have** started a family by the time I'm 30.
If I **hadn't** taken a taxi, I wouldn't **have** arrived in time.

When *have* is an auxiliary verb, we make questions by inverting *have* and the subject, and negatives with *haven't* / *hasn't*. *have* as an auxiliary verb is often contracted to 've / 's; *had* is contracted to 'd.

- We often use *have got* for possession. The meaning is exactly the same as *have*.
 - have* here is an auxiliary verb.
 - have got* has a present meaning. We normally use *had* for the past, not *had got*.
 - have got* is very common in informal English.
- In negative sentences, we occasionally leave out *got*, especially in fixed expressions like *I haven't time*, *I haven't a clue*.
- We use *have got to* to express obligation, especially in informal English.
 - have got to* is normally used for a specific obligation rather than a general or repeated obligation. Compare:
I've got to make a quick phone call. (= specific)
I have to wear a suit to work. (= general)
- We use *have* as an auxiliary verb to form the present perfect simple and continuous.
- We also use *have* for other perfect forms, e.g. the future perfect, the perfect infinitive, the past perfect, etc.

- a Right (✓) or wrong (✗)? Correct the mistakes in the **highlighted phrases**.

- You look exhausted.
 - Yes, I've been looking after my sister's kids all day. ✓
- I don't think you should drive until you've had your brakes fixed.
 - A Why don't you want to come?
B I haven't got any money.
 - Has your husband to work tomorrow or is he taking the day off?
 - The staff don't have to dress formally in this company – they can wear what they like.
 - How long have you been having your flat in London?
 - What time are we having dinner tonight?
 - My parents had got a lot of problems with my sister when she was a teenager.
 - I don't have a holiday for 18 months. I really need a break.
 - Have we got to do this exercise now, or can we do it later for homework?

- b Rewrite the sentences using a form of *have* or *have got*.

- Her brother moved to Canada in 2011 and he still lives there.
Her brother's *been living in Canada since 2011*.
- She's an only child.
She _____.
 - We used to pay someone to take a family photograph every year.
We used _____.
 - Buying car insurance is obligatory for all drivers.
All _____.
 - He last saw his father in 2009.
He _____.
 - He lacks the right qualifications for this job.
He _____.
 - It's not necessary for us to do it now; we can do it later.
We _____.
 - The sea was amazingly clear and warm – we swam every morning.
The sea was amazingly clear and warm – we _____.
 - When did you start to get on badly?
How long _____ badly?
 - I need someone to fix the central heating. I think the thermostat is broken.
I need _____. I think the thermostat is broken.

