



## GRAMMAR

### **TO HAVE/GET SOMETHING DONE: THE CAUSATIVE**

1. We use this structure **when someone does something for us**, that is to say, we don't do it personally. **Compare:** We are going to paint our house. -> We are going to have our house painted.

We can also mention the agent with BY: We are going to have our house painted by the decorators.

2. It can also mean that **something not pleasant has happened**: She had her car stolen.

**SUJETO + HAVE/ GET (en el mismo tiempo verbal que el verbo principal de la oración original) + OBJETO + PARTICIPIO (participio del verbo principal de la oración original)**

Someone cut my hair yesterday. -> I had my hair cut yesterday.  
past past object past participle

3. Although **have** and **get** are used equally, **get** is more informal and, therefore, more common in **spoken English**.

4. It is usually **translated as an active voice form** and it can be used with most of the verb tenses:

- My car broke down, so I had it repaired yesterday. -> Se me estropeó el coche, así que me lo arreglaron ayer.
- Carol should have her baby vaccinated. -> Carol debería vacunar a su bebé.
- The patients will have their blood pressure taken soon. -> A los pacientes le tomarán la tensión pronto.

5. **Get** is more informal and more commonly used in spoken English.

6. In several situations, the **agent complement** introduced by **BY** can be omitted:

- When it is **obvious**: My house was painted; **unknown**: My car was stolen; or **not important**: The letters were typed.
- When the **action is more important** than the person who carries it out:  
The tickets were sold.  
The room must be cleaned.
- When **we don't want to specify who** performs the action: Our tickets were lost.
- However, it is incorrect to mention the agent when the subject is an indefinite pronoun or the **personal pronoun they**.

Someone stole my bike.-> My bike was stolen ~~by someone~~.

They wrote the letter. -> The letter was written ~~by them~~.



## WORKSHEET

**1. Rewrite the following sentences starting with the words given. Do not change the meaning of the original sentence.**

1. The painters are going to paint our house next week.

**We are going to have our house painted next week.**

2. I think the mechanic will repair my car tomorrow.

I think ...

3. My wheels were fixed by the mechanic.

I...

4. The cleaning lady has polished the floor for me.

I...

5. Someone is installing a telephone line in our house today.

We...

6. The optician has to check my sight.

I...

7. The workers fixed the window for my mum some weeks ago.

My mum ...

8. The supermarket boys are delivering the shopping for me this afternoon.

I ...

9. I should check my brakes before the winter.

I ...

10. Someone has redone Alice's office.

Alice...

11. The milkman has just delivered the milk to Mary.

Mary...

12. The hairdresser is cutting my hair next week.

I ...

13. The lawyer is preparing our contracts for next week.

We...

14. The local newspaper will print Anita's article soon.

Anita...

15. Someone made Betty's wedding dress 3 months ago.

Betty...