

## Activity Type

Grammar Exercises: gap-fill, rewriting sentences, writing sentences from prompts

## Focus

Causative verbs

## Aim

To learn and practice the causative verbs *have*, *make*, *get* and *let*.

## Preparation

Make one copy of the two-page worksheet for each student.

## Level

Intermediate (B1)

## Time

30 minutes

## Introduction

In this causative verbs worksheet, students learn and practice the four commonly used causative verbs *have*, *make*, *get* and *let*.

## Procedure

Give each student a copy of the two-page worksheet.

Read the introduction about causative verbs together as a class.

Students then complete sentences with causative verbs *have*, *make*, *get*, or *let* and the verbs in brackets, changing verb forms as needed.

Exercise A - Answer key

- |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| 1. letting, go   | 5. makes, eat    |
| 2. made, tell    | 6. got, to check |
| 3. had, do       | 7. let, come     |
| 4. got, to clean | 8. had, write    |

Next, students use the sentences from Exercise A to help them complete verb definitions with the causative verbs: *have*, *make*, *get*, or *let*.

Exercise B - Answer key

- |        |         |        |         |
|--------|---------|--------|---------|
| 1. let | 2. make | 3. get | 4. have |
|--------|---------|--------|---------|

Students then move on to rewrite sentences, adding in a causative verb: *have*, *make*, *get* or *let*.

Exercise C - Answer key (wording may vary)

1. My sister let me use her computer.
2. I usually get my husband to do the cooking.
3. Since he lives alone, I make my son call me when he gets home.
4. I have a gardener cut the grass and maintain the garden.
5. My friend lets me use the gym for free.
6. I hate driving so I make my husband drive when we're together.

Afterwards, students write sentences about their lives with causative verbs.

Students can write about what they are allowed to do, forced to do, persuaded to do, authorized to do, etc.

Finally, students read and discuss their sentences with a partner. When the students have finished, review their sentences as a class.

Causative verbs are used when a subject causes an action to happen, but didn't do the action themselves (someone else did the action for them).

Causative verb sentence structure:

Subject + **causative verb** + agent + base verb or infinitive + object

The agent is the person or thing doing the action

Example: I **made** my friend teach me English.



Four common causative verbs are: **have, make, get** and **let**.

**A. Complete each sentence with a causative verb (*have, make, get, or let*) and the verb in brackets. You may need to change the form of the verbs.**

1. I'm usually not allowed to go out on a school night, but my parents are ..... me ..... (go) to my friend's house tonight.
2. Sara is good at keeping secrets, but I ..... her ..... (tell) me what another classmate secretly told her.
3. I'm terrible at painting my own nails, so I ..... a professional ..... (do) them for me.
4. I hate cleaning so after some convincing, I ..... my sister ..... (clean) my room for me.
5. I hate vegetables, but my dad always ..... me ..... (eat) them.
6. The student ..... his friend ..... (check) his homework before he handed it in.
7. I usually don't ..... my younger sister ..... (come) out with me and my friends.
8. The teacher ..... the students ..... (write) the answers on the board.

**B. Complete the verb definitions with the causative verbs: *have, make, get, let*.**

1. .... is used when you allow or permit someone to do something for you.
2. .... is used when you force someone to do something for you.
3. .... is used when you convince or persuade someone to do something for you.
4. .... is used when you pay, authorize, or give responsibility to someone to do something for you.

**C. Rewrite the sentences, adding in a causative verb: *have, make, get* or *let*.**

Example: My stylist did my hair.

..... *I had my stylist do my hair.* .....

1. My sister said I could use her computer.

.....

2. I usually convince my husband to do the cooking.

.....

3. Since he lives alone, I force my son to call me when he gets home.

.....

4. I authorize a gardener to cut the grass and maintain the garden.

.....

5. My friend works at the gym so he allows me to use it for free.

.....

6. I hate driving so I force my husband to drive when we're together.

.....

**D. Write sentences about your life with the causative verbs: *have, make, get* or *let*.**

Example: My teacher lets me use a dictionary in class.

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.....

**E. Now, read and discuss your sentences with a partner.**