

Students as “Grammarians”: Discovering Grammatical Rules Lesson on the Causative “Have”

(Note: The lesson works well with students who are familiar with active and passive voice.)

Lead-in

Exercise 1

In pairs, read the following sentences and answer the questions.

- a. Tom’s repairing his car.
- b. Tom’s car is being repaired.

In which context, a or b, will Tom need to pay for help?

- a. Susan hates criticizing.
- b. Susan hates to be criticized.

Which context, a or b, suggests that Susan may enjoy being critical of others?

- a. These sheets always wash well.
- b. These sheets are always washed well.

Which context, a or b, suggests that extra effort may need to be put to make sure the sheets are clean?

Exercise 2

Look at all the sentences. Can you name grammatical structure used in every example b? When is this structure useful?

Presentation: Discovering the Topic

Exercise 1

Work in small groups. Read the following sentences and focus on the underlined parts. What do they have in common? Consider the type of action performed, and the person who usually performs it.

- a. Mary loves flamingoes so she always has her hair dyed pink.
- b. Greg needs to have his passport photo taken.
- c. Eve will have the windshield in her car replaced.
- d. Can you hear the screaming? I think that Andy's having his tooth extracted!
- e. This jacket makes me look like a clown. I'd like to have the sleeves altered.

Exercise 2

Once you have discussed the sentences in Exercise 1, complete the following summary.

All the sentences mention an action which is usually performed by a _____ in some area. For example, Mary probably goes to a _____, poor Andy is seeing a _____ at the moment while I'm about to use the help of a _____. Each situation involves an expert, or a specialist who performs a _____ for us.

In order to express the idea of someone providing a for us, we can use a grammatical structure called “the causative.”

Presentation: Discovering the Rule

Exercise 1

You have just discovered when “the causative” is used, but now you probably want to know how we form it. This exercise will help you discover the rule.

Work in small groups. Read the following sentences and answer the questions.

- a. Mary loves flamingoes so she always has her hair dyed pink.

Is this sentence about a present or past situation? Which verb tells you so? Circle that verb.

- b. Eve will have the windshield in her car replaced.

Which word suggests what expert Eve will need to see? Underline that word.

- c. Can you hear the screaming? I think that Andy’s having his tooth extracted.

How do we know what is being done to Andy’s tooth? Which verb informs us about it? Draw a rectangle around that word.

Exercise 2

Look at your notes from Exercise 1 and at the following sentences. Circle the various forms of “have”, underline the object, and draw a rectangle around the past participle.

- a. Mary loves flamingoes so she always has her hair dyed pink.
b. Greg needs to have his passport photo taken.
c. Eve will have the windshield in her car replaced.
d. I think that Andy’s having his tooth extracted!
e. I’d like to have the sleeves altered.

Now you are ready to complete the rule.

The causative is formed in the following way:

_____ + _____ + _____

Practice

Exercise 1

Work in pairs and study the following situations. Complete the sentences using the causative.

- a. The roof leaked for weeks so we finally had it _____ .
- b. I like having photos in my computer but tomorrow I will _____ them _____ at my local photo shop so that I can put them in my photo album.
- c. I never need to worry about working on my lawn. I always _____ mowed.
- d. You always squint when you watch TV. You should _____ .
You may need to wear glasses.
- e. You shouldn't have washed your suede jacket in the washing machine. You should always _____ .
- f. I think my bags are too long. Should I _____ ?
- g. Your teeth look really white! _____ you _____ ?
- h. Don't distract her now. She _____ her portrait _____ .

Production

Look at the list of specialists (or places offering service) and choose three whose services you would like to write about. Have you seen a specialist recently? Do you visit one regularly? Are planning to go to somewhere for help or service soon?

After you selected three specialists, do the following tasks.

1. Write sentence describing your experiences or plans related to visiting each of the specialists.
2. When you are ready, read your sentences to a partner and ask him or her to tell you what specialist you are referring to.

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