

English With Nimafar

Causatives

Overview:

- "Causatives" is an Upper-intermediate Grammar topic.
- At the end of this lesson, you will be able to use Causatives in your daily conversations.

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What are Causatives?

When someone causes someone else to do, cause or be something.

Why do we use Causatives?

We use causatives not only to mention that the subject doesn't do the action by itself but also to cause or make the agent do, cause, or be something.

- The Main Clause (The **first** clause consists of the "causative verb")
- The Non-Finite Clause (the **second** clause consists of a "participle," "to-infinitive," or a "**bare infinitive**")

The Structure:

Causatives Type 1	Subject	Modal Verbs (Optional)	Causative Verbs (C.V)	The Agent	Bare Infinitive	Object	Others
Causatives Type 2	Subject	Modal Verbs (Optional)	Causative Verbs (C.V)	The Agent	To-Infinitive	Object	Others
Causatives Type 3 (Passive Causative)	Subject	Modal Verbs (Optional)	Causative Verbs (C.V)	Object	Past Participle Verb (P.P)	Others	-----

Basic Examples

- I will have a mechanic fix my car.
- He should get a barber to cut his hair.
- Students must not have their homework done. They should do it by themselves.
- Jack let the junior IT man repair his laptop.

Who is "The Agent"?

The agent (also known as the Indirect Object) is the doer of the causative sentence. As you may guess, we have two subjects in causative sentence type 1 and 2. We normally do not mention the agent in the Passive Causative (Type 3).

The agent can be a mechanic, an IT man, a barber, a car wash worker, etc. (the person who does the action based on our lead.)

The Agents are mentioned in the following sentences:

- I will have a **mechanic** fix my car.
- He should get a **barber** to cut his hair.
- Students must not have their homework done. They should do it by themselves.
- Jack let **the junior IT man** repair his laptop.

As you figured out, in the third example, we don't have the agent because it is passive causative.

Causative Verbs (AKA C.V.)

There are many causative verbs, but we are going to mention the most famous ones.

- Have
- Get
- Let
- Make
- Force
- Allow
- Require
- Persuade
- Enable
- Prompt
- Inspire

In the structure table, I mentioned three types of causative sentences. Let's talk about the first two types.

Type 1: Bare Infinitive: We use a bare infinitive verb after the causative verbs "Have," "Let," "Make," etc...

Type 2: To-Infinitive: We use a to-infinitive verb after the causative verbs "Get," "Force," etc.

Negation

We simply add "not" so as to make our causative sentences negative.

- I will **not** have a mechanic fix my car.
- He should **not/Shouldn't** get a barber to cut his hair.
- Students must **not** have their homework done. They should do it by themselves.
- Jack **didn't** let the junior IT man repair his laptop.

When we have modal verbs in our causative sentences, we just negate the modal verb. (Should => Should not/Shouldn't)

But when we don't have modal verbs, we will negate the C.V. (Causative Verb).

Example:

- Jack **let** the junior IT man repair his laptop. => Jack **didn't let** the junior IT man repair his laptop.

We do NOT make any changes to either bare infinitive verbs or to-infinitive verbs.

Interrogative Sentences in Causative

In order to make questions, if we have modal verbs, we make questions with the modal verb. Or if we don't have modal verbs, we make questions with the C.V.

Example:

- He should get a barber to cut his hair. => **Should** he get a barber to cut his hair?
- Jack **has** an IT man repair his laptop. => **Does** Jack have an IT man repair his laptop?

Passive Causative

We use passive causative sentences when we do not want to mention the agent.

Examples:

- I will have my car **fixed**
- Students must not have their homework **done**.
- David got his mustache **cut**.

We use the third form of the verb (P.P.) in passive causatives as the main verb.

Note: We can mention the agent in passive causative sentences: By + The Agent

- I will have my car fixed **by a mechanic** = I will have **a mechanic** fix my car.
- David got his mustache cut **by his friend**. = David got **his friend** to cut his mustache.

The Semi-Causative: "Help"

The verb "Help" is semi-causative. When we use "help", we mean someone helped someone else. So the subject does some parts of the action, but the agent will complete it. We can either use a to-infinitive or a bare infinitive for the main verb.

Using a to-infinitive verb is considered formal, and using a bare infinitive verb is considered less formal **than the semi-causative verb "Help."**

Examples:

- I will help you solve this problem.
- She doesn't help me to wash my car.

Let's get deeper in the indirect object

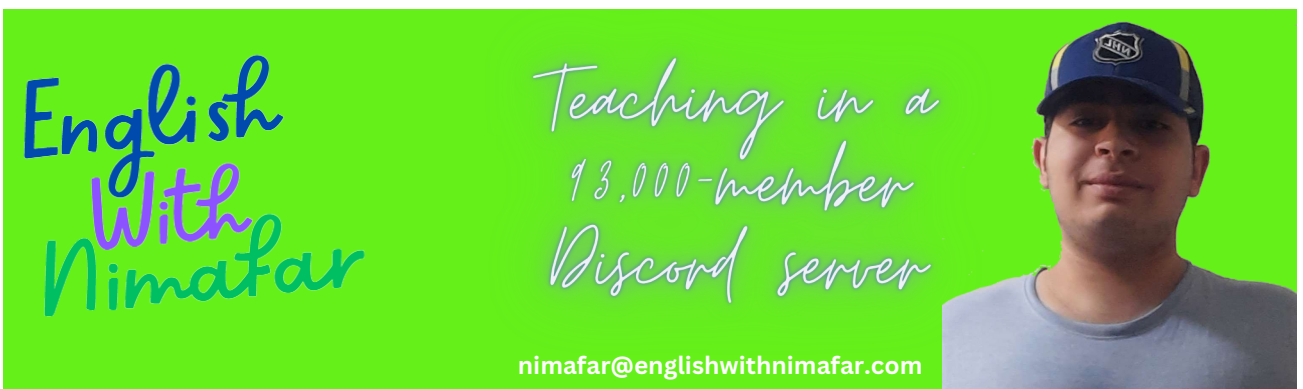
The indirect object (AKA the agent) can be a pronoun, name, or a noun clause.

- He made **me** clean his room.
- I will have **a mechanic** fix my car.
- He forced **Jack** to lend him \$100.
- I should get **the IT man who works at Google** to fix my laptop.

Examples

1. I had my car washed by a professional detailing company.
2. She had her hair cut by a stylist.
3. They had the house painted by a professional painter.
4. He had his computer repaired by a technician.
5. We had the carpet cleaned by a professional cleaning service.
6. You should have your eyes checked by an optometrist.
7. They had their wedding planned by a wedding planner.
8. I had my clothes dry-cleaned by a professional cleaner.
9. She had her bike tuned up by a mechanic.
10. He had his suit tailored by a professional tailor.
11. I had the company's annual report analyzed by a financial expert.
12. They had a legal document drafted by a team of lawyers.
13. I had a strategic business plan formulated by a business consultant.
14. I got the team to complete the project ahead of schedule.
15. She made the employees attend a training session on customer service.
16. They forced the supplier to renegotiate the contract.
17. He let the intern take on a new project to gain experience.
18. We got the vendor to lower their prices for us.
19. You should make the contractors adhere to the safety guidelines.
20. They forced the client to sign the contract by the deadline.
21. I let the new employee shadow me to learn the job.
22. She got the investors to provide more funding for the project.
23. He made the team work overtime to meet the deadline.
24. How did you get your team to finish the project ahead of schedule?
25. What made you have your car serviced by a different mechanic?
26. Did your boss let you take the lead on the project?
27. How can we force the supplier to improve their product quality?
28. Are you going to make your employees attend the training session?
29. Get your car serviced regularly to keep it running smoothly.
30. Have your roof inspected every year to prevent leaks.

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