

UNIT 46 Have something done

a) Study this example situation:



The roof of Jill's house was damaged in a storm, so she arranged for a workman to repair it. Yesterday the workman came and did the job.

Jill **had the roof repaired** yesterday.

This means: Jill didn't repair the roof herself. She arranged for someone else to do it for her.

Compare:

- Jill **repaired** the roof. (= she did it herself)
- Jill **had the roof repaired**. (= she arranged for someone else to do it)

Now study these sentences:

- Did Ann make that dress herself or **did she have it made**?
- Are you going to repair the car yourself or **are you going to have it repaired**?

To say that we arrange for someone else to do something for us, we use the structure **have something done**.

The word order is important: the *past participle* (**done/repaired** etc.) comes *after* the object (**the roof**):

	have +	object	+	past participle	
Jill	had	the roof		repaired	yesterday.
Where did you	have	your hair		done?	
We are	having	the house		painted	at the moment.
Tom has just	had	a telephone		installed	in his flat.
How often do you	have	your car		serviced?	
Why don't you	have	that coat		cleaned?	
I want to	have	my photograph		taken.	

b) 'Get something done' is possible instead of **have something done** (mainly in informal spoken English):

- I think you should **get your hair cut**. (= have your hair cut)

c) **Have something done** sometimes has a different meaning. For example:

- He **had all his money stolen** while he was on holiday.

This doesn't mean that he arranged for somebody to steal his money! 'He **had all his money stolen**' means only: 'All his money was stolen'.

With this meaning, we use **have something done** to say that something (often something not nice) happened to someone:

- George **had his nose broken** in a fight. (= his nose was broken)

UNIT 46 Exercises

46.1 In this exercise you have to answer the questions in the way shown.

Example: 'Did Ann make that dress herself?' 'No, she had it made.....'

- 1 'Did you cut your hair yourself?' 'No, I
 - 2 'Did they paint the house themselves?' 'No, they
 - 3 'Did Jim cut down that tree himself?' 'No,
 - 4 'Did Sue repair the car herself?' 'No,
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46.2 This time you have to complete the sentences. Use the words in brackets.

Examples: We are having the house painted (the house / paint) at the moment.

Did you have your hair cut (you / your hair / cut) last week?

- 1 Your hair is too long. I think you should (it / cut).
 - 2 How often (you / your car / service)?
 - 3 The engine in Tom's car couldn't be repaired, so he had to
..... (a new engine / fit).
 - 4 (you / your newspaper / deliver) or do you go to the
shop yourself to buy it?
 - 5 A: What are those workmen doing in your garden?
B: Oh, I (a swimming pool / build).
 - 6 A: Can I see those holiday photographs you took?
B: I'm afraid not. I (not/the film/develop) yet.
 - 7 Is it true that many years ago he (his portrait / paint) by a famous artist?
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46.3 Now you have to read a situation and then write a sentence with **have something done**.

Example: Jill's coat was dirty so she took it to the cleaners. Now it is clean. What has Jill done? She has had her coat cleaned.....

- 1 Tom thinks his eyesight is getting worse, so he's going to the optician. What is Tom going to do there? He is
 - 2 Sue is at the hairdresser's at the moment. A hairdresser is cutting her hair. What is Sue doing?
 - 3 Ann's watch was broken, so she took it to a jeweller's. Now it's working again. What has Ann done?
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46.4 Now you have to use **have something done** with its second meaning (see section c).

Example: George's nose was broken in a fight. What happened to George?

He had his nose broken in a fight.....

- 1 John's money was stolen on a train. What happened to John?
He
- 2 Fred's hat was blown off in the wind. What happened to Fred?
.....
- 3 George's papers were taken from him at the police station. What happened to George?
.....