Basic causative structures

There are two basic causative structures. One is like an active, and the other is like a passive. These examples use the causative verb "have":

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Active</th>
<th>Passive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I had John fix the car.</td>
<td>I had the car fixed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(I arranged for the car to be fixed by John — I caused him to fix it.)</td>
<td>(I arranged for the car to be fixed by someone. We don't know who, so this is like a passive.)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The active causative structure

This is the basic structure of the active form, along with some more examples:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Causative verb</th>
<th>Agent</th>
<th>Action verb</th>
<th>Object</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Susan</td>
<td>had</td>
<td>her brother</td>
<td>do</td>
<td>her homework.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The police</td>
<td>had</td>
<td>the suspect</td>
<td>stop</td>
<td>his car.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We</td>
<td>had</td>
<td>the carpenter</td>
<td>fix</td>
<td>our window.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The passive causative structure

In the passive form, there is usually no agent. The action verb is in the past participle, and the object comes before it:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Causative verb</th>
<th>Object</th>
<th>Action verb</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>We</td>
<td>had</td>
<td>our door</td>
<td>fixed.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yukiko</td>
<td>had</td>
<td>her hair</td>
<td>cut.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sanjay</td>
<td>had</td>
<td>the windows</td>
<td>cleaned.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other causative verbs

All the examples above use the causative verb “have”. However, many other verbs can be used in causatives. In the active form, some of these verbs require the action verb to have “to” before it. These are some examples of the most common causative verbs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Verb</th>
<th>Meaning</th>
<th>Form of Action Verb</th>
<th>Examples</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>make</td>
<td>force, compel</td>
<td>plain form</td>
<td>The robbers made us lie on the floor. [No passive form]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>same as &quot;have&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;to&quot; form</td>
<td>I got Jae Won to pick me up in the car.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>get</td>
<td>same as &quot;have&quot;</td>
<td>&quot;to&quot; form</td>
<td>She got her hair cut.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Verb | Meaning | Form of Action Verb | Examples
--- | --- | --- | ---
let | allow | plain form | I'll let you borrow my bike. [No passive form]

**Task 1:** Complete the sentences below using the correct form of the verbs "let," "make," "have," and "get.

1. The bad economic situation ________ us reduce our workforce.
2. Our teachers ________ us study classical Greek literature, and eventually we learned to like it.
3. Dr Nye ________ Dr Dun explain his theories to all the professors in the department.
4. The math professor ________ students incorporate statistics into their papers.
5. The teacher ________ the students leave class early.
6. Her English professor ________ Pam submit her paper two days late.
7. Sam really wanted to study abroad, but his parents wouldn't ________ him go.
8. I can't believe he ________ you rewrite the whole paper. You must have spent all weekend doing it!
9. I don't know how you manage to convince your students to meet all the deadlines. I can't ________ mine whatever I do.
10. Professor Yu ________ each of her students write an essay describing their future goals in life.
11. Professor Yu ________ her students use a dictionary while they were taking the test.
12. Rebecca Smith requested a copy of that expense report, so I ________ the courier take one over to her last week.
13. Mr. Levine ________ his secretary call Ms. Jackson and reconfirm their meeting on Thursday.
14. How did you ________ the doctor to make a house call? I haven't heard of a doctor actually going to a patient's house in years.
15. My boss ________ me write all the reports, attend all departmental meetings and even make coffee for all the visitors.
16. Tommy didn't want to go on the business trip, but the CEO ________ him go.
17. The contract was very detailed, and it was essential that the wording be absolutely correct. Therefore, I ________ the translator recheck his work several times to make sure there would be no misunderstandings.
18. If you ask her nicely, she'll ________ you use the lab over the weekend, too.
19. Dr Jackson ________ the nurse monitor the patient's condition overnight.
20. The news coverage of the recent tornado was incredibly moving. The interview with the little boy who lost his family in the tragedy ________ everyone cry.

**Task 2:** Choose the best answer

1. She ________ that he wouldn't tell anyone.
   a) made him promised b) made him promise c) promised to make
2. Does your computer keep crashing? Yes, I have to get a specialist ________ soon.
   a) look at it b) to get it looked at c) to look at it
3. I ________ a couple of days ago.
   a) had the computer to be fixed  
   b) had my computer fix 
   c) had my computer fixed

4. I will not ________ with this!
   a) allow you get away 
   b) let you get away 
   c) to let you get away

5. Don’t ________ these things about you!
   a) let him say 
   b) let him to say 
   c) let him said

6. The results of the survey ________ about changes.
   a) made us to think 
   b) made us think 
   c) made us thought

7. I get my ________ from my other address.
   a) mail forward 
   b) mail to forward 
   c) mail forwarded

8. Have your assistant ________ these letters immediately!
   a) to send 
   b) to be sent 
   c) send

9. He ________ yesterday.
   a) had his article translated 
   b) had his article to be translated 
   c) had his article to be checked

10. The professor ________ early.
    a) to let the students leave 
    b) let the students leave 
    c) let the students to leave


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**Task 3**: For each gap, choose the phrase that best completes the text. When you have entered all the answers, click on the “Check answers” button. If you make a mistake, please try again until you have found all the correct answers.

**A BAD DAY**

get anything done;  get me to drive;  get my wife to take;  get the typist to type;  got my secretary to bring;  got Tony to turn;  had his watch repaired;  had it changed;  had me
Yesterday I had a really bad day. I ______(1) at half past five, because I had to leave home early. I had to take my car to the garage ______(2). I couldn’t ______ (3) the children to school, because she had already arranged to ______ (4) that morning before work. Having to make the kids get up that early ______(5), but as you can see, I couldn’t help it. Of course, they weren’t very happy, to say the least. Then, they ______ (6) them eggs for breakfast, which took quite long, because our cooker is not in perfect order. I should have ______(7) long ago, but somehow I never had the time. My wife started complaining again when she saw me struggling with the cooker that I can never ______ (8). It just ______ (9), but it didn’t improve anything. Then I spilt some hot oil on my hand, which ______ (10) round the kitchen, cursing and banging on everything. We were running short of time and I had to ______ (11) their breakfast in a hurry. The weather forecast warned us that it would be cold so I ______ (12) two pullovers. Jenny couldn’t find her favourite blue pullover and it ______ (13). I ______ (14) the whole wardrobe upside down to find it, but of course it was no good. We were running twenty minutes behind schedule when we left the house. In the car, Tony asked me if I had ______ (15). This might ______ (16) that I’m a careless father, but I hadn’t. I told him that I had ______ (17) to the watchmaker’s, but it wouldn’t be ready till Friday. Then Jenny tried to ______ (18) faster because she enjoys speed. We were late anyway, so I obliged. But only till the next corner, where ______ (19) by a police car. They ______ (20) a breath test and fined me for speeding. When I arrived at the office, I found that my assistant hadn’t been able to ______ (21) my letters. That was the end. I decided I had had enough. I simply ______ (22) me a cup of coffee and told her to ______ (23) for that day. I sat down to my coffee and spent the rest of the morning reading the papers.


Task 4 Work in pairs. Ask and answer the following questions.

1. What are some things that make you laugh? What are some things that make you cry?
2. Think of your current (or past) job. Make a list of three things that your supervisor often has (or had) you do. If you have never had a job, list three things that parents or teachers often have you do.
3. A slogan from a famous public service advertising campaign in the United States is, “Friends don’t let friends drive drunk”. Make a list of five things that a good friend will let or not let a person do.

Task 5: Translate into English

1. Jejich učitel je nutí dělat domácí úkoly.
2. Dovolte mi, abych Vám to detailně vysvětlila.
3. Kde si necháváte kontrolovat překlady?
4. Nechte to být.
5. Byli jsme přinuceni odevzdat své pasy.
7. Zrovna si necháváme opravit dům.
8. Brýle jej dělají starší.
10. Co Tě přimělo ke studiu tohoto oboru?

Task 6: Find mistakes in the following sentences

1. Don´t let the windows open.
2. He made me to come early.
3. Have you got your letters typed by the secretary?
4. I wasn´t let to continue.
5. They were made do it again.
6. She has checked her spelling by her secretary.
7. They haven´t the things delivered by the courier.
8. Let me alone.

Basic passive structures

The passive is formed by using a form of be with a past participle. If an agent is mentioned in the sentence, it comes after by. It is fairly common in academic writing where

a) an impersonal or neutral tone is often preferred, and where the emphasis may be on results, events or processes, rather than agents.
b) the agent is obvious, very general, unimportant, or unknown.
c) information needs to be put in the order that best suits the text (e.g. you may wish to mention the action, idea or event itself first).

There are some common intransitive verbs (i.e. verbs without an object) such as arrive, be, come, go, happen, look which do not have a passive form.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Simple Present</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Active:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The company ships the computers to many foreign countries.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present Progressive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Active:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The chef is preparing the food. The food is being prepared.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Simple Past</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Active:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The delivery man delivered the package yesterday.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passive:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The package was delivered yesterday.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Past Progressive</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Active:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The producer was making an announcement.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passive:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>An announcement was being made.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Future</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Active:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our representative will pick up the computer.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passive:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The computer will be picked up.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present Perfect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Active:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Someone has made the arrangements for us.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passive:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The arrangements have been made for us.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Past Perfect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Active:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They had given us visas for three months.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passive:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They had been given visas for three months.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Future Perfect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Active:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Passive:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
By next month we will have finished this job. By next month this job will have been finished.

### Modals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Active:</th>
<th>Passive:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>You can use the computer.</td>
<td>The computer can be used.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/601/02/](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/601/02/)

**Task 7:** Complete the sentences with the correct passive form of the verb in brackets.

1. It is difficult for Barton plc to do any forward planning, because the company ______ (restructure) at the moment.
2. A pop festival ______ (plan) to raise money for charity when the backers suddenly withdrew their funding.
3. By April next year, the wasteland next to the army base ______ (occupy) by protestors for five years.
4. The prisoners ______ (release) by the time the negotiators arrived to begin talks.
5. When a commercial sponsor can be found, the project ______ (carry out).
6. Most scientists accept that the climate change that ______ (observe) in the last forty years is due at least in part to human activity.

**Task 8:** Correct the incorrect sentences. Some sentences are already correct.

1. Health and safety checks must to be carried out by qualified staff.
2. Officials from the trade delegation resented being meet by a junior member of staff.
3. None of the files can be accessed without a password.
4. The equipment in a laboratory should not touch until a member of staff is present.
5. Burton argues that a council without a published “green agenda” deserves to be criticized.
6. Early types of rifle could not be fired without significant risk of injury to the soldier.

**Task 9:** Complete the text about whaling with the correct passive form of the verb in brackets.

For centuries, or even millennia, whales ______ 1. (hunt) offshore from small boats such as canoes and kayaks. From the mid-nineteenth century, with the development of the Industrial Revolution, this fairly limited activity ______ 2. (join) by pelagic, that is, deep sea, whaling, culminating in modern factory ships. In the 1960s, 20 million pounds ______ 3. (generate) annually by the global whaling industry. In spite of the worldwide ban on commercial whaling that ______ 4. (impose) in 1986, it is worth noting that small-scale shore-based hunting of cetaceans continues in several countries from the Arctic to Polynesia. It ______ 5. (justify) on the grounds of continuing a long cultural tradition, and usually the meat and other products ______ 6. (consume) within the same community.
Task 10: Complete the text about a form of mental illness, using the phrases below and a form of “be.” Two of the phrases are not needed.

- associated with
- admitted to
- based on
- classified as
- composed of
- confined to
- diagnosed as
- entitled to
- located at

Patients who _______ 1. bipolar often face a frustrating search for suitable treatment. Serious side effects _______ 2. some of the most frequently prescribed medications, and this leads some patients to discontinue the drugs. In trying to take control of their lives, they may _______ 3. non-compliant, especially by doctors without specialist training. Patients _______ 4. a free consultation with a psychiatrist, but often this entails a long wait, during which the condition can worsen. In the worst case, the person may need _______ 5. an in-patient facility, and perhaps even _______ 6. a secure ward in a psychiatric hospital. These psychiatric hospitals tend _______ 7. some distance from the patient’s home, increasing the sense of isolation and betrayal.

Task 11: In the text about a public health pioneer, match the beginning of each sentence with the correct ending.

1. The observation that infections were being transmitted between patients.  
   a. could be dramatically reduced by the use of hand disinfection.
2. The physician who first deduced the link  
   b. were turned down by many publishers.
3. He is now known to be  
   c. were offended at the implication that they were unclean.
4. Dr Semmelweis was working in the obstetric at Vienna General Hospital,  
   d. was shunned by his colleagues and his findings were ignored.
5. He discovered that the number of cases of this so-called childbed fever  
   e. was committed to an asylum for the mentally ill, where he died two weeks later.
6. The scientific papers that he wrote about this  
   f. were rejected by his medical peers.
7. His ideas  
   g. was hailed as the ‘saviour of mothers’.
8. Some doctors  
   h. by the doctor who was treating them was a radical one for the mid-nineteenth century.
9. Still only in his 40s, Semmelweis experienced a mental breakdown, and  
   i. one of the most visionary scientists of his age.
10. Later, when Louis Pasteur explained his germ theory, Semmelweis  
   j. where many women died of infection within days of giving birth.

Task 12: Put the words in the correct order to complete the text about environmental laws.

1 been environmental has legislation passed  
2 as being environmental imposed legislation on them  
3 expected is know of them what  
4 are member obliged pursue states this to  
5 business factory having insulted its
1 ______ in Brussels and Strasbourg on such diverse matters as climate change, air quality, waste, agriculture, chemicals, and building. 2009 saw the implementation of the EU Directive on Energy Performance of Buildings, which requires member states to apply minimum requirements to the energy performance of new and existing buildings. Some businesses may see (2) ______, but others see it as an opportunity. Once industry leaders (3) ______, they can adapt their businesses accordingly. For example, the EU Climate and Energy objectives are a reduction of 20% of carbon by 2020 and a 20% energy savings by 2020 (known as 20:20). (4) ______ as a policy, and governments need business on their side. A micro example of this would be a small (5) ______.

Task 13: Rewrite the incorrect sentences. Some of the sentences are correct.

1. The findings have not always been used in the way they had anticipated.
2. The answers to the survey were send by mail.
3. Great advances are currently being made in nanotechnology.
4. It has often be said that real democracy is an unattainable dream.
5. This evidence can in no way be seen as conclusive.
6. The findings was noted down by the student.
7. Indigenous Australians are experiencing discrimination in many aspects of their lives.
8. English is using as a means of communication in most countries of the globalized world.
9. The reasons have being given in the latest report.

Task 14: Both of the following short texts are grammatically correct and contain the same information. Read them both and think about why the writer has used the active in Text 1 and the passive in Text 2.

Text 1

Many researchers have studied courtyard houses. These researchers have oriented their studies towards the courtyard as a traditional architectural element. They have examined the courtyards from many perspectives, including the structural, social and cultural aspects of courtyards.

Text 2

Courtyards houses have been studied by many researchers. Most of these studies have been oriented towards the courtyard as a traditional architectural element. The structural, social and cultural aspects of the courtyard are among the aspects that have been examined.

Task 15: Read the following short passage. The impersonal passive structures are highlighted for you. Think about why this doesn't work well.

It is suggested that most economists agree on the major determinants for inflation. However, it can also be argued that there is a heated debate around this topic. It is thought that this apparent dilemma can be solved by categorizing economists according to conservative and less conservative approaches.
If this is done, it can be seen that most conservative economists agree on the determinants of inflation while different views are held by less conservative economists.

http://writesite.elearn.usyd.edu.au/m1/m1u5/m1u5s2/m1u5s2_6.htm

Sources:


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