

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)