THE CAUSATIVE USE OF «HAVE» AND «GET»
(Supplementary Material for Gamma Intermediate Module)

When we speak, we sometimes use expressions that do not express how things really happened. Such as the following example:

**I cut my hair.**

If we consider the words we use, we mean that I took the scissors, stood in front of the mirror and cut my hair. Obviously this was not the case (the result would be bad, to say the least). This sentence expresses another idea: that I went to the barbershop and that another person cut my hair for me. As you can see, there is a difference between what we say and what we mean.

English has a way to express that someone does something for another person, using the verbs «have» or «get» in a special way: the causative use. The causative form of have or get is constructed as follows:

**Construction:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject (for whom the action is done)</th>
<th>Verbs «to have» or «to get» in the tense you want to express</th>
<th>The object of the action done for the subject</th>
<th>The action done for the subject in Past Participle form</th>
<th>«By» to introduce who does the action</th>
<th>At/ by</th>
<th>*The person who does the action for the subject or the place or time where the action is done.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>She</td>
<td>gets</td>
<td>her eyes</td>
<td>checked taken care of</td>
<td>at/ by</td>
<td>the Optician’s the babysitter the teacher</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He</td>
<td>has been getting</td>
<td>his children</td>
<td>taken care of corrected</td>
<td>by</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They</td>
<td>have had</td>
<td>their mistakes</td>
<td>refurbished</td>
<td>by *</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We</td>
<td>will have</td>
<td>the bedrooms</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* The person who does the action and the place or time where it takes place do not have to be expressed in the sentence, if the sentence appears in a context where they have been mentioned.

**Exercises:**

I) **Put the Following Sentences in the Correct Order.**

1) **I have/get the car fixed by John.**

   **John fixes the car for me.**

2) **In England gets the unemployed population issued a welfare check by the State.**

3) **By/granma everybody in the family sweaters used to get for winter.**

   **everybody in the family used to get sweaters for winter.**

   **Granma used to get everybody in the family sweaters for winter.**
4) Their trash / recyclable / All Ñuñoa neighbors / get / should / collected / by / the municipal trash collectors.

5) Eventually / any organ / replaced / will / have / that is not working properly.

6) We / so used to / have become / our streets / for us / cleaned up / get/ that we don’t value it until we travel to poorer countries.

II) Transform the following sentences using «have» or «get» in the Causative Use.

1) The electrician solved the short circuit problems I was having at home.

2) They checked my knee at the clinic.

3) They took care of the mistake for us.

4) Chinese companies assemble cars for US and European firms.

5) The red cross supplied medicine and food for Rwanda.

6) A private firm will oversee the implementation of the new policy for the government.

7) She has always brought lunch for me to my office.

8) Someone could walk my dog if I paid well.

9) Sernac takes care of consumers’ rights in Chile.

10) Unemployment agencies look for jobs for unemployed people.
### III) Change the tense of the sentence to the tense indicated in parentheses (make all necessary changes).

1) She will have her wisdom tooth removed. That is why she is in such a bad mood. (past tense).

2) River would get Salas transferred to another big European Team if he didn't have those constant injuries. (Third Conditional)

3) John is getting his papers sorted out to travel to Africa. (Past Continuous)

4) Napoleon will die because in his confinement, he is getting his food cooked by a British Cook (past simple – past continuous).

5) Each time I read Asterix, the Romans get a beating delivered. (present perfect tense).

6) I would get my socks mended by the nanny. (present simple)

7) Many books get banned by the censors in those countries. («would» conditional).

8) Management will have our area overseen by his department. (present perfect tense).

9) If Michael Jackson gets surgery done on him, he won't even seem human. (2nd conditional)
KEY CHECK

I)
1) I have my shoes mended by the shoemaker.
2) The unemployed population gets a welfare check issued by the State.
3) Everybody in the family used to get a sweater knitted by granny for winter.
4) All Nuñoa neighbors should get their recyclable trash collected by the municipal trash collectors.
5) Eventually, we will get any organ that is not working properly replaced.
6) We have become so used to get our streets cleaned up for us that we don’t value it until we travel to poorer countries.

II)
1) I had the short circuit problem I was having at home solved by the electrician.
2) I had my knee checked at the clinic.
3) We had the mistake taken care of by them.
4) US and European firms have their cars assembled by Chinese companies.
5) Rwanda had food and medicines supplied by the Red Cross.
6) The government will have the implementation of the new policy overseen by a private firm.
7) I have always had lunch brought to my office by her.
8) I could have my dog walked by someone if I paid well.
9) Consumer’s rights in Chile gets taken care of by the Sernac
10) Unemployed people get jobs looked for by unemployment agencies.

III)
1) She had her wisdom tooth removed. That is why she was in such a bad mood.
2) River would have had Salas transferred to another big European team if he hadn’t had those constant injuries.
3) John was getting his papers sorted out to travel to Africa.
4) Napoleon died because in his confinement he was getting his food cooked by a British cook.
5) Each time I have read Asterix, the Romans have gotten a beating delivered.
6) I get my socks mended by the nanny.
7) Many books would get banned by the censors in those countries.
8) Management has had our area overseen by his department.
9) If Michael Jackson had another plastic surgery done on him, he wouldn’t even seem human.