

What are Causative Structures?

Worksheet

Causative structures use 'have,' 'get,' 'make,' 'let,' or 'allow' + object + infinitive to show that one person causes another to perform an action or permits it to happen.

Questions

1. The boss had the employees ____ overtime.
A) to work
B) work
C) working
D) worked
2. She got her friend ____ the tickets for the concert.
A) buy
B) buying
C) to buy
D) bought
3. Parents usually let their children ____ to bed later on weekends.
A) to go
B) go
C) going
D) went
4. What is the difference between 'make' and 'allow'?
A) No difference.
B) 'Make' forces action; 'allow' permits it.
C) 'Allow' is more formal.
D) 'Make' is only for objects.
5. The teacher made the students stay after class.
6. I got the mechanic to repair my car.
7. She let her children play in the park.
8. Define: What is a causative structure?
9. Define: Make vs. Let in causatives?
10. Define: Form after 'have' and 'make'?

Answer Key

1. B) work — After 'have,' use base infinitive: 'had the employees work.'
2. C) to buy — After 'get,' use full infinitive: 'got her friend to buy.'
3. B) go — After 'let,' use base infinitive: 'let their children go.'
4. B) 'Make' forces action; 'allow' permits it. — 'Make' compels: 'He made me go.' 'Allow' permits: 'She allowed me to go.'
5. Causative: make + object + infinitive 'made' = past tense of 'make' 'the students' = object (who is affected) 'stay' = base form infinitive (action performed) Meaning: The teacher forced/compelled the students to stay.
6. Causative: get + object + infinitive 'got' = past tense of 'get' 'the mechanic' = object 'to repair' = full infinitive (after 'get') Meaning: I arranged for the mechanic to repair my car.
7. Causative: let + object + infinitive 'let' = past tense of 'let' 'her children' = object 'play' = base form infinitive (after 'let') Meaning: She permitted/allowed her children to play.
8. A structure using 'have,' 'get,' 'make,' 'let,' or 'allow' to show that one person causes or permits another to perform an action.
9. 'Make' forces: 'He made me go.' 'Let' permits: 'He let me go.'
10. have/make + object + base infinitive: 'She had him fix it.' 'He made them work.'

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