

What is Causative Faire + Infinitive?

Worksheet

Faire + infinitive means to cause or have someone do something: 'Je fais manger les enfants' (I make/have the children eat). The infinitive follows directly; object placement depends on whether the infinitive has its own object.

Questions

1. Construct: 'I have her sing a song.' ('song' = direct object)

- A) Je fais chanter une chanson à elle.
- B) Je fais chanter à elle une chanson.
- C) Je fais à elle chanter une chanson.
- D) Je lui fais chanter une chanson.

2. 'Faire + infinitive' with reflexive: 'They have themselves served.'

- A) Ils font se servir.
- B) Ils se font servir.
- C) Ils font servir se.
- D) Ils servir se font.

3. What is the agent in 'Je fais manger les enfants'?

- A) Je
- B) manger
- C) les enfants
- D) du pain

4. Difference: 'Je fais partir Pierre' vs 'Je fais partir à Pierre'?

- A) Both mean the same.
- B) First: I make Pierre leave; second: I make [something] leave to Pierre.
- C) First: I make to Pierre leave; second: I make Pierre leave.
- D) There is no difference.

5. Construct: 'I have the children eat dinner.'

6. Construct with au/à: 'She has him study French.'

7. Causative with reflexive: 'He gets himself washed / He washes up.'

8. Define: What does faire + infinitive mean?

9. Define: Word order: subject + faire + infinitive + ?

10. Define: Direct object with faire + infinitive?

Answer Key

1. D) Je lui fais chanter une chanson. — Infinitive has direct object (chanson) → agent takes indirect object: à + pronoun = lui.
2. B) Ils se font servir. — Reflexive: se + faire (conjugated) + infinitive.
3. C) les enfants — 'Les enfants' are who eat — they are the direct object/agent of faire.
4. B) First: I make Pierre leave; second: I make [something] leave to Pierre. — First (direct object): I make Pierre leave. Second (à): I make something leave to Pierre (rare/different meaning).
5. Subject: Je Faire (conjugated): fais Infinitive: manger Direct object: les enfants Result: Je fais manger les enfants. OR (less common): Je fais manger le dîner aux enfants.
6. Subject: Elle Faire: fait Infinitive: étudier Agent (à): à + person → lui, à Pierre Result: Elle lui fait étudier le français. OR: Elle fait étudier le français à Pierre.
7. Subject: Il Faire: se fait Infinitive: laver Result: Il se fait laver. (He has himself washed.) OR reflexive infinitive: Il se fait laver. (More formal / passive idea.)
8. To cause or have someone do something: 'Je fais partir.' (I make/have him leave.)
9. Subject + faire (conjugated) + infinitive + agent (à) + object.
10. If the infinitive has no object, the agent is direct object: 'Je fais manger les enfants.'

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