

GRAMMAR: Have or Have Got

You can use have got or have. There is no difference in meaning:

They have got a new car or They have a new car.

Lisa has got two brothers or Lisa has two brothers

Our house has got a big garden or Our house has a big garden

For the past tense, we use only had, not had got.

EX: Lisa had long hair when she was small. NOT Lisa had got long hair when she was small.

In questions and negative sentences there are three possible forms.

Have you got any questions?

Do you have any questions?

Have you any questions?

I haven't got any questions.

I don't have any questions.

I haven't any questions.

In past questions and negative sentences, we use did/didn't

Did you have a car when you lived in London?

I didn't have a car when I lived there.

you have breakfast/have a bath/have a good time NOT have got breakfast/have got a bath/have got a good time

We also use have (but NOT have got) for the following:

breakfast/dinner/a cup of coffee/ something to eat/ a bath/ a shower/ a swim/ a nap/ a party / a holiday /an accident

Write negative sentences with have. The first one is done for you.

1. I can't get into the house. (a key). I don't have a key.

2. I couldn't read the letter. (glasses).

3. I can't get onto the roof. (a ladder)

4. We couldn't visit the museum. (enough time)

5. He couldn't find his way to our house. (a map)

6. She can't pay her bills. (money)

7. She couldn't pay her bills. (money)

8. I can't go dancing tonight. (energy)

9. They couldn't take any photos. (camera)

Fill in the blanks:

1. Excuse me, have you got a pen I could borrow?

2. Why are you holding your face like that? _____ a toothache?

3. I need a stamp for this letter. _____ one?

4. When you worked, _____ your own office?

5. It started to rain. _____ an umbrella?

Idioms with Have:

have problems

have fun

have a baby

have a change of heart
have a clean conscience
haven't a clue
have a close call
have a feeling
have a fit
have a green thumb
have a grudge
have an interest in
have a hard time
have a look at
have a lot going for

1. Jim and Sara are _____. They fight a lot about money and chores.
2. Dad won't invite my cousins to the wedding. He _____ against my uncle and his kids.
3. Barbara _____ at the party. She danced with everyone there.
4. Please send me information about Greece. I _____ traveling there.
5. James and Rhonda are _____. They already have two older children.
6. Dad _____ and invited my cousins to the party. He isn't mad at them anymore.
7. I _____. I know I did the right thing.
8. I _____ figuring out how to put things together. The instructions aren't helpful.
9. Do you know where my keys are? I _____ where I put them.
10. Will you _____ at this broken clock. Do you think it can be repaired?
11. That car almost hit us. We _____.
12. I am sure he will get better. I _____ everything will be alright.
13. Mother _____ when she discovered my sister didn't come in until midnight.
14. Mary _____ herself. She has a law degree and is very good at talking to people. She will be successful in life.
15. Sara can grow anything. She _____.

Discuss:

1. What problems did you have when you first arrived in the U.S.?
2. What do you do to have fun?
3. Would you like to have a baby?
4. Have you had a close call in your car?
5. Do you have a green thumb?
6. What subjects do you have an interest in?
7. What do you have for breakfast?
8. How often do you have a nap?
9. What have you got, that you wish you didn't have?
10. I wish I had gotten a _____ when I had a chance.
11. Have you ever had a toothache?
12. Have you got many siblings?
13. If you have a one track mind, you think about one thing a lot. Example: Paul has a one track mind. All he can talk about is golf. Do you have a one track mind about anything?
14. If you have mixed feelings, you have feelings on both side of the issue. For example: How do you like Paul? I have mixed feelings. He's a very nice guy, but I'm not sure he will accept responsibility for his actions.