have something done

Α

Study this example situation:



The roof of Lisa's house was damaged. So she called a builder, and yesterday he came and repaired it.

Lisa had the roof repaired yesterday.

This means: Lisa arranged for somebody else to repair the roof. She didn't repair it herself.

If you **have something done**, you arrange for somebody to do it for you. Compare:

- Lisa **repaired** the roof. (= she repaired it herself)
 Lisa **had** the roof **repaired**. (= she arranged for somebody else to repair it)
- A: Did you make those curtains yourself?
 - B: Yes, I like making things.
 - A: Did you have those curtains made?
 - B: No, I made them myself.

Study the word order:

have	object	past participle
Lisa had	the roof	repaired.
Where did you have	your hair	cut?
We are having	the house	painted.
I think you should have	that coat	cleaned.
I don't like having	my picture	taken.

We say:

- ☐ How often do you **have your car serviced**? (not have serviced your car)
- Our neighbour is **having a garage built**. (not having built a garage)
- O Your hair looks nice. Did you have it cut?

get something done

You can say 'get something done' instead of 'have something done':

- When are you going to **get the roof repaired**? (= have the roof repaired)
- I think you should get your hair cut really short.
- We also use **have something done** with a different meaning. For example:
 - Paul and Karen **had their bags stolen** while they were travelling.

This does not mean that they arranged for somebody to steal their bags. 'They **had their bags stolen**' means only: 'Their bags were stolen'.

With this meaning, we use **have something done** to say that something happens to somebody or their belongings:

- Gary **had** his nose **broken** in a fight. (= his nose was broken)
- ☐ Have you ever **had** your bike **stolen**?

Exercises

Tick (\checkmark) the correct sentence, (a) or (b), for each picture.

(I / my salary / increase) I...

(He / his application / refuse)

4 Joe can't get a visa.

