

Headway Plus

Tikrit University

Accounting Department

Possession

Have VS Have Got

Pre-Intermediate Level

## Headway Plus

Here are some ways to talk about possession in English.

### Verb “to have”

“I **have** two children.”

“He **has** a beautiful house in London.”

Remember: “have” is a normal verb in English. Use the auxiliary “do” and “does” in the present tense to make questions, and “don’t” and “doesn’t” to make negatives. Use “did” in the past tense to make questions, and “didn’t” to make negatives.

“**Do you have** any money?”

“**Does he have** any children?”

“We **don’t have** much time.”

“She **doesn’t have** a big car.”

“**Did he have** a good holiday?”

“**We didn’t have** a holiday last year.”

### Verb “have got”

You can also use “have got” in the present tense to talk about possessions.

**I have got** a new car.

**You have got** a nice house.

**He / she has got** an important job.

**We have got** pizza for dinner.

**They have got** two beautiful children,

### Abbreviated form

**I’ve got** a new car.

**You’ve got** a nice house.

**He’s got / She’s got** an important job.

**We’ve got** pizza for dinner.

**They’ve got** two beautiful children.

### Questions

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“Have got” is a two-part verb, and “have” (or “has” for he / she / it) acts as the auxiliary. This means you don’t use “do” or “does” in questions. Like the verb “to be” and modal auxiliaries, change the word order to make a question.

I have got = Have I got...?

You have got = Have you got...?

He / she has got = Has she / he got...?

We have got = Have we got...?

They have got = Have they got...?

**Have I got** time to go shopping before the film starts?

**Have you got** room in your bag for my phone?

**Has he got** any children?

**Have we got** a bottle of water for the car journey?

**Have they got** a new car?

### Short replies

Yes, I have / No, I haven’t

Yes, you have / No, you haven’t

Yes, he / she has / No, he / she hasn’t

Yes, we have / No, we haven’t

Yes, they have / No, they haven’t

### Negative form

Make “have got” negative with the negative form of “have:

I **haven’t got** time.

You **haven’t got** time.

He / she **hasn’t got** time.

We **haven’t got** time.

They **haven’t got** time.

### In the past

You can’t use “haven’t got” for past possession. Use the past form of the verb “have”: “**had**”.

Last year I **had** a lot more time.

(**Not** “Last year I **had got** a lot more time.”)

### Other uses of have / have got in English

-To talk about illnesses

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She has the flu.  
She has got the flu.

### – To talk about obligation

I have to study for the exam.  
I've got to study for the exam.

### – In different situations

I have / have got  
... an idea  
... a suggestion / proposal  
... a feeling that...  
... brown hair and blue eyes

## Common errors

Avoid these common mistakes with have / have got

1. "I **haven't any** brothers or sisters."

**Remember:** the negative form is either "I haven't got" or "I don't have".

2. "Have you got a new coat?"

"Yes, I **have got**." ..... **should be said (yes, I have )**

"Yes, I've." ..... **should be said (yes, I've got )**

**Remember:** the short form of "have got" is "have". You can't abbreviate it to "I've".

3. "Last week I **had got** a bad cold." ..... **(Last week I had a bad cold.)**

**Remember:** in the past tense, use "have" not "have got" ..... had not had got

## Apostrophe 's

We also use's to talk about possession.

**Sarah's eyes** are blue.

**John and Jane's children** are very tall.

**Remember:**

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1. We generally use 's for people, not things.

John's car is big.

But for things, use two nouns without 's, or "of":

"The **car windows** are dirty." Or "The **windows of the car** are dirty."

**Not** "The **car's** windows are dirty".

2. Put 's after a singular noun and after an irregular plural noun.

My **son's** bedroom. (One son, one bedroom.)

The **women's** football team. (More than one woman, one football team.)

### Put ' (apostrophe only) after a regular, plural noun.

My **sons'** bedroom. (More than one son, one bedroom.)

The **girls'** school. (More than one girl, one school = a school for many girls)

3. When you refer to the possession of two people, put 's after the second person.

Susan and Tom's children.

## Other ways to talk about your possessions

### Own

She owns a sports car.

I own a mountain bike.

The person who owns something is "the owner".

"Can the owner of the blue Smart please come to reception?"

### Belong to

Who does this scarf belong to?

The red car belongs to my husband.

### Possessive pronouns

that book is mine.

Those keys are yours.

## Conclusion

### 1- In Positive Forms:

There is no difference in their positive form. They both have meaning of "possession". However "have" without "got" is more preferred in American English.

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We've got a car. (British English)  
We have a car. (American English)

Daniel has got two toys. (British English)  
Daniel has two toys. (American English)

We use have got or have for ailments.

I've got a toothache. (British English)  
I have a toothache. (American English)

**NOTE:** In very informal American speech, people may drop "have" before got.  
I got a toothache / I got a problem.

### 2-In questions and negative sentences they have different usages:

Have you got any cheese? / I haven't got any cheese. (British English)  
Do you have any cheese? / I don't have any cheese. (American English)

### 3-For the past, in both British and American English we use had (without 'got')

I had dark blue eyes when I was a baby. (not I had got)  
My father had an old Mustang GT when he was young.

### In the past questions and negative sentences we normally use did / didn't

A: Did you have a roommate when you were in Sydney?  
B: No, I didn't have a roommate.

**There are several combinations of the verb "to have" with nouns, noun phrases and adjectives.**

**Have**

## Headway Plus

An argument	An interest in something
A bath / shower	A look
Breakfast / lunch / dinner	A meeting
A chance	A party
A cold	A plan
Difficulty	An operation
A drink	Patience
A feeling	Problems
An idea	Time
An impact	Trouble

These expressions are only used with have. (not with have got)

I have a shower every morning. (Have = "take" / ~~have got a shower~~)