Have or Have got?

Easy English Grammar (50 examples)

HAVE and HAVE GOT mean the same thing when you are talking about owning something, holding something or relationships.

- He has $20 in his wallet.
- He has got $20 in his wallet.

★ Remember the verb HAVE changes to HAS for the third person singular.
He has / She has / It has
We use the auxiliary verb DO to make a question and a negative sentence with HAVE.

- DO you HAVE a few minutes?
- I DON’T HAVE any time today.

HAVE GOT doesn’t use the auxiliary verb DO for questions or negative sentences.

- HAVE you GOT a few minutes?
- I HAVEN’T GOT any time today.
• I have a mountain bike and I ride it every weekend.
• I have got a mountain bike and I ride it every weekend.

• Henry’s apartment has a big balcony. He lives on the 18th floor so he has a great view of the city.
• Henry’s apartment has got a big balcony. He lives on the 18th floor so he has got a great view of the city.

• My Mom comes from a big family. She has 3 sisters and 3 brothers.
• My Mom comes from a big family. She has got 3 sisters and 3 brothers.

The examples above all have the same meaning.

According to Cambridge Dictionary:
- Have got and have mean the same. Have got is more informal.
  https://dictionary.cambridge.org/grammar/british-grammar/have-got-and-have

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<th>have</th>
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Have or Have Got Grammar – contractions

I have got – You have got – We have got – They have are usually spoken as
I’ve got – You’ve got – We’ve got – They’ve got.

• I’ve got 3 jobs. I like to be busy.

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• My wife and I just moved. We’ve got so many empty boxes in our house now.
• A: I just heard that our neighbor Erin is pregnant.
  B: Wow! They’ve got 2 young children already, Erin is going to be so busy for the next few years!

He has got – She has got – It has got are usually spoken as
He’s got – She’s got – It’s got

• Dave just got a new job. He’s got 3 jobs now!
• Angela collects rare coins. She’s got coins from over 30 countries.
• I like Tokyo Disney Sea better than Tokyo Disneyland. It’s got my favorite ride, The Tower of Terror!

Have or Have got verb tenses

For the possessive meanings of HAVE and HAVE NOT (owning, holding, relationships, illness) we don’t use the present continuous tense.

We have a Nintendo Switch. OK
We are having a Nintendo Switch. NG

Wendy has a big pool in her backyard. OK
Wendy is having a big pool in her backyard. NG

My uncle has arthritis. OK
My uncle is having arthritis. NG

For the past tense we use HAD without GOT.

• I had a Nintendo Switch but it broke. OK
• I had got a Nintendo Switch but it broke. NG

• My house in Canada had a big backyard. OK
• My house in Canada had got a big backyard. NG

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• Ryan had the flu last month but he is better now. OK
• Ryan had got the flu last month but he is better now. NG
(The got in have got is the past tense of the verb get. We don’t use this grammar. HAD GOT)

Have got - questions and negatives

DOES Jason HAVE a mountain bike?

Jason HASN’T GOT a mountain bike.

Have got – questions and negatives

If we want to know if someone HAS something we have two choices.

1. We can start our question with HAVE followed by the subject + GOT.
   HAVE you GOT a few minutes? I need your help.
   HAS Jason GOT a mountain bike? We should ask him to ride with us this weekend.

2. We can use the auxiliary verb DO with HAVE to make a question. (without GOT)
   DO you HAVE a few minutes? I need your help.
   DOES Jason HAVE a mountain bike? We should ask him to ride with us this weekend.

If we want to make a negative sentence there are two possibilities.

1. We can use the negative form of HAVE/HAS – HAVEN’T/HASN’T.
   • I HAVEN’T GOT any time today.
   • Jason HASN’T GOT a mountain bike.

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2. We can use the negative of the auxiliary verb DO with HAVE. DO NOT HAVE/DOES NOT HAVE. (Once again the contractions of these expressions are more common in spoken English. DON’T HAVE/DOESN’T HAVE)
   - I DON’T HAVE any time today.
   - Jason DOESN’T HAVE a mountain bike.

**HAVE more examples**

There are many actions and situations that are only used with HAVE. **HAVE GOT** is not used for the following activities:

**Meals and food** – HAVE means EAT/DRINK when we talk about meals and food or drinks.

- What did you HAVE for breakfast today? = What did you **EAT**?
- I only HAD a cup of coffee. = I only **DRANK** a cup of coffee.

- Devon **HAS** a tuna sandwich for lunch every day. = Devon **EATS** a tuna sandwich for lunch every day.
- What are you HAVING for dinner tonight?

*This continuous form of the verb HAVE is used as the Future tense in this question.

**This use of HAVE/HAS is for food that will eat, eat, or ate. HAVE/HAS GOT is okay for food that we possess.**

- I HAVE a donut every morning. (I eat a donut.)
- I’VE GOT a donut in my lunch bag. (I possess a donut.)

**Bath or Shower** – It’s getting late.

- I think I’ll HAVE a shower and go to bed.
- Shelley likes to HAVE a warm bath and relax after work.

*TAKE is also possible for these actions. – TAKE a shower/TAKE a bath

**A talk, conversation, discussion, chat** –

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● Let’s HAVE a chat about this tonight.
● I HAD an interesting conversation with Jerry today at lunch.
● The boss wants to HAVE a long discussion with our team after work. I think he is not happy.

More examples
● HAVE an accident
● HAVE a dream
● HAVE a party
● HAVE trouble/difficulty
● HAVE fun
● HAVE a good/bad time
● HAVE a good/bad experience
● HAVE a baby

Continuous FORM
All the examples in this section can be used in the continuous form (AM HAVING – IS HAVING – ARE HAVING)
● Paul IS HAVING breakfast now.
● We’RE HAVING a discussion about the movie and how it compares to the novel.
● Come over! I’M HAVING a party! Everyone IS HAVING fun!
● Alec IS HAVING some trouble at school this semester.

Questions and negatives will use the auxiliary verb DO.
DO/DOES/DID.
● A: DON’T you HAVE a shower when you wake up?
  B: I usually take a shower before I go to bed, I DON’T HAVE a shower in the morning.

● A: DID you HAVE any trouble finding the store?
  B: I DIDN’T HAVE any trouble, your directions were great!
● What time DOES the boss want to HAVE the meeting?
HAVE a meeting means the same as hold a meeting in this sentence. It is not possessive.

If you have a meeting on your schedule or planned for later, HAVE GOT is also possible.

- I HAVE a meeting at 5:00 today. I’ll get home late tonight.
- I’VE GOT a meeting at 5:00 today. I’ll get home late tonight.

We can also use this grammar when we talk about having an illness.

- A: Is Janice coming out with us tonight?
  B: No, she wants to go home. She has a headache. (She has got a headache.)
- Hospitals are having a difficult time right now. They need to keep the people who have Coronavirus separate from the other patients. (...the people who have got Coronavirus…)

“May I take your order?”

“I’ll HAVE a hamburger and a large shake please.”