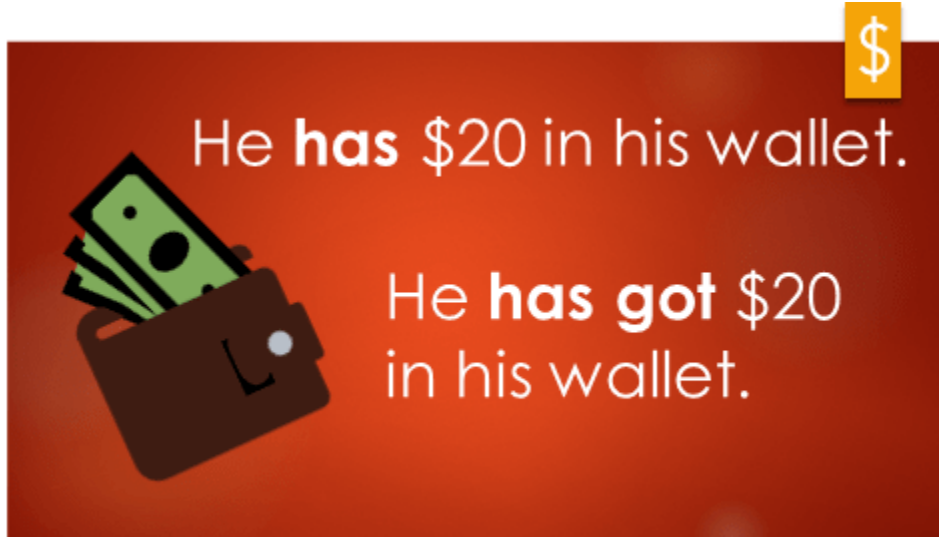


# Have or Have got?

## 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>

have	We have a Nintendo switch.
have got	We have got a Nintendo switch.
have	He has \$20 in his wallet.
have got	He has got \$20 in his wallet.
have	She has one older brother.
have got	She has got one older brother.

## 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**

- 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.

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** –

- 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?

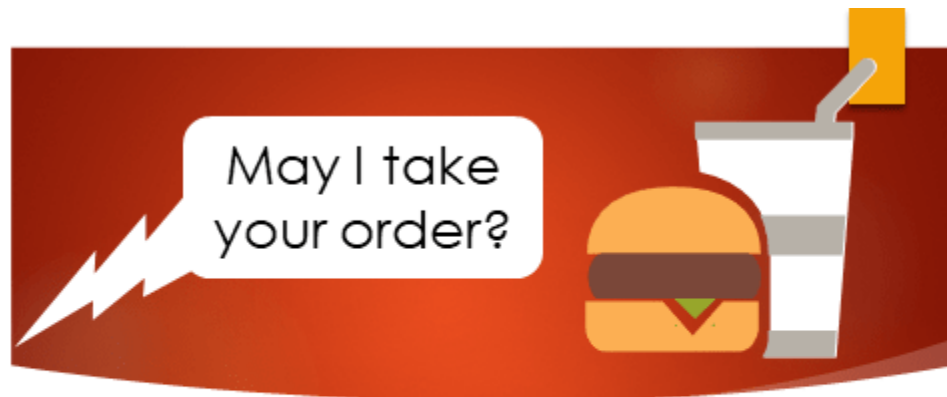
\*HAVE a meeting means the same as hold a meeting in this sentence. It is not possessive.

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...)



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