**Have**

Have: forms

Have is an irregular verb. Its three forms are have, had, had. The present simple third person singular is has:

We usually have breakfast at about eight.

I had a strange dream last night.

She has quite dark hair.

Have cab be used as a main verb or as an auxiliary verb.

**Have as a main verb**

The main verb have has lots of uses.

1 - to talk about things that we own or possess:

Do you have a car?

They have two dogs, Scruffy and Milly.

2 - Events, actions, experiences and activities

I’m going to have a bath.

Let’s have a party to celebrate your birthday!

We have a break at 10 am.

Did you have a nice time in London?

3 - Eating food and meals

We had a wonderful meal in the new restaurant on Elm Street.

A: Two coffees, please.

B: Large or small?

A: Er large. You want a large one, do you?

C: Mhm. Can I have a cake as well?

Shall we have lunch together sometime?

Days or parts of days

Have a nice day!

I had such a tough day.

Did you have a nice morning (or afternoon, evening, birthday, holiday)?

4 - Hygiene routines and therapies

I had a shower and got ready to go out.

He needs to have a shave both in the morning and in the evening.

The doctor recommended that I should have massages every week on my back.

5 - Conversations and interactions

I need to have a chat with Joan about your hours.

They had a big argument about money.

The chef and the manager had a row in the kitchen and everyone in the restaurant could hear them shouting.

6 - Sleeping

She had a rest in the afternoon.

Did you have a good night’s sleep?

I used to have terrible dreams when I was young.

7 - Accidents and problems with cars

She had an accident when she was young. She fell off a horse.

They had a crash but luckily no one was injured.

We had a breakdown on the motorway once.

Thankfully, I have never had a puncture.

8 - Travel

They have a 15-hour flight from Rome.

Have a safe trip.

Did you have a pleasant journey?

Other common expressions with have

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| have a baby | have a think |
| have a try | have a problem |
| have a go | have a feeling/sense |
| have an operation | have a clue/idea |
| have a long wait | have a laugh (informal, a good time) |
| have a shock | have a surprise |

**Have: using the continuous form**

We can use the continuous form to talk about an activity that is happening:

She’s having a bath right now. She’ll call you back.

We use the continuous form to talk about an activity that is planned for a future time:

I’m having lunch with Miriam on Wednesday.

They’re having a surprise party for Mike on Saturday night.

She’s having a baby in June.

We use the continuous form of have when the event or action is ongoing or repeated:

She was having nightmares for a year after the accident.

I’ve been having discussions with my boss about a transfer to Edinburgh. I think he’s going to agree.

He’s having trouble with his car.

**Have as an auxiliary verb**

Have is one of three auxiliary verbs in English: be, do and have. We use have before –ed forms to make the present perfect and past perfect.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Present perfect | Past perfect |
| have + -ed form | had + -ed form |
| They have moved house. | We had paid in advance. |
| He’s studied a lot. (full form: has) | I’d known her for years. (full form: had) |

We use have, not do, to make questions and negatives of perfect verb forms.

| Present perfect | Past perfect |
| --- | --- |
| Have you seen Maria? | Had they been waiting for long? |
| Not: Do you have … | Not: Did they had … |
| I haven’t eaten yet. | We hadn’t brought a map. |
| Not: I don’t have … | Not: We didn’t had … |