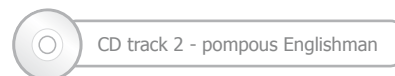


Grammar fun

“Have” and “have got”

The section that makes grammar easy and fun.



In this month's grammar fun section we'll be looking at the difference between “have” and “have got”.

Similarities

Both “have” and “have got” can be used to talk about possession and obligation. For example:

- a) I have got a dog / I have a dog.
- b) They have got to leave now / they have to leave now.

Now let's look at some of the differences.

Have

The verb “to have” is much more common in American English. “Have” is an ordinary verb that needs the auxiliary “do/does/did” in the question and negative forms. For example:

Present

Affirmative

I have a cat.
She has a bike.

Interrogative

Do you have a cat?
Does she have a bike?

Affirmative

He has a computer.
They have a house.

Negative

He doesn't have a computer.
They don't have a house.

Past

Affirmative

I had a cat.
She had a bike.

Interrogative

Did you have a cat?
Did she have a bike?

Affirmative

He had a computer.
They had a house.

Negative

He didn't have a computer.
They didn't have a house.



I'm moving house.
Do you have 500 pounds to contribute towards the costs?



I don't have any money. Could you pay, darling?



Does your mother have big ears too?

Have got

The verb “have got” is much more common in British English. “Have got” is a special verb. In the present tense, there is no need for an auxiliary in the question and negative forms. However, in the past, we use the verb “to have”, and the auxiliary “did” with the negative and interrogative forms. For example:

Present

Affirmative

I have got a cat.
She has got a bike.

Interrogative

Have you got a cat?
Has she got a bike?

Affirmative

He has got a computer.
They have got a house.

Negative

He hasn't got a computer.
They haven't got a house.

Past

Affirmative

I had a cat.
She had a bike.

Interrogative

Did you have a cat?
Did she have a bike?

Affirmative

He had a computer.
They had a house.

Negative

He didn't have a computer.
They didn't have a house.

The Differences

So, what are the principal differences? Well, for a start, “have got” is much more common in British English – the Americans prefer to use the ordinary verb “have”. With “have”, you have to use the auxiliaries “do/does”. “Have” is also used in many expressions (to have a bath, to have a swim, to have a walk, etc); and finally, “had”, the past tense of “have”, is used as the past tense of both verbs “have” and “have got”.



No, I haven't got anything to declare.



Have you got the time on you?



Watch it! I've got a gun in my pocket.