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have  (häv)

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v. **had** (häd), **hav·ing**, **has** (hăz)

v.tr.

1.

a. To be in possession of: *already had a car.*

b. To possess as a characteristic, quality, or function: *has a beard; had a great deal of energy.*

c. To possess or contain as a constituent part: *a car that has air bags.*

2. To occupy a particular relation to: *had many disciples.*

3. To possess knowledge of or facility in: *has very little Spanish.*

4. To hold in the mind; entertain: *had doubts about their loyalty.*

5. To use or exhibit in action: *have compassion.*

6.

a. To come into possession of; acquire: *Not one copy of the book was to be had in the entire town.*

b. To receive; get: *I had a letter from my cousin.*

c. To accept; take: *I'll have the peas instead of the spinach.*

7.

a. To suffer from: *have defective vision.*

b. To be subject to the experience of: *had a difficult time last winter.*

8.

a. To cause to do something, as by persuasion or compulsion: *had my assistant run the errand.*

b. To cause to be in a specified place or state: *had the guests in the dining room; had everyone fascinated.*

9. To permit; allow: *I won't have that kind of behavior in my house.*

10. To carry on, perform, or execute: *have an argument.*

11.

a. To place at a disadvantage: *Your opponent in the debate had you on every issue.*

b. *Informal* To get the better of, especially by trickery or deception: *They realized too late that they'd been had by a swindler.*

c. *Informal* To influence by dishonest means; bribe: *an incorruptible official who could not be had.*

12.

a. To procreate (offspring): *wanted to have a child.*

b. To give birth to; bear: *She's going to have a baby.*

13. To partake of: *have lunch.*

14. To be obliged to; must: *We simply have to get there on time.*

15. To engage in sexual intercourse with.

v.aux.

Used with a past participle to form the present perfect, past perfect, and future perfect tenses indicating completed action: *The troublemaker has gone for good. I regretted that I had lost my temper. They will have finished by the time we arrive.*

n.

One enjoying especially material wealth: *"The gulf widens between the feast of the haves and the famine of the have-nots" (Salman Rushdie).*

Phrasal Verbs:

have at

To attack.

have on

1. To wear: *had on red shoes.*
2. To be scheduled: *We have a dinner party on for Friday.*

Idioms:

have a mind to

To be inclined to (do something).

had better/best Usage Problem

To be wise or obliged to; should or must: *He had better do what he is told. You had best bring a raincoat in this weather.*

have done with

To stop; cease: *Have done with your quibbling!*

have had it Informal

1. To have endured all that one can: *I've had it with their delays.*
2. To be in a state beyond remedy, repair, or salvage: *That coat has had it.*
3. To have done everything that is possible or that will be permitted.

have in mind

1. To remember or think of: *She has your best interests in mind.*
2. To intend or be inclined (to do something): *I have in mind to sell the house.*

have it

1. To assert; maintain: *Rumor has it that he quit.*
2. To think and act with respect to (something being considered): *Have it your way.*
3. To gain a victory in a voice vote: *The ayes have it.*

have/have got it all over

To be much better than (someone) at a particular endeavor.

have/have got it in for

To act in a hostile manner toward or intend to harm (someone), especially because of a grudge.

have/have got it in (one)

To have the capacity or disposition to (to do something).

have it out

To settle decisively, especially by means of an argument or a discussion.

have/have got nothing on (someone)

1. To fail to be equal or superior to (someone) in a particular way.
2. To know or be able to prove information regarding (someone).

have (something) coming

To deserve what one receives: *You had that reprimand coming for a very long time.*

have/have got (someone's) back

To protect or shield someone from harm, loss, or danger.

have to do with

To be concerned or associated with.

[Middle English *haven*, from Old English *habban*; see **kap-** [in the Appendix of Indo-European roots](#).]

Usage Note: The idioms *had better* and *had best* resemble an auxiliary verb in that their form never changes to show person or tense and that they cannot follow another verb in a phrase. In informal speech, people tend to omit *had*, especially with *had better*, as in *You better clean up your room!* In formal contexts and in writing, however, *had* should be kept either in full or as a contraction: *We had better revise the proposal* or *We'd better revise the proposal*. See Usage Note at [rather](#).

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Indo-European & Semitic Roots Appendices

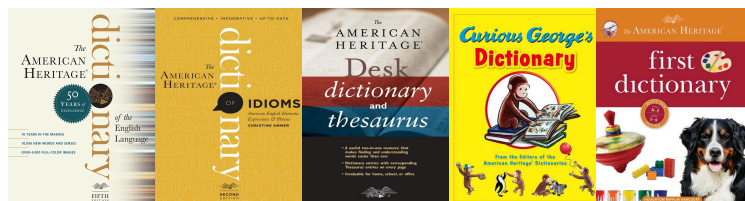
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The Indo-European appendix covers nearly half of the Indo-European roots that have left their mark on English words. A more complete treatment of Indo-European roots and the English words derived from them is available in our [Dictionary of Indo-European Roots](#).

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