

# To have / have got

## Introduction



They **have** two dogs.



They've **got** three children.

## Definition

**Have** and **have got** are verbs with the same meaning. You can choose which one to use. **Have got** is usually abbreviated to **'ve got**.

## Construction

Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative
I <b>have</b>	I don't <b>have</b>	Do I <b>have</b> ?
You <b>have</b>	You don't <b>have</b>	Do you <b>have</b> ?
He/she/it <b>has</b>	He/she/it doesn't <b>have</b>	Does he/she/it <b>have</b> ?
We <b>have</b>	We don't <b>have</b>	Do we <b>have</b> ?
They <b>have</b>	They don't <b>have</b>	Do they <b>have</b> ?

Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative
I've <b>got</b>	I <b>haven't got</b>	<b>Have</b> I <b>got</b> ?
You've <b>got</b>	You <b>haven't got</b>	<b>Have</b> you <b>got</b> ?

<b>He/she/it's got</b>	<b>He/she/it hasn't got</b>	<b>Has he/she/it got?</b>
<b>We've got</b>	<b>We haven't got</b>	<b>Have we got?</b>
<b>They've got</b>	<b>They haven't got</b>	<b>Have they got?</b>

## Uses

We use **have** or **have got** to talk about possession, relationships, illnesses etc:

**I have** two children = **I've got** two children.  
**I have** a good job = **I've got** a good job.  
**I have** a new car = **I've got** a new car.  
**I have** a problem = **I've got** a problem.  
**I have** a headache = **I've got** a headache.

We also use **have** to talk about some actions and experiences but we can't use have got for these:

She **has** lunch at 12.30. ✓

She's got lunch at 12.30. ✗

They **have** a meeting every Friday. ✓

They've got a meeting every Friday. ✗

We **have** a good time on holiday. ✓

We've got a good time on holiday. ✗

She always **has** a party at Christmas. ✓

She's always got a party at Christmas. ✗

They usually **have** a coffee break at 10.00. ✓  
10.00. ✗

They've usually got a coffee break at

I **have** a shower every morning. ✓

I've got a shower every morning. ✗

**Note:** It is important to be consistent.

**Do you have** any brothers or sisters? Yes, I **do**. I **have** one brother and one sister.

**Have you got** any pets? Yes, I **have**. I've got a cat and a bird.

## Examples



How many cats **do** Anne and Frank **have**?

They **have** two cats. They also **have** three dogs, two goldfish, a parrot and a lizard!



Do you **have** an iphone? No, I **don't**.



Has Steve **got** a cold? Yes, he **has**.



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