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 **have**	I don't **have**	Do I **have**?
You **have**	You don't **have**	Do you **have**?
He/she/it **has**	He/she/it doesn't **have**	Does he/she/it **have**?
We **have**	We don't **have**	Do we **have**?
They **have**	They don't **have**	Do they **have**?

Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative
I'**ve got**	I **haven't got**	**Have** I **got**?
You'**ve got**	You **haven't got**	**Have** you **got**?

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

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 <u>can't use</u> **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. ✅   They've usually got a coffee break at 10.00. ❌

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.