

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 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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