

INGLÊS365

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HAVE or HAVE GOT

Is have got acceptable English grammar? When can you use have or have got in English?

When we are talking about possession, relationships, illnesses and characteristics of people or things we can use either have or have got. The have got forms are more common in an informal style.

Have got has the same meaning as have and both are used as present tenses. Note that have got is NOT the present perfect of get.

In spoken and informal written English, have got can be used instead of have in five situations.

1. Things we own or possess

We have a house in Vancouver.

We've got a house in Vancouver.

She doesn't have any money.

She hasn't got any money.

He has a new car!

He's got a new car!

Do you have a minute?

Have you got a minute?

I don't have time right now.

I haven't got time right now.

I have an idea!

I've got an idea!

2. Family and relationships

I have a new boyfriend.

I've got a new boyfriend.

Mike doesn't have any brothers.

Mike hasn't got any brothers.

Do you have any children?

Have you got any children?

3. People and physical characteristics

Carol has brown eyes.

Carol's got brown eyes.

He doesn't have blond hair.

He hasn't got blond hair.

Does your sister have long hair?

Has your sister got long hair?

4. Illness or saying that you don't feel well

I have a bad cold.

I've got a bad cold.

She doesn't have a headache anymore.

She hasn't got a headache anymore.

Do you have the flu?

Have you got the flu?

5. Showing obligation.

The obligation to leave in the sentence "We must go now." can be expressed in the following ways:

"We have to go now."

or

"We've got to go now."

It is important to know that the auxiliary verb 'have' is often dropped or clipped in spoken American English. However, in written English this is not the case. As a consequence, you can often hear:

"We got to go now."

a. Have got CANNOT be used for any other use of have (for example, talking about actions and experiences):
I usually have dinner at 18:00.
NOT: I usually have got dinner at 18:00

b. Have got is ONLY used in the present simple tense. It CANNOT be used in any other tense:
I had a bad cold last week.
NOT: I had got a bad cold last week.

c. Continuous / progressive forms are NOT possible with these meanings of have and have got.

d. Have got has NOTHING to do with get. It is NOT the present perfect form of get. [In North American English, have gotten is the present perfect of get.]

e. Sometimes the have is left out of have got in SPOKEN English (it is not acceptable to leave out have in written English).

Here are some examples:

- Got Milk?

This is a popular advertising campaign for milk in North America. It should be "Have you got milk?"

- Got a minute?

In English a minute is often used to mean a short amount of time. People often say: "Got a minute?" which is short for "Do you have a minute?" or "Have you got a minute?"

- I Gotta Feeling

This is the title of a song by the Black Eyed Peas. It should actually be 'I have got a feeling.' Gotta is not a proper English word. It is what native speakers sometimes SAY instead of 'got a' or 'got to.'

1. Affirmative sentences with have got and has got

We use has got in the 3rd person singular (he, she, it), and we use have got with all other persons.

Long forms	Contracted forms
I have got a brother.	I've got a brother.
You have got a sister.	You've got a sister.
He has got a budgie.	He's got a budgie.
She has got a dog.	She's got a dog.
It has got Bluetooth.	It's got Bluetooth.
We have got CDs.	We've got CDs.
You have got a nice room.	You've got a nice room.
They have got pets.	They've got pets.

2. Negative sentences with have got and has got

Long forms	Contracted forms
I have not got a brother.	I haven't got a brother.
You have not got a sister.	You haven't got a sister.
He has not got a budgie.	He hasn't got a budgie.
She has not got a dog.	She hasn't got a dog.
It has not got wifi.	It hasn't got wifi.
We have not got CDs.	We haven't got CDs.
You have not got a nice room.	You haven't got a nice room.
They have not got pets.	They haven't got pets.

3. Questions with have got and has got

Question	Short answer
Have I got time?	Yes, I have.
	No, I haven't.
Have you got lots of friends?	Yes, I have.
	No, I haven't.
Has he got a mobile phone?	Yes, he has.
	No, he hasn't.
Has she got a pink car?	Yes, she has.
	No, she hasn't.
Has it got mudguards?	Yes, it has.
	No, it hasn't.
Have we got milk?	Yes, we have.
	No, we haven't.
Have you got a brown bag?	Yes, we have.
	No, we haven't.
Have they got nice books?	Yes, they have.
	No, they haven't.

Do not use got in a short answer.

Have they got lots of friends?

- correct → Yes, they have.
- incorrect → Yes, they have got.

Common difficulties for Portuguese speakers

MAKING QUESTIONS

In some other languages (like Portuguese or German for example) questions can be formed by using the main verb only (that means without auxiliary verb). In English this is usually not possible. In case an auxiliary verb is already present, it has to be used (it would be 'have' in case of 'have got'):

• Example sentence: "You own a new bike."
- Have you got a new bike?
'have' is the auxiliary verb, so the **question is correct.**

"Do you have a new bike?" (correct)
'do' is an auxiliary verb here, so the **question is also correct.**

BUT

"Have you a new bike?" (incorrect)
'have' would be the main verb, an auxiliary is missing;
this question is incorrect.

This often happens by translating from other languages directly into English.

"Do you have got a new bike?" (incorrect)
This is also incorrect as two auxiliaries ('do' and 'have') would be in the sentence.

SHORT ANSWERS

The difference between main verb and auxiliary verb is even more obvious in short answers: **Only the auxiliary used in the question is mentioned and negated if necessary; the main verb is omitted.**

Example question: "Have you got a sister?"

Affirmative:

"Yes, I have."

Affirmative short answer; only the auxiliary verb 'have' is used.

"Yes, I have got a sister."

A normal answer; the complete information is repeated.
not: "Yes, I have got."

Negative:

"No, I haven't."

Negative short answer; only the auxiliary verb is mentioned and negated.

"No, I haven't got a sister."

Regular answer with complete repetition of the question.

not: "No, I haven't got."

Example question: "Do you have a brother?"

Affirmative:

"Yes, I do."

short answer with auxiliary verb

"Yes, I have a brother."

Regular answer; the whole information including the main verb is repeated; the auxiliary verb is not mentioned.

not common: "Yes, I do have a brother."

Negative:

"No, I don't."

Negative short answer; again only the auxiliary verb is mentioned.

"No, I don't have a brother."

Regular answer with complete information and main verb.

not: "No, I don't have."