I have found that ESL students in the university (UPM) where I teach have difficulty with the usage of the English verb 'have'. Richard B. Noss highlighted the difficulties of this verb and its usage in *English Teaching Forum* (1972). I agree with him that students whose native language is not English have every reason to experience difficulty with the verb HAVE......' For whenever my students encounter this verb, they have difficulties with it. The reason is that the verb 'have' has many different meanings and each 'have' also has a different grammar (Noss, 1972). Therefore, getting the verb 'have' under control is not an easy task. Students encounter additional complications in terms of American and British usage when it is used both as a main verb and as an auxiliary.

In this article, I would like to highlight the principal meanings and usages of the verb 'have' as suggested in Noss's article (1972). I feel that what Noss has written about this verb is very useful and can be used as a basis for the preparation of supplementary material by ESL teachers.

Noss has classified the verb 'have' as a main verb with three principal meanings, as a primary auxiliary, and as a secondary auxiliary. 'Have' appears also in various resultative constructions. For simplicity and convenience, each type of 'have' verb will be illustrated under these headings: meaning, grammar, model, usage, examples, and replacement.

1. 'Have' as a Main Verb

A. 1. *Meaning*

Have = Possess/Own

2. *Grammar*

Four tenses: present, past, two perfects. No progressive, passive, reflexive or imperative.

3. *Model*

Subject + have + Object

4. Usage

'Have' has the 'do-construction' in negation, questions, and tags in both American and British usage. But it occurs more often in American than in British usage.

5. *Examples*

I have two sisters and one brother. (Am & Br)

He has had his Mazda car for almost two years. (Am & Br)

Do you have any children? (Am & Br)

He had only one son, didn't he? (Am & Br)

He hasn't any children, has he? (Br)

Have you a car? (Br)

He has a beautiful house. (Am & Br)

*A beautiful house is had by him. (Am & Br)

*He is having a good car. (Am & Br)

6. *Replacement*

In both American and British usage, 'have' (possess) can always be replaced by 'have got' in the present tense. It is more common in British usage and some British speakers also use 'had got' in the past to mean 'had' (possessed). For other British speakers, 'had got' functions only as the perfect of 'get' (equivalent to American 'had gotten')

I've got a new car. (Br & Am)

Have you got the tickets? (Br & Am)

He's got two sons, hasn't he? (Br & Am)

He's got two sons, doesn't he? (Am) (not common)

You haven't got a match, do you? (Am) (not common)

B 1. *Meaning*

Have = Suffer (from a disease)

2. *Grammar*

Four tenses: present, past, two perfects. Progressive only in perfects and in habitual sense of present and past. No passive, reflexive, or imperative (except in jests).

3. *Model*

Subject + have + Object

4. *Usage*

Same as 'have' (possess), except that in the habitual meaning of the simple present and past, the verb 'have' never stands by itself

* Denotes unacceptable usage

in negation, questions, and tags, even in British usage. See the last two examples which are wrong in usage.

5. *Examples*

He has a cold. (Am & Br)
She has been having colds all through the rainy season. (Am & Br)
People are having more and more colds every year. (Am & Br)
My friend had hepatitis last year. He had never had it before. (Am & Br)
Do you often have colds? (Am & Br)
John didn't often have colds, did he? (Am & Br)
*Have you colds often? (Am & Br)
*He hadn't colds often, had he? (Am & Br)

6. *Replacement*

In general, 'have got' can be used to replace 'have' (= suffer) but there are some exceptions, especially when it has the habitual meaning of the simple present.

You've got a cold, haven't you? (Am & Br)
He's got a cold, doesn't he? (Am) (not common)
She'd got a cold, hadn't she? (Br) (not common)
*I've got more colds this year than ever before. (Am & Br)

C. 1. *Meaning*

Have = Receive, Take, Experience, etc.

2. *Grammar*

Four tenses: present, past, two perfects. Progressive, passive (a few meanings, e.g. idioms), reflexive, and imperative.

3. *Model*

Subject + have + Object

4. *Usage*

For these meanings, both American and British usage is almost the same. Both use the 'do-construction' in negation, questions, and tags with the simple tenses.

5. *Examples*

Can you have the children for a few days? (Am & Br)

We're having chicken curry for dinner. (Am & Br)
We're having some friends for dinner. (Am & Br)
Have a cup of coffee, please. (Am & Br)
They were having a good time at the beach. (Am & Br)
A good time was had by all. (Am & Br)
Have yourself a cup of tea. (Am & Br)
They don't have lectures on Saturdays, do they? (Am & Br)
Did you have the Jeffersons for dinner last night? (Am & Br)
*Had you the Jeffersons for dinner? (Am & Br)

6. *Replacement*

This verb 'have' is **never** replaced by 'have got'.

We've got fish for dinner. (= possess)
We're having fish for dinner. (= eating/taking, implying fish will be served)
He's got a cup of tea. (= possess)
He's having a cup of tea. (= drinking/taking, in the process of consuming)

II 'Have' as a Primary (Modal) Auxiliary

1. *Grammar*

Two tenses: present and past. No progressive, passive, reflexive, or imperative. Always stands by itself in negation, questions and tags, unless a true modal auxiliary (e.g. can, should, could) precedes.

2. *Model*

Subject + have + Main Verb (+Object)

3. *Usage*

Identical in American and British speech and writing, except that when the past participle is missing after 'have' plus a modal auxiliary, British speakers sometimes fill the empty slot with 'done'.

4. *Examples*

I have eaten the pie. (Am & Br)
Have you eaten your lunch? (Am & Br)
She had gone. They hadn't gone yet, had they? (Am & Br)
We shouldn't have eaten it. (Am & Br)
Will he have seen it? (Am & Br)

* Denotes unacceptable usage

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They can't have gone yet, can they? (Am & Br)

Mightn't we have said something? (Am & Br)

Should we have? (Am & Br)

You said you hadn't forgotten, but you must have. (Am & Br)

You said you hadn't forgotten, but you must have done. (Br).

5. *Replacement*

The verb 'have' as primary auxiliary is **never** replacable by 'have got'. See the last two sentences below. It may be replaced by 'be' (with a slightly different meaning) before certain intransitive verbs.

He was gone. (He had gone.)

He is finished. (He has finished.)

*He has got gone.

*We have got finished.

III 'Have' as a Secondary (Modal) Auxiliary

1. *Meaning*

Have to = Must, Obligation, Necessity (Am & Br), Firm Prediction (Am).

2. *Grammar*

All tenses, progressive. No passive, reflexive, or imperative. It takes the 'do-construction' in negation, questions and tags involving the simple tenses. Notice that **phonetically** the forms 'have' and 'has' with 'to' normally end in the voiceless consonants [f] and [s] respectively.

3. *Model*

Subject + have to + Infinitive (+ Object)

4. *Usage*

In British usage, the meaning 'firm prediction' does not seem to occur.

5. *Examples*

You have to pay the money back. (Am & Br)

I had to give it up. (Am & Br)

She didn't have to sell the house, did she? (Am & Br)

Do we have to go now? (Am & Br)

* Denotes unacceptable usage

We were having to stop every ten minutes. (Am & Br)

We'll have to get cholera shots more and more often. (Am & Br)

Our candidate has to win, or his political position will be hopeless. ('necessity') (Am & Br)

According to the polls, our candidate has to win. ('firm prediction') (Am)

6. *Replacement*

This auxiliary may be replaced by 'have got' in the simple present by both American and British speakers. But the use of 'have got' with the negative is not very common in both American and British usage. A few British speakers may replace the simple past by 'had got'.

They've got to leave. (Am & Br)

He doesn't have to go. (Am & Br)

He hasn't got to go (Am & Br) (not common)

He's got to go, hasn't he? (Am & Br)

He had got to go. There was no alternative. (Br) (not common)

Note: 'Have' can also occur in the split construction: Have + object + to + infinitive. The grammar, usage, and replacement characteristics for this construction are identical to the previous construction 'have to + infinitive', except that the progressive aspect does not occur at all, and the forms 'have' and 'has' are pronounced with the normal voiced finals. However, this construction must be distinguished from the one which uses 'have' as a main verb. Otherwise, ambiguous meanings can arise. See the last sentence below.

Examples

We still have these books to read. (Am & Br)

She had the linguistic paper to do. (Am & Br)

We have three oranges to eat. (Am & Br) (ambiguous: 'We have to eat three oranges' or 'We have three oranges available for eating') (Have = possess)

IV Resultative Constructions

A. 1. *Meaning*

Cause someone else to do something.

2. *Grammar*

The auxiliary 'have' has all tenses, progres-

sive and imperative; it has no passive or re-flexive. In the simple tenses, 'have' is re-placed by 'do' in negation, questions and tags.

3. *Model*

Subject + have + Object (inanimate) + Past Participle
Subject + have + Object + Present Participle
Subject + have + Object (animate) + Infinitive without 'to'

4. *Usage*

Apparently identical in British and American usage.

5. *Examples*

She's having her uniforms pressed.
I had my car cleaned.
He'll have you driving in two days.
She has them all talking to each other.
She had him clean the windows.
Have him mail the letter.
Why don't you have him write the report?

6. *Replacement*

The auxiliary 'have' may be replaced by 'have got' only when a present participle follows.

We have him polishing shoes. We've got him polishing shoes.

Note: Other replacements for 'have', such as 'let', 'make', 'get', etc. have meanings and grammar different from 'have'.

B. 1. *Meaning*

Cuase something done (by oneself) in a certain time limit.

2. *Grammar*

This 'have' shares all the characteristics of the perfect-tense 'have' except that it occurs only with transitive main verbs; it takes 'do' in negation, questions, and tags; it has an imperative.

3. *Model*

Subject + have + Object (inanimate) + Past Participle + Adverbial-Phrase/Clause (Time).

4. *Usage*

Identical in British and American usage.

5. *Examples*

The boy had his shoes polished by the time his mother returned.
They try to have their school-fees paid by the first week of the semester.
Did she have her homework done in time?
He didn't have the room cleaned before we came.
Have the assignment finished by tomorrow morning!

6. *Replacement*

In all its uses, this 'have' can be replaced by 'get', but **never** by 'have got'. (The British use 'have got' in this construction as the present perfect of 'get'.)

We try to get our fees paid by the first week of the semester. (Am & Br)
I've got my homework done just in time. (Br) (present perfect of 'get')
I've gotten my homework done just in time. (Am) (present perfect of 'get')

Note: There is another type of 'have' appearing in a clause/sentence called the 'Have-existential clause/sentence' (Quirk, et al. 1972). This type of sentence has the meaning equivalent to the 'There-existential clause/sentence'.

Examples

She has several friends in Australia.
(= There are several friends (of hers) in Australia).
I have two shirts missing.
(= There are two shirts (of mine) missing).
They had a few friends helping them.
(= There were a few friends helping them.)
He has a son in the navy.
(= There is a son (of his) in the navy.)

Note: Unlike the 'There-existential clause/sentence', the 'Have-existential clause/sentence' has a 'rotational subject' with definite meaning. In this case the 'Have-existential construction' cannot be replaced by the 'There-construction'.

She has her eldest daughter in boarding school.
(*There is her eldest daughter in boarding school.)

The car had its front door damaged.
(*There was its front door damaged.)

There is a lot more that could be said about the use of 'have' but these meanings are the major ones which, I think, are necessary for our students to master. I hope this outline will help both you and your students in your grammar lessons. Have fun with all the uses of 'have'!

References

Noss, R.B., (1972) The verb 'have': American and British usage, *English Teaching Forum* 10, 6: 14—18.

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