

## *Causative verbs in English, and related stuff*

John Goldsmith

November 7, 2011

### *Causative verbs in English*

1. (a) Gretchen *made* her husband clean the stovetop.  
(b) Gretchen *got* her husband to clean the stovetop.  
(c) Gretchen *had* her husband clean the stovetop.
2. (a) John got the kids to be quiet.  
(b) John got the kids quiet.  
(c) John got the work done by 4 o'clock.  
(d) John got hungry.
3. (a) Mr. Malone had his secretary type up several extra copies of the letter.  
(b) Joan had her brother pick up an extra bottle of milk on the way home.  
(c) Mr. McCarthy had the worst behaved students stand up and present their book reports from memory.  
(d) #Sarah had the baby stop crying.  
(e) #Lisa had the puppy stop barking.  
(f) #I had the terrorist put down his gun.
4. (a) Elizabeth got her mother to let her stay up late.  
(b) # Elizabeth made her mother let her stay up late.  
(c) # Elizabeth had her mother let her stay up late.  
(d) # Mr. Malone got his secretary to retype the paper (*What's she got hon him, we wonder!*)  
(e) Dr. Gehirn got the patient to reveal his innermost secrets. (# had, made).
5. (a) Mrs. Thrustle made the children stay after school and clean the erasers.
6. (a) # How did you have Jack mow the lawn?  
(b) How did you get Jack to mow the lawn? (By offering him. . .).  
(c) How did you make Jack mow the lawn? (I'm asking because I thought he was impervious to threats. . .)
7. (a) # When I entered the room, John was having Mary kiss him.  
(b) # It took John five minutes to have Mary kiss him.