

English Grammar: “have” – Main vs Auxiliary verb

In English, the verb “to have” can be a main verb or an auxiliary verb. As an auxiliary verb, it can be negated, but as a main verb, not. This is because in English, main verbs cannot be negated (except the verb “to be”).

For example, it is correct to say: “I **have** some money.”



But it is *incorrect* to say: “I ~~haven’t~~ any money.”
(we can’t negate the main verb)



The correct negative form is: “I **don’t have** any money.”
(the auxiliary verb is negated)



An alternative negative form is: “I **have** no money.”
(the word “no” means “zero”)



Here are some more examples:

Past Simple:

“Yesterday, I **had** some free time.”



“Yesterday, I ~~hadn’t~~ any free time.”
(we can’t negate the main verb)



“Yesterday, I **didn’t have** any free time.”
(the auxiliary verb is negated)



“Yesterday, I ~~didn’t have~~ no free time.”
(double negatives are prohibited)



“Yesterday, I **had** no free time.”
(the word “no” means “zero”)



Present Perfect:

“I **have eaten** some lunch.”



“I **haven’t eaten** any lunch.”



“I **have eaten** no lunch.”



“I ~~haven’t eaten~~ no lunch.”



“I **have had** some lunch.”



“I **haven’t had** any lunch.”



“I **have had** no lunch.”



“I ~~haven’t had~~ no lunch.”



Questions:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Do you have a car? | Have you a car? |
| Don't you have a car? | Haven't you a car? |
| Did you have lunch? | Had you lunch? |
| Didn't you have lunch? | Hadn't you lunch? |
| Have you had lunch? | |
| Haven't you had lunch? | |

Tag Questions:

- You **have** a car, **don't** you?
She **has** a big house, **doesn't** she?

Exercise 1. Negate the following sentences.

1. He has a car. _____
2. We have to go now. _____
3. They have some money. _____
4. He had lunch yesterday. _____
5. They had a fight last night. _____
6. She has eaten lobster. _____
7. We have visited Australia. _____
8. He has done his homework. _____

Exercise 2. Add tag questions to the following sentences.

1. He has a car. _____
2. We have to go now. _____
3. They don't have any money. _____
4. She doesn't have any idea. _____

Exercise 3. Negate the following questions.

1. Does he have a Tesla? _____
2. Do they have a son? _____
3. Do we have to go now? _____
4. Did you have a big breakfast today? _____
5. Did they have another option? _____
6. Have you finished the project? _____
7. Has he eaten breakfast? _____
8. Are we having fun? _____