



Uses of Get: Get Someone To Do & Get Something Done — Causative Structures

Fill in the blank with the correct option.

1. I got my brother ____ me move the furniture.
a) help
b) to help
c) helping
d) helped
2. She got her hair ____ at the salon yesterday.
a) cut
b) to cut
c) cutting
d) cuts
3. We need to get the car _____. The brakes are making a strange noise.
a) to repair
b) repairing
c) repaired
d) repair
4. Can you get Tom ____ us up from the airport?
a) pick
b) picking
c) picked
d) to pick
5. I had the mechanic ____ the engine last week.
a) check
b) to check
c) checking
d) checked
6. She finally got her parents ____ to the trip.
a) agree
b) to agree
c) agreeing
d) agreed
7. We got our house ____ last summer. It looks much better now.
a) painted
b) to paint
c) painting
d) paint
8. I couldn't get the computer _____. I think it's broken.
a) work
b) worked
c) to work
d) works
9. He ____ his suit cleaned before the interview.
a) got
b) made
c) did
d) took
10. The teacher got the students ____ their essays.
a) rewrite
b) rewriting
c) to rewrite
d) rewritten



Answers

1. b) to help
2. a) cut
3. c) repaired
4. d) to pick
5. a) check
6. b) to agree
7. a) painted
8. c) to work
9. a) got
10. c) to rewrite
11. d) tested
12. a) do
13. c) to fix
14. b) renewed
15. d) to lend
16. b) serviced
17. c) got
18. b) to calm
19. d) looked
20. d) to approve



Explanations

1. “to help” (b)

'Get someone to do something' requires the to-infinitive. I got my brother to help me move the furniture.
Compare: 'I had my brother help me' (bare infinitive with 'have').

2. “cut” (a)

'Get something done' uses the past participle. She got her hair cut at the salon yesterday. This means she arranged for someone to cut her hair.

3. “repaired” (c)

'Get something done' (get + object + past participle) means to arrange for a service. We need to get the car repaired.

4. “to pick” (d)

'Get someone to do something' uses the to-infinitive. Can you get Tom to pick us up from the airport?

5. “check” (a)

'Have someone do something' uses the bare infinitive (no 'to'). I had the mechanic check the engine. Compare: 'I got the mechanic to check the engine' (with 'to').

6. “to agree” (b)

'Get someone to do something' means to persuade someone. She finally got her parents to agree to the trip. The to-infinitive is required after 'get + person'.

7. “painted” (a)

'Get something done' = arrange for a service. We got our house painted (= we arranged for someone to paint it) last summer.

8. “to work” (c)

'Get something to work' means to make something function. I couldn't get the computer to work. Here 'get + thing + to-infinitive' means to cause something to happen.

9. “got” (a)

'Get something done' (got + object + past participle) means to arrange for a service. He got his suit cleaned before the interview.

10. “to rewrite” (c)

'Get someone to do something' uses the to-infinitive. The teacher got the students to rewrite their essays.

11. “tested” (d)

'Get something done' = arrange for a service. I need to get my eyes tested (= have an eye test done by a professional).

12. “do” (a)

'Make someone do something' uses the bare infinitive (no 'to'). She made her children do their homework.
Compare: 'She got her children to do their homework' (with 'to').

13. “to fix” (c)

'Get someone to do something' uses the to-infinitive. I got the plumber to fix the leaking tap. This means I arranged for the plumber to come and fix it.

14. “renewed” (b)

'Get something done' = arrange for a service. Have you got your passport renewed yet? This means: have you arranged for your passport to be renewed?

15. “to lend” (d)

'Get someone to do something' = persuade someone. He got his friend to lend him some money. The to-infinitive is required.

16. “serviced” (b)

'Get something done' means to arrange for a professional service. We should get the boiler serviced before winter comes.

17. “got” (c)

'Get someone to do something' is followed by the to-infinitive. I got my sister to drive me to the station. 'Made' and 'had' would require the bare infinitive: 'made/had my sister drive me'. 'Let' doesn't fit the meaning.

18. “to calm” (b)

'Get someone to do something' uses the to-infinitive. She got the children to calm down by telling them a story.

19. “looked” (d)

'Get something done' uses the past participle. You should get that tooth looked at (= have a dentist examine it). 'Looked at' is the past participle of the phrasal verb 'look at'.

20. “to approve” (d)

'Get someone to do something' = persuade. How did you get the boss to approve the project? The to-infinitive is required after 'get + person'.