

**HAVE** is one of the most common verbs in English, and we use this word in many different ways!

Okay, let's look at these common collocations with have!

### have children / have kids / have a baby

You can have children / have kids / have a baby. But there are a couple important details here - you can use have children / have kids in two ways:

- When you already have children in your family:  
**I have three kids. Do you have any children?**
- When you're thinking about or planning to have children in the future:  
**We're hoping to have children next year. I'd like to have kids before I'm 30.**

The expression "have a baby" refers to the actual event of giving birth to a baby:

- She's 8 months pregnant. She's going to **have a baby** soon.
- I **had a baby** last year.

### have + an illness, have surgery / have an operation

We often use "have" with illnesses, both minor and major. You can **have a headache, have a cold, have a fever, have allergies, have the flu.** You can also **have cancer, have a stroke, have a heart attack.**

- I can't concentrate very well when I **have a headache.**
- He just found out that he **has lung cancer.**
- Call an ambulance - I think she's **having a heart attack!**

We also say **have surgery** and **have an operation** - these mean the same thing, referring to a medical procedure in which the doctors go inside your body to fix something.

### have an appointment / interview

We use "have" with appointments and interviews that are already scheduled. For example:

- I **have a dentist appointment** next Friday.
- My brother **had a job interview** yesterday - I hope it went well.

## have a conversation / talk / chat / discussion

It's very common to talk about having a conversation/talk/chat with someone:

- This morning, I **had a long conversation** with my best friend.
- My son is struggling in school. I'm going to **have a talk** with his teacher about it.

We can also have a discussion, referring to a conversation that is longer and more in detail.

- The managers **had a discussion** about the best way to grow the business.

## have an argument / fight

For communication in which there is conflict, we say **have an argument** and **have a fight**:

- My roommates **had an argument** about whose turn it is to clean the bathroom.
- She **had a fight** with her boyfriend and she's still mad at him.

We typically use **have a fight** for verbal fights, using words to attack each other. With physical fights, actually hitting each other, we typically use **get into a fight**.

## have + events

We can have events like **have a party**, **have a picnic**, and **have a barbecue**.

- We're **having a party** next Saturday - want to come?
- My family **has a barbecue** every year on the 4th of July.

## have a good time / have fun / have a blast

**Have a good time**, **have fun**, and **have a blast** all refer to having a good or great experience.

- The kids **had a blast** at the circus.
- Hope you **have fun** on your trip!

## have difficulty / trouble / a hard time

"Have a hard time" is another way to talk about having difficulty or having trouble:

- I **had a hard time** understanding that article.
- He's **having trouble** logging on to the website - his password isn't working.

Note that after have difficulty, have trouble, and have a hard time, we use the -ING form of the verb for the action that is difficult.

### have breakfast / lunch / dinner / a snack / a drink / a meal

In English, it's more common to say "have breakfast" rather than "eat breakfast."

- We **had dinner** at a nice restaurant for our anniversary.
- I often exercise before I **have breakfast**.
- The students are **having a snack** right now.

### have faith

We usually use the expression "have faith" not so much in the sense of being religious, but instead in the sense of trusting or having confidence in someone, or being confident and hopeful that something positive will happen:

- I'm sure you'll do great on the exam - I **have faith** in you.
- I **have faith** that scientists will find a cure for this disease someday.

### have a chance

To have a chance means to have an opportunity. We can use this in the past or future:

- Please call me when you **have a chance**. (future)
- Sorry, I haven't **had a chance** to reply to all my e-mails yet. (past)

### have a feeling / have a hunch

These two expressions don't actually refer to your emotions, which are also called feelings. To have a feeling or have a hunch means you suspect something to be true... maybe not based on very obvious evidence, but your intuition tells you it's true.

- My interview was OK but not great. I **have a feeling** the interviewer wasn't impressed by my experience.
- I'm not sure who broke the window, but I **have a hunch** it was my neighbor's 8-year-old son who loves to play baseball in the yard.

### have feelings for (someone)

The expression have feelings for someone is different - this means to be interested in someone romantically.

- Bob still **has feelings for** Susan, even though they broke up years ago.

### have a / the day off

We use this expression to talk about a day when we don't have to work or go to school, or do some other regularly scheduled responsibility. Some people say "have THE day off" when mentioning a specific day:

- I've been so busy, I haven't **had a day off** for the past two weeks.
- Let's get together for lunch tomorrow - I **have the day off**.

Now you know many different ways that we frequently use the word HAVE in English!!!



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