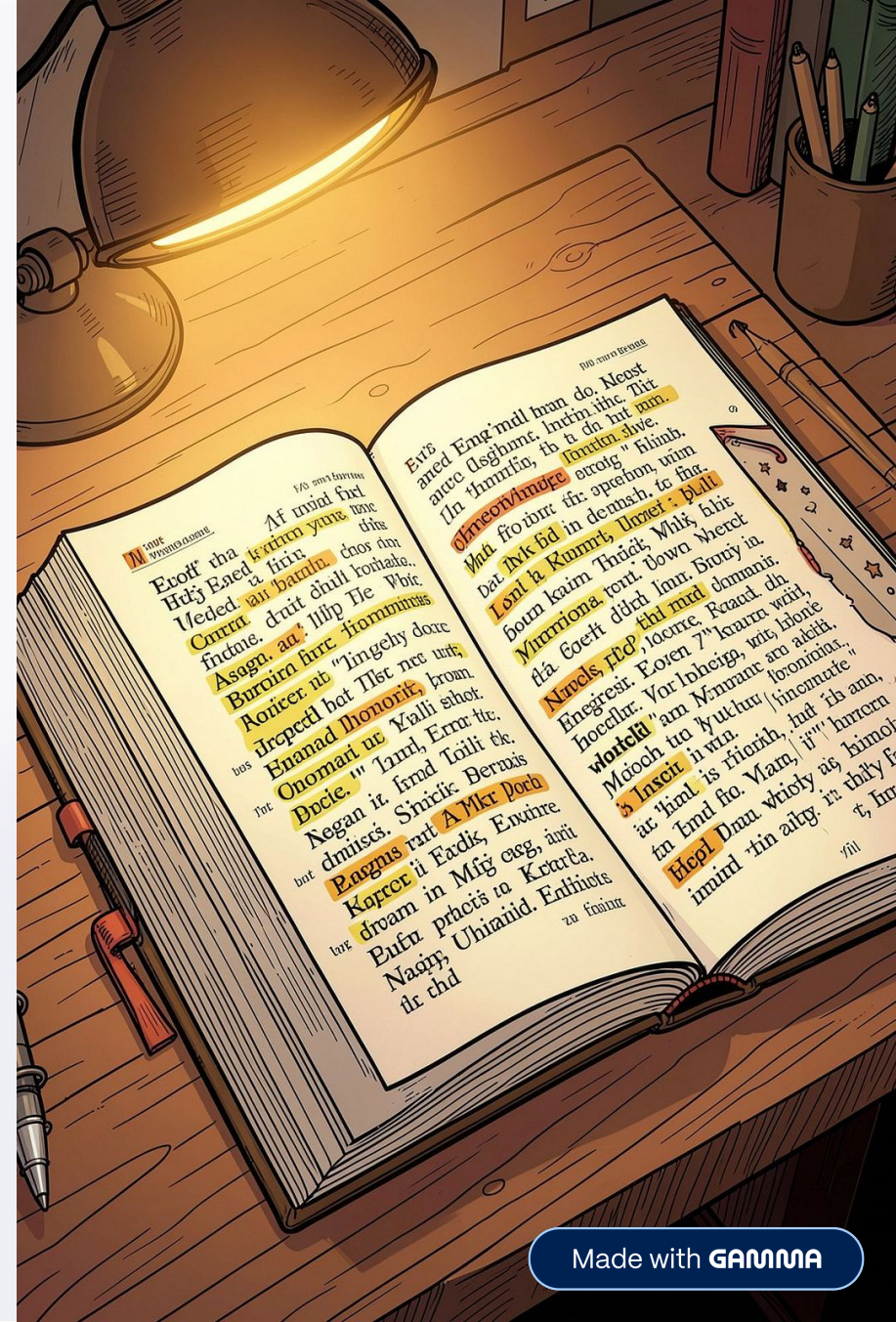


'Have' as a Main Verb

One of the most versatile verbs in English — **have** does far more than show ownership. From experiences to characteristics to idioms, it appears everywhere in everyday language.

ENGLISH GRAMMAR

MAIN VERB USAGE



'Have' for Possession

The most fundamental use of **have** is to show that something belongs to someone. It expresses ownership, relationships, and things we hold or carry.

Ownership

*"I **have** a new car."*

Something you own or possess.

Relationships

*"She **has** two brothers."*

Family connections and social ties.

Physical Carrying

*"He **has** a bag on his shoulder."*

Something you are holding or carrying.



'Have' for Experiences



Beyond ownership, **have** describes events, activities, and experiences we encounter — things that happen *to* us or that we actively do.

→ Events & Activities

*"We **had** a lovely evening."*

Describing an event or activity.

→ Meals & Consumption

*"I'll **have** the soup, please."*

Ordering food or drink.

→ Experiences

*"She **had** a difficult day."*

Something experienced or undergone.

'Have' for Characteristics

We use **have** to describe qualities, features, or attributes that are part of someone or something — not owned, but *inherent*.



Physical Features

"He **has** blue eyes."

Describing appearance or physical traits.



Object Features

"The house **has** three bedrooms."

Describing what something includes.



Personality Traits

"She **has** a great sense of humour."

Describing character or personality.

'Have' in Idiomatic Expressions

Sometimes **have** loses its literal meaning entirely. In idioms, the phrase takes on a completely different sense.

Have a look

To examine or glance at something.

Have a word

To speak briefly with someone.

Have it out

To settle a disagreement openly.

Have a go

To attempt or try something.

💡 In idioms, the meaning is **figurative** — you cannot deduce it from the individual words.



Practice Time!

Test your understanding. Choose the correct use of **have** in each sentence.

1

Possession or Experience?

*"They **have** a meeting at 3pm."*

→ **Experience** — a scheduled event.

2

Characteristic or Ownership?

*"This phone **has** a great camera."*

→ **Characteristic** — an inherent feature.

3

Literal or Idiomatic?

*"Can I **have** a word with you?"*

→ **Idiomatic** — means to speak briefly.



Key Takeaways

Your essential guide to **have** as a main verb — four distinct uses, one powerful word.

01

Possession

Shows ownership, relationships, or things carried.

02

Experiences

Describes events, activities, meals, and things undergone.

03

Characteristics

Expresses inherent qualities, features, or traits.

04

Idioms

Fixed phrases where **have** takes a figurative meaning.



🔑 Context is everything — the same verb, four very different jobs.