

4 Question phrases with *how*

a. *How* is often followed by an adjective or by a term of quantity, time, manner, distance, or frequency. The complete phrase is a unit which fills the QW position in an information question pattern.

Adjective
manner

Q-PHRASE	AUX/BE	S	V	O	P	T
How old	is	George?				
How well	does	he	speaks	English?		
How far	is	he			from home	now?
How long ago	did	he	come		here?	
How much	did	his trip	cost?			
How often	does	he	write		to his parents?	

b. Some question phrases also include nouns.

Q-PHRASE	AUX/BE	S/EXPLETIVE	V	P
How many foreign students	are	there		in this class?
How many brothers	does	George	have?	
How high an average	must	a scholarship student	maintain?	

c. Responses to *how often* may be frequency adverbs or time phrases of recurrence.

QUESTION	RESPONSE
How often does Jack go to the movies?	Quite often. Every Saturday. Once a week.
How often does Bill go?	Rarely. Maybe twice a year.

7 **Causative constructions** are special sentence patterns with two verbs. They explain that one person causes another person to do something. The three verbs which are used in this way are *have*, *make*, and *get*. The pattern for *have* and *make* is just slightly different from the one for *get*.

a. Note the difference in the following examples.

CAUSER	CAUSATIVE VERB	ACTOR	ACTION VERB	OBJECT
Professor Allen	makes	the students	repeat	his sentences.
He	has	them	prepare	questions.
He	gets	them	to write	paragraphs.
They	get	him	to correct	their mistakes.

- b. Note the forms of words in the examples above. The causative verb is the one which is inflected; i.e., it changes form. The action verb slot is filled with a **SIMPLE** verb form when the causative is *make* or *have* but with an **INFINITIVE** when the causative is *get*. When the actor word is a pronoun, it is an object form.
- c. Meanings of *have*, *make*, and *get* do not vary greatly, but they do suggest something about the relationship between the causer and the actor.

Have is often used for someone we engage or employ.

Mrs. Allen has the butcher slice her meat thin.

Make suggests the use of force or pressure, either physical or psychological.

Professor Miller makes his students write in ink.

Get usually suggests persuasion.

Sometimes they get their friends to translate for them.