A STUDY OF THE VERB PATTERN
‘HAVE + NP + V-ING’

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1.0 What is commonly referred to as the ‘causative HAVE’ is almost invariably discussed in connection with the structures: ‘HAVE + NP + V-root’ and ‘HAVE + NP + V-ing’. The former structure is familiar to many a student of English grammar, whereas the latter hardly ever comes in the limelight of the field so that comparatively few grammarians have yet spared it due attention despite its not infrequent use in actual speech and writing.

1.1 A. S. Hornby, commenting in his GUIDE TO PATTERNS AND USAGE IN ENGLISH upon this particular verb pattern, i.e. ‘HAVE + NP + V-ing’, remarks:

"The verb have is used in this pattern with can’t and won’t meaning ‘allow’ or ‘permit’. It is also used as in the other examples, to indicate a result or outcome or an experience."¹

1.1.1 "I can’t have you doing this.
1.1.2 "We can’t have them forcing their views on everyone else.
1.1.3 "I won’t have you banging away at your drum in my study, David.
1.1.4 "He soon had them all laughing."²

1.2 Note in passing what Hornby has to say relating to the structure ‘HAVE + NP + V-root’:

"HAVE is used in this pattern (i.e. ‘HAVE+NP+V-root’) when it means ‘wish’, ‘experience’ or ‘cause’.

1.2.1 What would you have me do?
1.2.2 Would you have the Government control our lives completely?
1.2.3 We like to have our friends visit us on Sundays.
1.2.4 Please have the porter take these suitcases to my room.
1.2.5 I had a most extraordinary thing happen to me yesterday."³

2.0 R. W. Zandvoort discusses by presenting the following specimens:

2.0.1 "I cannot (or: won’t) have you doing nothing all day.

— 73 —
2.0.2 In five minutes he had them all laughing.
2.0.3 I won't (or: can't) have you say such a thing.
2.0.4 He would have the Germans control all railways.
2.0.5 I had an extraordinary thing happen to me.""4

2.0.6 "In the above examples the present participle refers to an action represented as being in progress and having a certain duration. In the corresponding construction with the plain infinitive, the action is not viewed as in progress but merely referred to as such, either because the speaker or writer considers its duration irrelevant, or because it actually occupies but a moment.

"The difference is one of what is sometimes called ASPECT. The aspect expressed by the present participle...is called IMPERFECTIVE or DURATIVE: that expressed by the infinitive in the corresponding construction is called PERSPECTIVE.""5

2.1 Hornby fails to clarify such structural differences as exist between 2.0.1 and 2.0.3, and also 2.0.4, which imply 'permission' or 'suffering experiences'; and between 2.0.2 and 2.0.5 which mean 'cause'.

2.2 Thomson and Martinet are also quoted, in connection with what Zandvoort calls ASPECT, to discuss the root infinitive and the present participle. Their views are to supplement those of Hornby and Zantvoort for a more perfect definition.

"The infinitive implies that the action is complete. The present participle can be used for both complete and incomplete actions....

"The participle is therefore the more usual form but the infinitive is necessary if we wish to emphasize that the action has been performed.""6

3.0 G. C. Curme examines the 'HAVE + NP + V-ing' structure from still another viewpoint:

"The present participle is often used here instead of the infinitive, usually, however with a little different meaning. The infinitive states a fact, while the participle has descriptive force....""7

3.1 Curme goes on to comment on the 'HAVE + NP + V-root' structure thus reinforcing Hornby's exposition, stating:

"I shall have (i.e. cause) him do it,' differing in thought from the two following sentences, which have the same construction but another meaning, ex-
pressing not a causing but a suffering or experiencing: 'I had the gypsies steal my hens' and 'I have had many scholars visit me from time to time.'

4.0 Bearing in mind that there is disagreement among the above-quoted grammarians, let us examine the following specimens from modern American and British writers. Whole paragraphs are presented so as to better clarify the context in which the structure in question appears.

4.1 "The old man shook his head. 'On the contrary, my boy,' he exclaimed, 'you were thinking, and that's very good. It's the one thing we've never been able to train our people to do, and it's one thing these massive organizations tend to discourage. It's far better to have you thinking and proposing schemes which, shall we say, are hastily considered and poorly conceived, here in the office, than it is for you to be a robot in the street reacting blindly. That gets everyone into trouble, and it's a good way to wind up dead. Keep thinking, Kevin, but be a little more thorough.'"

4.2 "That is impossible, senor. The gallery doors are always locked."

'I know, Techa. But I do not want to have strangers wandering about my house at night.'

'Si, senor. I shall do as you say.'

4.3 "I believe in Polaris, because it is defending our country. You can smirk at that, because it's fashionable to smirk at people like me who say things like that. But I would rather have our way of life and have you smirking at me, than a system which has to put up barbed wire fences and walls with machine guns to keep its people in. I'd rather see you people all sitting there looking superior than see our students setting light to themselves in Hyde Park because they can't bear our political system, and if having Polaris means that then I'm all for Polaris. Does that answer your question?"

4.4 "There was another roar of sound as the boys returned to their hard benches. A sidelong glance told Gresham that the masters had also sat and he followed suit. Only the headmaster was left standing and, after a short theatrical pause, he moved his mortarboard with a familiar gesture that had the boys leaning forward ready to go onto their knees."

4.5 "During the night following some very brave idiots went out in PBY's, flying as close to the water as they could, and I imagine they were doing all of ninety miles an hour when they drove right at the Japanese. They were using rader, as I recall, and they managed to put a tin fish into the side of a tanker. Of course
none of this really bothered the Japanese, when you consider the size of the fleet they had going for them."18

4.6 "I said all right and hung up. My eyes were burning holes in my head and too much beer had me stumbling over things. I took a last drag on the butt and clinched it, then lay back on the couch and let the sleep come, wonderful blessed sleep that pulled a curtain over all the ugly things and left you with nothing but a nebulous dream that had no meaning or importance."14

4.7 "The crazy murderousness I'd seen had my heart thumping regularly in my chest."15

4.8 "Hess slowly lowered his gaze and stopped humming. He blinked under his ponderous black eyebrows and then glanced at Ludendorf as if to scold him. He whispered, 'I thought that was to be our secret, Professor. You told me that would be our secret. I can't have everyone knowing about heavy water, you know.' A petulant third-grader."16

4.9 "I stood in the shadow of a rhododendron bush, my mind stymied with indecision. One thing was clear: with a town-house like this plus a chalet in the mountains, whatever Sternfeld had going for him, he'd come a long way from the Hamburg docks. I was beginning to appreciate why he and Grothmann were prepared to kill people to keep it."17

4.10 "Faulkner led the priest to a map.

"'Can you tell us what's happening outside?' he asked.

"The priest glanced at the map. 'Not being a military man,' he said and snorted, 'all I can tell you is that you're in real trouble, bad trouble. N'dofa's got you boxed in. He's got the terrorists in training on the Zambian-Tanzanian border coming up from the south, the army's coming in from Kamina in the east and, if that's not all, he's got his very own Simbas coming in from the north behind you. There, now,' he stood back from the map. 'What do you think of that? You ask me how he's doing it when nothing can travel over these roads and I'll tell you. He's got Cuban pilots, good Catholics gone Communists, every one of them, flying them in.'18

4.11 "The navy's Experimental Diving Unit had been ordered to have divers experienced in the newly developed deep-sea lungs standing by in case they were needed. The Admiral had also telephoned the directors of three big industries which had deep diving submersibles either in existence or near completion. If one of them were needed, he wanted to ensure it would be ready and available.
The U.S. navy bathyscaph *Triest II* was already under way in her tender. enroute to the rescue site.'19

4.12  "'I lost my way and your bull-boys grabbed me,' She said icily.... Dreissig smiled at her. 'She may be working with the American agent,' he addressed the guards. 'Take her downstairs to the torture chamber. We'll have her talking soon enough.' He turned to me. 'These old castles still have their uses,' he said. 'The old medieval torture chamber in the cellar can't be beat by anything today.'"20

4.13  "'Who's the guy talking to Harrison now?'

'‘That?’ Pavton laughed. ‘That’s Roger Arden. Mr. Arden’s the head of our security force.’

'Mark nodded. So the Dick Tracy character was really what he looked like: a detective. Whether or not he was interesting to talk to was beside the point. He and Harrison were leaving the room.

"‘T minus three,’ a technician announced, and Marks wondered what kind of Dick Tracy business had Harrison leaving at T minus three."21

4.14  "'When do you marry Rondine?' He stopped, looked at me sharply. 'Sorry, you have me doing it, too. Edith Caine. I keep forgetting Rondine’s dead. When I saw Edith I made the same mistake you did. She’s the spitting image of her older sister.'"22

4.15  "Inside, a rumba band picked up the beat and a lot of people started whis-
tling at something happening on the dance floor. Pop said hello to a few people, got a big hello in Italian dialect from Louie himself and introduced me with a half-hearted wave. I think I said hello. It was hard to talk and watch the blonde wrapped around the microphone at the same time. She was a real bottle-
yellow blonde in a green dress that went on like a bathrobe and was held together by only one button in the middle. No matter which way she stepped you’d see almost all the inside of a lovely tanned leg that was a tantalizing flash in the amber spotlight. She started off the song with little steps that got larger and more critical and had everybody forgetting their chow waiting for the inevitable.

"The song was about three bars too short and the inevitable stayed hidden."23

4.16  "'I took it easy walking down the street, acting like I had all the time in
the world on my hands. I spent an hour at it, getting an idea of what made the
City tick. There were a lot of things that helped, like the cops who poured the
coal on the residents for parking overtime while anybody with a tag from outside
the city got away with murder. Practically.
"Like the candy store where I bought the paper and saw a guy in a flashy sports outfit stuff a roll of bills in a briefcase and hand it over to another guy who had a car waiting outside.

"Like the women who had everything but a 'for rent' signs hanging from their nipples cruising the streets for customers."  

4.17 "His hand trembled and he lost control of the glass. It slipped out of his fingers, bounced off the carpet and rolled across the floor. I waited while he poured himself another one.

"That brings it up to me. In one way, all those things that happened five years ago were simple. Until tonight you really had me going in circles. Everybody wanted me dead."

4.18 "Down in the Captain's cabin, Watts, the Chief Engine-Room Artificer, was reporting to the Captain about the engines under his charge. There could be no mistaking Watts, or the job he was busy on—his white overalls were stained and splashed with grease, and his hands incredibly grimy. After working most of the night on a refractory valve, he was tired, and his face grey and lined.

"'She's ready to move, sir,' he said, without much enthusiasm. 'As ready as I can make her, that is with twenty dockyard-mateys climbing all over her. I've had her turning over ten revs for the past hour. She's a little rough yet, but it'll settle itself.'"

4.19 "For they were now escorting some of the convoys, from American ports to a point where they could be taken over by the British escort: strange-looking destroyers, with long names often beginning with 'Jacob' or 'Ephraim,' would appear from the mist, and spell out Morse messages very slowly and gently, for the dull British to assimilate as best they could. 'They must think we're a lot of kids,' said Leading Signalman Wells disgustedly one day, when an exceptionally prudent American operator had tried his patience to the limit. 'It's like Lesson Number One back in barracks. And what a bloody ignorant way to spell "harbour"....' But the main reaction was a sense of comradeship: it was good to have some more ships lending a hand, at this time of strain, and the fact that the trans-Atlantic link was being completed in this natural way, American handing over to British, gave the latter a grateful and brotherly satisfaction."

4.20 "The two men ate in silence. The Baron hardly nibbled at his food. He was lost in thought, and his half-closed eyes had a distant, faraway look. Finally, he came back to life.

"'First of all, I want you to get me a job in the Otto building. I shall be disguised, of course.'"
"That will be no problem," Bruno remarked. "They are always glad to have Frenchmen robbing their country for them."

"Bevoir looked at him with mild surprise. 'Getting patriotic, Bruno?'

"The giant smiled uneasily. He opened his mouth as if to say something, but changed his mind and remained quiet."²⁸

4.21 "'Mister Bloomington, I want to see that Ensign what's-his-name in my office as soon as he gets aboard tomorrow.'

"'Mister Pebble?'

"'Yes, as soon as he gets aboard.' A blue-covered flight manual dislodged itself from the sliding pile of papers with a thud. 'Oh, yes, while I think of it. Tomorrow evening at this time I want to see Mister Hardigan and Mister Bloomington regarding the training program for the new aircraft. Come fully prepared. I won't have you wasting my time.' He looked directly at Jack as he said that. 'And the first battle problem briefing will be Sunday night.' Jack wanted to say something to CAG about the times when he was scheduling all these meetings, since they would conflict with the showtime of the evening movie in the wardroom. He wasn't that fond of movies but it just wasn't fair. He was about to speak up, but Boom beat him to it."²⁹

4.22 "...Incidentally, I've been thinking that you'll probably see a lot more of me when all this is over. What I mean is that the Navy has been good to me up until now, but maybe it isn't completely right for me after all. It's changed a lot since 1936.

"I was just talking to a young man named Fred Trusteau who grew up in San Jose, California. That's about as far from Portland, Maine, as you can get and still be in the USA. He was in college when the war came and left it all to join up. More than once now I've been glad he did. Last week on a training exercise he discovered an error in our navigational data and quite possibly saved a number of lives by preventing us from being lost. Unfortunately he isn't completely typical of the kind of man I have working for me—I could use about ten more of him. That's just another way the Navy's changed."³⁰

4.23 "When the time came to make the circle and climb, Higgins noticed that the Second Division had joined up completely wrong. It was barely light enough to make out numbers on adjacent aircraft, and he saw with a start that he was escorting the last section of Hardigan's division, Fittsimmens and Hughes. He signaled his wingman, Bracker, who saw and understood what had happened, and was about to signal the rest when they entered the turn. Hoping the rest of the flight would see what he was doing, Higgins dropped back to allow the First Division to pull ahead, and the rest of division to catch up. As he and Bracker fell out of formation, the second section of his division pulled alongside and
passed them, causing Duane to curse helplessly at their oblivious manner of flying. He then led Bracker down and under the second section of his division to come up on the correct side of them, turning and climbing all the while. Just when he thought they should be moving into the correct configuration, they passed through a thick layer of clouds that had them flying nerve-rackingly in the blind, still climbing and turning, until they were out of it.”

4.24 “‘What do you mean you can’t take a medical excuse, young man? If a doctor issues you a medical excuse from the area, you take it, and that’s that.’

‘No can do, sir. My tac, Major Grimshaw, won’t let anybody in the company be excused from the area for any reason. We had guys walking a hours this winter with hundred-degree fevers. Grimshaw says if you take a medical, he’ll give you double hours for every hour you get excused from. Nobody wants to walk those extra hours, sir. Guys in the Company will crawl the area rather than have Grimshaw come b down on them like that.”

4.25 “‘So I’ve got this man Slaight coming this afternoon,’ said Hedges, without looking up from the report.

‘Yessir,’ said King. ‘He’s in the report a couple of times, I believe.’

‘Terry,’ Hedges looked up. ‘Terry, I can’t emphasize to you the sensitivity of this thing. You’ve done an outstanding job here. Just outstanding. And the job you’ve done only underscores what a damned sensitive thing we’ve got here.

‘Yessir.’

‘Cadet Slaight is is due at 1600. Terry. I’m going to need the rest of the afternoon to go over this report before he gets here. Won’t be necessary for you to be present when he reports.’”

4.26 “‘I’m calling from New York, sir. I’m coming up to the academy this afternoon. General Hedges called me. He wants me in his office at four.’

‘Aren’t you on leave?’

‘Yessir. He wants me up there anyway, sir. I kind of thought he might be wanting to talk to me about this David Hand thing, sir. That’s why I’m calling.’

‘Yeah. That’s it, all right. Colonel King called me in yesterday. I just returned from leave. He’d been waiting for me two weeks, apparently. I’m not surprised they’ve got you coming up today. There seems to be some sort of crash program on.’”

4.27 “‘If this gets out, Slaight, we’re going to have all those faggot communist demonstrators out there...we’re going to have them thinking they’ve got a piece of the action up here at the academy. He was one of theirs, mister. If this gets out, all over the world, they’ll be watching us, and they’ll figure we just let
commie faggots in our Military Academy along with everybody else, and then what good you think our military commitments overseas will be?’ Hedges chuckled knowingly.”

4.28 ‘‘That’s why we can’t have this business about David Hand getting out. And that’s why you’re up here today, Slaight. I want you to keep your mouth shut about David Hand. I don’t want you breathing a word about that autopsy outside this room.”

4.29 ‘‘I can’t afford to have any of my boys jeopardizing their...jeopardizing their careers out there on the area... And I don’t give a good goddamn who takes a different point of view. The commandant is responsible. Am I making clear?’

‘‘Yessir.’ He’s going after fuckin’ Grimshaw.”

4.30 ‘‘Artesian was rattled enough to look straight at Corky. ‘‘Why, goddamnit, there’s half a dozen bullet holes in these spinners! You haven’t filled them in at all.’

‘‘Didn’t say I filled in the holes.’ Corky chuckled. ‘‘I just had the boys file down the burs. Makes the jagged edges smooth so you don’t lose no rpm’s, you see. Looks like hell though, don’t it?’ Corky shook with laughter.”

5.0 The above-quoted specimens numbered 4.1 through 4.30 are to be classified as follows in terms of the function they perform within their respective structural frames:

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*MEANS quasi. **futurity suggested.

5.1 Only four (4.8, 4.21, 4.28, 4.29) of the thirty-four specimens contain 'can't' or 'won't.' One other specimen is observed to include a similar prohibitive expression (4.2). This fact may probably mean that the 'Can't/Won't HAVE + NP + V-ing' Structure is a minority contrary to Hornby's assertion (1.1).

5.2 Curme's 'Have-Suffer' theory is successfully applied to seven of the specimens.

5.3 Zandvoort's 'Durative-Aspect' principle, reinforced by Thomson and Martinet's (2.2) and Curme's (3.0) exposition on the nature and function of the present participle, applies to all of the 'HAVE + NP + V-ing' structure specimens.

It is to be concluded that the 'Durative Aspect' is the dominant characteristic of the structure, other aspects, such as 'suffering' and 'prohibition', being no more than peripheremal.

5.4 The 'Durative Aspect' is completely absent from the 'HAVE + NP + V-root' structure, which conveys explicitly or implicitly the 'Perfective Aspect' as is observed of the specimens 4.24-b and 4.30.

Both the 'HAVE + NP + V-ing' and the 'HAVE + NP + V-root' structure frequently overlap in terms of the meaning carried by the HAVE. The sole difference is signaled by the presence/absence of the present participle which is the determining factor of the 'Durative Aspect' as is endorsed by the examination of the specimens presented under 4.1 through 4.29 (4.24-b excepted).
REFERENCES:


30. *Ibid.* p. 120.


