Causatives

CEFR A2 · make, let, help, get and ask someone to do something

WS1 make vs let vs help · WS2 ask / tell / want + to · WS3 Past & Meaning · WS4 Editing & Writing · Answer Key

Worksheet 1: make vs let vs help

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: A2 (CEFR)

Reference: Three Verbs, One Pattern

These three causatives share the pattern **verb + person + base form** (help can also take *to*). Choose by meaning: **make** = force, **let** = allow, **help** = assist. The opposite of *let someone do* is often *not let* or *make someone do*.

Verb	Meaning	Example
make	force (no choice)	The coach **made them run** ten laps.
let	allow / give permission	She **let me borrow** her bike.
help	assist (with/without to)	He **helped me (to) fix** it.
not let	not allow / forbid	They **don't let us use** phones.

Part A – Choose the Best Verb

1. My boss _____ me leave early because I was ill. (allowed)
2. The rules _____ everyone wear a helmet. (force)
3. Can you _____ me lift this box? (assist)
4. My parents don't _____ me stay out after ten. (not allow)

Part B – Complete the Pattern

1. The teacher made the students _____ (rewrite) the essay.
2. My friend let me _____ (use) his laptop.
3. She helped her brother _____ (revise) for the exam.
4. The noise made the baby _____ (wake) up.

Score: ____ / 20

Worksheet 2: ask / tell / want + to

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: A2 (CEFR)

Reference: These Verbs Need 'to'

Other "causing" verbs — **ask, tell, want, would like** — use a different pattern: **verb + person + to + base**. Compare: *make/let me go* (no to) but *ask/tell/ want me to go* (with to). These are softer than *make*: you request rather than force.

Verb	Meaning	Example
ask + to	request	I **asked her to help**.
tell + to	give an order/instruction	He **told me to wait**.
want + to	wish someone to act	They **want us to come**.
would like + to	polite wish	I'd **like you to try**.

> **✗ ask me go → ✓ ask me to go. But: ✗ make me to go → ✓ make me go.**

Part A – Add 'to' Where Needed

Write *to* or leave blank (—).

1. My mum told me _____ tidy my room.
2. The teacher made us _____ be quiet.
3. They asked me _____ join the team.
4. She let her son _____ stay up late.
5. I want you _____ listen carefully.

Part B – Rewrite with a Softer Verb

Change *make* to *ask* or *tell* and fix the pattern.

1. The manager made me work late. (ask) → _____
2. She made him apologise. (tell) → _____

Part C – Circle the Correct Form

1. They let us (leave / to leave) early.
2. He told me (wait / to wait) here.
3. The film made me (think / to think).
4. I want you (be / to be) happy.

Score: _____ / 25

Worksheet 3: Past & Meaning

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: A2 (CEFR)

Reference: made, let, helped in the Past

In the past, these verbs are **made, let, helped, asked, told, wanted**. The pattern doesn't change. Note the meaning differences: *made* (strong, forced) vs *let* (allowed) vs *asked/told* (requested/ordered).

Present	Past	Example (past)
make	made	The rain **made us cancel** the trip.
let	let (same!)	They **let me go** home early.
help	helped	She **helped me finish** on time.
ask / tell	asked / told	I **asked him to call** back.

Part A – Complete in the Past

1. The teacher _____ us _____ (redo) the test. (force)
2. My parents _____ me _____ (go) to the concert. (allow)
3. My friend _____ me _____ (move) the sofa. (assist)
4. The doctor _____ me _____ (rest) for a week. (tell)

Part B – Match the Meaning

Choose the sentence that means the person had **no choice**.

1. a) My boss let me leave. b) My boss made me leave. _____
2. a) She asked me to stay. b) She made me stay. _____

Part C – Rewrite in the Past

#	Present sentence	Past
1	They let me use the car.	
2	The coach makes us train hard.	
3	I ask her to help me.	
4	My sister helps me cook.	

Score: _____ / 30

Worksheet 4: Editing & Writing

Name: _____ Date: _____ Level: A2 (CEFR)

Part A – Edit the Paragraph

This text has **six** errors (wrong pattern, missing/extra *to*, or wrong verb form). Underline and correct them.

> When I was younger, my parents made me to practise the piano every day. They didn't let me to watch much TV. My music teacher helped me learning quickly, and she often asked me play in concerts. Once, she made me to perform in front of 200 people! I was nervous, but my dad told me be brave. That day really made me feel proud.

#	Error	Correction
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		
6		

Part B – Writing

Write 80–100 words about rules at home, school, or work. Use **make**, **let**, and one of **ask/tell/want** at least once each. Underline each causative verb.

#	Line
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	

Verbs used: _____ / 3 Score: _____ / 35

Answer Key & Teacher Notes

For teacher use only — A2 Level, Causatives

Worksheet 1 – Part A

1 let · 2 make · 3 help · 4 let

Worksheet 1 – Part B

1 rewrite · 2 use · 3 (to) revise · 4 wake

Worksheet 2 – Part A

1 to · 2 — (no to) · 3 to · 4 — (no to) · 5 to

Worksheet 2 – Part B

1 The manager asked me to work late. · 2 She told him to apologise.

Worksheet 2 – Part C

1 leave · 2 to wait · 3 think · 4 to be

Key split: make/let + base (no to); ask/tell/want/help(optional) + to.

Worksheet 3 – Part A

1 made … redo · 2 let … go · 3 helped … move · 4 told … to rest

Worksheet 3 – Part B

1 b · 2 b (made = no choice)

Worksheet 3 – Part C

1 They let me use the car. · 2 The coach made us train hard. · 3 I asked her to help me. · 4 My sister helped me cook.

Remind students that *let* is the same in the past (let, not "letted").

Worksheet 4 – Part A

1 made me practise · 2 didn't let me watch · 3 helped me learn · 4 asked me to play · 5 made me perform · 6 told me to be brave

Worksheet 4 – Part B: Marking Guide

Criterion	Descriptor	Marks
make/let + base	Correct pattern, no to	0–4
ask/tell/want + to	Correct pattern with to	0–4
Meaning	force/allow/request used correctly	0–3
Task & length	80–100 words; coherent	0–4