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Causative Verbs

Certain verbs can be used to express a causal relationship between the subject and object in a sentence. Some of them require a "to" while others do not. Note the following patterns:

With "to"	**Without "to"**
S + V + O + to V (O)	S + V + O + V (O)
I *allowed* Jim *to* clean up the mess.	I *let* Jim *clean* up the mess.
I *asked* Jim *to* clean up the mess.	
I *told* Jim *to* clean up the mess.	I *had* Jim *clean* up the mess.
I *persuaded* Jim *to* clean up the mess.*	I *made* Jim *clean* up the mess.

*Other verbs which use this pattern are *require, command, force, order, remind,* and *urge.* The verb *help* can be used with or without "to": *Help* Jim *(to) clean* up the mess.

Some verbs use the pattern, S + V *that* S + V (the second verb is in the base form)

I *insisted* that Laura do her homework.   (*not* "does")

I *suggested* that Laura do her homework.

I *recommended* that Laura do her homework.
*Other verbs which can be used with this pattern are *ask, require, request,* and *demand*.

The most common error with causatives is using "to" unnecessarily. For example,

We made Kevin to finish his supper.   (Incorrect)

We made Kevin finish his supper. (Correct)

They suggested Irene to take music lessons. (Incorrect)

They suggested that Irene take music lessons. (Correct)