



Grammar Talks 4-02 Causative Verbs

Job Duties

Sarah gives job tips for working for the U.S. State Department.

Todd: So Sarah, you _____ teacher for the State Department?

Sarah: Yes, that's right. I was with the English language fellows program.

Todd: Oh wow. Where _____ teach?

Sarah: I _____ Mexico.

Todd: Oh, that's great. Wow. So when you teach for the State Department, do they _____ anything you want? Do you have to wear a _____ anything?

Sarah: They let you wear anything that is professional. You don't have to wear a suit, but you can't wear jeans.

Todd: Okay. Do they let you teach anything you want?

Sarah: No, they _____ you teach anything you want. You do have a lot of freedom, but they have some requirements. So you might have to teach university students beginning English or you might have to teach university students engineering English. You have freedom how you're going to teach those subjects, but they don't let _____ the subjects.

Todd: Okay. When when you work for the US government, do they make you do a lot of paperwork?

Sarah: They do. They do _____ a lot of paperwork. When I applied for the job, it was the most difficult job application I'd ever done. They make _____ a lot of forms and they make you ask your references to fill out a lot of forms too. And then when you do move to the country, _____ you fill out even more forms for the work visa and the residency visa.

Todd: Oh Wow. That sounds pretty harsh.

Sarah: It is. It's really difficult. They do _____ you with the forms, but the official rule is that they will only help the official employee. I traveled with my husband and three kids. They let me _____ family, but they didn't help me with the paperwork for my family.

Todd: Oh Wow. So does the government help you get acclimated? For example, do they help you learn the language? Do they help you with moving costs? Do they help you get acquainted with the local culture?

Sarah: Some of those are yes and some are no. They don't help you learn the local language that is up to you individually. They do help you become acclimated to your town. They travel with you to your town, they make your host institution find you housing. So that's really nice. They help you with the housing, they make your institution find you housing. And they let you have some time to get used to it before you're required to be working 40 hours a week.

Quiz

- The State Department lets you wear anything _____.
 - you want
 - but jeans
 - that is professional
- Does the State Department let you teach what you want?
 - Yes
 - No
 - She does not say
- What does the State Department make you do?
 - Wear a tie
 - Do lots of paperwork
 - Report to online meetings
- Does the State Department help teachers learn the language?
 - Yes
 - No
 - She does not say
- For her, what was the best job?
 - University
 - State Department
 - Private School

Grammar Challenge

Fill in the blanks with the correct word.

- | | | | |
|-----------|--------------|------------|--------------|
| were a | try to help | don't let | did you |
| they make | let you wear | bring my | you fill out |
| suit or | make you do | you choose | taught in |

Speaking Challenge

Match the answers with the questions.

- Who helps you achieve your goals?
- Who helps you learn English?
- Who lets you be yourself?
- Who makes you follow the rules?
- What helps you stay organized?

- () My teacher. He makes me pay attention.
 () My friend Sally. She is from Ireland.
 () My father. He helps me stay focused.
 () My smartphone. I keep all my info there.
 () My friend. She lets me be me.

What about you? Share your answers to the questions.

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Todd: So you've worked for a university, you've worked for the US government. Have you worked for language schools?

Sarah: I have. When I worked in Korea, I worked for an independent, privately owned language school and we taught after school lessons.

Todd: So which, which did you prefer? Like which ones did you like?

Sarah: Well, my favorite has been the university job because they let you choose your own hours. You have to teach the classes, but if you don't have class they let you plan your lessons from home or whatever time of day that you want to do it. I like that. But when I was working for the State Department, they made you work regular 9:00 to 5:00, Monday to Friday hours. They made you work those hours.

Sarah: I liked the private language school. It was a good job for me at the time, but they also make you work the hours that they need you, which is 2:00 to 7:00 PM, Tuesday through Saturday. And those are not the best hours to be working, so I didn't like that. But the language school helped me the most. They taught me language, they took me on trips. They really treated me like a part of the family in a way that the university and the State Department didn't. So that was really a good memory, a good job.

Todd: So if you can rank the jobs between university working for the US government and a language school, what would you rank one, two, three?

Sarah: Just exactly how you said at university would be the top. The State Department would be very close, very close second, and then the language school would be a little farther, farther down. The pay was a lot lower. The hours were not very good. I didn't have freedom.

Todd: They make you work more.

Sarah: Make you work more, yeah.

Todd: Right. Okay. That's awesome. Thanks.

Sarah: Thanks.



Grammar

Causative Verbs

The verbs **make**, **let**, and **help** can be causative verbs.

One agent (person or thing) is **causing** an action in another agent (person or thing).

Point 1: (help, make, let) + person + base verb + object

She **let** me leave the office early.
My mom **made** me take out the trash.
My sisters often **help** me do my taxes.

Point 2: Let

He **let** me **use** his car.
They **let** us **stay** in their house.
The waiter **let** us **change** tables.
The teacher **didn't let** us **leave** early.

Point 3: Make

He **made** me **carry** his bags.
My mom **made** me **finish** my homework.
I **will make** you **pay** for this! (I will get revenge!)
We **didn't make** him **obey** the rules.

Point 4: Help

He **helped** me **move** into my house.
I'm **helping** her **write** her essay.
I **can help** you **do** that.
She **didn't help** me **do** anything.



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Job Duties

Sarah gives job tips for working for the U.S. State Department.

Todd: So Sarah, you **were** a teacher for the State Department?

Sarah: Yes, that's right. I was with the English language fellows program.

Todd: Oh wow. Where **did you** teach?

Sarah: I **taught in** Mexico.

Todd: Oh, that's great. Wow. So when you teach for the State Department, do they **let you wear** anything you want? Do you have to wear a **suit or** anything?

Sarah: They let you wear anything that is professional. You don't have to wear a suit, but you can't wear jeans.

Todd: Okay. Do they let you teach anything you want?

Sarah: No, they **don't let** you teach anything you want. You do have a lot of freedom, but they have some requirements. So you might have to teach university students beginning English or you might have to teach university students engineering English. You have freedom how you're going to teach those subjects, but they don't let **you choose** the subjects.

Todd: Okay. When when you work for the US government, do they make you do a lot of paperwork?

Sarah: They do. They do **make you do** a lot of paperwork. When I applied for the job, it was the most difficult job application I'd ever done. They make **you fill out** a lot of forms and they make you ask your references to fill out a lot of forms too. And then when you do move to the country, **they make** you fill out even more forms for the work visa and the residency visa.

Todd: Oh Wow. That sounds pretty harsh.

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Quiz

- 1) The State Department lets you wear anything _____. ✓
 a) you want
 b) but jeans
 c) **that is professional**
- 2) Does the State Department let you teach what you want? ✓
 a) Yes
 b) **No**
 c) She does not say
- 3) What does the State Department make you do? ✓
 a) Wear a tie
 b) **Do lots of paperwork**
 c) Report to online meetings
- 4) Does the State Department help teachers learn the language? ✓
 a) Yes
 b) **No**
 c) She does not say
- 5) For her, what was the best job? ✓
 a) **University**
 b) State Department
 c) Private School

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- (4) My teacher. He makes me pay attention.
 (2) My friend Sally. She is from Ireland.
 (1) My father. He helps me stay focused.
 (5) My smartphone. I keep all my info there.
 (3) My friend. She lets me be me.

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