

9. Causatives

English has lexical and analytic causatives.

9.1. Lexical causatives

Some transitive verbs have fairly clear non-causative counterparts. These may be considered lexical causatives. For example, the transitive verb *kill*, 'matar', is the causative of *die* 'morir':

- (82) a. The dog die-d. 'El perro murió.'
DEF perro morir-PAS
- b. John kill-ed the dog. 'Juán mató el perro.'
Juán matar-PAS DEF perro

The verb *feed*, 'dar de comer', is the causative of the irregular transitive verb *eat*, 'comer':

- (83) a. The baby ate bean-s. 'El bebé comió frijoles.'
DEF bebé comer: PAS frijol-PL
- b. John fed bean-s to the baby.
Juán dar:de:comer: PAS frijol-PL a DEF bebé
'Juán dió de comer frijoles al bebé.'

Other examples include the following:

Some Lexical Causatives in English

Non-causative	Causative
<i>learn</i> 'aprender'	<i>teach</i> 'enseñar'
<i>rise</i> 'subir'	<i>raise</i> 'levantar'
<i>lie</i> 'acostarse'	<i>lay</i> 'acostar'
<i>sit</i> 'sentarse'	<i>set</i> 'poner'

For lexical causatives, the subject of an intransitive caused event is treated as the object of the causative construction (e.g., 82b), and the subject of a transitive caused event is treated as the indirect object of the causative construction (e.g., 83b).

9.2. Analytic causatives

English has several fully productive analytic causatives involving causative verbs such as *make*, 'hacer', *force*, 'obligar con fuerza' and *compel*, 'obligar con palabras', etc.

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These are all simply matrix verbs followed by complement clauses (see section 16 on complementation). There is no distinct construction that specifically grammaticalizes causation. In general, the more "direct" the causation, the more dependent is the verb in the complement clause. Some of these verbs of causation require the particle *to* (e.g., 85 and 86), while others do not (e.g., 84):

(84) He **made** me fall. 'El me hizo caer.'
3SG:M:NOM hacer:PAS 1SG:NN caer

(85) He **force-d** the baby to eat bean-s.
3SG:M:NOM obligar-PAS DEF bebé PART comer frijol-PL
'El obligó al bebé que comiera frijoles.'

(86) John **compell-ed** Peter to write to the director
Juán obligar-PAS Pedro PART escribir a DEF director
'Juán obligó a Pedro que escribiera al director.'

In analytic causatives, the subject of the caused event becomes the object of the causative verb, regardless of whether the caused event is transitive or intransitive.