A Corpus-based Analysis of the Constructions *Have/ Take/ Get a Bath* and *Have/ Take/ Get a Rest* in British English

Judita Giparaitė

Lithuanian University of Educational Sciences, Faculty of Philology, Department of English Philology, Studentų St. 39, LT-08106 Vilnius, judita.giparaite@leu.lt

**Summary.** Light verb constructions have been studied in different languages and from different perspectives by a number of scholars. The present research focuses on the constructions with light verbs *have*, *get*, and *take* followed by deverbal nouns *a bath* and *a rest* and attempts to answer the questions to what extent light verbs *have*, *take*, and *get* are interchangeable when followed by the same deverbal nouns and what influences their choice. The study aims at giving a qualitative analysis of the structures in question in British English on the basis of corpus data. All the data for analysis are collected from the BNC corpus. Constructions *have/take/get a bath* and *have/take/get a rest* are investigated in terms of grammatical and lexical features which include morphological forms, immediate collocations of deverbal nouns, combinability patterns as well as distribution across registers.

The analysis shows that light verbs *have*, *take*, and *get* could be interchangeable in some situations as they have similar morphological forms, combinability patterns, collocations with adjectives, but show some differences in expressing modality and the distribution across registers.

**Keywords:** light verb constructions, deverbal nouns, corpus based analysis, grammatical and lexical features, morphological forms, adjective collocations, distribution across registers.
Introduction

Light verb\(^1\) constructions (LVCs) (e.g., *have a swim, take a walk, get a look at*) have received much interest in modern linguistics for posing many challenges in semantics (Wierzbicka, 1982; Plante, 2014), syntax (Grefenstette, Teufel, 1995; Kearns, 2002; Butt, 2003; Bannard, 2007), corpus-based analysis (Stevenson et. al., 2004; Bannard, 2007; Tu, Roth, 2011; Vincze, 2012; Rácz et al., 2014). Light verb constructions can be described as constructions that consist of a verbal and a nominal component\(^2\) where the meaning of the construction is derived from the noun whereas the meaning of the verb is bleached (cf. Plante, 2014, 82; Vincze, 2012, 238; Kearns, 2002, 1). Though the meaning of light verb constructions is almost equivalent to the meaning of the verbal complement, the light verb also contributes to the meaning of the construction as there are constraints on which light verb can occur with which complement. In addition, light verbs give a certain semantic aspect to the construction (cf. Wierzbicka, 1982, 791).

The verbal component of the light verb construction is expressed by a light verb; however, there are different views on how the verbal complement is expressed. Wierzbicka (1982), Stevenson, Fazly, North (2004), among others, claim that the verbal complement in the constructions of the type *have a swim, take a walk, get a look at* is manifested by an infinitival stem. Following this view, Wierzbicka distinguishes three different types of light verb constructions (cf. Wierzbicka, 1982, 755, 756):

1. **NP\(_{\text{human}}\) + have + N (deverbal noun) (e.g., *have a quarrel*):** the pattern refers to continuous purposeful reciprocal actions;
2. **NP\(_{\text{human}}\) + have + N (action noun) (e.g., *have a visit*):** the action in the constructions of this type is attributed to someone other than the subject;
3. **NP\(_{\text{human}}\) + have + a V-Inf (e.g., *have a swim*):** such constructions imply a subjective and experiential perspective.

The present study analyzes constructions of the third type; however, the view proposed by Jespersen (1965, 117) and supported by Grefenstette, Teufel (1995, 98), Höche (2009, 233), Plante (2014, 82), Tu, Roth (2011), and others who describe the verbal complement as a deverbal noun\(^3\) is adopted.

---

\(^1\) The term “light verb” was first introduced by Jespersen (1933). Some linguists use the term “support verb” to refer to this type of verbs (cf. Grefenstette, Teufel, 1995; Dras, Johnson, 1996).

\(^2\) In addition to “the prototypical verb + noun combination (VERB), light verb constructions may be present in different syntactic structures, that is, in participles (PART, e.g. *photos taken*) and they may also undergo nominalization, yielding a nominal compound (NOM, e.g. *service provider*)” (Rácz et al., 2014, 711).

\(^3\) The question on the structure of light verb constructions will be discussed in short in the section to come.
Syntactically, light verb constructions differ from similar structures in that they cannot be passivized (e.g., *A groan was given by the man on the right.), do not allow wh-extraction (e.g., *Which groan did John give?), and cannot be pronominalized (e.g., The deceased gave a groan at around midnight, and gave another one just after two.) (Kearns, 2002, 2, 3).

Light verb constructions are productive and favoured (cf. Stevenson et al., 2004; Plante, 2014, 82; Halliday, Matthiessen, 2004, 193); however, they cause problems for language learners. On the one hand, their productivity is restricted by the light verb that selects only a certain type of deverbal nouns. On the other hand, the same deverbal noun can be used as a complement of a few light verbs (cf. Grefenstette, Teufel, 1995, 98; Stevenson et al., 2004).

The present research deals with the constructions with the light verbs have, take and get which may select the same deverbal nouns. The similar nature of the three light verbs raises the following questions:

1. To what extent are the light verbs have, take, and get interchangeable when followed by the same deverbal nouns?
2. What influences the choice of the three verbs in light verb constructions?

In this article I will confine myself to these two questions. The questions are partly answered by Wierzbicka (1982) and Höche (2009) who demonstrate the differences between light verbs have and take on the basis of semantic analysis. However, language learners sometimes find it difficult to grasp semantic differences. Thus this paper attempts to view similarities and differences between different light verbs in terms of grammatical and lexical features. The aim of the research is to perform a qualitative analysis of the constructions with light verbs have, take, and get followed by deverbal nouns a bath and a rest in British English on the basis of corpus data. For this purpose, the light verb constructions are analysed in terms of morphological forms, immediate collocations of deverbal nouns, combinability patterns as well as distribution across registers.

---

4 Light verbs can be contrasted with vague action verbs (VAVs) (cf.: give a groan vs. give a demonstration) (cf. Kearns, 2002, 1).
5 In some languages such as Persian, Urdu, and Japanese, LVSs are very productive, whereas in languages such as French, Italian, Spanish and English, they are semi-productive (cf. Stevenson et al., 2004).
6 According to Trudgill et al. (2002), the verb have may have “the dynamic senses such as ‘receive’, ‘take’, ‘experience’” (Trudgill et al., 2002, 3). Wierzbicka (1982) claims that “Have a V belongs to a family of constructions which includes at least two other members: take a V and give a V” (Wierzbicka, 1982, 794).
7 According to Wierzbicka (1982) and Höche (2009), the light verbs have and take differ semantically in that have refers to the action of a limited time which is aimless, requires no physical effort, not necessarily complete, whereas take expresses a unitary action which has no limit in time, requires physical effort; the agent is an active initiator and experiences beneficial effect of the action (cf. Wierzbicka, 1982, 794, 795; Höche, 2009, 246). However, the data collected for the research cast some doubts on these statements. The question needs further study, but semantic analysis is outside the scope of the present research.
8 The qualitative analysis is supplemented with simple descriptive statistics.
The research is descriptive, comparative, and corpus-based. The data for analysis are collected from the British National Corpus (BNC) (http://corpus.byu.edu/bnc/), which is a 100 million word representative electronic database of spoken and written English. The data collected are further described, grouped and compared to show similarities and discrepancies in the use of light verbs have, take, and get deverbal nouns a bath and a rest.

Related Work

Constructions with different light verbs have been investigated by a number of scholars. Wierzbicka (1982) studies the constructions with light verbs have and take from the semantic perspective with a particular focus on the former. She attempts to extract semantic rules and conceptualization patterns on the basis of semantic features of the light verbs. The research demonstrates that light verb constructions of the frame have a V “exhibit orderly and systematic behavior”, and, though their structural descriptions are closely related, they do not follow one formula and must be ascribed to different subtypes (Wierzbicka, 1982, 788).

A semantic analysis of light verb constructions is also performed by Plante (2014) who describes light verbs have and do as compared to take and give in terms of telicity. In addition, the study examines how telicity of light verbs is influenced by deverbal nouns and additional arguments. On the basis of the collected data, Plante comes to a conclusion that telicity cannot be considered a general property of light verbs in English (cf. Plante, 2014, 90).

Trudgill et al. (2002) conduct a contrastive study of the constructions with the light verb have in British and American English. They explore the degree of dynamism of the light verb have in the two languages on the basis of morphological and diachronic analyses. It is argued that in North American English the light verb have failed to acquire the full range of dynamic meanings due to a large-scale language contact accompanied by language simplification tendencies (cf. Trudgill et al., 2002, 14).

Using the database from the BNC, Tu and Roth (2011) research the constructions with light verbs have, take, give, do, get and make on the basis of specific local contexts and informative statistical measures. They focus on the interaction of contextual and statistical features and analyse the effectiveness of these features within the learning framework. It is claimed that the two groups of features demonstrate similar characteristics in the learning framework; however, in problematic cases contextual features show better performance (cf. Tu, Roth, 2011).

Stevenson et al. (2004) perform a corpus-based analysis of the constructions with light verbs take, give, and make. Using corpus statistics, they investigate the productivity of LVCs and try to determine “how well particular light verbs and complements go together”
A special focus is laid on the productivity of “LV a V” pattern. The conclusion is made that light verbs show systematic behavior in terms of their ability to combine with different complements (cf. Stevenson et al., 2004).

**Corpus-based Analysis of Constructions Have/Take/Get a Bath/Rest**

In this section the light verb constructions have/take/get a bath and have/take/get a rest are studied in terms of grammatical and lexical features using the data collected from the BNC corpus. Due to the limited size of the article only two deverbal nouns are chosen for the investigation. The nouns a bath and a rest are selected on the basis of the parameters of raw frequency and Mutual Information (MI) score\(^9\) which are summarized in Table 1. The parameters show a strong collocational probability and relatively high frequency.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Construction</th>
<th>Raw frequency</th>
<th>MI score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>have</td>
<td>take</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V + a bath</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V + a rest</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**1. Grammatical Features of Constructions Have/Take/Get a Bath/Rest**

The grammatical features chosen for the analysis of the light verb constructions have/take/get a bath and have/take/get a rest include morphological forms and combinability patterns. The study of grammatical features can demonstrate to what extent light verbs have, take, and get are interchangeable.

The description of morphological forms includes forms of both light verbs and deverbal nouns. The summary of morphological forms of the light verbs in the constructions have/take/get a bath and have/take/get a rest in Table 2 demonstrates that these light verbs have similar forms. All the three light verbs are used in both simple and continuous aspects with the exception of the light verb get when it is followed by the deverbal noun a rest. However, when the deverbal noun a rest is modified, it can be found in the simple aspect as well.

---

\(^{9}\) Mutual Information score shows the relation between two words occurring close to each other in the text. If the MI score is 3.0 or higher, the two words can be regarded as collocates (cf. Anderson, Corbett, 2009, 32, 34).

\(^{10}\) As the number of examples with the light verb get is very low, and the research is not quantitative, the analysis will include the modified cases of the deverbal noun as well.
(1) a. *I have a bath* every day.
    I like a good sing-song when I’m *having a bath* <…>.
    Liz automatically *had a rest* after New York as it was the last race of the season.
    Mummy’s *having a rest*.

b. Once we had a girl who never, but never, *took a bath* <…>.
    Luke is here, but he’s tired and he’s *taking a bath*.
    When Mr Rowse *took a rest*, the line stayed as it was, sometimes for hours.
    Edwards, Olver, Mullins and Skinner are all *taking a rest*.

c. <…> last night who went and *got a bath* and left every door in the house open <…>.
   And, then he’s coming home, *getting a bath*, and we’re getting ready and going. <…> stop using this eight o’clock so as you *get a good rest*.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table 2: Forms of constructions have/take/get a bath and have/take/get a rest</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FORMS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Finite forms:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simple aspect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuous aspect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-finite forms:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To-inf.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bare inf.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ing forms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-ed forms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

As can be seen in Table 2, non-finite forms of the light verbs in the constructions *have/take/get a bath* and *have/take/get a rest* are more frequent than finite forms except for *take a rest* where finite and non-finite forms are equally represented. To-infinitive forms of all three light verbs are used after modal auxiliaries (a) and in different types of infinitival clauses (b) with the exception of the construction *get a bath*:

(2) a. *I suspect that you and daddy have to have a bath* together.
    *I’m going to have a bath* now.
    <…> people often object to having to *take a bath* after using pesticides <…>.
    *I’m going to go and take a bath*, then I’ll pack.
    *I’m going to drop around to Felicity’s and get myself a real bath*.
    *I’ll have to have a rest*.
    *I’m going to have a rest* now, Frau Miller <…>.

31 The numbers in brackets refer to examples when the deverbal noun in the light verb construction is modified.
<...> the students will have to take a rest as Glenn jets out to do battle for glory in the world championships.
She has to get plenty of rest.
<...> Nails thought he was going to get a rest, but she immediately sent him off in the other direction.
b. He went off to his room to have a bath and dress. And another recommends the visitor to take a bath.
<...> at this point Jennie told them to have a rest on a long rein for a few minutes.
<...> the archbishop has instructed Bishop Peter to take a rest from his official duties <...>.
<...> it allows the females the chance to get a rest <...>.

The absence of get a bath in infinitival clauses can be explained by a lower number of examples with this construction.

Bare infinitive forms are found with all three light verbs after modal auxiliaries (a), future tense auxiliaries (b), and in imperative sentences (c):

(3)  

a. Then you can have a bath, ha.
   But I must have a bath and get up, or I shall be late for work.
   Why, I can’t even take a bath without being pestered for my time and attention.
   <...> nights in hostels where he can get a bath <...>.
   Perhaps you should have a rest.
   We might as well have a rest.
   The sooner we win the league, the sooner I can get a rest!
   You must get some rest now.

b. I shall have a bath, wash my hair.
   You’ll take a bath, Private Nobody, first thing in the morning, and all by yourself.
   I think I’ll go and get a bath <...>.
   <...> while my friend went round the circle, so I thought I’d have a rest <...>.
   <...> she says she will get no rest until it has been arranged.

c. Go have a bath Matt!
   Folk recipes to try: take a lukewarm bath with two cups of cider vinegar or some
   bicarbonate of soda <...>.
   Hurry hurry hurry, get your bath while it’s hot.
   Have a rest and leave the washing up till later.
   Take a rest and try again <...>.
   Try and get a rest.
The analysis of infinitival forms of the three light verbs under investigation shows that there are significant differences in their use after modal auxiliaries, and in imperative sentences. Light verbs *have* and *get* combine with a far greater variety of modals than the verb *take*. In this respect the construction *take a rest* differs especially as it is found only after the modal auxiliary *have to*. The light verb *take* is also very rare in imperative sentences: only one example is found with both deverbals *a bath* and a *rest*, and the only instance of *take a bath* refers to instruction. There seems to be a tendency to express modality of the light verb *take* using verbs expressing suggestions or commands:

(4) a. And another recommends the visitor to *take a bath*.

   <...> now my assistant tells me to *take a bath*.

b. <...> was advised by the Archbishop of Canterbury to *take a rest* from his official duties.

   <...> Everett, who had been ordered to *take a rest* at 98 trips, was testing aircraft <...>.

Non-finite -*ing* and -*ed* forms are rare with all three light verbs, but with the verb *get* in particular, though a few instances of -*ing* forms of *get a rest* and *get a bath* as well as -*ed* forms of *get a bath* can be found when the deverbal noun in the constructions is modified:

(5) a. <...> *try reading a magazine, having a bath* – anything that you personally enjoy <...>.

   She had never imagined him doing the ordinary things of life: *taking a bath*, shaving, going shopping <...>.

   Steve’s getting a sod with him *getting bath* every night.

   I know Miss Mates won’t mind you *having a rest* before that long walk back.

   <...> as he sipped iced water, *taking a brief rest*.

   You can do this by eating well, *getting enough rest* and relaxing.

b. You will have *had a bath* before going along to the morning service of Chiropody <...>.

   Mrs Popple had just *taken a bath*.

   I’ve *had a rest*, I’ll take over from her.

   Too many players had *taken a rest* after the World Cup and there’s no substitute for playing <...>.

   <...> stop here on Sunday and not come home so that he’s *got ample rest* <...>.

The study of morphological forms of deverbal nouns shows that the nouns *a bath* and *a rest* can have a plural form when they follow light verbs *have* and *take*:
a. They argued while eating their meals, **having baths** and in their sleep too you could hear them shouting.  
   Bremner has **had** more early **baths** than a miner on night-shift.

b. I think these days people **take baths** and showers quite often <…>.
   <…> insist on using the same boring toothbrush day and night, and like to **take baths** alone <…>.

c. Some species, indeed, **take rests** at night and slumber on the sea floor.

The fact that deverbal nouns in light verb constructions can have a plural form combined with the fact that such nouns have determiners and can be modified\(^{12}\) can serve as sufficient evidence for describing the verbal complement of light verb constructions as a deverbal noun as only nominals have an inflection in the plural form, are used with determiners and may be modified (refer to Introduction).

The syntactic analysis summarized in Table 3 demonstrates that constructions *have/take/get a bath* show similar syntactic behavior as they can combine with another noun phrase joined by the conjunction *and* or *or* (a), another verb phrase joined by the conjunction *and* (and + VP) (b), adverbials of time (ADV T) (c) and place (ADV Pl.) (d), and a clause (S) (e), with the exception of *get a bath* which is not found in combination with another noun phrase and the adverbial of place:

(7)  
\[
\begin{align*}
\text{(a)} & \quad \text{He had a bath and shave and spoke to his secretary again.} \\
& \quad \text{<…> are unable to expend all the energy required to take a bath or shower unattended every day <…>.
} \\
\text{(b)} & \quad \text{It was nice and clean, I had a bath and went to bed.} \\
& \quad \text{She would take a bath and go in to work early <…>.} \\
& \quad \text{<…> who went and got a bath and left every door in the house open <…>.}
\end{align*}
\]
\[
\begin{align*}
\text{(c)} & \quad \text{Have a bath tomorrow.} \\
& \quad \text{You'll need to take a bath tonight <…>.} \\
& \quad \text{It's with Steve getting a bath every day <…>.}
\end{align*}
\]
\[
\begin{align*}
\text{(d)} & \quad \text{You can only have a bath in our house.} \\
& \quad \text{So we all took a bath in the same tub and went to bed <…>.}
\end{align*}
\]
\[
\begin{align*}
\text{(e)} & \quad \text{Then you have a bath and they give you a towel and soap.} \\
& \quad \text{I'm going to go and take a bath, then I'll pack.} \\
& \quad \text{I think I'll go and get a bath and you pick box up, it's empty.}
\end{align*}
\]

\(^{12}\) Modification of deverbal nouns will be discussed in the section to come.
Table 3: Combinability patterns of constructions have/take/get a bath and have/take/get a rest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LIGHT VERB CONSTRUCTION</th>
<th>COMBINABILITY PATTERNS</th>
<th>+ and/or NP</th>
<th>+ and VP</th>
<th>+ Prep O</th>
<th>+ ADV T</th>
<th>Pl.</th>
<th>+ S</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HAVE A BATH</td>
<td></td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAKE A BATH</td>
<td></td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GET A BATH</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HAVE A REST</td>
<td></td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+ from</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAKE A REST</td>
<td></td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+ from</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GET A REST</td>
<td></td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+ from</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Syntactically, the constructions have/take/get a rest behave similarly to have/take/get a bath. They can combine with another noun phrase joined by the conjunction and or or (a), another verb phrase joined by the conjunction and (b), adverbials of time (c) and place (d), a clause (e), and, in addition, with a prepositional object (Prep O) (f). Here again, the exception is the construction get a rest as it is not used in combination with the adverbial of place. The construction take a rest cannot be followed by another NP joined by a conjunction.

(8) a. <...> turned over, to sit on while having a rest and a cup of tea.
   Get enough rest and sleep.
   b. Have a rest and leave the washing up till later.
   Perhaps take a noonday rest and sip some wine.
   <...> getting enough rest and cutting out the things that can harm your baby.
   c. Have a rest today, take things easy tomorrow, that’s all.
   Crawford took a rest after six exhausting years <...>.
   We can get a bit rest in the winter <...>.
   d. <...> she said she’d had a rest in one of the shops over there on the way <...>.
   I shall join you, for I intend to take a long rest in your arms <...>.
   e. <...> you have a rest while you can <...>.
   <...> and take another little rest before you finally get up and stretch.
   Nails thought he was going to get a rest, but she immediately sent him off in the other direction.
   f. <...> you can have a rest from writing and reading.
   In 1989 he took a rest from running junior soccer teams <...>.
   <...> which enabled senior and long serving people to get a well-deserved rest from banking.
Summing up, Table 4 demonstrates that constructions have/take/get a bath and have/take/get a rest have more similarities than differences in their grammatical features. However, some discrepancies can be observed as well and they need further explanation. The analysis of finite and non-finite forms clearly shows a few differences. First, the light verb in the construction get a rest has no continuous aspect; however, the same light verb get has a continuous form when it is followed by the deverbal noun a bath. Thus the explanation for the absence of continuous with get a rest could be related to the nature of the noun rest which, differently from bath, i.e. the act of bathing, refers to a state. Second, the light verb get in the construction get a rest cannot be found in the -ed form either. This can be explained by the fact that the structure have got refers to possession, and get a rest is a dynamic construction. Third, when used in infinitival forms, the light verb take is very rarely used after modals and in imperative sentences, and its modality is usually expressed by verbs expressing suggestions or commands. This might be due to the fact that the infinitival forms of the light verb take are usually used in situations when the agent of the action is expressed by proper or common nouns.

Table 4: Comparison of grammatical features of constructions have/take/get a bath and have/take/get a rest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grammatical features</th>
<th>HAVE A BATH</th>
<th>TAKE A BATH</th>
<th>GET A BATH</th>
<th>HAVE A REST</th>
<th>TAKE A REST</th>
<th>GET A REST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>I Finite forms</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Simple aspect</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Continuous aspect</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>II Non-finite forms</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To-infinitive</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bare infinitive</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ing-form</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ed-form</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>III Combinability Patterns</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ and/or NP</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ and VP</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ Prep O</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ ADV T</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ ADV Pl.</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>+ S</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
<td>+</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In terms of combinability patterns, constructions have/take/get a bath and have/take/get a rest again are more similar than different. All the constructions combine with another

---

VP, adverbials of time, and a clause. Constructions have/take/get a rest are, in addition, used in combination with a prepositional object and only of one type – introduced by the preposition from. There are slight differences in the other combinability patterns. First, no examples are found where get a bath and take a rest combine with another noun phrase. Second, get a bath and get a rest seem not to need the specification of place. However, in both cases the possibility of such combinations cannot be excluded.

All in all, the comparison of morphological forms and combinability patterns in particular shows that, despite slight differences, light verbs have, take, and get could be interchangeable, though there are more common features between have and get, whereas take differs from the two in the ways of expressing modality.

2. Lexical Features of Constructions Have/Take/Get a Bath/Rest

The analysis of lexical features of constructions have/take/get a bath and have/take/get a rest includes the study of immediate adjective collocations of deverbal nouns and the distribution across registers. The comparison of lexical features of the structures in question can show what factors influence the choice of one or another light verb. The summary of adjective collocations of the deverbal noun a bath in Table 5 shows that the noun a bath can be used with both descriptive and classifying adjectives. The variety of adjectives that collocate with a bath differs depending on the light verb. All 9 types of adjective collocations are found only with the verb have. The light verb take is not used when a bath collocates with quantity, evaluative, and quality adjectives; however, the adjectives that are found in constructions with take are similar to those used with the verb have. Finally, the verb get tends to be used when a bath collocates with evaluative adjectives, though only one example with such a collocation is found. The analysis shows that, in constructions with get the deverbal noun is quite frequently used with possessive determiners.

Most adjectives that collocate with a bath are semantically related as they show duration, speed, frequency, temperature, time of bathing. Though both verbs have and take are used with the plural form of the deverbal noun a bath, quantity adjectives are found only in constructions with have. When a bath is used in the plural form, it can, in addition, collocate with such quantity adjectives as several, enough:

(9) a. I have enough baths, but I don’t feel clean.
   b. <…> she could ride alone and was not fit to be near anyone until she’d had several baths <…>.
Table 5: Collocations of the deverbal noun a bath in constructions have/take/get a bath

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HAVE A BATH</th>
<th>TAKE A BATH</th>
<th>GET A BATH</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Quantity: another</td>
<td>1. Quantity: -</td>
<td>1. Quantity: -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. Duration: long</td>
<td>4. Duration: long</td>
<td>4. Duration: -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Speed: quick</td>
<td>5. Speed: quick, hurried, speedy</td>
<td>5. Speed: -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Temperature: hot, warm, nice cool</td>
<td>7. Temperature: deep hot, cold, lukewarm</td>
<td>7. Temperature: -</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Time: evening, more early</td>
<td>8. Time: early</td>
<td>8. Time: -</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 6 shows collocational possibilities of the noun a rest in constructions with light verbs have, take, and get. Differently from the noun a bath, collocations with a rest are almost equally distributed among all three verbs. It is with the light verb get that the deverbal noun a bath collocates with all 5 types of adjectives. Only size adjectives are not found in the constructions with light verbs have and take. However, the corpus gives only one example with the size adjective (<…> they got a big rest <…>) which belongs to the spoken register and does not seem to be typical of constructions with the noun a rest. All other adjectives, i.e. quantity, evaluative, quality, duration, time, are semantically related to the noun a rest.

Table 6: Collocations of deverbal noun a rest in constructions have/take/get a rest

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>HAVE A REST</th>
<th>TAKE A REST</th>
<th>GET A REST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Quantity: some, little, a little, another</td>
<td>1. Quantity: more</td>
<td>1. Quantity: some, sufficient, enough, a bit, barely any</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Evaluative: nice, real, proper, major (important)</td>
<td>2. Evaluative: a well-earned, hard-earned, nice</td>
<td>2. Evaluative: well-deserved, proper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Duration: three-day, day’s, 15 seconds’, week’s, a few moments, full day’s, long, two weeks complete</td>
<td>3. Duration: three months, short, long, twelve-day, a few days, brief, hour’s, ten days’, a few days’, two weeks of complete</td>
<td>3. Duration: long, only three hours’</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In Table 7, we find the distribution of constructions have/take/get a bath and have/take/get a rest across registers. In the use of the light verbs with the noun a bath distributional tendencies are very clear. The constructions with light verbs have and get are mostly used in the spoken register, though have a bath is also widely spread in the fiction and miscellaneous registers and take a bath is popular in the miscellaneous register. The distribution of constructions have/take/get a bath among other registers does not vary.
much (from 1 to 7 examples). The situation with constructions have/take/get a rest is a
little different. Only with the light verb have a similar distribution is observed, i.e. spok-
en and fiction registers are most popular, though in this case the distribution among
the two registers is more or less equal. Constructions with the light verb take are mostly
used in the newspaper register with the miscellaneous register being in the second place.
There is no clear distributional preference for constructions with the light verb get as it is
equally distributed across the spoken, fiction, newspaper, and magazine registers. This
is due to the low number of examples with the verb get.

Table 7: Distribution of constructions have/take/get a bath and have/take/get a rest across registers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REGISTER</th>
<th>V + A BATH</th>
<th>V + A REST</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>HAVE</td>
<td>TAKE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spoken</td>
<td>91</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fiction</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newspaper</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Magazine</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-academic</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Academic</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miscellaneous</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>207</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To sum up, the description of lexical features of constructions have/take/get a bath and
have/take/get a rest shows that in many respects they are similar in terms of collocations
of deverbal nouns, but differ in their distribution across registers. The analysis of colloca-
tions with deverbal nouns a bath and a rest demonstrates that the constructions with all
three verbs show similar features with the exception of the construction get a bath. There
is only one collocation with the noun a bath in the latter construction which may signify
that the construction is still not fully incorporated into the language as the total number
of examples with it amounts only to 20, whereas the total number of examples with get a
rest exceeds 60\textsuperscript{14}. The variety of morphological forms and combinability patterns with get a
bath only confirms this fact. Constructions have a bath and take a bath differ in this respect
as in both of them the deverbal noun collocates with all semantically related adjectives.
Similarly, the deverbal noun a rest is found in all types of adjective collocations; however,
in this case collocations are equally distributed among all three light verb constructions.

The distribution of the constructions in question across registers shows different ten-
dencies in the use of the three light verbs. The light verbs have and get tend to be used
in the spoken register, whereas the verb take is more characteristic of the fiction register,
especially if the examples with the deverbal nouns modified are taken into account. Thus,
it could be claimed that the choice of the light verb is influenced by the register.

\textsuperscript{14} The total number of examples includes samples where the deverbal noun is modified.
Concluding Remarks

The analysis of constructions have/take/get a bath and have/take/get a rest in terms of grammatical and lexical features demonstrates that the behavior of the light verbs have, take, and get is similar in many respects. They have much in common in terms of morphological forms and combinability patterns. The three light verbs are found in the simple aspect and may have to- and bare infinitive forms as well as -ing forms. The continuous aspect and -ed forms are characteristic of all the light verb constructions under investigation except for get a rest. The constructions have/take/get a bath and have/take/get a rest can combine with another VP, adverbials of time, and a clause. The constructions have/take/get a rest can, in addition, be used in combination with a prepositional object. The combinability patterns with another noun phrase are found only with constructions have a bath, take a bath, have a rest, and take a rest, and the adverbial of place combines only with the constructions with light verbs have and take.

Lexical features of the constructions in question show that the deverbal nouns a bath and a rest, when combined with light verbs have, take, and get, collocate with similar semantic groups of adjectives. The exception is the construction get a bath which tends to be used with possessive determiners rather than adjectives as only one adjective collocation with this construction can be found. The distribution of constructions have/take/get a bath and have/take/get a rest across registers demonstrates that light verbs have and get are mostly used in the spoken register, whereas the verb take is more characteristic of the fiction register.

On the basis of the study of grammatical and lexical features, it could stated that light verbs have, take, and get, when followed by deverbal nouns a bath and a rest, could be interchangeable; however, taking into account the fact that verbs have and get have more in common as the verb take has different ways of expressing modality and tends to be used in the fiction register. This view is based on the exploration of only two deverbal nouns and needs further analysis which could include more nouns with the same verbs. Further research of the light verb constructions could also focus on the study of the semantic context, comparison of data in British and American English.

Sources


References


---

**Tekstyno duomenimis pagrįstas britų anglių kalbos konstrukcijų Have/Take/Get a Bath ir Have/Take/Get a Rest tyrimas**

Judita Giparaitė

Lietuvos edukologijos universitetas, Filologijos fakultetas, Anglų filologijos katedra, Studentų g. 39, 08106 Vilnius, judita.giparaite@leu.lt

---

**Santrauka**

Skirtingų kalbų konstrukcijos su deverbatyviniais daiktavardžiais (angl. deverbal nouns) daugelio mokslininkų jau buvo tyrinėtos įvairiais aspektais. Šiame straipsnyje tiriamos veiksmazodžių have, take ir get (angl. light verbs) su deverbatyviniais daiktavardžiais a bath ir a rest sudaromos konstrukcijos. Tyrimu bandoma atsakyti į klausimus ar gali minėtis veiksmazodžiai pakeisti vienas kitą ir kas turi įtakos tokio pakeitimo galimumui / negalimumui. Šiuo tekstyno medžiaga pagrįsta tyrinimu siekiant išsiaiškinti šių konstrukcijų veiksmazodžių, vartojamų su tais pačiais deverbatyviniais daiktavardžiais, panašumus bei skirtumus. Visa tyrinimui būtina medžiaga surinkta iš BNC tekstyno.

Straipsnyje analizuojamos konstrukcijų have/take/get a bath ir have/take/get a rest gramatinės ir leksinės ypatybės, t. y. forma, junglumas, kolokacijos su būdvardžiais ir jų pasiskirstymas registruose. Tyrimas parodė, kad minėtos konstrukcijos turi panašias formas, be to, joms būdingos panašios junglumos, kolokacinės galimybės, todėl daugeliu atvejų veiksmazodžiai have, take ir get gali pakeisti vienas kitą. Tačiau tyrinėjamas konstrukcijų bendraties formų raška ir jų pasiskirstymas registruose rodo, kad esama ir šių trijų veiksmazodžių vartojimo skirtumų.

**Esminiai žodžiai:** konstrukcijos su deverbatyviniais daiktavardžiais, tekstyno duomenimis pagrįstas tyrimas, formos, kolokacijos su būdvardžiais, pasiskirstymas registruose.

---

Pateikta / Submitted 2015 10 01
Priimta / Accepted 2015 10 10