

Present perfect 1 (I have done)

A

Study this example situation:



Tom is looking for his key. He can't find it.
He **has lost** his key.

He **has lost** his key = He lost it recently, and he still doesn't have it.

Have/has lost is the *present perfect simple*:

| | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| I/we/they/you have (= I've etc.) | finished lost |
| he/she/it has (= he's etc.) | done been etc. |

The present perfect simple is **have/has** + *past participle*. The past participle often ends in **-ed** (finished/decided etc.), but many important verbs are *irregular* (**lost/done/written** etc.).

For a list of irregular verbs, see Appendix 1.

B

When we say that 'something **has happened**', this is usually new information:

- Ow! I've **cut** my finger.
- The road is closed. There's **been** (there **has been**) an accident.
- (*from the news*) Police **have arrested** two men in connection with the robbery.

When we use the present perfect, there is a connection with *now*. The action in the past has a result *now*:

- 'Where's your key?' 'I don't know. I've **lost** it.' (= I don't have it *now*)
- He told me his name, but I've **forgotten** it. (= I can't remember it *now*)
- 'Is Sally here?' 'No, she's **gone** out.' (= she is out *now*)
- I can't find my bag. **Have you seen** it? (= Do you know where it is *now*?)

C

Note the difference between **gone (to)** and **been (to)**:

- James is on holiday. He **has gone to** Italy. (= he is there now or on his way there)
- Jane is back home now. She **has been to** Italy. (= she has now come back)

D

You can use the present perfect with **just**, **already** and **yet**.

Just = a short time ago:

- 'Are you hungry?' 'No, I've **just had** lunch.'
- Hello. **Have you just arrived**?

We use **already** to say that something happened sooner than expected:

- 'Don't forget to pay your electricity bill.' 'I've **already paid** it.'
- 'What time is Mark leaving?' 'He's **already left**.'

Yet = until now. **Yet** shows that the speaker is expecting something to happen. Use **yet** only in questions and negative sentences:

- Has it stopped** raining **yet**?
- I've written the email, but I **haven't sent** it **yet**.

E

You can also use the past simple (**did**, **went**, **had** etc.) in the examples on this page. So you can say:

- 'Is Sally here?' 'No, she **went** out.' or 'No, she's **gone** out.'
- 'Are you hungry?' 'No, I **just had** lunch.' or 'No, I've **just had** lunch.'

Exercises

7.1 Read the situations and write sentences. Use the following verbs in the present perfect:

arrive break fall go up grow improve ~~lose~~

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1 Tom is looking for his key. He can't find it. | Tom <u>has lost his key.</u> |
| 2 Lisa can't walk and her leg is in plaster. | Lisa |
| 3 Last week the bus fare was £1.80. Now it is £2. | The bus fare |
| 4 Maria's English wasn't very good. Now it is better. | Her English |
| 5 Dan didn't have a beard before. Now he has a beard. | Dan |
| 6 This morning I was expecting a letter. Now I have it. | The letter |
| 7 The temperature was 20 degrees. Now it is only 12. | The |

7.2 Put in **been** or **gone**.

- James is on holiday. He's gone to Italy.
- Hello! I've just to the shops. I've bought lots of things.
- Alice isn't here at the moment. She's to the shop to get a newspaper.
- Tom has out. He'll be back in about an hour.
- 'Are you going to the bank?' 'No, I've already to the bank.'

7.3 Complete B's sentences. Make sentences from the words in brackets.

| | |
|--|--|
| A | B |
| 1 Would you like something to eat? | No, thanks. <u>I've just had lunch.</u> (I / just / have / lunch) |
| 2 Do you know where Julia is? | Yes, (I / just / see / her) |
| 3 What time is David leaving? | (he / already / leave) |
| 4 What's in the newspaper today? | I don't know. (I / not / read / it yet) |
| 5 Is Sue coming to the cinema with us? | No, (she / already / see / the film) |
| 6 Are your friends here yet? | Yes, (they / just / arrive) |
| 7 What does Tim think about your plan? | (we / not / tell / him yet) |

7.4 Read the situations and write sentences with **just**, **already** or **yet**.

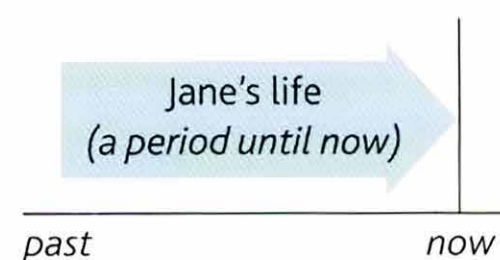
- After lunch you go to see a friend at her house. She says, 'Would you like something to eat?' You say: No thank you. I've just had lunch. (have lunch)
- Joe goes out. Five minutes later, the phone rings and the caller says, 'Can I speak to Joe?' You say: I'm afraid (go out)
- You are eating in a restaurant. The waiter thinks you have finished and starts to take your plate away. You say: Wait a minute! (not / finish)
- You plan to eat at a restaurant tonight. You phoned to reserve a table. Later your friend says, 'Shall I phone to reserve a table?' You say: No, (do it)
- You know that a friend of yours is looking for a place to live. Perhaps she has been successful. Ask her. You say: ? (find)
- You are still thinking about where to go for your holiday. A friend asks, 'Where are you going for your holiday?' You say: (not / decide)
- Linda went shopping, but a few minutes ago she returned. Somebody asks, 'Is Linda still out shopping?' You say: No, (come back)

Present perfect 2 (I have done)

A

Study this example conversation:

- DAVE: **Have** you **travelled** a lot, Jane?
 JANE: Yes, I've **been** to lots of places.
 DAVE: Really? **Have** you ever **been** to China?
 JANE: Yes, I've **been** to China twice.
 DAVE: What about India?
 JANE: No, I **haven't been** to India.



When we talk about a period of time that continues from the past until now, we use the *present perfect* (**have been** / **have travelled** etc.). Here, Dave and Jane are talking about the places Jane has visited in her life, which is a period that continues until now.

Some more examples:

- Have** you ever **eaten** caviar?
- We've never **had** a car.
- '**Have** you **read** *Hamlet*?' 'No, I **haven't read** any of Shakespeare's plays.'
- Susan really loves that film. She's **seen** it eight times!
- What a boring film! It's the most boring film I've **ever seen**.

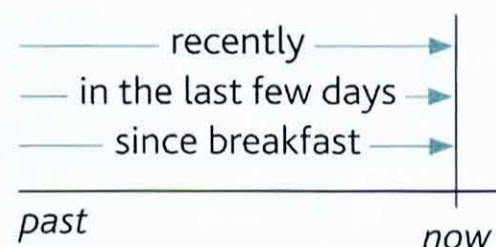
Been (to) = visited:

- I've never **been to** China. Have you **been** there?

B

In the following examples too, the speakers are talking about a period that continues until now (**recently** / **in the last few days** / **so far** / **since breakfast** etc.):

- Have** you **heard** anything from Brian **recently**?
- I've **met** a lot of people **in the last few days**.
- Everything is going well. We **haven't had** any problems **so far**.
- I'm hungry. I **haven't eaten** anything **since breakfast**. (= from breakfast until now)
- It's good to see you again. We **haven't seen** each other **for a long time**.



C

In the same way we use the present perfect with **today** / **this evening** / **this year** etc. when these periods are not finished at the time of speaking (see also Unit 14B):

- I've **drunk** four cups of coffee **today**.
- Have** you **had** a holiday **this year**?
- I **haven't seen** Tom **this morning**. **Have** you?
- Rob **hasn't worked** very hard **this term**.



D

We say: It's the (first) time something **has happened**. For example:

- Don is having a driving lesson. It's his first one. It's the first time he **has driven** a car. (*not drives*)
or He **has never driven** a car **before**.
- Sarah has lost her passport again. This is the second time this **has happened**. (*not happens*)
- Bill is phoning his girlfriend again. That's the third time he's **phoned** her **this evening**.



Exercises

8.1 You ask people about things they have done. Write questions with **ever**.

- 1 (ride / horse?) *Have you ever ridden a horse?*
- 2 (be / California?) Have
- 3 (run / marathon?)
- 4 (speak / famous person?)
- 5 (most beautiful place / visit?) What's

8.2 Complete B's answers. Some sentences are positive and some negative. Use these verbs:

be be eat happen ~~have~~ have ~~meet~~ play read see try

| A | B |
|---|---|
| 1 What's Mark's sister like? | I've no idea. <i>I've never met</i> her. |
| 2 Is everything going well? | Yes, we <i>haven't had</i> any problems so far. |
| 3 Are you hungry? | Yes. I much today. |
| 4 Can you play chess? | Yes, but for ages. |
| 5 Are you enjoying your holiday? | Yes, it's the best holiday for a long time. |
| 6 What's that book like? | I don't know. it. |
| 7 Is Brussels an interesting place? | I've no idea. there. |
| 8 I hear your car broke down again yesterday. | Yes, it's the second time this month. |
| 9 Do you like caviar? | I don't know. it. |
| 10 Mike was late for work again today. | Again? He late every day this week. |
| 11 Who's that woman by the door? | I don't know. her before. |

8.3 Write four sentences about yourself. Use **I haven't** and choose from the boxes.

used a computer travelled by bus eaten any fruit
 been to the cinema read a book lost anything

- 1 *I haven't used a computer today.*
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

today
 this week
 recently
 for ages
 since ...
 this year

8.4 Read the situations and write sentences as shown in the example.

- 1 Jack is driving a car, but he's very nervous and not sure what to do.
 You ask: *Have you driven a car before?*
 He says: *No, this is the first time I've driven a car.*
- 2 Ben is playing tennis. He's not good at it and he doesn't know the rules.
 You ask: Have
- 3 Sue is riding a horse. She doesn't look very confident or comfortable.
 You ask:
- 4 Maria is in Japan. She has just arrived and it's very new for her.
 You ask: