

EXERCISE 8

Match the examples in the box with the correct reasons for using the present perfect.

I've felt very strongly about green issues since I was a child.

I've just bought a pet snake. Do you want to see it?

I've never seen a bear in the wild, but I've seen them in zoos.

That poor sparrow can't fly because it's broken its wing.

The squirrel population has now reached 500, so I hope it'll reach our target of 750 soon.

We've already done the report for the conservation project.

1. We use the present perfect to talk about our progress through a list of jobs. *I've already done it* often means 'I don't need to do it again'. *I haven't done it yet* often means 'I still need to do it'.

2. We use the present perfect to talk about news – things that the listener probably doesn't already know. *I've just done it* means 'I did it very recently'.

3. We use the present perfect to show the past reason for a present situation (often with *can / can't*). We often use *because* to show this relationship.

4. We use the present perfect to talk about the present results of a process that is continuing now. We often use numbers to present these results, and phrases like *so far* or *up to now*.

5. We use the present perfect to talk about our experiences – things that have happened in our lifetime. We usually ask questions with *Have you ever ... ?* and we use *never* in negative sentences about experiences.
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6. We use the present perfect to measure a period of time from a point in the past (e.g. *yesterday*) to the present moment. We usually ask questions with *How long ... ?* and use *for* (e.g. *for a week*) or *since* (e.g. *since yesterday*) to describe the period of time.
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