

Present perfect 1 (I have done)

A Study this example situation:



Tom can't find his key.
He's **lost** his key. (= He **has lost** ...)

he **has lost** his key =
he lost it and he doesn't have it now

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

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

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

For a list of irregular verbs, see Appendix 1.

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

- ☐ Ow! I've **cut** my finger.
- ☐ The road is closed. There's **been** an accident. (= There **has been** ...)
- ☐ 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*:

- ☐ Tom **has lost** his key. (= he doesn't have it *now*)
- ☐ He told me his name, but I've **forgotten** it. (= I can't remember it *now*)
- ☐ Sally is still here. She **hasn't gone** out. (= she is here *now*)
- ☐ I can't find my bag. **Have you seen** it? (= do you know where it is *now*?)

Compare **gone (to)** and **been (to)**:

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

C 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**?

Already = sooner than expected:

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

Yet = until now. We use **yet** to show that we are expecting something to happen.

We use **yet** in questions and negative sentences:

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

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

- ☐ Ben isn't here. He's **gone** out. or He **went** out.
- ☐ 'Are you hungry?' 'No, I've **just had** lunch.' or 'No, I **just had** lunch.'

7.1 Read the situations and complete the sentences using the present perfect. Choose from these verbs:

break disappear go up grow improve lose shrink stop

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1 Tom is looking for his key. He can't find it. | Tom <u>has lost his key.</u> |
| 2 Maria's English wasn't very good. Now it is better. | Her English |
| 3 My bag was here, but it isn't here any more. | My bag |
| 4 Lisa can't walk and her leg is in plaster. | Lisa |
| 5 Last week the bus fare was £1.80. Now it is £2. | The bus fare |
| 6 Dan didn't have a beard before. Now he has a beard. | Dan |
| 7 It was raining ten minutes ago. It isn't raining now. | It |
| 8 I washed my sweater, and now it's too small for me. | My sweater |

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

- My parents are on holiday. They've gone to Italy.
- Hello! I've just to the shops. I've bought lots of things.
- Tom has just out. He'll be back in about an hour.
- Alice isn't here at the moment. I don't know where she's
- You're very late. Where have you?

7.3 Complete the sentences using the present perfect.

- Sally is still here. She hasn't gone (she / not / go) out.
- I can't find my bag. (you / see / it) anywhere?
- I can't log on to the website. (I / forget) my password.
- I sent Joe an email this morning, but (he / not / reply).
- Is the meeting still going on, or (it / finish)?
- (the weather / change). It's colder now.
- (you / not / sign) the form. Could you sign it now, please?
- Are your friends still here, or (they / go) home?
- Paul doesn't know what he's going to do. (he / not / decide / yet).
- 'Do you know where Julia is?' 'Yes, (I / just / see / her).'
- 'When is David going away?' '..... (he / already / go).'
- A: (your course / start / yet)?
B: Not yet. It starts next week.

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 phone to reserve a table. Later your friend says, 'Shall I phone to reserve a table?' You say: No, (do it)
- You know that Lisa is looking for a place to live. Perhaps she has been successful.
You ask her: ? (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)
- Laura went out, but a few minutes ago she returned. Somebody asks, 'Is Laura still out?'
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.

In the same way we say:

- ☐ **Have** you **ever eaten** caviar?
- ☐ We've never **had** a car.
- ☐ I don't know what the film is about. I **haven't seen** it.
- ☐ Susan really loves that book. She's **read** it three times. (She's = She **has**)
- ☐ It's a really boring movie. It's the most boring movie I've **ever seen**.

been (to) = visited:

- ☐ I've never **been to** Canada. 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 I arrived** etc.):

- ☐ **Have** you **heard** anything from Ben **recently**?
- ☐ I've **met** a lot of people **in the last few days**.
- ☐ Everything is going well. There **haven't been** any problems **so far**.
- ☐ The weather is bad here. It's (= It **has**) **rained** every day **since I arrived**. (= from when I arrived until now)
- ☐ It's good to see you again. We **haven't seen** each other **for a long time**.



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:

- ☐ I've **drunk** four cups of coffee **today**.
- ☐ **Have** you **had** a holiday **this year**?
- ☐ I **haven't seen** Tom **this morning**. Have you?



C

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

Don is having a driving lesson. It's his first lesson.
 We can say:

- ☐ It's the first time he **has driven** a car. (*not drives*)
- or He **hasn't driven** a car **before**.
- or He **has never driven** a car **before**.

In the same way we say:

- ☐ Sarah has lost her passport again. This is the second time this **has happened**. (*not happens*)
- ☐ Andy is phoning his girlfriend again. It'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**.

- (ride / horse?) Have you ever ridden a horse?
- (be / California?) Have
- (run / marathon?)
- (speak / famous person?)
- (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. <u>I've never met</u> her. |
| 2 Is everything going well? | Yes, we <u>haven't had</u> 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 about? | 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

- I haven't used a computer today.
-
-
-
-

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

8.4 Read the situations and complete the sentences.

- Jack is driving a car for the first time. He's very nervous and not sure what to do.
It's the first time he's driven a car.
- Some children at the zoo are looking at a giraffe. They've never seen one before.
 It's the first time a giraffe.
- Sue is riding a horse. She doesn't look very confident or comfortable.
 She before.
- Joe and Lisa are on holiday in Japan. They've been to Japan once before.
 This is the second time
- Emily is staying at the Prince Hotel. She stayed there a few years ago.
 It's not the first this hotel.
- Ben is playing tennis for the first time. He's a complete beginner.
 before.

Present perfect continuous (I have been doing)

A It's been raining.

Study this example situation:



Is it raining?

No, but the ground is wet.

It's been raining. (= It **has** been ...)**have/has been + -ing** is the *present perfect continuous*:I/we/they/you
he/she/it**have**
has(= I've etc.)
(= he's etc.)**been****doing**
working
learning etc.

We use the present perfect continuous for an activity that has recently stopped or just stopped:

- ☐ Why are you out of breath? **Have you been running?**
- ☐ Paul is very tired. **He's been working** hard.
- ☐ Why are you so tired? What **have you been doing?**
- ☐ **I've been talking** to Amanda and she agrees with me.
- ☐ Where have you been? **I've been looking** for you.

have/has been + -ing
present perfect continuous

now

B It's been raining for two hours.

Study this example situation:



It began raining two hours ago and it is still raining.

How long **has it been raining?****It's been raining** for two hours. (= It **has** been ...)We use the present perfect continuous in this way, especially with **how long**, **for** ... and **since** The activity is still happening (as in this example) or has just stopped.

- ☐ **How long have you been learning** English? (= you're still learning English)
- ☐ Ben is watching TV. **He's been watching** TV all day.
- ☐ Where have you been? **I've been looking** for you **for the last half hour**.
- ☐ Chris **hasn't been feeling** well **recently**.

You can use the present perfect continuous for repeated actions:

- ☐ Silvia is a very good tennis player. She's **been playing** since she was eight.
- ☐ Every morning they meet in the same cafe. They've **been going** there **for years**.

C Compare I am doing and I have been doing:

I am doing
present continuous

now

- ☐ Don't disturb me now. I'm **working**.
- ☐ We need an umbrella. **It's raining**.
- ☐ Hurry up! We're **waiting**.

I have been doing
present perfect continuous

now

- ☐ I've **been working** hard. Now I'm going to have a break.
- ☐ The ground is wet. **It's been raining**.
- ☐ We've **been waiting** for an hour.

9.1 What have these people been doing or what has been happening?

1 It's been raining.	2 She _____	3 They _____	4 He _____
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9.2 Write a question for each situation.

- You meet Kate as she is leaving the swimming pool. You say:
Hi, Kate. (you / swim?) Have you been swimming?
- You have arrived a little late to meet Ben who is waiting for you. You say:
I'm sorry I'm late, Ben. (you / wait / long?) _____
- Jane's little boy comes into the house with a very dirty face and dirty hands. His mother says:
Why are you so dirty? (what / you / do?) _____
- You are in a shop and see Anna. You didn't know she worked there. You say:
Hi, Anna. (how long / you / work / here?) _____
- A friend tells you about his job – he sells phones. You say:
You sell phones? (how long / you / do / that?) _____

9.3 Read the situations and complete the sentences.

- It's raining. The rain started two hours ago.
It 's been raining for two hours.
- We are waiting for the bus. We started waiting 20 minutes ago.
We _____ for 20 minutes.
- I'm learning Japanese. I started classes in December.
I _____ since December.
- Jessica is working in a hotel. She started working there on 18 January.
_____ since 18 January.
- Our friends always go to Italy for their holidays. The first time was years ago.
_____ for years.

9.4 Put the verb into the present continuous (am/is/are + -ing) or present perfect continuous (have/has been + -ing).

- Maria has been learning (Maria / learn) English for two years.
- Hi, Tom. _____ (I / look) for you. I need to ask you something.
- Why _____ (you / look) at me like that? Stop it!
- Rachel is a teacher. _____ (she / teach) for ten years.
- _____ (I / think) about what you said and I've decided to take your advice.
- 'Is Paul on holiday this week?' 'No, _____ (he / work).'
- Sarah is very tired. _____ (she / work) very hard recently.
- It's dangerous to use your phone when _____ (you / drive).
- Laura _____ (travel) in South America for the last three months.