

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 done been etc.
he/she/it has (= he's 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.
- 2 Lisa can't walk and her leg is in plaster.
- 3 Last week the bus fare was £1.80. Now it is £2.
- 4 Maria's English wasn't very good. Now it is better.
- 5 Dan didn't have a beard before. Now he has a beard.
- 6 This morning I was expecting a letter. Now I have it.
- 7 The temperature was 20 degrees. Now it is only 12.

Tom has lost his key.
 Lisa ...
 The bus fare ...
 Her English ...
 Dan ...
 The letter ...
 The ...

7.2 Put in been or gone.

- 1 James is on holiday. He's gone to Italy.
- 2 Hello! I've just ... to the shops. I've bought lots of things.
- 3 Alice isn't here at the moment. She's ... to the shop to get a newspaper.
- 4 Tom has ... out. He'll be back in about an hour.
- 5 '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

- 1 Would you like something to eat?
- 2 Do you know where Julia is?
- 3 What time is David leaving?
- 4 What's in the newspaper today?
- 5 Is Sue coming to the cinema with us?
- 6 Are your friends here yet?
- 7 What does Tim think about your plan?

B

No, thanks. I've just had lunch.

(I / just / have / lunch)

Yes, ...
 (I / just / see / her)

(he / already / leave)

I don't know. ...
 (I / not / read / it yet)

No, ...
 (she / already / see / the film)

Yes, ...
 (they / just / arrive)

(we / not / tell / him yet)

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

- 1 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)
- 2 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)
- 3 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)
- 4 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)
- 5 You know that a friend of yours is looking for a place to live. Perhaps she has been successful. Ask her. You say: ... ? (find)
- 6 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)
- 7 Linda went shopping, but a few minutes ago she returned. Somebody asks, 'Is Linda still out shopping?' You say: No, (come back)