

## Present perfect simple

Form

have/has + past participle

statement

negative

question

I/you/we/they **have ('ve) learnt** ... I/you/we/they **have not (haven't) learnt** ... **Have** I/you/we/they **learnt** ...

Use

Example

Situations that started in the past and are still true

*Mrs Jenkins **has been** the head teacher for three years.*

Completed actions at a time in the past which is not mentioned

*I've **already read** that book.*

Completed actions where the important thing is the result now

*They've **all done** their homework.*

## Helpful hints

The present perfect simple is often used with the following words and phrases:

- **for** She's taught German here **for** over five years.
- **since** Mr Gray has taught French here **since** 2006.
- **just** We've **just** done this exercise.
- **already** We've **already** done this exercise.
- **yet** We haven't checked the answers **yet**.
- **ever** Have you **ever** had guitar lessons?
- **never** I've **never** understood why they give us so much homework!
- **it's the first time** **It's the first time** we've watched a video in class.

Watch out!

- We don't use the present perfect simple when we want to say **when** something happened in the past. We use the past simple.  
✓ I **did** my homework **last night**.
- We don't use the past simple when we want to show that something happened **before now** or is **still important now**. We use the present perfect simple.  
✓ I've **finished**! Can I go home now?
- Some verbs have irregular past participle forms. See page 182.

## Present perfect continuous

Form

have/has + been + -ing

statement

negative

question

I/you/we/they **have ('ve) been studying** ...I/you/we/they **have not (haven't) been studying** ...**Have** I/you/we/they **been studying** ...?He/she/it **has ('s) been studying** ... He/she/it **has not (hasn't) been studying** ... **Has** he/she/it **been studying** ...

Use

Example

Actions continuing up to now or just before now

*We've **been doing** grammar exercises for over an hour.*

*Can we have a break now?*

*They're having a break now because they've **been working** so hard.*

## Helpful hints

The present perfect continuous is often used with the following words:

- **for** I've been learning English **for** over three years.
- **since** He's been learning Chinese **since** 2004.
- **just** I've **just** been reading the school newspaper.

Watch out!

- The present perfect simple often emphasises the result of an action:  
✓ She's **written** an article for the school newspaper. (= She's finished it.)
- The present perfect continuous often emphasises the action, and the time spent on the action, rather than the result:  
✓ She's **been writing** an article for the school newspaper. (= She's started, but she hasn't finished it yet.)



**A** Complete using the correct present perfect simple form of the verbs in brackets.

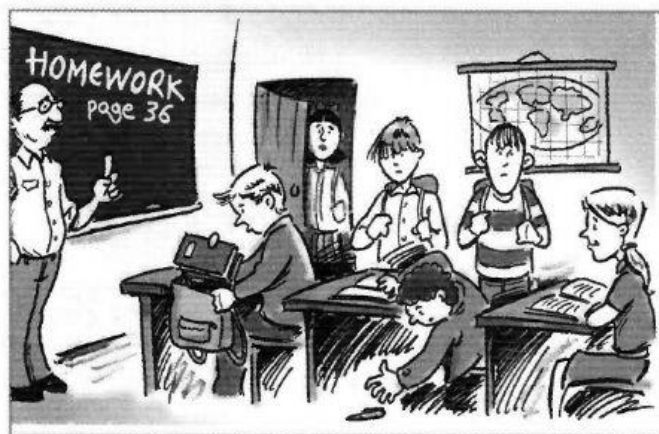
- I ..... (see) this film already.
- John and Julie ..... (had) their car for about a year.
- She ..... (not / take) her driving test yet.
- Sue ..... (be) a tour guide since she left university.
- ..... (you / ride) into town on your new bike yet?
- This new computer ..... (make) my life a lot easier.
- We ..... (not / decide) what to get Mark for his birthday yet.
- ..... (Paul / ever / meet) a famous person?

**B** Choose the correct answer.

- ..... never played this game before.  
A I've ..... B I .....
- Adam ..... his room last night.  
A has tidied ..... B tidied .....
- ..... here since 2005?  
A Have you lived ..... B Did you live .....
- Carol and I ..... to the cinema three nights ago.  
A have been ..... B went .....
- It's the first time ..... our flat, isn't it?  
A you've visited ..... B you visited .....
- They ..... the baby a name yet.  
A haven't given ..... B didn't give .....
- ..... to New York when you went to the States last summer?  
A Have you been ..... B Did you go .....
- ..... an e-mail before?  
A Have you ever sent ..... B Did you ever send .....

**C** Look at the picture and use the prompts to write sentences. Use the correct form of the present perfect simple.

- lesson / not / start / yet  
.....  
.....
- teacher / already / write / on the board  
.....  
.....
- Joe and Tim / just / come / into the classroom  
.....  
.....
- Tony / not / finished / getting / books ready  
.....  
.....
- Christine / already / open / book  
.....  
.....



- Dave / drop / pen / on the floor  
.....  
.....
- he / not / pick it up / yet  
.....  
.....

**D** Complete using the correct present perfect continuous form of the verbs in brackets. Use short forms where possible.

**Mandy:** Hi Matt. How are you? What (1) ..... (you / do) recently?

**Matt:** Oh, hi Mandy! Well, (2) ..... (I / study) for my exams.

**Mandy:** That sounds boring! (3) ..... (you / work) hard?

**Matt:** Very! Basically, (4) ..... (I / just / sit) at my desk in my bedroom for the past three weeks and (5) ..... (I / not / go) out at all. (6) ..... (I / work) with Michael, my best friend, some of the time, though, so at least I've had some company. How about you?

**Mandy:** Well, my mum and (7) ..... (I / paint) my bedroom for the last few days. That has been fun! And (8) ..... (we / also / plan) our summer holiday.

**Matt:** Great! Where are you going?

**Mandy:** Well, we haven't decided yet. (9) ..... (We / look) at different places to see which we like best.

**Matt:** I'm sure you'll have a great time, wherever you go. Oh, by the way, (10) ..... (I / think) of having a party when I finish my exams. Would you like to come?

**Mandy:** Sure! That would be great!

**E** Circle the correct word or phrase.

- 1 I think I've **heard** / **been hearing** that song before.
- 2 They haven't **arrived** / **been arriving** yet, but they should be here soon.
- 3 You've **written** / **been writing** that e-mail for over an hour. How long is it going to take you?
- 4 Have you **talked** / **been talking** on the phone since eight o'clock?
- 5 Jo has already **invited** / **been inviting** Shirley to dinner.
- 6 I've **read** / **been reading** an interview with Brad Pitt, but I haven't finished it yet.
- 7 Have the boys **played** / **been playing** computer games since this morning?

**F** Complete using the words in the box.

already • ever • for • just • never • since • yet

- 1 I haven't listened to their new CD ..... Is it any good?
- 2 We've been waiting for you ..... over an hour. Where have you been?
- 3 Have you ..... been to the UK before?
- 4 I'm afraid we've ..... made plans for this weekend, so we won't be free.
- 5 Pedro has been having English lessons ..... he was five years old.
- 6 It's strange that you mention the film *Crash*. I've ..... been reading about it in the paper.
- 7 I've ..... heard of a 'sudoku'. What is it?