Unit 4 Grammar

Present perfect simple, present perfect continuous

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.)

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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

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

B Choose the correct answer.

1 ..... never played this game before.
A I've B I

2 Adam ..... his room last night.
A has tidied B tidied

3 ..... here since 2005?
A Have you lived B Did you live

4 Carol and I ..... to the cinema three nights ago.
A have been B went

5 It's the first time ..... our flat, isn't it?
A you've visited B you visited

6 They ..... the baby a name yet.
A haven't given B didn't give

7 ..... to New York when you went to the States last summer?
A Have you been B Did you go

8 ..... 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.

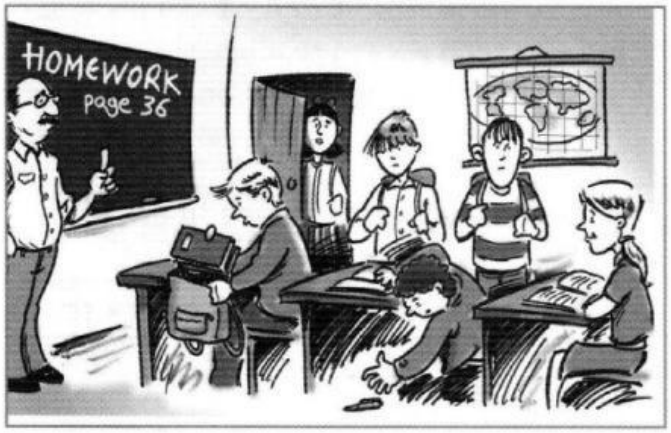
1 lesson / not / start / yet
.....
.....

2 teacher / already / write / on the board
.....
.....

3 Joe and Tim / just / come / into the classroom
.....
.....

4 Tony / not / finished / getting / books ready
.....
.....

5 Christine / already / open / book
.....
.....



6 Dave / drop / pen / on the floor
.....
.....

7 he / not / pick it up / yet
.....
.....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

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?

LIVEWORKSHEETS