

GRAMMAR FOCUS

Present perfect

Do you know how to use phrases like She's called every day this week, I've broken my leg and Have you ever been to Scotland? Test what you know with interactive exercises and read the explanation to help you.

Look at these examples to see how the present perfect is used.

He's **been** to ten different countries.

I **haven't seen** her today.

My phone's **run out of** battery. Can I use yours?

Have you ever dyed your hair a different colour?

Try this exercise to test your grammar.

Grammar B1-B2: Present perfect: 01

1 Choose the correct option to complete the sentence.

a. That's the worst film I ___ in my life!

saw

've seen

b. She must be really tired. She ___ late every night this week.

works

's worked

c. You've got a new car? How long ___ the old one?

did you have

have you had

d. Oh dear, it looks like Jan ___ the shopping yesterday. I'll go now.

didn't do

hasn't done

e. They ___ the documents I sent them! Now I have to send them all again.

lose

've lost

f. She ___ to swim on holiday in 1995.

learned

's learned

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g. I think you're my oldest friend! How long ____ each other?

do we know

have we known

h. I ____ a chance to call him back yet.

don't have

haven't had

Read the explanation to learn more.

Grammar explanation

We use the **present perfect simple (have or has + past participle)** to talk about past actions or states which are still connected to the present.

Unfinished time and states

We often use the **present perfect** to say what we've done in an unfinished time period, such as **today, this week, this year, etc.**, and with expressions such as **so far, until now, before, etc.**

They've been on holiday twice this year.

We haven't had a lot of positive feedback so far.

I'm sure I've seen that film before.

We also use it to talk about **life experiences**, as our life is also an unfinished time period. We often use **never** in negative sentences and **ever** in questions.

I've worked for six different companies.

He's never won a gold medal.

Have you ever been to Australia?

We also use the **present perfect** to talk about unfinished states, especially with **for, since and how long**.

She's wanted to be a police officer since she was a child.

I haven't known him for very long.

How long have you had that phone?

Finished time and states

If we say **when something happened**, or we feel that that part of our life is **finished**, we use the **past simple**.

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*We visited Russia for the first time **in 1992**.*

*I **went** to three different primary schools.*

*Before she retired, **she worked** in several different countries.*

We also use **the past simple** for finished states.

*We **knew** all our neighbours **when we were** children.*

*I **didn't like** bananas for a really long time. **Now I love them!***

Past actions with a result in the present

We can use **the present perfect** to talk about a **past action** that has a **result in the present**.

*He's **broken** his leg **so he can't go on holiday**.*

*There's **been** an accident on the main road, **so let's take a different route**.*

*They **haven't called** me, **so I don't think they need me today**.*

Again, if we say **when it happened**, we use the **past simple**.

*He **broke** his leg **last week** **so he can't go on holiday**.*

However, we **often use the present perfect** with words like **just**, **recently**, **already**, **yet** and **still**.

*We've **recently started** going to the gym.*

*She's **already finished** season one and now she's watching season two.*

*Have you **checked** your emails **yet**?*

Do this exercise to test your grammar again.

Grammar B1-B2: Present perfect: 02

2 Choose the correct option to complete the sentence.

a. I in this flat since I moved here.

lived

've lived

b. anyone famous when you were in New York?

Did you see

Have you seen

c. It on our holiday so far.

doesn't rain

hasn't rained

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d. She loves animals, but she ___ a pet.

never had

's never had

e. My laptop ___ working last week so I'm using the computers in the office until it's fixed.

stopped

's stopped

f. We ___ a great new coffee shop near our flat.

just discover

've just discovered

g. ___ the heating off? It's really cold in here.

Do they turn

Have they turned

h. He ___ very happy for a few days last week, but this week he seems OK.

didn't seem

hasn't seemed