

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

GRAMMAR FOCUS

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**.

GRAMMAR FOCUS

*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

GRAMMAR FOCUS

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