

A

Study this example conversation:

DAVE: Have you **travelled** a lot, Jane?
 JANE: Yes, I've **been** to lots of places.
 DAVE: Really? Have you ever **been** to China?
 JANE: Yes, I've **been** to China twice.
 DAVE: What about India?
 JANE: No, I **haven't been** to India.

Jane's life
(a period until now)

past now

When we talk about a period of time that continues from the past until now, we use the *present perfect* (**have been** / **have travelled** etc.). Here, Dave and Jane are talking about the places Jane has visited in her life, which is a period that continues until now.

Some more examples:

- Have you ever **eaten** caviar?
- We've never **had** a car.
- 'Have you **read** Hamlet?' 'No, I **haven't read** any of Shakespeare's plays.'
- Susan really loves that film. She's **seen** it eight times!
- What a boring film! It's the most boring film I've **ever seen**.

Been (to) = visited:

- I've never **been to** China. Have you **been** there?

B

In the following examples too, the speakers are talking about a period that continues until now (**recently** / **in the last few days** / **so far** / **since breakfast** etc.):

- Have you **heard** anything from Brian **recently**?
- I've **met** a lot of people **in the last few days**.
- Everything is going well. We **haven't had** any problems **so far**.
- I'm hungry. I **haven't eaten** anything **since breakfast**.
(= from breakfast until now)
- It's good to see you again. We **haven't seen** each other **for a long time**.

recently
in the last few days
since breakfast
past now

C

In the same way we use the present perfect with **today** / **this evening** / **this year** etc. when these periods are not finished at the time of speaking (see also Unit 14B):

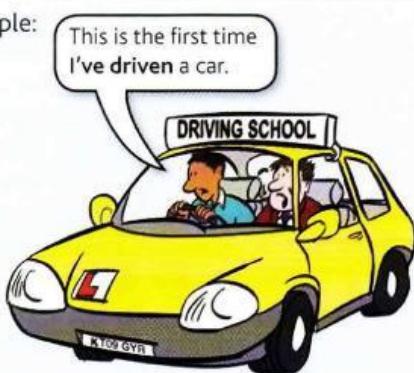
- I've **drunk** four cups of coffee **today**.
- Have you **had** a holiday **this year**?
- I **haven't seen** Tom **this morning**. Have you?
- Rob **hasn't worked** very hard **this term**.

today
past now

D

We say: It's the (first) time something **has happened**. For example:

- Don is having a driving lesson. It's his first one.
It's the first time he **has driven** a car. (not drives)
- or He **has never driven** a car before.
- Sarah has lost her passport again. This is the second time this **has happened**. (not happens)
- Bill is phoning his girlfriend again. That's the third time he's **phoned** her **this evening**.



Exercises

8.1 You ask people about things they have done. Write questions with ever.

- 1 (ride / horse?) Have you ever ridden a horse?
- 2 (be / California?) Have
- 3 (run / marathon?)
- 4 (speak / famous person?)
- 5 (most beautiful place / visit?) What's

8.2 Complete B's answers. Some sentences are positive and some negative. Use these verbs:

be be eat happen have have meet play read see try

A

- 1 What's Mark's sister like?
- 2 Is everything going well?
- 3 Are you hungry?
- 4 Can you play chess?
- 5 Are you enjoying your holiday?
- 6 What's that book like?
- 7 Is Brussels an interesting place?
- 8 I hear your car broke down again yesterday.
- 9 Do you like caviar?
- 10 Mike was late for work again today.
- 11 Who's that woman by the door?

B

I've no idea. I've never met her.

Yes, we haven't had any problems so far.

Yes, I much today.

Yes, but for ages.

Yes, it's the best holiday for a long time.

I don't know. it.

I've no idea. there.

Yes, it's the second time this month.

I don't know. it.

Again? He late every day this week.

I don't know. her before.

8.3 Write four sentences about yourself. Use I haven't and choose from the boxes.

used a computer	travelled by bus	eaten any fruit
been to the cinema	read a book	lost anything

today
this week
recently
for ages
since ...
this year

- 1 I haven't used a computer today.
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5

8.4 Read the situations and write sentences as shown in the example.

- 1 Jack is driving a car, but he's very nervous and not sure what to do.

You ask: Have you driven a car before?

He says: No, this is the first time I've driven a car.

- 2 Ben is playing tennis. He's not good at it and he doesn't know the rules.

You ask: Have

He says: No, this is the first

- 3 Sue is riding a horse. She doesn't look very confident or comfortable.

You ask:

She says:

- 4 Maria is in Japan. She has just arrived and it's very new for her.

You ask:

She says: