

The present perfect or past simple?



We use the present perfect to talk about something that happened very recently.

*The lights **have gone down**.*

We also use the present perfect to talk about an action in the past that is still true now.

*I've **been** excited all day.*

We also use the present perfect to talk about events from our life that have happened up to the present time. It doesn't matter when they happened.

*He's **been** in lots of plays.*

We use the past simple to talk about actions that started and finished in the past. We often say when they happened.

*I **saw** Dad act in his first play 20 years ago.*

1 Tick (✓) the correct sentence.

- 1 Have you ever seen a play by Shakespeare? ☒
 Have you ever see a play by Shakespeare? ☐

- 3 I saw my first play in 2003. ☐
 I've seen my first play in 2003. ☐

- 5 The actors learnt the script last week. ☐
 The actors have learnt the script last week. ☐

- 2 Have you ever been to the theatre? ☐
 Did you ever been to the theatre? ☐

- 4 She never been to a drama class. ☐
 She's never been to a drama class. ☐

- 6 Yesterday we watched a film at the cinema. ☐
 Yesterday we have watched a film at the cinema. ☐

2 Match 1–5 with a–e.

- 1 d Have you ever been to the theatre?
- 2 _____ Did you like it when the lights went out?
- 3 _____ Have you caught flu?
- 4 _____ Did you act in the last play?
- 5 _____ Have you put your coat on?

- a Yes, I did. I was a detective.
- b Yes, I have. I felt cold.
- c No, I didn't. I hate the dark!
- d Yes, I have. I love watching plays.
- e Yes, I have. I feel ill.

3 Circle the correct answers.

- 1 We ve finished / finished our homework. Can we go outside now?
- 2 When he was / he's been six, he went / he's been to school in New York.
- 3 Amy didn't read / hasn't read the third book in the series yet.
- 4 Have you met / Did you meet the new science teacher?
- 5 I went / 've been to London twice in my life.
- 6 Leo and Fred didn't know / haven't known the answer so they asked their Dad.
- 7 Were you / Have you been at home last Friday morning?
- 8 Have you spoken to Grandpa today? Yes, I did. / Yes, I have.

4 Complete the text. Use the present perfect or the past simple.

Brian is really good at volleyball and he's got lots of friends who play it with him. He ¹ 's known (know) some of them for five years. When Brian ² _____ (meet) his friends, he ³ _____ (not know) how to play. His friends ⁴ _____ (tell) him to go with them to their club and they ⁵ _____ (teach) him how to play. Soon, everyone ⁶ _____ (want) him to be on their team. Now, Brian ⁷ _____ (be) on the team for three years and he ⁸ _____ (play) in lots of matches.

5 Look at exercise 4. Answer the questions. Use short answers.

- 1 Did Brian meet his friends five years ago? Yes, he did.
- 2 Did Brian teach his friends to play volleyball? _____
- 3 Is Brian a good volleyball player? _____
- 4 Has Brian ever played on the team? _____
- 5 Has Brian ever played in any matches? _____



Detective Where were you at twelve o'clock last night?

Suspect You've **already** asked me that question.


Detective And you **haven't answered** it **yet**.



Suspect I'm nervous. I **haven't talked** to a detective **before**.

Detective Well, you've **just talked** to me, and I'm a detective. So now you **have talked** to a detective.

The present perfect with **already**, **yet**, **just** and **before**

 **Already, yet, just** and **before** can all mean 'at some time up to now'. We often use them with the present perfect.

We use **yet** to talk about something we expect. It often comes at the end of the sentence. We only use **yet** in questions and negative sentences.

*You haven't answered it **yet**?*

*Have you answered it **yet**?*

Before means 'at any time up to the present'. It often comes at the end of the sentence.

*I haven't talked to a detective **before**.*

We use **already** to say that we are surprised that something has happened sooner than we expected.

*You've **already** asked me that question. OR*
*You've asked me that question **already**.*

Just means 'very close to the time now'. We can use it to talk about something that has happened very recently. The affirmative form is subject + **have/has + just + past participle**.

*You've **just** talked to me.*

We form questions with **have/has + subject + just + past participle**.

*Have you **just** talked to him?*

6 Circle the correct answers.

- 1 The curtain has just / yet gone up.
- 2 He hasn't played chess **before** / **already**.
- 3 They've **painted just** / **just painted** the set.
- 4 Have you shown the script to him **yet** / **yet** the script to him?
- 5 You haven't given the books to them **just** / **yet**.
- 6 Have you ever acted **before** / **just**?

7 Complete the sentences and questions. Use the present perfect.

1 you / go / to America / before / ?

Have you been to America before?

2 you / already / act / in four plays

3 I / see / the film / before

4 I / already / go / to five different countries

5 you / speak / to an English person / before / ?

6 you / eat breakfast / already / ?

7 I / never / act / before

8 they / already / paint / the stage / ?

8 Complete the questions and answers. Use **yet and **just**.**

1 she / meet her new drama teacher

Has she met her new drama teacher yet? Yes, she's just met her.

2 they / speak to the actors

Yes, _____ to them.

3 she / buy the costumes

Yes, _____ them.

4 the children / paint the stage

Yes, they _____ it.

5 the actors / finish their costumes

Yes, _____ them.

6 she / washed her hair

Yes, _____ it.

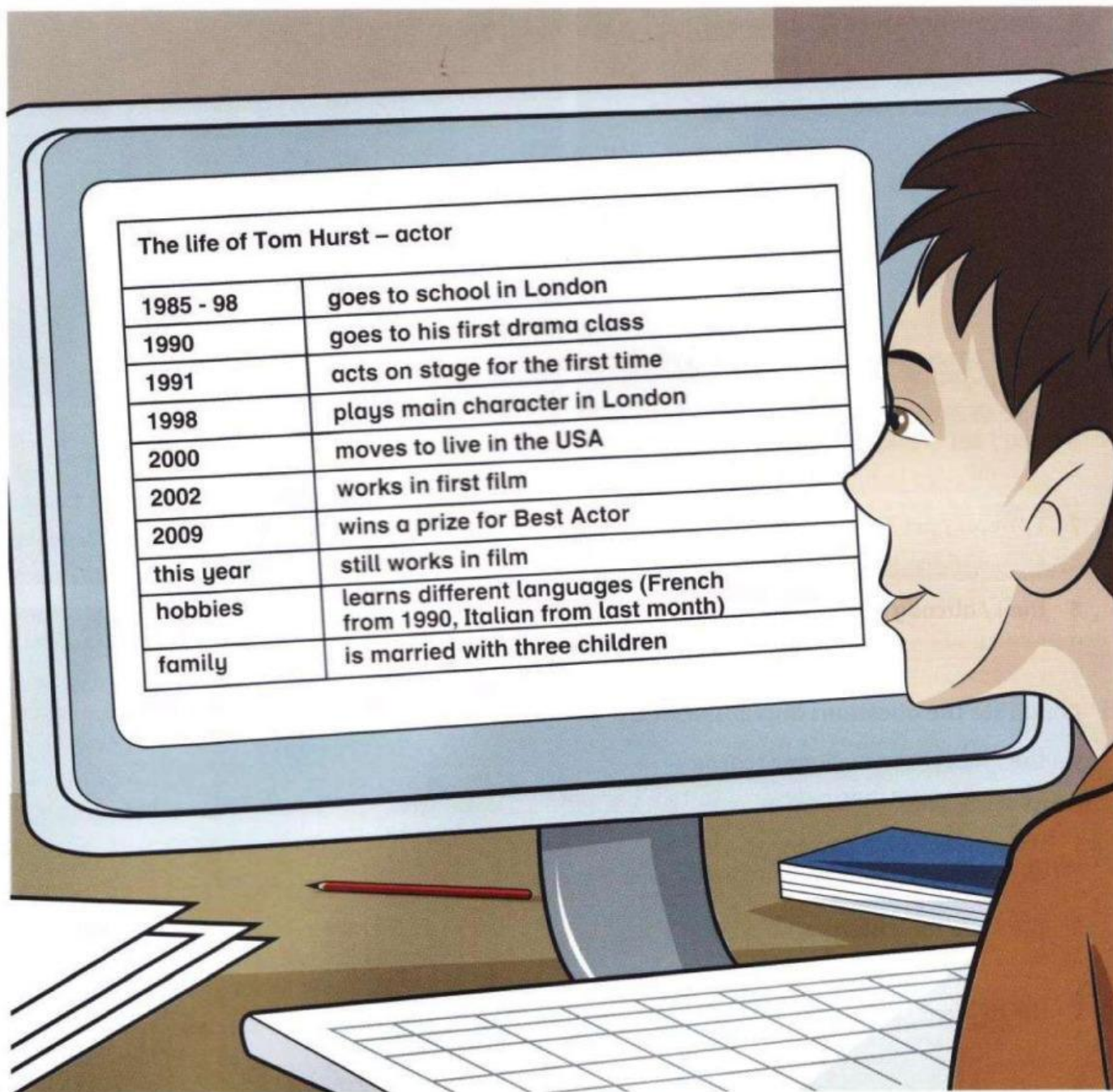
7 they / open the curtains

Yes, they _____.

8 the play / finish

Yes, it _____.

9 Look at the text. Write questions with the present perfect or past simple.



- 1 (Tom / go) Did Tom go to school in London from 1985 to 1998?
- 2 (he / go) _____ to his first drama class in 1990?
- 3 In 1998, (Tom / act) _____ in Paris?
- 4 (he / live) _____ in Spain since 2000?
- 5 (Tom / won) _____ a prize for acting yet?
- 6 (he / start) _____ to learn French in 1990?
- 7 (he / just start) _____ to learn Italian?
- 8 (Tom / have) _____ three children already?

10 Look at exercise 9. Answer the questions.

- 1 Yes, he did. He went to school in London from 1985 to 1998.
- 2 _____ to his first drama class in 1990.
- 3 _____ in London in 1998.
- 4 _____ in the USA since 2000.
- 5 _____ a prize for acting in 2009.
- 6 _____ to learn French in 1990.
- 7 _____ to learn Italian last month.
- 8 _____ three children already.

11 Write negative sentences. Use the present perfect or the past simple.

- 1 Andy didn't go (not go) to school in Cairo when he was a child.
- 2 Mandy _____ (not have) French lessons before.
- 3 Kate _____ (never study) Spanish.
- 4 We _____ (not live) in London since 1996.
- 5 Max _____ (not go) to his first painting class in 1989.
- 6 Mum and Dad _____ (not just start) to learn German.
- 7 I _____ (not finish) my homework yet.
- 8 You _____ (not miss) the bus once last week – well done.
- 9 Jamie and Jack _____ (not try) to skateboard before.
- 10 Lily _____ (not take) her mobile phone with her yesterday.

12 Write short answers.

- 1 Has Cara acted in a play before? ✓ Yes, she has.
- 2 Has Ted just had a PE lesson? ✗ _____
- 3 Have you met a famous person before? ✓ _____
- 4 Have you already done any homework today? ✗ _____
- 5 Have they had lunch yet? ✓ _____
- 6 Has Eric played football already today? ✗ _____
- 7 Have you had an English test today? ✓ _____
- 8 Have I asked you to bring your trainers? ✗ _____
- 9 Have they written a letter to the Queen? ✓ _____
- 10 Has Carrie made some bread? ✓ _____