

# Present Perfect

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## Grammar Notes

### A. Introduction

The present perfect tense is very common in English. It is unlike other verb tenses because it has two separate uses. One use is a finished past action and the other is a continuing action. Time markers (words that show a verb's tense) show if the verb has a finished or continuing meaning.

Let's look at the finished action use (Use 1) of the present perfect first and compare it with the simple past. Then we'll look at the continuing action use (Use 2).

### B. Use 1

#### FINISHED ACTIONS

	<b>Present Perfect</b>	<b>Simple Past</b>
<b>Pattern</b>	have / has + p.p. (past participle)	verb + <i>-ed</i> (or irregular forms)
<b>Use</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>shows a finished past action</li> <li>does <b>not</b> show when it occurred</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>shows a finished past action</li> <li>shows <b>when</b> it occurred</li> </ul>
<b>Diagram</b>		
<b>Time Markers</b>	<p>No time marker is needed, but for emphasis it is possible to use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>already</li> <li>yet</li> <li>still</li> <li>ever</li> <li>never</li> <li>recently</li> <li>lately</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>yesterday</li> <li>the day before yesterday</li> <li>last</li> <li>ago</li> <li>when (for joining two past sentences)</li> </ul>
<b>Examples</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I <b>have seen</b> <i>Iron Man</i>.</li> <li>She <b>has</b> never <b>tried</b> frog legs.</li> <li>They've <b>bought</b> a new car.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I <b>saw</b> <i>Iron Man</i> last night.</li> <li>She <b>tried</b> frog legs last month.</li> <li>They <b>bought</b> a new car two weeks ago.</li> </ul>



## Grammar Notes cont.

### B. Use 1 cont.

Time Markers for Emphasis	
<p><b>Already</b></p> <p><i>Already</i> emphasizes an action that has occurred in the past.</p> <p><b>have + already + p.p.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I have <b>already</b> read that book.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Recently &amp; Lately</b></p> <p><i>Recently</i> and <i>lately</i> emphasize a recent past action.</p> <p><b>have + p.p. + O + recently / lately</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Scientists have discovered a new species <b>recently</b>.</li> <li>Have you spoken to her <b>lately</b>?</li> </ul>
<p><b>Yet &amp; Still</b></p> <p><i>Yet</i> and <i>still</i> emphasize the intention to do something.</p> <p><b>have + not + p.p. + O + yet</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I haven't read that book <b>yet</b>.</li> </ul> <p><b>still + have + not + p.p.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I <b>still</b> haven't read that book.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Ever &amp; Never</b></p> <p><i>Ever</i> and <i>never</i> emphasize an action that could have occurred at <i>any</i> time in the past.</p> <p><b>have + (not) ever / never + p.p.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Have you <b>ever</b> been to Europe?</li> <li>I haven't <b>ever</b> been to Europe.</li> <li>I have <b>never</b> been to Europe.</li> </ul>

**Repeated Actions**



Use the present perfect even if a finished action happened more than once in the past. Do not mention **when** it occurred.

- I **have performed** onstage many times.
- We **have been** to Mexico twice.
- She **has given** a presentation five times in her life.

## Grammar Notes cont.

### C. Use 2

#### CONTINUING ACTIONS

<b>Present Perfect</b>	
<b>Pattern</b>	have / has + p.p.
<b>Use</b>	shows an action that started in the past, continues to the present, and may continue into the future
<b>Diagram</b>	
<b>Time Markers</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• for</li> <li>• since</li> <li>• all</li> </ul>
<b>Examples</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• She <b>has worked</b> in this office for two years.</li> <li>• He <b>has lived</b> in the same house since he was a child.</li> <li>• I've <b>studied</b> English all my life.</li> </ul>

#### **For, Since & All**

*For* and *all* show the **duration** of an action.

- He has taught math **for** 15 years.

*Since* shows the **starting point** of an action.

- We have lived in France **since** 2012.

## Exercise 1

### PAST PARTICIPLES

#### A. Simple Past and Past Participle

Write the simple past and past participle of the following verbs in the chart below.

#	Simple Form	Simple Past	Past Participle
1	work		
2	do		
3	eat		
4	call		
5	begin		
6	give		
7	answer		
8	see		
9	have		
10	go		
11	study		
12	teach		
13	make		
14	talk		

#### B. Complete the Chart

Complete the chart below with the correct forms of the verbs.

#	Simple Form	Simple Past	Past Participle
1		knew	
2			met
3		was/were	
4	fly		
5		wrote	
6			read
7	live		
8		fell	
9	feel		
10			taken
11		drove	
12	buy		
13		danced	
14			told

## Exercise 2

### FILL IN THE BLANKS

Choose the correct verb from the list to the right to complete the following sentences. Put the verb in the present perfect tense.

1. I met Barbara when we were in elementary school.  
We \_\_\_\_\_ each other for over 20 years.
2. We \_\_\_\_\_ many new words since we started this course.
3. That's a wonderful movie. I \_\_\_\_\_ it three times.
4. Mr. and Mrs. Tanner \_\_\_\_\_ married for ten years.
5. You are late! The class \_\_\_\_\_ already \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Robert is my neighbour. He \_\_\_\_\_ next door to me for five years.
7. Mary \_\_\_\_\_ several emails to her parents since she left home.
8. We \_\_\_\_\_ in that restaurant a few times.
9. Our teacher \_\_\_\_\_ us a lot of help with the homework assignment.
10. She \_\_\_\_\_ to her landlord many times about the broken window.
11. We have a new camera. We \_\_\_\_\_ some beautiful pictures of the grandchildren.
12. They \_\_\_\_\_ already \_\_\_\_\_ all their homework.
13. Mrs. Baxter \_\_\_\_\_ all her groceries for the week.
14. Tommy \_\_\_\_\_ a bad cold for two weeks.
15. Frank \_\_\_\_\_ for that company for many years.
16. After three months of looking, she \_\_\_\_\_ a beautiful apartment to rent.

**Word List:**

- take
- work
- find
- see
- speak
- know
- begin
- finish
- learn
- eat
- have
- write
- give
- live
- buy
- be

## Exercise 3

### NEGATIVE SENTENCES

#### A. Choose the Correct Word

Choose the correct verb from the list to the right to complete the following sentences. Put the verb in the negative form of the present perfect tense.

1. Matthew is waiting on the corner for his girlfriend, but she \_\_\_\_\_ yet.
2. My brother lives in a different country. I \_\_\_\_\_ him for two years.
3. Ellie and Bill got a divorce five years ago.  
They \_\_\_\_\_ to each other since then.
4. It is only 8:45. The class \_\_\_\_\_ yet.
5. It started to snow last night, and it still \_\_\_\_\_.
6. She has finally decided which car she wants, but she \_\_\_\_\_ it yet.
7. I heard that the movie at the Roxy Theatre is great, but I \_\_\_\_\_ it yet.
8. I bought a newspaper today, but I still \_\_\_\_\_ it.
9. He took his car to the service station yesterday, but they \_\_\_\_\_ it yet.
10. The Andersons moved out of New York ten years ago,  
and they \_\_\_\_\_ back to the city since then.

**Word List:**

- fix
- begin
- arrive
- be
- see
- stop
- speak
- buy
- read
- visit

#### B. Matching

Match each question on the left with the correct answer on the right.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| _____ 1. Has he finished university yet?          | a) No, he hasn't. He's still talking.           |
| _____ 2. Have you eaten breakfast yet?            | b) No, I haven't. My wife's still reading it.   |
| _____ 3. Have they gotten married yet?            | c) No, he hasn't graduated yet.                 |
| _____ 4. Has the president finished speaking yet? | d) No, it hasn't. The teacher isn't here yet.   |
| _____ 5. Has Mary watered the plants yet?         | e) No, they haven't finished yet.               |
| _____ 6. Has the doctor seen you yet?             | f) No, they haven't. They're still engaged.     |
| _____ 7. Has the sun come out yet?                | g) No, she hasn't. They are still dry.          |
| _____ 8. Have they finished their homework yet?   | h) No, I haven't. I'll eat in a few minutes.    |
| _____ 9. Has the class begun yet?                 | i) No, she hasn't. She is with another patient. |
| _____ 10. Have you read the paper yet?            | j) No, it hasn't. It's still raining.           |

## Exercise 4

### ALREADY, STILL & YET

#### A. Mrs. Tanner's School Day Schedule

Read the schedule below and make ten positive and negative sentences using *already*, *yet*, or *still* and the present perfect tense. Assume it is now 12:00 pm.

Time	Activity
8:30	arrive at school
9:00	take attendance, teach French class
10:00	meet with the principal
11:00	teach Spanish class
11:30	write report cards

Time	Activity
12:15	eat lunch, go for a walk
1:00	meet with Joe's parents
2:00	take students to the library
3:00	read students' essays
4:00	go home

Ex. *Mrs. Tanner has already taken attendance.*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

## Exercise 4 cont.

### B. Your Daily Schedule

Follow the example on the previous page. Fill in the schedule with your own activities, and then write full sentences below. Assume it is now 12:00 pm.

Time	Activity
7:00	
8:00	
9:00	
10:00	
12:00	

Time	Activity
2:00	
4:00	
6:00	
9:00	
10:00	

Ex. *I have already had breakfast, but I haven't had lunch yet.*

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

## Exercise 5

### EVER & NEVER

Practise using the present perfect tense by asking questions beginning with "Have you ever...?" Use the words provided to make your questions. Then answer each question using either a positive or negative reply.

1. you / ever / be / to France

*Have you ever been to France? Yes, I have. I was there last year. / No, I haven't. I've never been there.*

---

2. the teacher / ever / be / late for class
- 

3. the pilot / ever / fly / in a helicopter
- 

4. your father / ever / make / dinner for your mother
- 

5. you / ever / find / a lot of money on the street
- 

6. the children / ever / go camping / in the forest
- 

7. the baseball team / ever / win a championship game
- 

8. the actress / ever / forget her lines
- 

9. the police officer / ever / shoot anyone
- 

10. the politicians / ever / break their promises
-

## Exercise 6

### PRESENT PERFECT VS. SIMPLE PAST

Complete the following sentences with the correct form of the verb provided (simple past or present perfect).

1. We \_\_\_\_\_ to Vancouver last year. We \_\_\_\_\_ there since April.  
(move) (live)
2. I \_\_\_\_\_ to every hockey game this season. I \_\_\_\_\_ to the game last night with my brother.  
(be) (go)
3. I \_\_\_\_\_ my house key last week and I still \_\_\_\_\_ it.  
(lose) (not/find)
4. "When \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ smoking?" "I \_\_\_\_\_ for over five years now."  
(quit) (not/smoke)
5. Nora \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of souvenirs yesterday.  
(buy)  
She \_\_\_\_\_ never \_\_\_\_\_ this many souvenirs on a vacation before.  
(buy)
6. "Would you like another cup of coffee?" "No thanks. I \_\_\_\_\_ already \_\_\_\_\_ three cups."  
(have)
7. Frank \_\_\_\_\_ for ABC Electric from 1990 to 2002.  
(work)  
Now he owns his own business. He \_\_\_\_\_ it for six years.  
(have)
8. Grandma \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ her hip last week.  
(fall) (break)  
She \_\_\_\_\_ in the hospital since then.  
(be)
9. My previous teacher \_\_\_\_\_ Mr. Blair.  
(be)  
Now my teacher is Mrs. Carter. I \_\_\_\_\_ in her class for three months now.  
(be)
10. In my whole life, I \_\_\_\_\_ never \_\_\_\_\_ a famous person, but my brother \_\_\_\_\_ to three famous actors when he was in Hollywood last year.  
(meet) (speak)
11. Last year, we \_\_\_\_\_ through three Canadian provinces. Now we are travelling in Europe. We \_\_\_\_\_ already \_\_\_\_\_ through eight countries.  
(drive) (drive)
12. This French course \_\_\_\_\_ three months ago. We \_\_\_\_\_ already \_\_\_\_\_ several verb tenses and hundreds of new words.  
(start) (learn)

## Exercise 7

### PAST PARTICIPLE BINGO

#### A. Write the Past Participle

Choose 24 words from the list below and write the past participle of each one in any space on your bingo card on the next page. Mix the verbs up. Do not write them in the same order as the list. Everyone should have a different card.

- |          |          |        |         |         |              |
|----------|----------|--------|---------|---------|--------------|
| • become | • dig    | • get  | • leave | • sell  | • swing      |
| • begin  | • do     | • give | • let   | • send  | • swim       |
| • bet    | • draw   | • go   | • lose  | • shake | • take       |
| • bite   | • drink  | • grow | • make  | • shoot | • teach      |
| • blow   | • drive  | • hang | • mean  | • shut  | • tell       |
| • break  | • eat    | • have | • meet  | • sink  | • think      |
| • bring  | • fall   | • hear | • pay   | • sit   | • throw      |
| • build  | • feel   | • hide | • quit  | • sleep | • wake       |
| • catch  | • fight  | • hit  | • ring  | • speak | • wear       |
| • choose | • find   | • hold | • read  | • spend | • win        |
| • come   | • fly    | • hurt | • ride  | • stand | • write      |
| • cost   | • forget | • keep | • run   | • stick | • understand |
| • cut    | • freeze | • know | • see   | • sweep |              |

#### B. Play Bingo!

Your teacher will call out certain past participles one by one. If you have that past participle on your board, cover it with a marker or draw an X on it. When you have one line in any direction covered, shout "Bingo!" (You must have the correct past participle form under each marker or X in order to win.)

## Exercise 7 cont.

### C. Bingo Card

		<b>Free Space</b>		

## Exercise 8

### SINCE & FOR

Rewrite the following sentences using *since* or *for* and the verb provided. You may have to change some of the words, but keep the same meaning.

1. Bill and Rita got married 20 years ago. **(be)**

*Bill and Rita have been married for 20 years.*

---

2. Jordan moved into his apartment in 2005. **(live)**
- 

3. Ellen and Rose met each other 40 years ago. **(know)**
- 

4. The teacher came to school at 8:00 this morning. **(be)**
- 

5. Robbie grew a beard six months ago. **(have)**
- 

6. Dennis bought his car four years ago. **(own)**
- 

7. Maria started to wear glasses when she was five years old. **(wear)**
- 

8. David fell in love with Patricia when they were teenagers. **(be)**
- 

9. Mark started to work at the bank three years ago. **(work)**
- 

10. Sam learned how to swim three years ago. **(know)**
-

## Exercise 9

### HOW LONG?

Read the following sentences and write a *how long* question for each one. Then answer each question using *since*, *for*, or *all*.

1. I live in Toronto.

*How long have you lived in Toronto?* \_\_\_\_\_

*I have lived in Toronto for 20 years.* \_\_\_\_\_

2. Jane works at a travel agency.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. Bill wears glasses.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. Mark and Sharon are married.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. I know Ben very well.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. Margaret has a bad cold.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. John owns a Toyota.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. The teacher is in the classroom now.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

9. Daniel and Sara are on vacation now.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

10. Andrea speaks English very well.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. Kerry believes in ghosts.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

12. The boss is angry at his secretary.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

13. The fridge is empty.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

14. I feel sick.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_