

PRESENT PERFECT

A

Study this example situation:



Tom is looking for his key. He can't find it.
He **has lost** his key.

He **has lost** his key = He lost it recently, and he still doesn't have it.

Have/has lost is the *present perfect simple*:

I/we/they/you have (= I've etc.)	finished
he/she/it has (= he's etc.)	lost done been etc.

The present perfect simple is **have/has + past participle**. The past participle often ends in **-ed** (finished/decided etc.), but many important verbs are *irregular* (**lost/done/written** etc.).

For a list of irregular verbs, see Appendix 1.

B

When we say that 'something **has happened**', this is usually new information:

- Ow! I've **cut** my finger.
- The road is closed. There's **been** (there **has been**) an accident.
- (from the news) Police **have arrested** two men in connection with the robbery.

When we use the present perfect, there is a connection with **now**. The action in the past has a result **now**:

- 'Where's your key?' 'I don't know. I've **lost** it.' (= I don't have it **now**)
- He told me his name, but I've **forgotten** it. (= I can't remember it **now**)
- 'Is Sally here?' 'No, she's **gone** out.' (= she is out **now**)
- I can't find my bag. **Have** you **seen** it? (= Do you know where it is **now**?)

C

Note the difference between **gone (to)** and **been (to)**:

- James is on holiday. He **has gone to** Italy. (= he is there now or on his way there)
- Jane is back home now. She **has been to** Italy. (= she has now come back)

D

You can use the present perfect with **just**, **already** and **yet**.

Just = a short time ago:

- 'Are you hungry?' 'No, I've **just had** lunch.'
- Hello. **Have** you **just arrived**?

We use **already** to say that something happened sooner than expected:

- 'Don't forget to pay your electricity bill.' 'I've **already paid** it.'
- 'What time is Mark leaving?' 'He's **already left**.'

Yet = until now. **Yet** shows that the speaker is expecting something to happen. Use **yet** only in questions and negative sentences:

- Has it stopped** raining **yet**?
- I've written the email, but I **haven't sent** it **yet**.

E

You can also use the past simple (**did**, **went**, **had** etc.) in the examples on this page. So you can say:

- 'Is Sally here?' 'No, she **went** out.' or 'No, she's **gone** out.'
- 'Are you hungry?' 'No, I **just had** lunch.' or 'No, I've **just had** lunch.'

Exercises

7.1 Read the situations and write sentences. Use the following verbs in the present perfect:

arrive break fall go up grow improve lose

- 1 Tom is looking for his key. He can't find it.
- 2 Lisa can't walk and her leg is in plaster.
- 3 Last week the bus fare was £1.80. Now it is £2.
- 4 Maria's English wasn't very good. Now it is better.
- 5 Dan didn't have a beard before. Now he has a beard.
- 6 This morning I was expecting a letter. Now I have it.
- 7 The temperature was 20 degrees. Now it is only 12.

Tom has lost his key.

Lisa

The bus fare

Her English

Dan

The letter

The

7.2 Put in been or gone.

- 1 James is on holiday. He's gone to Italy.
- 2 Hello! I've just gone to the shops. I've bought lots of things.
- 3 Alice isn't here at the moment. She's gone to the shop to get a newspaper.
- 4 Tom has gone out. He'll be back in about an hour.
- 5 'Are you going to the bank?' 'No, I've already gone to the bank.'

7.3 Complete B's sentences. Make sentences from the words in brackets.

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- 1 Would you like something to eat?
- 2 Do you know where Julia is?
- 3 What time is David leaving?
- 4 What's in the newspaper today?
- 5 Is Sue coming to the cinema with us?
- 6 Are your friends here yet?
- 7 What does Tim think about your plan?

B

No, thanks. I've just had lunch.
(I / just / have / lunch)

Yes,
(I / just / see / her)

(he / already / leave)

I don't know.
(I / not / read / it yet)

No,
(she / already / see / the film)

Yes,
(they / just / arrive)

(we / not / tell / him yet)

7.4 Read the situations and write sentences with just, already or yet.

- 1 After lunch you go to see a friend at her house. She says, 'Would you like something to eat?' You say: No thank you. I've just had lunch. (have lunch)
- 2 Joe goes out. Five minutes later, the phone rings and the caller says, 'Can I speak to Joe?' You say: I'm afraid (go out)
- 3 You are eating in a restaurant. The waiter thinks you have finished and starts to take your plate away. You say: Wait a minute! (not / finish)
- 4 You plan to eat at a restaurant tonight. You phoned to reserve a table. Later your friend says, 'Shall I phone to reserve a table?' You say: No, (do it)
- 5 You know that a friend of yours is looking for a place to live. Perhaps she has been successful. Ask her. You say: ? (find)
- 6 You are still thinking about where to go for your holiday. A friend asks, 'Where are you going for your holiday?' You say: (not / decide)
- 7 Linda went shopping, but a few minutes ago she returned. Somebody asks, 'Is Linda still out shopping?' You say: No, (come back)

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.



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**.

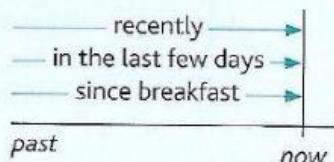
Been (to) = visited:

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

B

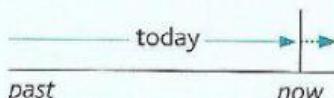
In the following examples too, the speakers are talking about a period that continues until now (**recently** / **in the last few days** / **so far** / **since breakfast** etc.):

- 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**.

**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**.

**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
been to the cinema

travelled by bus
read a book

eaten any fruit
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: