

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

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

A	B
1 Would you like something to eat?	No, thanks. <u>I've just had lunch.</u> (I / just / have / lunch)
2 Do you know where Julia is?	Yes, (I / just / see / her)
3 What time is David leaving? (he / already / leave)
4 What's in the newspaper today?	I don't know. (I / not / read / it yet)
5 Is Sue coming to the cinema with us?	No, (she / already / see / the film)
6 Are your friends here yet?	Yes, (they / just / arrive)
7 What does Tim think about your plan? (we / not / tell / him yet)

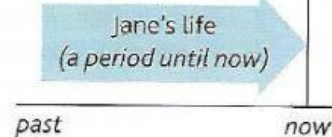
7.4 Read the situations and write sentences with **just**, **already** or **yet**.

- 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**.

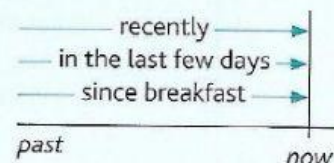
Been (to) = visited:

- ☐ 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.):

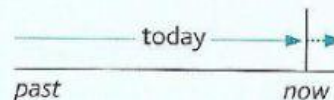
- ☐ **Have you heard** anything from Brian **recently**?
- ☐ I've **met** a lot of people **in the last few days**.
- ☐ Everything is going well. We **haven't had** any problems **so far**.
- ☐ I'm hungry. I **haven't eaten** anything **since breakfast**.
(= from breakfast until now)
- ☐ It's good to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

- | | |
|--|---|
| <p>A</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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? | <p>B</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 I've no idea. <u>I've never met</u> her. 2 Yes, we <u>haven't had</u> any problems so far. 3 Yes. I <u></u> much today. 4 Yes, but <u></u> for ages. 5 Yes, it's the best holiday <u></u> for a long time. 6 I don't know. <u></u> it. 7 I've no idea. <u></u> there. 8 Yes, it's the second time <u></u> this month. 9 I don't know. <u></u> it. 10 Again? He <u></u> late every day this week. 11 I don't know. <u></u> 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

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

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

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: