

How things have changed

Activity Type

Reading, writing, listening and speaking activity, pair/group work

Focus

Present perfect

Aim

To use the present perfect to discuss how things have changed in the last ten years.

Preparation

Make one copy of the worksheet for each student.

Level

Intermediate (B1)

Time

45 minutes

Introduction

In this present perfect speaking activity, students discuss how things have changed in the last ten years.

Procedure

Demonstrate the activity by writing the three column headings from the worksheet on the board.

Choose a topic from the worksheet, e.g. banking. Ask the students to think about how banking has changed in the last ten years. Discuss the topic with the class and try to get students to justify their opinions if necessary. After you have reached a class consensus, write the topic in the appropriate column.

Next, give each student a copy of the worksheet.

Tell the students to look at the topics in the box and think about how the things have changed in the last ten years.

Students then write their answers in the appropriate column in the chart marked 'You'. Students also make notes to justify their answers.

When everyone has finished, divide the students into pairs.

Explain that the students are going to use the present perfect to interview their partner and complete the second chart with their answers. Write the following question on the board:

How do you think ... has changed in the last ten years?

Model possible questions and answers with the class.

Example:

A: How do you think banking has changed in the last ten years?

B: I think banking has changed a lot. Banks have reduced their interest rates a great deal. People have also started to do their banking online.

Highlight the use of the present perfect in both the question and the answer.

Students then interview each other and mark down their partner's answers on the worksheet. When the students have finished interviewing each other, put the students into groups of four to discuss the topics they have put in different columns.

As an extension, have a class discussion to see if the students can reach a general consensus for each topic.

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A. Think about how the things in the box below have changed in the last ten years. Write your answers in the appropriate column below. Try to justify your answers.

Topics	
banking your personality TV shopping your interests and hobbies The Internet and websites your physical appearance music clothes and fashion	the weather mobile phones your social life food and drink dating education transportation your friendships your lifestyle

You		
has changed a lot in the last ten years	has changed a little in the last ten years	hasn't changed in the last ten years

B. Now, interview a partner about how things have changed using the present perfect tense, e.g. 'How do you think banking has changed in the last ten years?' Complete the chart below with your partner's answers.

Your partner		
has changed a lot in the last ten years	has changed a little in the last ten years	hasn't changed in the last ten years