

# 51 Present perfect with present results



## 1 Form

|                 | REGULAR VERBS |        |        | IRREGULAR VERBS |      |       |      |
|-----------------|---------------|--------|--------|-----------------|------|-------|------|
| infinitive      | visit         | play   | want   | break           | come | eat   | have |
| past participle | visited       | played | wanted | broken          | come | eaten | had  |

Past participles are either regular (infinitive + *-ed*) or irregular.

## 2 Use

We use the present perfect

- to talk about things that happened a short time ago and that have a result now:  
*I've broken my leg.* (It's broken now.)  
*Your sister has arrived.* (She's here now.)  
*The post has come.* (There's a letter for you.)  
*They've gone out.* (They aren't here.)

With the past simple, the results are also in the past:

*I broke my leg last year and didn't play football from August to October.*  
*My sister arrived late and missed the beginning of the film.*

- to introduce new information:  
*'Julian has passed his driving test.'* 'Oh, that's good news!'  
*The US President has arrived in London.*

When we give more details about these events, we use the past simple:

*Julian has passed his driving test. He took it yesterday.*  
*The US President has arrived in London. He flew here from Washington last night.*

## 3 been and gone

*Been* is the past participle of *be*. *Gone* is the past participle of *go*:

*I've been tired all day.* (And I'm still tired now.)  
*Fran has gone to the doctor's.* (And she's still there now.)



But we use *been* as the past participle of *go* when it means 'has gone and come back':

*My parents have been to New Zealand.* (They have visited it in the past and have returned.)  
*My parents have gone to New Zealand on holiday.* (They are there now.)

## Practice

### 1 Write the past participles of these verbs.

- |                                   |              |              |              |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|
| 0 break ..... <i>broken</i> ..... | 3 buy .....  | 6 eat .....  | 9 read ..... |
| 1 take .....                      | 4 have ..... | 7 run .....  | 10 see ..... |
| 2 go .....                        | 5 be .....   | 8 lose ..... |              |

### 2 Complete these conversations with participles from Exercise 1.

- 0 A Hi, you look happy!  
B Yes, we've just *been* on holiday. We had a great time!
- 1 A What's wrong with Jake? He wasn't at school today.  
B Well, he's ..... some bad food, I think. He feels ill and he's ..... to bed!
- 2 A Jenny's unhappy because she's ..... her bike.  
B I know. Don't tell her yet, but I've ..... her a new one.
- 3 A How good are your computer skills?  
B Well, I've ..... several lessons and I've ..... two exams.
- 4 A Hi, Sam, it's me. Is something wrong? You weren't at the gym yesterday.  
B Yes, I've ..... my leg, I'm afraid.

### 3 Match the sentences with the pictures. Then complete them with the verbs in brackets ().

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                               |                                           |                                     |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <p><b>A</b></p> <p>I'm really tired!</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | <p><b>B</b></p> <p>I can't take the exam.</p> | <p><b>C</b></p> <p>I feel sick.</p>       | <p><b>D</b></p> <p>Where is it?</p> |
| <p>0 I ..... to the dentist. (go) ..... <i>E</i> .....</p> <p>1 Harry ..... his arm. (break) .....</p> <p>2 Pat ..... the door. (paint) .....</p> <p>3 I ..... ten kilometres. (run) .....</p> <p>4 Louisa ..... her pen. (lose) .....</p> <p>5 Alex ..... too much! (eat) .....</p> | <p><b>E</b></p> <p>My mouth hurts.</p>        | <p><b>F</b></p> <p>That looks better.</p> |                                     |

### 4 Write two sentences for each set of words below.

- 0 famous footballer / buy / a royal palace / pay £2 million for it  
*A famous footballer has bought a royal palace. He paid £2 million for it.*
- 1 US President / arrive / in London / plane / land / two hours ago  
.....
- 2 TV star David Walliams / swim / English Channel for charity / take eleven hours  
.....
- 3 J K Rowling / write / a new book / finish it / twenty-four hours ago  
.....