

Present perfect

The present perfect is formed from the present tense of the verb have and the past participle of a verb. We use the present perfect:

- **for something that started in the past and continues in the present:**

They've been married for nearly fifty years.

She has lived in Liverpool all her life.

- **When we are talking about our experience up to the present:**

I've seen that film before.

I've played the guitar ever since I was a teenager.

He has written three books and he is working on another one.

- **We often use the adverb ever to talk about experience up to the present:**

My last birthday was the worst day I have ever had.

- **and we use never for the negative form:**

Have you ever met George?

Yes, but I've never met his wife.

Present perfect

Let's Practice

1. Sophie and I (**know**) _____ each other since we were at school together.
 2. I (**play**) _____ tennis since I was eight years old.
 3. Alain (**be**) _____ in hospital three times this year.
 4. I (**want**) _____ to be an actor for as long as I can remember.
 5. My uncle _____ (**smoke**) 40 cigarettes a day for 40 years – and he's a doctor!
 6. You (**have**) _____ that suit for more than ten years! Isn't it time to get a new one?
 7. Since he finished university, my brother (**work**) _____ in five different countries.
 8. Zerrin (**watch**) _____ that TV programme every week since it started.
 9. I (**never like**) _____ bananas. I think they're horrible
 10. What's the most interesting city you (**ever visit**) _____?
- **for something that happened in the past but is important in the present:**

I can't get in the house. I've lost my keys.

Teresa isn't at home. I think she has gone shopping.

Present perfect

HAVE BEEN AND HAVE GONE

- **We use have/has been when someone has gone to a place and returned:**

- a) Where have you been?
- b) I've just been out to the supermarket.

- a) Have you ever been to San Francisco?
- b) No, but I've been to Los Angeles.

- **But when someone has not returned, we use have/has gone:**

- a) Where's Maria? I haven't seen her for weeks.
- b) She's gone to Paris for a week. She'll be back tomorrow.

Let's Practice

A. Your hair looks nice. Have you ____ to the hairdresser's?

- Been
- Gone

B. Reginald's ____ to Istanbul on business five or six times this year.

- Been
- Gone

Present perfect

HAVE BEEN AND HAVE GONE

Present perfect with time adverbials

- **We often use the present perfect with adverbials which refer to the recent past:**

Recently

Just

Only Just

- a) Scientists have recently discovered a new breed of monkey.
 - b) We have just got back from our holidays.

- **or adverbials which include the present:**

So Far

Until Now

Up

To Now

Ever (in questions)

Yet (in questions and negatives)

- a) Have you ever seen a ghost?
 - b) Where have you been up to now?

- a) Have you finished your homework yet?
 - b) No, so far I've only done my history.

Present perfect

- After a clause with the present perfect we often use a clause with **since** to show when something started in the past:

- I've worked here since I left school.
- I've been watching that programme every week since it started.

BE CAREFUL!

- We DO NOT use the present perfect with **adverbials which refer to a finished past time**:

Yesterday	Last week/month/year in 2017	when I was younger
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etc.

- a) I **have seen** that film ~~yesterday~~.
- b) We **have just bought** a new car ~~last week~~.
- c) ~~When we were~~ children we **have been** to California.

- but we can use the present perfect with **adverbials which refer to a time which is not yet finished**:

Today	This week/month/year	Now that I am 18
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- a) **Have** you **seen** Helen today?
- b) We **have bought** a new car this week.

Present perfect

Let's Practice

- My grandparents moved to the United States IN 1968.
 - a) Finished past time
 - b) Not finished
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- They're still in the US, so they've lived there FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS.
 - a) Finished past time
 - b) Not finished
 - My grandparents came to visit us LAST WEEK.
 - a) Finished past time
 - b) Not finished
 - They've visited us every summer SINCE I WAS BORN.
 - a) Finished past time
 - b) Not finished
 - Sorry, Greg hasn't come to work TODAY. Can I take a message?
 - a) Finished past time
 - b) Not finished
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Present perfect

Who are they?
What have they done?
What has happened?

Linda has just walked outside with Grandmother. She wears an apron. So far, she has finished cleaning and washing. She has also gathered seeds and crumbs. Now Linda and Grandmother are outside. Linda has just dropped some seeds on the ground to feed the birds. The birds have not come yet.

Recently, Grandmother has moved in with Linda's family. She now enjoys living with them. Grandmother has already sat down on the bench. She also wears an apron. She has just finished cooking.

Who is she?
What has she done?
What has happened?

Recently, it has snowed in Maria's town. In the last week, it has snowed three times. Maria has always loved the snow. She has played in the snow many times before.

Maria's dog, Sparky, has never played in the snow. This is Sparky's first snow. He has not felt the cold yet.

Maria has just received a new sled for Christmas. She puts on her warm clothes and snow boots. She pulls the sled up the hill. Sparky has run outside with Maria. Sparky has followed Maria up the hill. He feels good!

Maria has finally reached the top. She sits on her sled. She rides down the hill. Sparky runs beside the sled. They have finally reached the bottom. Sparky has followed Maria all the way down the hill. Sparky has decided that he likes the snow too!