

PRESENT PERFECT

ACTIVITY TYPE

Reading, Writing, Grammar,
Exercises

LANGUAGE FOCUS

The present perfect

AIM

To learn and practice the
present perfect

LEVEL

Elementary, Intermediate

TIME

60 minutes

INTRODUCTION

After going through your regular review and teacher talk, tell the students that they're going to learn the present perfect in English

PREPARATION

Make one copy of the worksheet for each student

PROCEDURE

Give one copy of the worksheet to each student.
Go through the grammar and exercises together.

WRAPUP

Ask the students if they have any doubts.
Thank them for coming to the lesson.

Present Perfect

FORM Present Perfect

[HAS / HAVE] + [past participle]

EXAMPLES:

I have seen that movie many times.

I have never seen that movie.

NOTE: When you are using a verb tense with more than one part such as Present Perfect (have seen), adverbs usually come between the first part and the second part (have never seen).

USE 1 Unspecified Time Before Now



We use the Present Perfect to say that an action happened at an unspecified time before now. The exact time is not important. You CANNOT use the Present Perfect with time expressions such as

"yesterday," "one year ago," "last week," "when I was a child," "when I lived in Japan," "at that moment," "that day" or "one day." We CAN use the Present Perfect with expressions like "ever," "never," "once," "many times," "several times," "before," "so far," "already" and "yet."

EXAMPLES:

I have seen that movie twenty times.

I think I have met him once before.

There have been many earthquakes in California.

Has there ever been a war in the United States?

Yes, there has been a war in the United States.

People have traveled to the moon.

IMPORTANT How do you actually use the Present Perfect?

The concept of "unspecified time" can be very confusing to English learners. It is best to associate Present Perfect with the following topics:

TOPIC 1 Experience

You can use the Present Perfect to describe your experience. It is like saying, "I have the experience of..." You can also use this tense to say that you have never had a certain experience. The Present Perfect is NOT used to describe a specific event.

EXAMPLES:

I have been to France.

(This sentence means that you have the experience of being to France. Maybe you have been once, or several times.)

I have been to France three times.

(You can add the number of times at the end of the sentence.)

I have never been to France.

(This sentence means that you have not had the experience of going to France.)

I think I have seen that movie before.

He has never traveled by train.

Joan has studied two foreign languages.

Have you ever met him?

No, I have not met him.

TOPIC 2 Change Over Time

We often use the Present Perfect to talk about change that has happened over a period of time.

EXAMPLES:

You have grown since the last time I saw you.

The government has become more interested in arts education.

Japanese has become one of the most popular courses at the university since the Asian studies program was established.

My English has really improved since I moved to Australia.

TOPIC 3 Accomplishments

We often use the Present Perfect to list the accomplishments of individuals and humanity. You cannot mention a specific time.

EXAMPLES:

Man has walked on the moon.

Our son has learned how to read.

Doctors have cured many deadly diseases.

Scientists have split the atom.

TOPIC 4 An Uncompleted Action You Are Expecting

We often use the Present Perfect to say that an action which we expected has not happened. Using the Present Perfect suggests that we are still waiting for the action.

EXAMPLES:

James has not finished his homework yet.

Susan hasn't mastered Japanese, but she can communicate.

Bill has still not arrived.

The rain hasn't stopped.

TOPIC 5 Multiple Actions at Different Times

We also use the Present Perfect to talk about several different actions which occurred in the past at different times. Present Perfect suggests the process is not complete and more actions are possible.

EXAMPLES:

The army has attacked that city five times.

I have had four quizzes and five tests so far this semester.

We have had many major problems while working on this project.

She has talked to several specialists about her problem, but nobody knows why she is sick.

IMPORTANT

When we use the Present Perfect it means that something happened at some point in our lives before now. Remember, the exact time the action happened is not important.



Sometimes we want to limit the time we are looking in for an experience. Expressions such as "in the last week," "in the last year," "this week," "this month," "so far" and "up to now" can be used to narrow the time we are looking in for an experience.



EXAMPLES:

Have you been to Mexico *in the last year*.

I have seen that movie six times *in the last month*.

They have had three tests *in the last week*.

She graduated from university less three years ago. She has worked for three different companies *so far*.

This week my car has broken down three times.

NOTICE

"Last year" and "in the last year" are very different in meaning. "Last year" means the year before now. "In the last year" means from 365 days ago until now.

EXAMPLES:

I went to Mexico *last year*.

(I went to Mexico in 1998.)

I have been to Mexico *in the last year*.

(I have been to Mexico at least once at some point between 365 days ago and now. We do not know exactly when.)

USE 2 Duration From Past Until Now (Non-continuous Verbs)



With Non-continuous Verbs and some non-continuous uses of Mixed Verbs, we use the Present Perfect to show that something started in the past and has continued up until now. "For five minutes," "for two weeks" and "since Tuesday" are all durations which can be used with the Present Perfect.

EXAMPLES:

I have had a cold for two weeks.

She has been in England for six months.

Mary has loved chocolate since she was a little girl.

Exercises

EXERCISE 1.

Choose a verb from the box below and put it in the present perfect form

| | | | | | | | |
|-------|------|---------|-------|------|-----|------|------|
| Study | cook | play | visit | work | eat | wait | pass |
| sing | jump | welcome | wash | | | | |

e.g. They have studied medicine at the University

1. Paul _____ spaghetti for dinner.
2. George and his friends _____ water polo once.
3. Sheila _____ her little cousins this week.
4. My mother and father _____ always _____ a lot in their life.
5. Lucy _____ all the lemon ice-cream which was in the fridge.
6. Mark _____ his coach for two hours but it _____ yet.
7. David, Peter and John _____ in a church choir up to now.
8. Michael _____ his French and English friends.
9. They _____ the dishes.

EXERCISE 2.

Add a sentence. Use the present perfect.

e.g. There are no biscuits left. (We/eat/all)

We have eaten them all.

1. Sarah and Bill have a big new flat in the city centre.

(They/recently/buy)

2. She is happy now. (She/find/new job)

3. I can speak five languages. (I/live/in different continents)

4. It is really cold today. (It/rain/a lot)

5. Stephen has a bad headache. (He/drink/too much)

PRESENT PERFECT Vs PAST SIMPLE

EXERCISE 1.

Put the verb in the correct form, present perfect (I have done) or past simple (I did)

e.g. *I've drunk ten cups of coffee today.*

I drank ten cups of coffee yesterday

1. Marion(buy) a new handbag last evening.
2. I.....(lose) my key. I can't find it anywhere.
3. The motorbike looks very clean.(you/wash) it?
4. Why(Tom/not(come) to our party yesterday?
5. Jim and Lucy are married. They.....(be) married for 30 years.
6. The weather.....(be) in the last few days, don't you think?
7. Your hair is short.....(have) a haircut?
8. Tina lives in Italy. She(live) there all her life.
9. She doesn't know your sister. She.....(never/meet) her.
10. I.....(be) ill several times last winter.

EXERCISE 2.

Answer the following questions using the words in brackets

e.g. *When did you last play tennis (for three months)*

I haven't played tennis for three months

1. When did it last snow? (for ages)

It.....

2. When did I last come here? (since Monday)

I.....

3. When did you last play rugby? (for two years)

I.....

4. When did you last drink Moscato? (for a long time)

I.....

5. When did you last study? (since last Winter)

I.....

EXERCISE 1.

Complete the sentences by writing the correct form of the verb.

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|-------|------|
| Earn | buy | cost | meet | have |
| be | sell | lose | break | |

e.g. I went to Manchester yesterday .

1. My flat _____ £50.000 in 1976.
2. Last winter they _____ so much money that they _____ a boat.
3. The weather _____ very fine in the last few weeks.
4. Tom _____ all his paintings today.
5. I can't find my glasses. I _____ them.
6. I _____ my leg.
When _____ you _____ it?
7. It is the first time she _____ her boss outside the office.
8. (you/have) _____ a holiday this year?

EXERCISE 2.

Complete the following questions by using the correct form of the verb in bracket.

e.g. Have you ever been to Scotland?

1. _____ she _____ doing the cleaning yet?
(finish)
2. _____ they _____ their grandparents last
summer? (visit)
3. _____ you ever _____ to the USA? (be)
4. When _____ he last _____ his brother?
(meet)
5. What _____ the weather like in Rome last month?