

PRESENT PERFECT TENSE (Part I)

Tom is looking for his key. He can't find it. He **has lost** his key

He **has lost** his key = He has lost it and he still hasn't got it

Have/has lost is the *present perfect tense*

I/we/they/you

have

(=I've, we've, etc)

finished

lost

He/she/it

have

(=he's, she's, etc)

...done

...been, etc

The present perfect is **have/has** + *past participle*. The past participle often ends in **-ed** (finished/decided, etc.) but many important verbs are *irregular* (**lost/done/been/written**, etc.)

When we use the present perfect there is always 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 haven't got 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*)

We often use the present perfect to give new information or to announce a recent happening:

- Ow! I've cut my finger
- The road is closed. There's **been**(= there has been) an accident
- (from the news) The police **has arrested** two men in connection with the robbery

You can use the present perfect then with, **just, already and yet**:

<p>JUST= `a short time ago':</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • `Would you like something to eat? • 'Hello! Have you just arrived? 	<p>No,thanks.I've just had lunch</p> <p>Yes, I've just arrived!</p>
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We use already to say that something happened sooner than expected.	
• `Don't forget to post the letter !	`I've already posted it'
• `What time is Mark leaving?'	`He's already gone'

YET = `until now' and 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 letter but I haven't post it yet

Note the difference between **gone (to)** and **been (to)**

- Jim is away on holidays. He **has gone to** Spain. (= he is there now or on his way there)
- Jane is back home from holiday now. She **has been to** Italy (= she has now come back from Italy)

EXERCISES

1.– You are writing a letter to a friend. In the letter you give news about you and other people. Use the words given to make sentences. Use the Present Perfect Tense:

Dear Chris,

Many things have happened since I last wrote you.

I/buy/a new car
My father/start/ a new job
I/give up/smoking
Charles and Sarah/go/to Brazil
Suzanne/have / a baby

2.Read the situations and write sentences. Choose one of the following

arrive break go up improve lose

Mike is looking for his key.He can't find it	<i>He has lost his key</i>
Margaret can't walk with her leg in plaster	
Maria's English wasn't very good. Now it is much better	
Tim didn't have a beard last month. Now has has a beard	
This morning I was expecting a letter. Now I have it	
Last week the bus fare was \$200. Now it's \$300	

3.Complete B's sentences. Use the verb in brackets () + **just/already/yet**

A B

Would you like something to eat?	No,thanks. I've just had lunch(<i>just/ have</i>)
Do you know where Julia is?	Yes, I her(<i>just/see</i>)
What time is David leaving?	He (<i>already/leave</i>)
What's in the newspaper today?	I don't know. I (<i>not/read/yet</i>)
Is Anne coming to the cinema with us?	No,she the film(<i>already/see</i>)
Are your friend here yet?	Yes, they (<i>just/arrive</i>)
What does Tim thinks about the plan?	I (<i>not/tell/yet</i>)

PRESENT PERFECT (PART II)

Study this example conversation:

Dave: Have you travelled a lot, Jane?	
Jane: Yes, I've been to lots of places	
Dave: 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	Past Now

When we talk about a period of time that continues from the past until now, we use the present **perfect tense** (**have been**/have travelled, etc)

More examples:

- Have you ever eaten caviar? (in your life)
- We've never had a car
- Have you read Romeo and Juliet? No, I have never read any Shakespeare's plays
- Susan really loves that film. She has seen it 8 times

Exercises

You are asking someone questions about the things he or she has done. Make questions from the words in brackets()

- (ever/ride/horse? Have you ever ridden a horse?)
- (ever/be/California?)
- (ever/run/marathon')
- (ever/speak/famous person?)
- (always/live/in this city')
- (ever/be/Antartic?)
- (ever/be/Zoo')
- (ever/be/arrested by police?)
- (ever/visit/a museum?)
- (ever/fly/an helicopter?)
- (ever/see/Charles Chaplin's movie?)
- (ever/be/severely injured?)

- (ever/stay up/6am?)
- (ever/see/dolphin?)
- (ever/eat/chocolate cake')
- (ever/drive/drunk?)
- (ever/wear/glasses?)
- (ever/be/in hurricane?)
- (ever/ride/a camel')
- (ever/sail/a transatlantic?)
- (ever/see/Matrix?)

PRESENT PERFECT TENSE (Part III)

SINCE & FOR

SINCE		FOR	
8 o'clock	1977	Two hours	A week
Monday	Christmas	20 minutes	50 years
May 12th	Lunchtime	five days	a long time
April	They were at school	six months	ages

Exercises

I haven't seen you	Christmas/three days
We've been here	And hour / January
She hasn't spoken to me	More than two years/last week
They have lived in this street	1919/the last 10 years/ a long time
I haven't had time to do it	I was ill/ last monday
We haven't bought any new ones	A week/ages/then
There hasnt been famine here	Centuries/the Middle Ages
I haven't eaten any meat	Over a year/ I was a boy
Nobody has written to me	Many weeks/my birthday
You've asked the same question every day	The beginning of the year/the last week
She has worn the same old dress	At least a month/the beginning of the month
I havent spoken Spanish	1925/ ten years
I haven't ridden a bike	I was a boy/ my childhood
It hasnt rained here	Yesterday/ March

Jane's life

(a period until now)