

The Present Perfect

Part 1

WHEN DO WE USE THE PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE?

1. For actions which happened at an **indefinite time** in the past but we don't mention exactly when as the exact time is not important. These actions often have consequences in the present.
Peter has broken his leg. (He can't walk now.)
2. For actions which happened in the past but we don't mention an **exact time**.
He has seen that film.
3. Recent actions completed a short time ago (or where we expect the results to be imminent) where results are often visible in the present. In this case we usually use **just, already** and **yet**.
Carlos has just finished his homework.
Have you done your homework yet?
Maria has already tidied her room.
4. Experiences that we have or haven't had in our lives, there is not a definite time given - "up to now". In this case we use **ever** and **never**.
Have you ever been to Gabon?
I have never been to Spain.
5. For an action that began in the past and is related to **now**: often used with **Since** and **For**.
I have taught at this school for three years.
6. When we talk about how many times we have repeated an action:
Stella has seen that film four times.
7. When we talk about how much we have completed.
I've written 2 pages of my composition.
8. When we talk about a time period that is not finished such as this morning, this month, today, this afternoon.
I have seen him today.

FORM:

+ Affirmative

subject + have / has + past participle of the main verb
I / You / We / They have completed the task.
He / She / It has completed the test.

- Negative

subject + haven't / hasn't + past participle of the main verb
I / You / We / They haven't eaten lunch.
He / She / It hasn't eaten lunch.

? Interrogative

Affirmative

Have / has + subject + past participle of the main verb
Have I / you / we / they been here long?
Has he / she / it been here long?

Negative

Haven't / hasn't + subject + past participle of the main verb
Haven't I / you / we / they been here before?
Hasn't he / she / it been here before?

Short Answers

Examples:

Q: Have you closed the door?
A: Yes, I have / No, I haven't.
Q: Has she left the party?
A: Yes, she has. / No, she hasn't.

Some Time Signal Words

THIS MORNING / THIS WEEK / THIS MONTH / THIS YEAR / TODAY / ETC...

Use: Affirmative, negative and interrogative. These expressions are used when the period of time is unfinished at the time of speaking.

Word Order: At the end or at the beginning of the sentence. With the interrogative it appears at the end of the sentence.

Example: Have you read the newspaper this morning? (It is before 12:00 midday.)

Note the difference:

Did you read the newspaper this morning? (It is after 12:00 midday.)

FOR

Use: Affirmative and negative sentences. It refers to the duration of the action – a period of time.

Word Order: Before 'the period of time'.

Example: I have taught at this school **for** two years.

SINCE

Use: Affirmative and negative sentences. It refers to the starting point of the action.

Word Order: Before 'the action or time'.

Example: They have lived in South Africa **since** 1994.
I have spoken French **since** I was a child.

EVER

Use: Interrogatives. We use it in questions about experiences that have / haven't happened at any time up to the present.

Word Order: Between have / has + subject and the past participle (that is before the past participle).

Example: Have you ever driven a sports car?

NEVER

Use: Affirmative - has a negative meaning. We use it to say that something hasn't happened at any time up to the present

Word Order: Between have / has and the past participle (that is before the past participle).

Example: I have **never** jumped off a bridge.

LATELY

Use: Affirmative, negative and interrogative.

Word Order: At the end of the sentence.

Example: I haven't been to the cinema **lately**.

RECENTLY

Use: Affirmative, negative and interrogative.

Word Order: Between have / has and the past participle or at the end of the sentence.

Example: He has **recently** bought a new car.

JUST

Use: Affirmative. We use it to talk about something that was completed / happened recently.

Word Order: Between have / has + subject and the past participle (that is before the past participle).

Example: The man has just had an accident.

YET

Use: In negatives and interrogatives.

In negative sentences – shows that an action has not happened but that we think it will happen.

Word Order: At the end of the sentence.

Example: She hasn't eaten **yet**.

ALREADY

Use: Affirmative sentences.

Shows that an action was completed before the time of speaking, sometimes before it was expected to happen.

Word Order: Between have / has and the past participle.

Example: She has **already** paid the fee.

Rules For Forming The Past Participle

For most regular verbs add **-ed** **Example:** walk - walked

Spelling Rules:

Regular verbs ending with -e add **-d** **Example:** live - lived

Regular verbs ending with a -y preceded by a vowel add **-ed** **Example:** play - played

Regular verbs ending with a -y preceded by a consonant change the **y** to **i** then add **-ed** **Example:** cry - cried

Regular verbs ending with a double the final consonant before adding **-ed**

Exercises

1. Complete the sentences using the present perfect as in the example.

- They _____ (BUY) a new house.
They have bought a new house.
- Carlos _____ (VISIT) San Diego three times.
- Thomas _____ (LOSE) his passport.
- Stella _____ (DO) her homework.
- They _____ (GO) to the cinema.
- Michael _____ (SEE) Diane today.
- Maria _____ (IRON) her dress.

2. Make present perfect questions with 'ever' using the clues.

- ride / an elephant ?
Have you ever ridden an elephant?
- eat / raw meat ?

- spend / a day in prison ?

- go / fishing ?

- been / to Cape Town ?

- drive / a bus ?

3. Complete the sentences with a word from the box.

since already ago just
ever for never yet still

- We have lived in this house _____ a long time.
- I haven't seen Sam _____ last week.
- He doesn't want to have lunch. He has _____ eaten.
- Vanda has _____ been to Spain, but she would like to go there.
- Mary hasn't arrived _____, but she should be here soon.

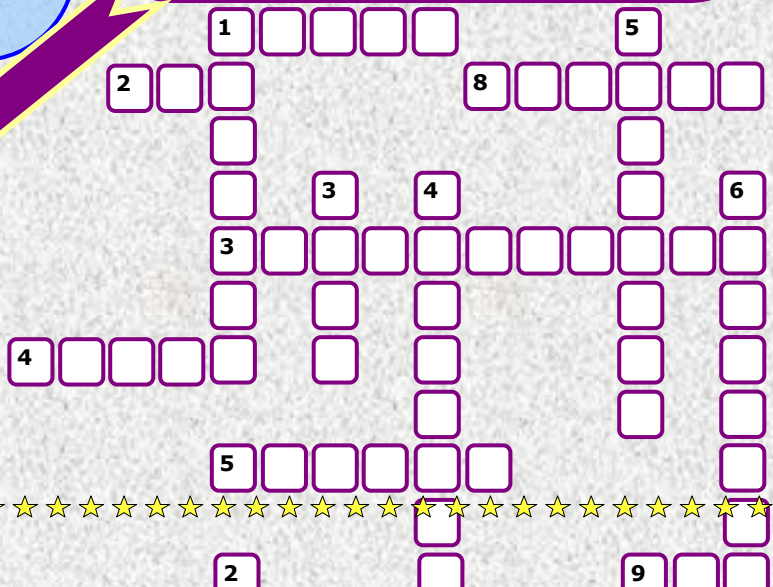
Crossword Puzzle

4. Use the sentences to complete the crossword puzzle. **DOWN**

- Michael hasn't _____ (stop) smoking yet.
- The plane has _____ (fly) into a storm.
- The boxer has _____ (lose) the fight against his opponent.
- Thomas hasn't _____ (complete) his homework.
- Valdimar has _____ (forgive) his girlfriend for cheating on him.
- The soldiers have _____ (advance) against their enemy.

ACROSS

- Joseph isn't feeling well. He hasn't _____ (sleep) well for three nights.
- My father has accidentally _____ (cut) his finger with a sharp knife.
- The secretary hasn't _____ (photocopy) the document for her boss.
- The little boy has _____ (cry) without stopping since he lost his toy.
- Stephan has just _____ (break) her favourite ornament and is very upset.
- Stephen has never _____ (play)



5. Write the questions to fit the following answers. Use the word in brackets in your question.

- Q: **Have you just woken up?** (just)
A: Yes, I woke up five minutes ago.
- Q: _____ (yet)
A: Yes, I had breakfast at 6 o'clock.
- Q: _____ (ever)
A: Yes, I broke my leg last year.
- Q: _____
(already)
A: Yes, I have made the dinner. I finished it earlier than usual.
- Q: _____
(recently)
A: No, I haven't been to a zoo since I was twelve.
- Q: _____ (ever)
A: No, Steve has never played football.

6. Circle the correct word from those given in bold. Write the questions to fit the following answers.

- They have **eat/ are eating / eaten** two apples each.
- He has always **smokes / smoked / smoking** twenty cigarettes a day!
- My sister has just **makes / making / made** a chicken sandwich.
- Jessie has already **washes / washed / washing** up after dinner.
- Charles has **paid / pays / pay** the bill in the restaurant.
- The dog has **jump / jumping / jumped** over the stream.
- Sam has just **calling / calls / called** me on my phone to invite me to a party.
- Freda has never **being / be / been** to Brazil.

7. Complete with 'already' or 'yet' as in the example.

- I'm not hungry. I have _____ had dinner.
I'm not hungry. I have **already** had dinner.
- They haven't gone to sleep _____.
- Sally has _____ done her homework.
- Have you been to the park _____?
- Adam has _____ visited Italy.

REMEMBER!!

We use "for" when we refer to a period of time.

Example:

I have attended this school for three months.

We use "Since" to refer to when things began.

Example:

I've lived in Ireland since 2009.

8. Extend the sentences. Use the example to help you.

- He is repairing the broken television.
- The children are playing in the garden.
- Charlotte is running to the chemist.
- My father is having a shower.
- Bruno is washing his new car.
- Vera is answering the letter from her friend.
- John is brushing his teeth.
- Carey is writing her final tests.

He has repaired the broken television.



REMEMBER!!

Add **-ed** to the root form of regular verbs to form the past participle.

BUT-Remember the spelling rules!!
Irregular verbs don't follow this pattern.

Examples:

(regular verb) walk- worked - worked
(irregular verb) fly flew flown

9. Complete with 'for' or 'since' as in the example.

1. Tom has attended this university _____ three years.
Tom has attended this university **for** three years.
2. Emmie has studied English _____ she was twelve.
3. Branka has had 'flu _____ 3 days.
4. They have lived in that house _____ 1994.

ANSWER KEY

1.

- b. Carlos has visited San Diego three times.
- c. Thomas has lost his passport.
- d. Stella has done her homework.
- e. They have gone to the cinema.
- f. Michael has seen Diane today.
- g. Maria has ironed her dress.

2.

- b. Have you ever eaten raw meat?
- c. Have you ever spent a day in prison?
- d. Have you ever gone fishing?
- e. Have you ever been to Cape Town?
- f. Have you ever driven a bus?

3.

- a. We have lived in this house for a long time.
- b. I have't seen Sam sice last week.
- c. He doesn't want to have lunch. He has already eaten.
- d. Vanda has never been to Spain, but she would like to go there.
- e. Mary hasn't arrived yet, but she should be here soon.

4.

DOWN

1. stopped 2. flown 3. lost 4. completed 5. forgiven 6. advanced

ACROSS

1. slept 2. cut 3. photocopied 4. cried 5. broken 6. played
7. written 8. thrown 9. had

5.

2. Q: Have you had breakfast yet?
3. Q: Have you ever broken your leg?
4. Q: Have you made dinner already?
5. Q: Have you been to a zoo recently?
6. Q: Has Steve ever played football?

6.

2. smoked 3. made 4. washed 5. paid 6. jumped 7. called 8. been



7.

- 2. yet 3, already 4. yet 5. already

8.

- 2. The children have played in the garden.
- 3. Charlotte has run to the chemist.
- 4. My father has had a shower.
- 5. Bruno has washed his new car.
- 6. Vera has answered the letter from her friend.
- 7. John has brushed his teeth.
- 8. Carey has written her final tests.

9.

- 2. since 3. for 4. since

