

Present perfect 1 (I have done)

A Study this example situation:



Tom is looking for his key. He can't find it.
He has lost his key.
He has lost his key = He lost it recently, and he still doesn't have it.

Have/has lost is the *present perfect simple*:

I/we/they/you	have (= I've etc.)	finished lost
he/she/it	has (= he's etc.)	done been etc.

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

For a list of irregular verbs, see Appendix 1.

B When we say that 'something has happened', this is usually new information:

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

When we use the present perfect, there is 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 don't have 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*)
- I can't find my bag. Have you seen it? (= Do you know where it is *now*?)

C You can use the present perfect with **just**, **already** and **yet**.

Just = a short time ago:

- 'Are you hungry?' 'No, I've just had lunch.'
- Hello. Have you just arrived?

We use **already** to say that something happened sooner than expected:

- 'Don't forget to send the letter.' 'I've already sent it.'
- 'What time is Mark leaving?' 'He's already gone.'

Yet = until now. **Yet** 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 sent it yet.

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

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

Present perfect → Units 8, 11 Been to → Units 8A, 126B Present perfect continuous → Units 9-10
Present perfect and past → Units 12-14 Yet and already → Unit 11 American English → Appendix 7

7.1 Read the situations and write sentences. Use the following verbs:

arrive break fall go up grow improve lose

- | | |
|---|----------------------------|
| 1 Tom is looking for his key. He can't find it. | He has lost his key. |
| 2 Margaret can't walk and her leg is in plaster. | She |
| 3 Last week the bus fare was 80 pence. Now it is 90. | The bus fare |
| 4 Maria's English wasn't very good. Now it is better. | Her English |
| 5 Dan didn't have a beard before. Now he has a beard. | He |
| 6 This morning I was expecting a letter. Now I have it. | The letter |
| 7 The temperature was 20 degrees. Now it is only 12. | The |

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

<p>A</p> <p>1 Would you like something to eat?</p> <p>2 Do you know where Julia is?</p> <p>3 What time is David leaving?</p> <p>4 What's in the newspaper today?</p> <p>5 Is Sue coming to the cinema with us?</p> <p>6 Are your friends here yet?</p> <p>7 What does Tim think about your plan?</p>	<p>B</p> <p>1 No, thanks. <u>I've just had lunch.</u> (I / just / have / lunch)</p> <p>2 Yes, (I / just / see / her)</p> <p>3 (he / already / leave)</p> <p>4 I don't know. (I / not / read / it yet)</p> <p>5 No, (she / already / see / the film)</p> <p>6 Yes, (they / just / arrive)</p> <p>7 (we / not / tell / him yet)</p>
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7.3 Read the situations and write sentences with **just**, **already** or **yet**.

- 1 After lunch you go to see a friend at her house. She says, 'Would you like something to eat?'
You say: No thank you. I've just had lunch. (have lunch)
- 2 Joe goes out. Five minutes later, the phone rings and the caller says, 'Can I speak to Joe?'
You say: I'm afraid (go out)
- 3 You are eating in a restaurant. The waiter thinks you have finished and starts to take your plate away. You say: Wait a minute! (not / finish)
- 4 You are going to a restaurant tonight. You phone to reserve a table. Later your friend says, 'Shall I phone to reserve a table?' You say: No, (do it)
- 5 You know that a friend of yours is looking for a place to live. Perhaps she has been successful. Ask her. You say: ? (find)
- 6 You are still thinking about where to go for your holiday. A friend asks, 'Where are you going for your holiday?' You say: (not / decide)
- 7 Linda went to the bank, but a few minutes ago she returned. Somebody asks, 'Is Linda still at the bank?' You say: No, (come back)

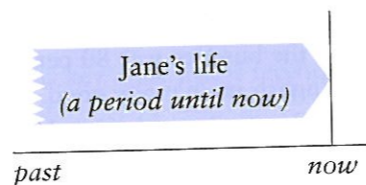
7.4 Put in **been** or **gone**.

- 1 Jim is on holiday. He's gone to Italy.
- 2 Hello! I've just to the shops. I've bought lots of things.
- 3 Alice isn't here at the moment. She's to the shop to get a newspaper.
- 4 Tom has out. He'll be back in about an hour.
- 5 'Are you going to the bank?' 'No, I've already to the bank.'

Present perfect 2 (I have done)

A Study this example conversation:

DAVE: Have you travelled a lot, Jane?
 JANE: Yes, I've been to lots of places.
 DAVE: Really? 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.



When we talk about a period of time that continues from the past until now, we use the *present perfect* (have been / have travelled etc.). Here, Dave and Jane are talking about the places Jane has visited in her life (which is a period that continues until now).

Some more examples:

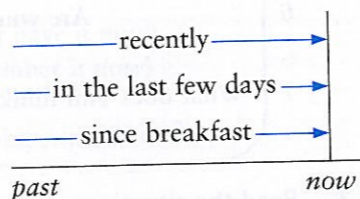
- Have you ever eaten caviar? (in your life)
- We've never had a car.
- 'Have you read Hamlet?' 'No, I haven't read any of Shakespeare's plays.'
- Susan really loves that film. She's seen it eight times!
- What a boring film! It's the most boring film I've ever seen.

Been (to) = visited:

- I've never been to China. Have you been there?

In the following examples too, the speakers are talking about a period that continues until now (recently / in the last few days / so far / since breakfast etc.):

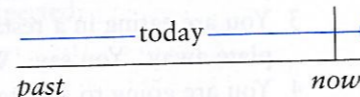
- Have you heard from Brian recently?
- I've met a lot of people in the last few days.
- Everything is going well. We haven't had any problems so far.
- I'm hungry. I haven't eaten anything since breakfast. (= from breakfast until now)
- It's good to see you again. We haven't seen each other for a long time.



B

We use the present perfect with *today / this evening / this year* etc. when these periods are not finished at the time of speaking (see also Unit 14B):

- I've drunk four cups of coffee today.
- Have you had a holiday this year (yet)?
- I haven't seen Tom this morning. Have you?
- Rob hasn't studied very hard this term.



C

We say: It's the (first) time something has happened. For example:

- Don is having a driving lesson. It's his first one. It's the first time he has driven a car. (not drives)
- or He has never driven a car before.
- Sarah has lost her passport again. This is the second time this has happened. (not happens)
- Bill is phoning his girlfriend again. That's the third time he's phoned her this evening.



Present perfect 1 → Unit 7 Present perfect + for/since → Units 11-12
 Present perfect and past → Units 12-14

8.1 You are asking people questions about things they have done. Make questions with *ever* using the words in brackets.

- 1 (ride / horse?) Have you ever ridden a horse?
- 2 (be / California?) Have
- 3 (run / marathon?)
- 4 (speak / famous person?)
- 5 (most beautiful place / visit?) What's

8.2 Complete B's answers. Some sentences are positive and some negative. Use the following verbs:

be be eat happen have ~~meet~~ play read see see try

A	B
1 What's Mark's sister like?	I've no idea. <u>I've never met</u> her.
2 How is Diane these days?	I don't know. I her recently.
3 Are you hungry?	Yes. I much today.
4 Can you play chess?	Yes, but for ages.
5 Are you enjoying your holiday?	Yes, it's the best holiday for a long time.
6 What's that book like?	I don't know. it.
7 Is Brussels an interesting place?	I've no idea. there.
8 Mike was late for work again today.	Again? He late every day this week.
9 Do you like caviar?	I don't know. it.
10 I hear your car broke down again yesterday.	Yes, it's the second time this week.
11 Who's that woman by the door?	I don't know. her before.

8.3 Complete the sentences using *today / this year / this term* etc.

- 1 I saw Tom yesterday, but I haven't seen him today
- 3 I read a newspaper yesterday, but I today.
- 4 Last year the company made a profit, but this year
- 4 Tracy worked hard at school last term, but
- 5 It snowed a lot last winter, but
- 6 Our football team won a lot of games last season, but we

8.4 Read the situations and write sentences as shown in the example.

- 1 Jack is driving a car, but he's very nervous and not sure what to do.
 You ask: Have you driven a car before?
 He says: No, this is the first time I've driven a car.
- 2 Ben is playing tennis. He's not good at it and he doesn't know the rules.
 You ask: Have
- 3 Sue is riding a horse. She doesn't look very confident or comfortable.
 You ask:
- 4 Maria is in London. She has just arrived and it's very new for her.
 You ask:

Present perfect continuous (I have been doing)

A

It has been raining

Study this example situation:



Is it raining?
No, but the ground is wet.
It has been raining.

Have/has been -ing is the *present perfect continuous*:

I/we/they/you	have (= I've etc.)	been	doing
he/she/it	has (= he's etc.)		waiting playing etc.

We use the present perfect continuous for an activity that has recently stopped or just stopped. There is a connection with *now*:

- You're out of breath. **Have you been running?** (= you're out of breath *now*)
- Paul is very tired. **He's been working** very hard. (= he's tired *now*)
- Why are your clothes so dirty? **What have you been doing?**
- I've **been talking** to Amanda about the problem and she agrees with me.
- Where have you been? **I've been looking** for you everywhere.

B

It has been raining for two hours.

Study this example situation:



It began raining two hours ago and it is still raining.
How long has it **been raining**?
It **has been raining** for two hours.

We use the present perfect continuous in this way with **how long, for ... and since ...**. The activity is still happening (as in this example) or has just stopped.

- How long have you been learning** English? (= you're still learning English)
- Tim is still watching television. **He's been watching** television all day.
- Where have you been? **I've been looking** for you for the last half hour.
- Chris **hasn't been feeling** well recently.

You can use the present perfect continuous for actions repeated over a period of time:

- Debbie is a very good tennis player. **She's been playing** since she was eight.
- Every morning they meet in the same café. **They've been going** there for years.

C

Compare I am doing (see Unit 1) and I have been doing:

<p>I am doing <i>present continuous</i></p> <p>↓</p> <p><i>now</i></p>	<p>I have been doing <i>present perfect continuous</i></p> <p>↓</p> <p><i>now</i></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Don't disturb me now. I'm working. <input type="checkbox"/> We need an umbrella. It's raining. <input type="checkbox"/> Hurry up! We're waiting. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> I've been working hard. Now I'm going to have a break. <input type="checkbox"/> The ground is wet. It's been raining. <input type="checkbox"/> We've been waiting for an hour.

9.1 What have these people been doing or what has been happening?

<p>1</p> <p><i>earlier</i> <i>now</i></p> <p>They <u>'ve been shopping.</u></p>	<p>2</p> <p><i>earlier</i> <i>now</i></p> <p>She</p>
<p>3</p> <p><i>earlier</i> <i>now</i></p> <p>They</p>	<p>4</p> <p><i>earlier</i> <i>now</i></p> <p>He</p>

9.2 Write a question for each situation.

- 1 You meet Paul as he is leaving the swimming pool.
You ask: (you / swim?) Have you been swimming?
- 2 You have just arrived to meet a friend who is waiting for you.
You ask: (you / wait / long?)
- 3 You meet a friend in the street. His face and hands are very dirty.
You ask: (what / you / do?)
- 4 A friend of yours is now working in a shop. You want to know how long.
You ask: (how long / you / work / there?)
- 5 A friend tells you about his job - he sells computers. You want to know how long.
You ask: (how long / you / sell / computers?)

9.3 Read the situations and complete the sentences.

- 1 It's raining. The rain started two hours ago.
It 's been raining for two hours.
- 2 We are waiting for the bus. We started waiting 20 minutes ago.
We for 20 minutes.
- 3 I'm learning Spanish. I started classes in December.
I since December.
- 4 Mary is working in London. She started working there on 18 January.
..... since 18 January.
- 5 Our friends always spend their holidays in Italy. They started going there years ago.
..... for years.

9.4 Put the verb into the present continuous (I am -ing) or present perfect continuous (I have been -ing).

- 1 Maria has been learning (Maria / learn) English for two years.
- 2 Hello, Tom. (I / look) for you. Where have you been?
- 3 Why (you / look) at me like that? Stop it!
- 4 Linda is a teacher. (she / teach) for ten years.
- 5 (I / think) about what you said and I've decided to take your advice.
- 6 'Is Paul on holiday this week?' 'No, (he / work).'
- 7 Sarah is very tired. (she / work) very hard recently.

Present perfect continuous and simple (I have been doing and I have done)

A Study this example situation:



Kate's clothes are covered in paint. She **has been painting** the ceiling.

Has been painting is the *present perfect continuous*.

We are interested in the activity. It does not matter whether something has been finished or not. In this example, the activity (painting the ceiling) has not been finished.



The ceiling was white. Now it is red. She **has painted** the ceiling.

Has painted is the *present perfect simple*.

Here, the important thing is that something has been finished. **Has painted** is a completed action. We are interested in the result of the activity (the painted ceiling), not the activity itself.

Compare these examples:

- My hands are very dirty. I've **been repairing** the car.
- Joe **has been eating** too much recently. He should eat less.
- It's nice to see you again. What **have you been doing** since we last met?
- Where have you been? **Have you been playing** tennis?

- The car is OK again now. I've **repaired** it.
- Somebody **has eaten** all my chocolates. The box is empty.
- Where's the book I gave you? What **have you done** with it?
- Have you ever played** tennis?

B

We use the continuous to say *how long* (for an activity that is still happening):

- How long **have you been reading** that book?
- Lisa is still writing letters. She's **been writing** letters all day.
- They've **been playing** tennis since 2 o'clock.
- I'm learning Spanish, but I **haven't been learning** it very long.

We use the simple to say *how much*, *how many* or *how many times* (for completed actions):

- How much of that book **have you read**?
- Lisa **has written** ten letters today.
- They've **played** tennis three times this week.
- I'm learning Spanish, but I **haven't learnt** very much yet.

C

Some verbs (for example, know/like/believe) are not normally used in the continuous:

- I've **known** about it for a long time. (*not* I've been knowing)

For a list of these verbs, see Unit 4A. But note that you *can* use **want** and **mean** in the present perfect continuous:

- I've **been meaning** to phone Jane, but I keep forgetting.

Present perfect simple → Units 7-8 Present perfect continuous → Unit 9
Present perfect + for/since → Units 11-12

10.1 For each situation, write two sentences using the words in brackets.

- 1 Tom started reading a book two hours ago. He is still reading it and now he is on page 53.
(read / for two hours) He has been reading for two hours.
(read / 53 pages so far) He has read 53 pages so far.
- 2 Rachel is from Australia. She is travelling round Europe at the moment. She began her trip three months ago.
(travel / for three months) She
- (visit / six countries so far)
- 3 Patrick is a tennis player. He began playing tennis when he was ten years old. This year he is national champion again – for the fourth time.
(win / the national championships / four times)
- (play / tennis since he was ten)
- 4 When they left college, Lisa and Sue started making films together. They still make films.
(make / five films since they left college) They
- (make / films since they left college)

10.2 For each situation, ask a question using the words in brackets.

- 1 You have a friend who is learning Arabic. You ask:
(how long / learn / Arabic?) How long have you been learning Arabic?
- 2 You have just arrived to meet a friend. She is waiting for you. You ask:
(wait / long?) Have
- 3 You see somebody fishing by the river. You ask:
(catch / any fish?)
- 4 Some friends of yours are having a party next week. You ask:
(how many people / invite?)
- 5 A friend of yours is a teacher. You ask:
(how long / teach?)
- 6 You meet somebody who is a writer. You ask:
(how many books / write?)
- (how long / write / books?)
- 7 A friend of yours is saving money to go on holiday. You ask:
(how long / save?)
- (how much money / save?)

10.3 Put the verb into the more suitable form, present perfect simple (I have done) or continuous (I have been doing).

- 1 Where have you been? Have you been playing (you / play) tennis?
- 2 Look! (somebody / break) that window.
- 3 You look tired. (you / work) hard?
- 4 '..... (you / ever / work) in a factory?' 'No, never.'
- 5 'Liz is away on holiday.' 'Is she? Where (she / go)?'
- 6 My brother is an actor. (he / appear) in several films.
- 7 'Sorry I'm late.' 'That's all right. (I / not / wait) long.'
- 8 'Is it still raining?' 'No, (it / stop).'
- 9 (I / lose) my address book. (you / see) it?
- 10 (I / read) the book you lent me, but (I / not / finish) it yet. It's very interesting.
- 11 (I / read) the book you lent me, so you can have it back now.

How long have you (been) ... ?

A Study this example situation:



Dan and Jenny are married. They got married exactly 20 years ago, so today is their 20th wedding anniversary.

They have been married for 20 years.

We say: They are married. (*present*)

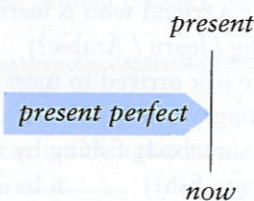
but How long have they been married? (*present perfect*)
(not How long are they married?)

They have been married for 20 years.

(not They are married for 20 years)

We use the *present perfect* to talk about something that began in the past and still continues now. Compare the *present* and the *present perfect*:

- Bill is in hospital.
- but He has been in hospital since Monday.
(not Bill is in hospital since Monday)
- Do you know each other well?
- but Have you known each other for a long time?
(not Do you know)
- She's waiting for somebody.
- but She's been waiting all morning.
- Do they have a car?
- but How long have they had their car?



B I have known/had/lived etc. is the *present perfect simple*.
I have been learning / been waiting / been doing etc. is the *present perfect continuous*.

When we ask or say 'how long', the continuous is more usual (see Unit 10):

- I've been learning English for six months.
- It's been raining since lunchtime.
- Richard has been doing the same job for 20 years.
- 'How long have you been driving?' 'Since I was 17.'

Some verbs (for example, know/like/believe) are not normally used in the continuous:

- How long have you known Jane? (not have you been knowing)
- I've had a pain in my stomach all day. (not I've been having)

See also Units 4A and 10C. For have, see Unit 17.

C You can use either the present perfect continuous or simple with live and work:

- Julia has been living / has lived in Paris for a long time.
- How long have you been working / have you worked here?

But we use the simple (I've lived / I've done etc.) with always:

- I've always lived in the country. (not always been living)

D We say 'I haven't done something since/for ...' (*present perfect simple*):

- I haven't seen Tom since Monday. (= Monday was the last time I saw him)
- Sue hasn't phoned for ages. (= the last time she phoned was ages ago)

11.1 Are the underlined verbs right or wrong? Correct them where necessary.

- 1 Bob is a friend of mine. I know him very well. OK
- 2 Bob is a friend of mine. I know him for a long time. I've known him
- 3 Sue and Alan are married since July.
- 4 The weather is awful. It's raining again.
- 5 The weather is awful. It's raining all day.
- 6 I like your house. How long are you living there?
- 7 Gary is working in a shop for the last few months.
- 8 I don't know Tim well. We've only met a few times.
- 9 I gave up drinking coffee. I don't drink it for a year.
- 10 That's a very old bike. How long do you have it?

11.2 Read the situations and write questions from the words in brackets.

- 1 John tells you that his mother is in hospital. You ask him:
(how long / be / in hospital?) How long has your mother been in hospital?
- 2 You meet a woman who tells you that she teaches English. You ask her:
(how long / teach / English?)
- 3 You know that Jane is a good friend of Caroline's. You ask Jane:
(how long / know / Caroline?)
- 4 Your friend's brother went to Australia some time ago and he's still there. You ask your friend:
(how long / be / in Australia?)
- 5 Tim always wears the same jacket. It's a very old jacket. You ask him:
(how long / have / that jacket?)
- 6 You are talking to a friend about Joe. Joe now works at the airport. You ask your friend:
(how long / work / at the airport?)
- 7 A friend of yours is learning to drive. You ask him:
(how long / learn / to drive?)
- 8 You meet somebody on a plane. She says that she lives in Chicago. You ask her:
(always / live / in Chicago?)

11.3 Complete B's answers to A's questions.

A	B
1 Bill is in hospital, isn't he?	Yes, he <u>has been</u> in hospital since Monday.
2 Do you see Ann very often?	No, I <u>haven't seen</u> her for three months.
3 Is Margaret married?	Yes, she married for ten years.
4 Are you waiting for me?	Yes, I for the last half hour.
5 You know Linda, don't you?	Yes, we each other a long time.
6 Do you still play tennis?	No, I tennis for years.
7 Is Jim watching TV?	Yes, he TV all evening.
8 Do you watch TV a lot?	No, I TV for ages.
9 Have you got a headache?	Yes, I a headache all morning.
10 George is never ill, is he?	No, he ill since I've known him.
11 Are you feeling ill?	Yes, I ill all day.
12 Sue lives in London, doesn't she?	Yes, she in London for the last few years.
13 Do you go to the cinema a lot?	No, I to the cinema for ages.
14 Would you like to go to New York one day?	Yes, I to go to New York. (use always / want)

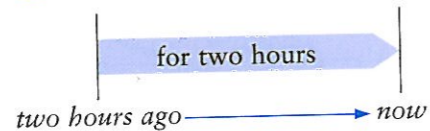
For and since When ... ? and How long ... ?

A

We use **for** and **since** to say how long something has been happening.

We use **for** + a period of time (two hours, six weeks etc.):

I've been waiting **for two hours**.

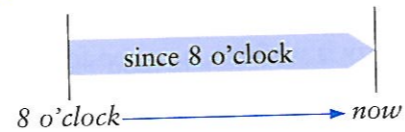


	for	
two hours	a long time	a week
20 minutes	six months	ages
five days	50 years	years

- Sally has been working here **for six months**. (*not since six months*)
- I haven't seen Tom **for three days**. (*not since three days*)

We use **since** + the start of a period (8 o'clock, Monday, 1999 etc.):

I've been waiting **since 8 o'clock**.



	since	
8 o'clock	April	lunchtime
Monday	1985	we arrived
12 May	Christmas	I got up

- Sally has been working here **since April**. (= from April until now)
- I haven't seen Tom **since Monday**. (= from Monday until now)

It is possible to leave out **for** (but not usually in negative sentences):

- They've been married (for) **ten years**. (with or without **for**)
- They **haven't had** a holiday **for ten years**. (you must use **for**)

We do **not** use **for** + **all ...** (all day / all my life etc.):

- I've lived here **all my life**. (*not for all my life*)

B

Compare **when ... ?** (+ *past simple*) and **how long ... ?** (+ *present perfect*):



- A: **When** did it start raining?
 B: It started raining **an hour ago / at 1 o'clock**.
- A: **How long** has it been raining?
 B: It's been raining **for an hour / since 1 o'clock**.



- A: **When** did Joe and Carol first meet?
 B: They first met **a long time ago / when they were at school**.
- A: **How long** have they known each other?
 B: They've known each other **for a long time / since they were at school**.

C

We say 'It's (a long time / two years etc.) **since** something happened':

- It's **two years since** I last saw Joe. (= I haven't seen Joe for two years)
- It's **ages since** we went to the cinema. (= We haven't been to the cinema for ages)

You can ask 'How long is it **since ... ?**':

- How long is it since** you last saw Joe? (= When did you last see Joe?)
- How long is it since** Mrs Hill died? (= When did Mrs Hill die?)

You can also say 'It's **been** (= It has been) ... **since ...**':

- It's **been two years since** I last saw Joe.

How long have you (been) ... ? → Unit 11

Exercises

12.1 Write for or since.

- It's been raining since lunchtime.
- Sarah has lived in Paris 1995.
- Paul has lived in London ten years.
- I'm tired of waiting. We've been sitting here an hour.
- Kevin has been looking for a job he left school.
- I haven't been to a party ages.
- I wonder where Joe is. I haven't seen him last week.
- Jane is away. She's been away Friday.
- The weather is dry. It hasn't rained a few weeks.

12.2 Write questions with how long and when.

- It's raining.
 (how long?) How long has it been raining?
 (when?) When did it start raining?
- Kate is learning Japanese.
 (how long / learn?)
 (when / start?)
- I know Simon.
 (how long / you / know?)
 (when / you / first / meet?)
- Rebecca and David are married.
 (how long?)
 (when?)

12.3 Read the situations and complete the sentences.

- It's raining. It's been raining since lunchtime. It started raining at lunchtime.
- Ann and Sue are friends. They first met years ago. They've known each other for years.
- Joe is ill. He became ill on Sunday. He has Sunday.
- Joe is ill. He became ill a few days ago. He has a few days.
- Liz is married. She's been married for a year. She got
- You have a headache. It started when you woke up.
 I've I woke up.
- Sue has been in Italy for the last three weeks.
 She went
- You're working in a hotel. You started six months ago.
 I've

12.4 Write B's sentences using the words in brackets.

- A: Do you often go on holiday?
 B: (no / five years) No, I haven't had a holiday for five years.
- A: Do you often see Sarah?
 B: (no / about a month) No,
- A: Do you often go to the cinema?
 B: (no / a long time)
- A: Do you often eat in restaurants?
 B: (no / ages) No, I

Now write B's answers again. This time use **It's ... since ...**.

- (1) No, it's five years since I had a holiday.
- (2) No,
- (3)
- (4) No, it's

Present perfect and past 1 (I have done and I did)

A Study this example situation:



Tom is looking for his key. He can't find it. He has lost his key. (*present perfect*) This means that he doesn't have his key *now*.

Ten minutes later:



Now Tom has found his key. He has it now. Has he lost his key? No, he has found it. Did he lose his key? Yes, he did. He lost his key (*past simple*) but now he has found it. (*present perfect*)

The present perfect (something has happened) is a *present* tense. It always tells us about the situation *now*. 'Tom has lost his key' = he doesn't have his key *now* (see Unit 7).

The past simple (something happened) tells us only about the *past*. If somebody says 'Tom lost his key', this doesn't tell us whether he has the key now or not. It tells us only that he lost his key at some time in the past.

Do *not* use the present perfect if the situation now is different. Compare:

- They've gone away. They'll be back on Friday. (they are away *now*) They went away, but I think they're back at home now. (*not* They've gone)
- It has stopped raining now, so we don't need the umbrella. (it isn't raining *now*) It stopped raining for a while, but now it's raining again. (*not* It has stopped)

B You can use the present perfect for new or recent happenings:

- 'I've repaired the TV. It's working OK now.' 'Oh, that's good.'
- Have you heard the news? Sally has won the lottery!

Use the past simple (*not* the present perfect) for things that are not recent or new:

- Mozart was a composer. He wrote more than 600 pieces of music. (*not* has been ... has written)
- My mother grew up in Scotland. (*not* has grown)

Compare:

- Did you know that somebody has invented a new type of washing machine?
- Who invented the telephone? (*not* has invented)

C We use the present perfect to give new information (see Unit 7). But if we continue to talk about it, we normally use the past simple:

- A: Ow! I've burnt myself.
B: How did you do that? (*not* have you done)
A: I picked up a hot dish. (*not* have picked)
- A: Look! Somebody has spilt something on the sofa.
B: Well, it wasn't me. I didn't do it. (*not* hasn't been ... haven't done)

Past simple → Unit 5 Present perfect → Units 7-8 Present perfect and past 2 → Unit 14 American English → Appendix 7

13.1 Complete the sentences using the verbs in brackets. Use the present perfect where possible. Otherwise use the past simple.

<p>1</p> <p>I can't get in. I <u>ve lost</u> (lose) my key.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>The office is empty now. Everybody (go) home.</p>
<p>3</p> <p>I meant to call you last night, but I (forget).</p>	<p>4</p> <p>MARY (go) to Egypt for a holiday, but she's back home in England now.</p>
<p>5</p> <p>Are you OK?</p> <p>Yes, I (have) a headache, but I feel fine now.</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Can you help us? Our car (break) down.</p>

13.2 Put the verb into the correct form, present perfect or past simple.

- 1 It stopped raining for a while, but now it's raining again. (stop)
- 2 The town is very different now. It has changed a lot. (change)
- 3 I did German at school, but I most of it now. (forget)
- 4 The police three people, but later they let them go. (arrest)
- 5 What do you think of my English? Do you think it ? (improve)
- 6 A: Are you still reading the paper?
B: No, I with it. You can have it. (finish)
- 7 I for a job as a tourist guide, but I wasn't successful. (apply)
- 8 Where's my bike? It outside the house, but it's not there now. (be)
- 9 Look! There's an ambulance over there. There an accident. (be)
- 10 A: Have you heard about Ben? He his arm. (break)
B: Really? How that ? (happen)
A: He off a ladder. (fall)

13.3 Are the underlined parts of these sentences right or wrong? Correct them where necessary.

- 1 Do you know about Sue? She's given up her job. OK
- 2 My mother has grown up in Scotland. grew
- 3 How many plays has Shakespeare written?
- 4 Ow! I've cut my finger. It's bleeding.
- 5 Drugs have become a big problem everywhere.
- 6 The Chinese have invented paper.
- 7 Where have you been born?
- 8 Mary isn't at home. She's gone shopping.
- 9 Albert Einstein has been the scientist who has developed the theory of relativity.

Present perfect and past 2 (I have done and I did)

A

Do not use the present perfect (I have done) when you talk about a *finished* time (for example, yesterday / ten minutes ago / in 1999 / when I was a child). Use a past tense:

- It was very cold yesterday. (*not* has been)
- Paul and Lucy arrived ten minutes ago. (*not* have arrived)
- Did you eat a lot of sweets when you were a child? (*not* have you eaten)
- I got home late last night. I was very tired and went straight to bed.

Use the past to ask **When ... ?** or **What time ... ?**:

- When did your friends arrive? (*not* have ... arrived)
- What time did you finish work?

Compare:

Present perfect

- Tom has lost his key. He can't get into the house.
- Is Carla here or has she left?

Past simple

- Tom lost his key yesterday. He couldn't get into the house.
- When did Carla leave?

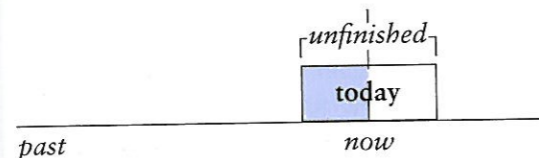
B

Compare:

Present perfect (have done)

- I've done a lot of work today.

We use the present perfect for a period of time that continues *until now*. For example: today / this week / since 1985.

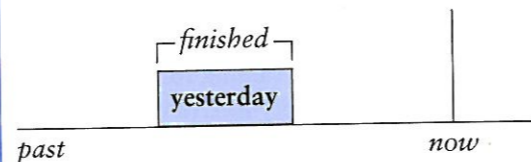


- It hasn't rained this week.
- Have you seen Anna this morning? (it is still morning)
- Have you seen Tim recently?
- I don't know where Lisa is. I haven't seen her. (= I haven't seen her recently)
- We've been waiting for an hour. (we are still waiting now)
- Ian lives in London. He has lived there for seven years.
- I have never played golf. (in my life)
- It's the last day of your holiday. You say: It's been a really good holiday. I've really enjoyed it.

Past simple (did)

- I did a lot of work yesterday.

We use the past simple for a *finished* time in the past. For example: yesterday / last week / from 1995 to 2001.



- It didn't rain last week.
- Did you see Anna this morning? (it is now afternoon or evening)
- Did you see Tim on Sunday?
- A: Was Lisa at the party on Sunday?
B: I don't think so. I didn't see her.
- We waited (or were waiting) for an hour. (we are no longer waiting)
- Ian lived in Scotland for ten years. Now he lives in London.
- I didn't play golf last summer.
- After you come back from holiday you say: It was a really good holiday. I really enjoyed it.

Exercises

14.1 Are the underlined parts of these sentences right or wrong? Correct them where necessary.

- 1 I've lost my key. I can't find it anywhere. OK
- 2 Have you eaten a lot of sweets when you were a child? Did you eat
- 3 I've bought a new car. You must come and see it. _____
- 4 I've bought a new car last week. _____
- 5 Where have you been yesterday evening? _____
- 6 Lucy has left school in 1999. _____
- 7 I'm looking for Mike. Have you seen him? _____
- 8 'Have you been to Paris?' 'Yes, many times.' _____
- 9 I'm very hungry. I haven't eaten much today. _____
- 10 When has this book been published? _____

14.2 Make sentences from the words in brackets. Use the present perfect or past simple.

- 1 (it / not / rain / this week) It hasn't rained this week.
- 2 (the weather / be / cold / recently) The weather _____
- 3 (it / cold / last week) It _____
- 4 (I / not / read / a newspaper yesterday) I _____
- 5 (I / not / read / a newspaper today) _____
- 6 (Emily / earn / a lot of money / this year) _____
- 7 (she / not / earn / so much / last year) _____
- 8 (you / have / a holiday recently?) _____

14.3 Put the verb into the correct form, present perfect or past simple.

- 1 I don't know where Lisa is. Have you seen (you / see) her?
- 2 When I _____ (get) home last night, I _____ (be) very tired and I _____ (go) straight to bed.
- 3 A: _____ (you / finish) painting the bedroom?
B: Not yet. I'll finish it tomorrow.
- 4 George _____ (not / be) very well last week.
- 5 Mr Clark _____ (work) in a bank for 15 years. Then he gave it up.
- 6 Molly lives in Dublin. She _____ (live) there all her life.
- 7 A: _____ (you / go) to the cinema last night?
B: Yes, but it _____ (be) a mistake. The film _____ (be) awful.
- 8 My grandfather _____ (die) before I was born. I _____ (never / meet) him.
- 9 I don't know Carol's husband. I _____ (never / meet) him.
- 10 A: Is Martin here? B: No, he _____ (go) out.
A: When exactly _____ (he / go) out? B: About ten minutes ago.
- 11 A: Where do you live? B: In Boston.
A: How long _____ (you / live) there? B: Five years.
A: Where _____ (you / live) before that? B: In Chicago.
A: And how long _____ (you / live) in Chicago? B: Two years.

14.4 Write sentences about yourself using the ideas in brackets.

- 1 (something you haven't done today) I haven't eaten any fruit today.
- 2 (something you haven't done today) _____
- 3 (something you didn't do yesterday) _____
- 4 (something you did yesterday evening) _____
- 5 (something you haven't done recently) _____
- 6 (something you've done a lot recently) _____