

SECTION 5 perfect tenses

● grammar summary

(SIMPLE) PRESENT PERFECT: *I have worked, she has worked, he hasn't worked, etc*
PRESENT PERFECT PROGRESSIVE: *I have been working, he has been working, etc*
PAST PERFECT: *I had worked, she had worked, etc*

We use the **present perfect** to talk about **past actions** with some **importance now**.
I've written to John, so he knows what's happening.

We use the **present perfect progressive** mostly to say **how long** things have been going on **up to now**.
I have been writing letters since breakfast time.

When we are already talking about the past, we use the **past perfect** to talk about an **earlier time**.
Yesterday I found some old letters that Kate had written to me from Germany.

● pre-test: which units do you need?

Try this small test. It will help you to decide which units you need. The answers are on page 283.

① Which is correct – A, B or both?

- ▶ ☒ A Yesterday I broke a cup. B Yesterday I broken a cup.
▶ ☒ A The postman has already come. ☒ B The postman has just come.
1 A You haven't drank your tea. B You haven't drunk your tea.
2 A Have Mary and her children arrived? B Have arrived Mary and her children?
3 'What's the problem?' A 'I lost my keys.' B 'I have lost my keys.'
4 A When have you lost your keys? B When did you lose your keys?
5 A I bought a mountain bike last week. B I have bought a mountain bike last week.
6 A I went to London twice this week. B I've been to London twice this week.
7 A Did you ever visit Dublin? B Have you ever visited Dublin?
8 A Angela has gone to Ireland. B Angela has been to Ireland.
9 A We know Julia since 1996. B We have known Julia since 1996.
10 A I've had this sweater for years. B I've had this sweater since years.
11 A I knew that I have seen her before. B I knew that I had seen her before.
12 A Has Bill phoned yet? B Has Bill phoned today?
13 A It's rained for hours. B It's been raining for hours.

He's not here.
He's gone to Paris.

Look what I've found!

Who's taken my coat?

I've made a cake.
Would you like some?

Have you ever been
to Canada?

Bill hasn't come in yet.

I've already read it.

She's been here since Monday.

I've been studying English
for three years.

Nobody was there.
They had all gone home.

present perfect: forms *I have paid. Has she forgotten?*

	REGULAR VERBS	AN IRREGULAR VERB
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>I have worked you have worked he/she/it has worked etc</i>	<i>I have seen etc</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>have I worked? have you worked? has he/she/it worked? etc</i>	<i>have I seen? etc</i>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<i>I have not worked you have not worked etc</i>	<i>I have not seen etc</i>
	For contractions (I've, he's, haven't), see page 277.	

To make the **present perfect**, put **have/has** with the **past participle** (*worked, seen*, etc).
Regular past participles end in **-ed**, like simple past tenses (for spelling rules, see page 42).

work → *worked* *hope* → *hoped* *stop* → *stopped* *try* → *tried*

With **irregular** verbs, the **past participle** is often **different** from the simple past tense.
 You have to learn the forms one by one (see page 275).

see → *seen* *speak* → *spoken* *go* → *gone* *buy* → *bought*

- ① Write as many of the irregular past participles as you can. Check them on page 275, and learn the ones that you don't know.

become	begin	break	bring
come	drink	eat	fall
give	hear	hold	forget
learn	leave	let	know
put	read	say	make
stand	take	tell	pay
		think	write


- ② Write affirmative (A) or negative (N) present perfect sentences.


- ▷ I (*speak* A) to the boss *I have spoken to the boss.*
- ▷ they (*eat* N) anything *They have not eaten anything.*
- 1 she (*forget* N) my address
- 2 I (*make* A) a mistake
- 3 you (*shut* N) the door
- 4 Alan (*work* A) very hard
- 5 I (*hear* N) from Mary
- 6 John (*learn* N) anything
- 7 I (*break* N) a cup
- 8 we (*remember* N) Ann's birthday
- 9 The rain (*stop* N)
- 10 I (*see* N) a newspaper today



'Somewhere with no irregular verbs.'

We make present perfect questions with *have/has* + subject + past participle.

STATEMENT : *You have paid. The rain has stopped. The children have gone to Dublin.*

QUESTION : *Have you paid? Has the rain stopped? Where have the children gone?*

3 Make present perfect questions.

- ▷ John / leave ? *Has John left?*
- ▷ why / Mary / go home ? *Why has Mary gone home?*
- ▷ where / you / put the keys ? *Where have you put the keys?*
- 1 we / pay ?
- 2 Bill / phone ?
- 3 you / hear the news ?
- 4 the dogs / come back ?
- 5 what / Barbara tell the police ?
- 6 why / Andy and Sarah / bring the children ?
- 7 what / you / say to Mike ?

Be careful when questions have **long subjects** – the word order does not change.

Has Ann arrived?
Have Ann and her mother arrived?
Have Ann and her mother and father and the others arrived?
 (NOT ~~*Have arrived Ann and her mother and father and the others?*~~)

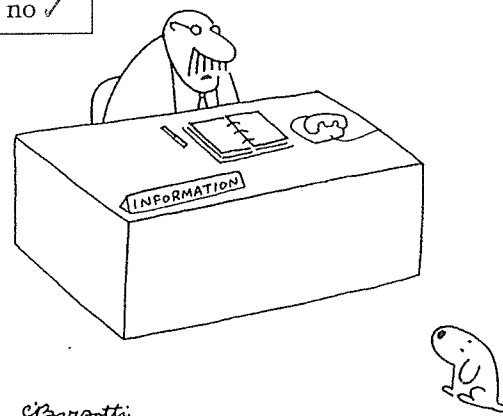
4 Make present perfect questions.

- 1 the Sunday newspapers / arrive ?
.....
- 2 all those people / go home ?
.....
- 3 the secretary from your father's office / telephone ?
.....
- 4 where / the family in the flat upstairs / go ?
.....
- 5 why / all the students in Mr Carter's class / give him presents ?
.....

5 Look at the picture and put the words in the correct order.

seen I ball sorry your haven't no ✓

'No,



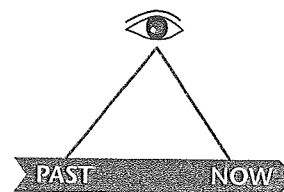
finished actions: present perfect or simple past?

PRESENT PERFECT: WE THINK ABOUT THE PAST AND THE PRESENT TOGETHER
When we think about the **past and present together**, we normally use the **present perfect**.

*I've written to John, so he **knows** what's happening **now**.*

*I've made a cake. **Would you like some?***

*Look – I've **bought** a new dress.*



FINISHED ACTION

PRESENT PERFECT

PRESENT

letter (yesterday) → *I've written to John.* ← *John **knows** **now**.*

cake (this morning) → *I've made a cake. **Would you like some?*** ← *I'm offering you some **now**.*

new dress (last Tuesday) → *Look – I've bought a new dress.* ← *I'm showing you **now**.*

SIMPLE PAST: WE THINK ONLY ABOUT THE PAST, NOT THE PRESENT

When we think **only about the past**, we most often use the **simple past**

*My grandfather **wrote** me a lot of letters.*

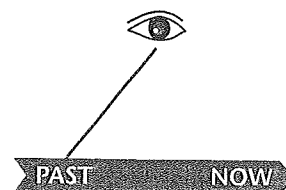
(He's dead now; I'm not thinking about the present.)

*I **made** a cake for the children, but they **didn't** like it.*

(I'm not talking about the present.)

*I **bought** a new dress for the party **last Tuesday**.*

(I'm thinking only about last Tuesday.)



1 Read the sentences and the questions, and circle the correct answers.

- ▷ Ann has bought a new coat. *Has she got the coat now?* **YES** / PERHAPS
- ▷ Grandma came to stay with us. *Is Grandma with us now?* YES / **PROBABLY NOT**
- 1 I made a cup of tea. *Is there tea now?* YES / PROBABLY NOT
- 2 Eric has made a cake. *Is there a cake now?* YES / PROBABLY NOT
- 3 Jane went to France. *Is she there now?* YES / DON'T KNOW
- 4 Alan has gone to Scotland. *Is he there now?* YES / DON'T KNOW
- 5 Pat and Al started a business. *Is the business still running?* YES / DON'T KNOW
- 6 Sue has started guitar lessons. *Is she taking lessons now?* YES / DON'T KNOW
- 7 The cat has run away. *Is the cat at home now?* NO / DON'T KNOW
- 8 The doctor sent Bill into hospital. *Is he there now?* YES / DON'T KNOW
- 9 Pete lost his glasses. *Has he got his glasses now?* NO / DON'T KNOW
- 10 Ann has cut all her hair off. *Has she got any hair now?* NO / DON'T KNOW

We don't normally use the **present perfect** with words for a finished time.

I've seen Ann. OR *I saw Ann yesterday.* BUT NOT *I've seen Ann yesterday.*

- 2 What are the people saying? Look at the pictures and complete the sentences with verbs from the box. Use the present perfect.

break ✓ buy cut send stop

▷ 'Somebody *has broken* the window.'

1 'John us a postcard.'

2 'I a hat.'

3 'I my finger.'

4 'The rain'



- 3 Put the beginnings and ends together, and put in the present perfect verbs.

break ✓ forget leave lose see

1 Joe *has broken* his leg,

2 Ann can't get into her house

3 'He's looking unhappy.'

4 'Who's that?'

5 'That's a good film. Shall we go?'

A 'Sorry. I know him, but I his name.' ...

B 'Yes, his girlfriend him.' ...

C because she her keys. ...

D 'No, I it.' ...

E so he can't go skiing. 1

Note the difference between *gone (to)* and *been (to)* in present perfect sentences.

'Where's John?' 'He's *gone to Paris*.' (He's there now.)

Mary's *gone swimming*. She'll be back at 6.00.

I've *been to Italy* lots of times (and come back) but I've never *been to Spain*.

- 4 Put in *been* or *gone*.

1 'Where's Ann?' 'She's shopping.'

2 Peter's shopping: the fridge is full.

3 Have you ever to China?

4 They're not here. They've all out.

5 I haven't to the cinema for weeks.

6 Joe's to live in Greece.

We use the **simple past**, not the present perfect, in stories (see page 46).

- 5 GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY: housework

Put simple past verbs into the story. Use a dictionary if necessary.

Once upon a time there was a beautiful girl called Cinderella. Her two sisters made her do all the housework. Every day she (get) ▷ *got* up early, she (sweep) ▷ *swept* the floors, she (make) 1 the beds, she (polish) 2 the furniture, she (wash)

3 and (iron) 4 the clothes, she (wash up) 5 all the dishes and (put) 6 them away. She (tidy) 7 all the rooms, and she (do)

8 hundreds of other jobs.

- 6 Now put present perfect verbs into the conversation.

SISTERS: Well, Cinderella, ▷ *have you done* everything? 1 the floors? 2 the beds? 3 the furniture? 4 the clothes? 5 them? 6 the dishes? And 7 them away? 8 all the rooms?

CINDERELLA: No, I 9 anything. I'm going to marry the Prince. Goodbye!

present perfect: news *We've found oil in the garden!*

We often use the **present perfect** to give **news**: to tell people about **new things** that have happened.

The Prime Minister has arrived in Washington for talks with the President. Ann has bought a new car. A plane has crashed at Heathrow Airport. Some new people have moved into the house next door.

- ① When John Wells arrived home from work, his family gave him a lot of news. Complete the sentences.

come die eat find ✓ go steal win

▷ Hello, dear. We *have found* oil in the garden!



3 Dad! You a lot of money in the lottery!

4 Hi! Somebody the car!

1 Dad! The cat your supper!



5 Surprise! Grandma to stay for a month!



6 Daddy! The goldfish!



2 Hi, John. Mary to Australia with a soldier!

- ② Here are some sentences from radio news broadcasts. Put in the correct verbs.

arrive ✓ close die leave marry stop

- ▷ England footballers *have arrived* back in Britain after their match in Rome.
1 Singer Alex Haverly his long-time girlfriend Katy Bowen.
2 Charles Blackstock, Member of Parliament for East Chilbury, at the age of 57.
3 Once again, bad weather the tennis final at Wimbledon.
4 The Foreign Minister London for a two-day visit to Berlin.
5 Heavy snow hundreds of roads in Scotland.

We don't normally use the **present perfect** with words for a finished time.

We've found oil in the garden. BUT NOT *We've found oil in the garden yesterday.*

A plane has crashed at Heathrow Airport. BUT NOT *A plane has crashed at 3.15 this afternoon.*

- ③ Circle the words for a finished time.

a few days ago always this week last week never now then today yesterday in 1990

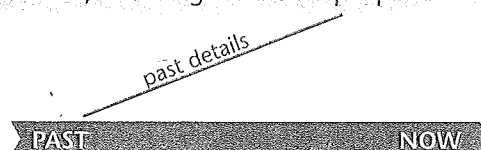
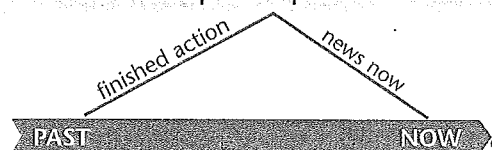
- ④ Correct (✓) or not (✗)?

- ▷ My father has changed his job. ✓
▷ Andy has gone to Scotland last week. ✗
1 Look what Peter has given me yesterday! ...
2 I've seen a great programme last night. ...
3 I think everybody has arrived now. ...
4 Mary has written to me three weeks ago. ...
5 Sorry - I've forgotten your name. ...
6 I've forgotten Mike's birthday last Tuesday. ...
7 Everybody has gone home at 10 o'clock. ...
8 There's nobody here! What has happened? ...

present perfect and simple past: news and details

- 1 When we first give news, we often use the present perfect.

- 2 When we give or ask for more past details, we change to the simple past.



A plane *has crashed* in Yorkshire.

The Prime Minister *has met* business leaders.

Mary *has gone* to Australia.

'I've found your keys.'

→ It *came down* in a field outside York.

→ They *talked* for four hours.

→ She *left* last night.

→ 'Thanks. Where *were* they?'

REMEMBER: we don't normally use the present perfect when we **give** or **ask about** a finished time.

Joe *has left* home. OR Joe *left* home last week. BUT NOT ~~Joe has left home last week.~~

Have they *arrived*? OR When *did* they arrive? BUT NOT ~~When have they arrived?~~

1 Put in present perfect and simple past verbs.

- The cat *has eaten* your supper. She *took* it off the table when I was out. (eat; take)
- 1 Ann her job at the bank. She her boss. (leave; not like)
- 2 I a beautiful dress. I it at Parker's yesterday. (buy; find)
- 3 Cathy and Sam their house. They a very good price. (sell; get)
- 4 'Dad his glasses.' 'Where he them?' 'Under his pillow.' (find; find)
- 5 Mrs Collins into hospital. She to the doctor this morning, and he her straight in. (go; go; send)
- 6 Bill an accident. He off his bike last night. (have; fall)
- 7 I from Jan. She us a postcard from Peru. (hear; send)
- 8 'I your mother about us.' 'What she?' 'She was very nice about it.' (tell; say)
- 9 Two climbers in the Alps. They their way in bad weather. (die; lose)
- 10 John and Sue yet. They the wrong train. (not arrive; take)

2 Make questions to ask for more details.

- 'I've bought a new jacket.' 'Oh, yes? *Where did you buy it?*' (where / you / buy it)
- 1 'Joe's passed his exam.' (he / get / good marks)
- 2 'Cathy's moved to London.' (when / she / go)
- 3 'Andy's lost his job.' 'I know.' (when / he / tell you)
- 4 'My brother's been to San Francisco.' (where / he / stay)
- 5 'Mark's sold his car.' (why / he / sell it)
- 6 'Phil's bought a bike.' (how much / it / cost)
- 7 'Bob's found a new girlfriend.' (where / he / meet her)
- 8 'I've given up smoking.' (why / you / stop)

up to now (1) *How much? How often?*

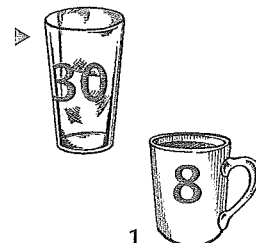
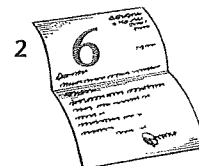
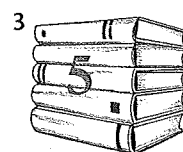
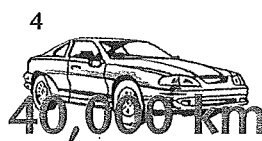
We often use the **present perfect** to say **how much** we have done **up to now**.

*I've done six different jobs since Christmas. I've done no work at all so far (= 'up to now') today.
Joe is saving €20 a week. He started 8 weeks ago. Up to now he's saved €160.*

PAST \rightarrow €20 + €20 + €20 + €20 + €20 + €20 + €20 + €20 + €20 = €160 \rightarrow NOW

1 Look at the pictures and complete the sentences.

- I ~~have washed up thirty~~ glasses this morning. (*wash up*)
1 I cups of coffee today. (*drink*)
2 I letters since breakfast. (*write*)
3 I books this week. (*read*)
4 Joe kilometres so far this year. (*drive*)
5 I in different houses in my life. (*live*)
6 That child chocolates already today. (*eat*)



We can use the **present perfect** to say **how often** things have happened **up to now**.

*That's a wonderful film. I've seen it three times. Sally has only been to Ireland once.
We've often wanted to come and see you.*

We can use the **present perfect** to ask if things have happened **up to now**, or to say that they **haven't** happened **up to now**. We often use **ever** and **never** in these sentences.

*She's never written to me. Has the boss phoned?
We haven't been to Scotland this year.*

Have you ever seen a ghost?

PAST \rightarrow ?EVER \rightarrow EVER \rightarrow EVER \rightarrow EVER \rightarrow NOW

I've never seen one.

PAST \rightarrow NEVER \rightarrow NEVER \rightarrow NEVER \rightarrow NEVER \rightarrow NOW

2 Make present perfect sentences.

- I / never / read / Shakespeare *I've never read Shakespeare.*
► I / break / my arm / three times *I've broken my arm three times.*
► Peter / pay / for his lessons ? *Has Peter paid for his lessons?*
1 Joe / change / his job / twice this year
2 you / ever / write / a poem ?
3 I / never / climb / a mountain
4 how often / she / ask / you for money ?
5 I / often / try / to stop smoking
6 Alex / phone / me / six times this week
7 Charles / speak / to you / today ?
8 Mary / not / tell / me / her new address
9 you / ever / break / your leg ?
10 We / not / play / football / this year

→ For word order with *often*, *never* etc, see page 204.

When we are talking about a **finished period of time**, we use the **simple past** to say how much **happened** or how often things **happened**. Compare:

*I haven't done any work **this afternoon**.* (Said in the afternoon.)

*I didn't do any work **this afternoon**.* (Said in the evening.)

3 Read the sentences and circle the correct answers.

- ▷ 'A lot of people came to see me in hospital.' Was the speaker in hospital when he/she said this?
A Yes **B No**
- 1 'I didn't enjoy school.' Was the speaker at school when he/she said this?
A Yes B No
- 2 'I've been to sleep three times during the lesson.' When did the speaker say this?
A During the lesson B After the lesson
- 3 'I didn't travel much in December.' When did the speaker say this?
A In December B Later
- 4 'My computer has crashed three times this morning.' When did the speaker say this?
A In the morning B Later
- 5 'Joseph Adams made many friends during his life.' Was Joseph Adams alive when the speaker said this?
A Yes B No

4 Circle the correct answers.

- ▷ Our team won / has won two matches this year.
- ▷ Our team won / has won two matches last year.
- 1 Did you ever go / Have you ever been to Wales?
- 2 I never read / have never read any of his books.
- 3 Carol stayed / has stayed with us last week.
- 4 All my life I wanted / have wanted to fly a plane.
- 5 I haven't bought any clothes *this year* / *last year*.
- 6 I worked very hard *this week* / *last week*.

5 Write three things that you didn't do yesterday, and three things that you have never done.

- 1 I didn't yesterday.
- 2
- 3
- 4 I have never
- 5
- 6

6 GRAMMAR AND VOCABULARY: entertainments

Make sure you know all the words in the box. Use a dictionary if necessary.

the cinema	the circus	the opera	the theatre
a rock / jazz / classical music concert		a rock / jazz festival	

How often have you been to the different kinds of entertainment? Write sentences.

Example:

- ▷ I've been to the circus once in my life. I've been to a rock concert twice this year.
- I've never been to the opera.
-
-
-
-

already, yet and just

We often use the present perfect with **already** (= 'earlier than somebody expected').

Note the word order: **already** comes after **have**.

'Newspaper?' 'No, thanks. I've **already** read it.' You're late. We've **already** started.

1 Complete the sentences with **already** and verbs from the box (present perfect).

cook finish get up go ✓ leave pay

- ▷ 'Where's Pete?' 'He's **already gone** home.' 3 'Can you wake Helen?' 'She'
- 1 'Shall I pay?' 'No, I'
- 2 'What time's the train?' 'It'
- 4 'Let's have fish.' 'I chicken.'
- 5 'When's the film?' 'It'

We also often use the present perfect with **yet** (= 'up to now') in questions and negatives.

Note the word order: **yet** usually comes at the end of a sentence.

'Have you spoken to John yet?' 'No, not **yet**. He **hasn't** come in **yet**.'

2 Make questions (❓) and negatives (❌) with **yet**.

- ▷ my sister / phone ❓ *Has my sister phoned yet?*
- ▷ the postman / come ❌ *The postman hasn't come yet.*
- 1 Bill / find a job ❌
- 2 you / finish that book ❓
- 3 I / start work ❌
- 4 you / have supper ❓

And we often use the present perfect with **just** (= 'a short time ago'). **Just** comes after **have**.

I've **just** come back from Spain. The rain has **just** stopped.

3 Do these things, and then write sentences to say what you have just done.

- ▷ (touch your ear) *I have just touched my ear.*
- 1 (look at the floor)
- 2 (think about your home)
- 3 (move your feet)
- 4 (put your hand on your head)

4 It is eight o'clock in the morning. Look at the table and say what Ann has (not) done. Use present perfect verbs with **already**, **yet** and **just**.

- ▷ She *has just had a cup of coffee.*
- ▷ She *hasn't got dressed yet.*
- ▷ She *has already done a lot of work.*
- 1 She letters.
- 2 She mother.
- 3 She kitchen.
- 4 She newspaper
- 5 She some toast.
- 6 She radio

have a cup of coffee	7.55	✓
get dressed	❌	✓
do a lot of work	⊕	✓
write letters	three	
telephone mother	7.57	
clean kitchen	⊕	
read newspaper	❌	
make toast	7.59	
listen to the radio	❌	

up to now (2) *I've been here since Tuesday.*

TUESDAY

I've been here since Tuesday

NOW

We use the **present perfect**, not the present, to say **how long** something has continued **up to now**.

I've been here since Tuesday. (NOT ~~*I am here since Tuesday.*~~)

I've known John for ten years. (NOT ~~*I know John for ten years.*~~)

We can say how long with *since* or *for*.

We use *since* when we give the **beginning** of the time (for example *since Tuesday*).

We use *for* when we give the **length** of the time (for example *for three days*).

I've been here since Tuesday.

I've been here for three days. (NOT ... ~~*since three days.*~~)

I've known Mary since 1980.

I've known Mary for a very long time.

I've had this car since April.

I've had this car for six months.

① Put in *since* or *for*.

- | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 six weeks | 5 yesterday | 9 July |
| 2 Sunday | 6 breakfast time | 10 last week |
| 3 1996 | 7 a long time | 11 a day |
| 4 ten years | 8 five minutes | 12 this morning |

② How long have you known people? Write sentences.

- *I've known my English teacher since September.*
- I've known for
 - I've
 -
 -

③ How long have you had things? Write sentences.

- I've had these shoes for six months.*
- I've had my since
-
-
-

④ Make present perfect questions with *How long ...?*

- you / be / in this country *How long have you been in this country?*
- Mary / have / her job *How long has Mary had her job?*
- you / know / Mike
 - you / be / a student
 - your brother / be / a doctor
 - Andrew / have / that dog
 - David and Elizabeth / be / together

Be, *know* and *have* are **non-progressive** verbs (see page 28). With most other verbs, we use the **present perfect progressive** (see page 62) to say how long things have continued up to now.

How long have you been waiting?

up to now (3): present perfect progressive*

1	I have been working	you have been working	he/she/it has been working etc
2	have I been working?	have you been working?	has he/she/it been working? etc
3	I have not been working	you have not been working etc	
For contractions (I've, he's, haven't etc), see page 277.			

We make the **present perfect progressive** with *have/has been + ...ing*.



We have been living here since April. John's been working in the bank for three months.

We use the **present perfect progressive** (with most verbs) to say **how long** things have been continuing **up to now**. (For *be*, *have* and *know*, see page 61.)

I've been learning English for four years. It's been raining all day.

Have you been waiting long?

----- We've been travelling for six hours.

PAST  NOW 

1 Make present perfect progressive sentences. Use *for* or *since* (see page 61).

▶ John started learning Chinese in February. Now it's July. (*for*)

John has been learning Chinese for five months......

▶ It started raining on Sunday. It's still raining. (*since*)

It's been raining since Sunday......

1 Mary started painting the house on Monday. Now it's Friday. (*for*)

.....

2 We started driving at six o'clock. Now it's ten o'clock. (*for*)

.....

3 Ann started working at Smiths in January. (*since*)

.....

4 Joe started building boats when he was 20. Now he's 40. (*for*)

.....

5 We started waiting for the bus at 8.30. (*since*)

.....

6 Prices started going up last year. (*since*)

.....

2 Make questions beginning *How long ...?*

▶ you / study / maths *How long have you been studying maths?*.....

1 Jane / talk / on the phone

2 your brother / work / in Glasgow

3 Eric / drive / buses

4 that man / stand / outside

5 you / play / the piano

3 How long have you been learning English?

.....

* Also called 'present perfect continuous'

We don't use present tenses to say how long things have been going on.

They've been living here since 1998. (NOT *They are living here since 1998.*)

I've been learning English for three years. (NOT *I'm learning English for 3 years.*)

4 Correct (✓) or not (✗)?

▶ I'm waiting for her since this morning. ✗

▶ I'm still waiting for her now. ✓

▶ I've been waiting for her for four hours. ✓

1 We have been driving for about six hours. ...

2 How long are Ann and Peter working here? ...

3 Sue has been talking on the phone all day. ...

4 I have been sitting in this office since 9.00. ...

5 'She's working here since 1998. ...

6 Are you studying hard these days? ...

We often use the present perfect progressive when we say how we have been filling our time (up to now).

We've been playing a lot of tennis in the last few weeks.

Sorry I haven't written to you – I've been travelling.

'You look tired.' 'Yes, I've been working in the garden.'

5 Look at the pictures and say what the people have been doing. Use the verbs in the box (present perfect progressive).

play play swim teach travel ✓ write

▶ She has been travelling.

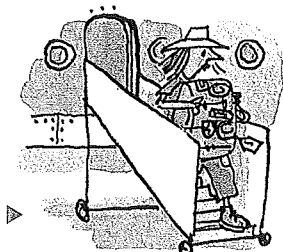
1 the piano.

2 football.

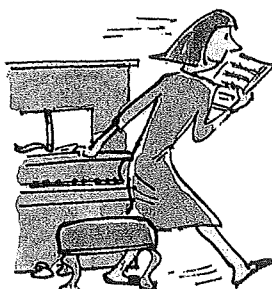
3

4 letters.

5



1



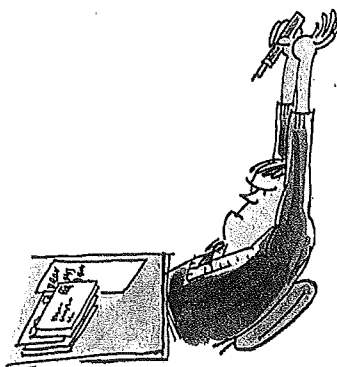
2



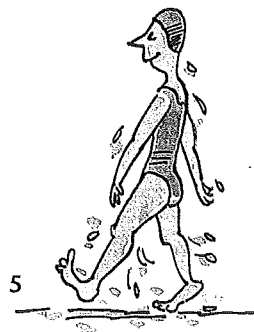
3



4



5



present perfect or present perfect progressive?

We use the present perfect mostly for finished actions.

We use the present perfect progressive mostly for unfinished actions continuing up to now (often when we say how long).

PRESENT PERFECT: *I have written* etc

finished actions

Mike *has learnt* how to cook spaghetti.

I've *written* to John, so he knows everything.



PRESENT PERFECT PROGRESSIVE: *I have been writing* etc

unfinished actions → now

Jane *has been learning* Greek since August.

The children *have been writing* letters all day.



We use the present perfect to say **how much** or **how often**. Compare:

We've *travelled* to nine countries this year.

We've *been travelling* all this year.

1 Circle the correct form.

► How long have you *learnt* / *been learning* the piano?

► Look! I have *bought* / *been buying* a coat.

1 It has *rained* / *been raining* since Tuesday.

2 John has *broken* / *been breaking* his leg.

3 He hasn't *told* / *been telling* me his address.

4 How long have we *driven* / *been driving* now?

5 Have you ever *read* / *been reading* this book?

6 Hello! I've *waited* / *been waiting* for you for hours!

7 How long have you *played* / *been playing* tennis?

8 How many games have you *played*? / *been playing*?

We don't use the progressive with **be**, **have** (meaning 'possess'), **know** and other non-progressive verbs (see page 28).

I've been here since Tuesday. (NOT ~~*I've been being...*~~)

How long have you had your car? (NOT ~~*How long have you been having...?*~~)

We've only known each other for two weeks. (NOT ~~*We've only been knowing...*~~)

2 Put in the present perfect or present perfect progressive.

► I ...*have had*..... these shoes for a year. (*have*)

► How long *have*.. you *been waiting*...? (*wait*)

1 It all day. (*snow*)

2 We this dog for years. (*have*)

3 Ann all day. (*work*)

4 John ill this week. (*be*)

5 How long you Andrew? (*know*)

We prefer the present perfect for very long, unchanging situations. Compare:

He's been standing there for hours.

The castle has stood on this hill for 900 years.

3 Circle the best answer. (Both are correct, but one is more usual.)

1 We've *lived* / *been living* in London since January.

2 They've *lived* / *been living* in London all their lives.

3 My father has *worked* / *been working* here for 47 years.

4 I've *worked* / *been working* here for two weeks.

simple past and present perfect: summary

SIMPLE PAST: *I worked/wrote/drove etc*

finished actions

- finished actions, no connection with present

My grandfather worked for a newspaper. I drove back from York last night.

- with words for a finished time, like *yesterday, in 1990, ago, then, when*

I saw Ann yesterday. (NOT ~~I have seen Ann yesterday.~~) Bill phoned three days ago.

When did you stop smoking? (NOT ~~When have you stopped smoking?~~)

- stories

A man walked into a café and sat down at a table. The waiter asked ...*

- details (time, place etc) of news

The cat has eaten your supper. She took it off the table.

Bill has had an accident. He fell off his bicycle when he was going to work.

(SIMPLE) PRESENT PERFECT: *I have worked/written/driven etc*

A finished actions

- thinking about past and present together

I've written to John, so he knows what's happening now. Jane has found my glasses, so I can see again.

- news

A plane has crashed at Heathrow airport. The Prime Minister has left for Paris.

- up to now: how much/many; how often

I've drunk six cups of coffee today. My father has often tried to stop smoking.

- up to now: things that haven't happened; questions; ever and never

John hasn't phoned. Has Peter said anything to you? Have you ever seen a ghost? I've never seen one.

- already, yet and just

'Where's Peter?' 'He's already gone home.' Has the postman come yet? 'Coffee?' 'I've just had some.'

- NOT with words for a finished time

I saw Penny yesterday. She's getting married. (NOT ~~I have seen Penny yesterday.~~)

B unfinished actions continuing up to now

(only with *be, have, know* and other non-progressive verbs)

- to say how long (often with *since* and *for*)

How long have you been in this country? We've had our car for seven years.

I've known Jake since 1996. (NOT ~~I know Jake since 1996.~~)

PRESENT PERFECT PROGRESSIVE: *I have been working/writing/driving etc*

unfinished actions continuing up to now (most verbs)

- to say how long (often with *since* and *for*)

Have you been waiting long? I've been learning English since last summer.

We've been driving for three hours – it's time for a rest.

DON'T use a present tense to say how long.

I've been living here since January. (NOT ~~I'm living here since January.~~)

- to say how we have been filling our time up to now

Sorry I haven't written. I've been travelling. 'You look tired.' 'Yes, I've been working in the garden.'

- NOT USUALLY to talk about long, unchanging situations

The castle has stood on this hill for 900 years.

present perfect and simple past: revision exercises

1 Put in the correct form (one word).

- I wrote..... to my brother yesterday. (write)
► I have just written..... to my sister. (write)
1 The lessons last week. (begin)
2 You've three cups today. (break)
3 Why have you home early? (come)
4 Who has my coffee? (drink)

- 5 We too much last night. (eat)
6 John off his bicycle yesterday. (fall)
7 I'm sorry, I've your name. (forget)
8 I've my address to the police. (give)
9 We what they wanted. (know)
10 Somebody has my umbrella. (take)

2 Make questions (1) or negatives (2).

- She finished the book. (2) She didn't finish the book.
► The rain has stopped. (1) Has the rain stopped?
1 All those people went home. (2)
2 Peter has told us everything. (2)
3 The postman has been. (2)
4 Pat has been working all day. (2)
5 Eric and Angela bought a new house. (2)
6 Mary's boyfriend forgot her birthday. (2)

3 Make questions.

- The letter arrived. (when) When did the letter arrive?
► Somebody told her. (who) Who told her?
1 Everybody has gone home. (why)
2 Ann's been learning Chinese. (how long)
3 George closed the door. (why)
4 The people in the big house have gone on holiday. (where)
5 The President and his family visited Russia. (when)
6 Jan's father and mother have been travelling in Scotland. (how long)
7 Something has happened. (what)

4 Somebody has just said these sentences. Read the questions and circle the correct answers.

- 'Joe has found a new girlfriend.' Has he got the girlfriend now? YES / PERHAPS
► 'Then a cat came into the house.' Is the cat in the house now? YES / PROBABLY NOT
1 'I've made coffee.' Is there coffee now? YES / PROBABLY NOT
2 'So Eric made soup.' Is there soup now? YES / DON'T KNOW
3 'And Bill has started Japanese lessons.' Is he taking lessons now? YES / DON'T KNOW
4 'Jill and Bob opened a driving school.' Is the school still running? YES / DON'T KNOW
5 '... because Pete lost his glasses.' Has he got his glasses now? NO / DON'T KNOW
6 'Alan has gone to America.' Is he there now? YES / DON'T KNOW
7 'We had a good time in Italy.' Are they there now? YES / NO
8 'July has been a good month for business.' Is it still July? YES / NO

5 Put in the verbs from the boxes (simple past or present perfect).

not be ✓ happen have lose not pass spend

Last year ► ~~was not~~ a good year for Pete and Sonia. Pete 1 a car accident and 2 a month in hospital, Sonia 3 her job, the children 4 their school exams, and a lot of other bad things 5

be buy change have open pass

This year 6 much better. Pete 7 his job, and is making much more money. They 8 a new house. Sonia 9 a small restaurant, and it's going very well. They 10 a baby. And the other children 11 all their exams this time.

6 Put in the simple past, present perfect or present perfect progressive.

- 'Where's the car?' 'Bill has taken it. He needed it to go shopping.' (take; need)
- I have bought tickets for the match. Do you want to come with me? (buy)
- My grandfather went to school in Ireland. (go)
- How long have you been standing there? (stand)
- 1 'I my job.' 'Why?' 'I the hours.' (change; not like)
- 2 'Look - I some money.' 'Where you it?' (find; find)
- 3 Mike his new watch. (already lose)
- 4 The company a lot of money last year. (lose)
- 5 Andrew to the boss yet? (speak)
- 6 It since Sunday. (snow)
- 7 You can have the newspaper. I it. (finish)
- 8 I mathematics from 1996 to 1998. (study)
- 9 'You're looking happy.' 'Yes, I my exam.' (pass)
- 10 How long you Mary? (know)
- 11 you ever a poem? (write)
- 12 We for the electrician all day yesterday. (wait)
- 13 'Where's Robert?' 'He out.' (just go)
- 14 'Do you like skiing?' 'I it.' (not try)
- 15 That child chocolate all day. (eat)

7 Circle the correct answers.

I ► know / have known Adrian for a very long time - we
1 are / have been friends since our first day at school, thirty
years 2 ago / before / since. He 3 came / has come round to see
me last night to ask for my advice. His company 4 did / has
been doing very well for the last few years, and they 5 opened
/ have opened several new offices. They 6 just asked / have just
asked Adrian to move to Scotland, to run an office there. He
7 didn't decide / hasn't decided what to do yet. He doesn't
really want to move: he 8 never lived / has never lived outside
Manchester, and he 9 bought / has bought a new house there
last year. But the new job would be interesting, and very
well paid. We 10 talked / have talked / have been talking about
it for a long time last night, but of course I couldn't tell
him what to do.



past perfect *It had already begun when we arrived.*

1	I had seen	you had seen	he/she/it had seen etc
2	had I seen?	had you seen?	had he/she/it seen? etc
3	I had not seen	you had not seen	he/she/it had not seen etc
Contractions: I'd, you'd etc; hadn't			

To make the **past perfect**, put **had** with the **past participle** (*seen, lost* etc).
(For irregular past participles, see page 275.)

She **didn't** phone Alan because she'd **lost** his number. It was a film that I **hadn't** seen before.

1 Make past perfect sentences.

- ▶ I couldn't get in because I had forgotten my keys. (*forget* 1)
- ▶ Ann wasn't at home. Where had she gone? (*go* 2)
- ▶ The telephone wasn't working because we hadn't paid the bill. (*pay* 3)
- 1 The woman told me that she in China a few years before. (*work* 4)
- 2 Everything in the garden was brown because it (*rain* 5)
- 3 The bathroom was full of water. What? (*happen* 6)
- 4 I knew I that man somewhere before. (*see* 7)
- 5 We were surprised to see Mark, because we his letter. (*get* 8)
- 6 After three days the dogs came back home. Where? (*be* 9)
- 7 They gave me some money back because I too much. (*pay* 10)
- 8 There was nothing in the fridge. I could see that Peter the shopping. (*do* 11)

We use the **past perfect** when we are already talking about the past, and want to talk about an **earlier past** time.

Our train was late, and we ran to the cinema. But the film **had** already begun.



I got out of the car and went into the school. It was empty. Everybody **had** gone home.
I was glad that I **had** caught the early bus. Anna wondered if anyone **had** told Jim.
We couldn't understand why Sue **hadn't** locked the door.

2 Circle the correct answers.

- ▶ I (didn't recognise) / *hadn't recognised* Helen, because she cut / (had cut) her hair very short.
- 1 No one understood / *had understood* how the cat got / *had got* into the car.
- 2 Joe *didn't play* / *hadn't played* in the game on Saturday because he hurt / *had hurt* his arm.
- 3 When I looked / *had looked* in all my pockets for my keys, I started / *had started* to get very worried.
- 4 Liz never travelled / *had never travelled* by train before she went / *had gone* to Europe.
- 5 I arrived / *had arrived* at the shop at 5.30, but it already closed / *had already closed*.
- 6 I *didn't have* / *hadn't had* much money after I paid / *had paid* all my bills last week.

3 Put in the simple past or the past perfect.

- ▶ Bill *didn't tell*.... anybody how he *had got*..... into the house. (*not tell; get*)
- ▶ Emma *went*. to France last week. Before that, she *had* never *been*... outside Ireland. (*go; be*)
- 1 When their mother home, the children all the sweets. (*get; eat*)
- 2 Yesterday I a man who at school with my grandmother. (*meet; be*)
- 3 It to rain, and I that I my window. (*start; remember; not close*)
- 4 I a letter on my desk that I never (*find; open*)
- 5 I Bob I couldn't go to the theatre, but he already the tickets. (*tell; buy*)

We use the **past perfect after *when*** to show that something is **completely finished**.

When I had watered all the flowers, I sat down and had a cool drink.

When Susan had done her shopping, she went to visit her sister.

4 Make sentences using the past perfect after *when*.

- ▶ Jan finished her dinner. Then she sat down to watch TV.
When Jan had finished her dinner, she sat down to watch TV.
- ▶ David phoned his girlfriend. Before that he did his piano practice.
David phoned his girlfriend when he had done his piano practice.
- 1 George ate all the chocolate biscuits. Then he started eating the lemon ones.
.....
- 2 I turned off the lights in the office. Then I locked the door and left.
.....
- 3 I borrowed Karen's newspaper. Before that she read it.
.....
- 4 Mark had a long hot shower. Before that he did his exercises.
.....
- 5 Barry phoned his mother with the good news. Then he went to bed.
.....

NOTHING HAD CHANGED

When I went back to my old school
nothing had changed.

Well, OK,
the place had closed down.

Doors stood wide,
windows had lost their glass,
ceilings had fallen.

Travellers had camped in the dining-room,
and left their names on the walls.

Wind blew
through the rooms where I had sat for so long
and learnt so little.
Rubbish piled up in the corners.

But nothing important had changed.

Evan Stabetsi

→ For the past perfect in reported speech, see page 247.

test yourself perfect tenses

1 Put in the past participles.

go *gone* break bring come drink eat
 forget give leave make stand stay
 stop take think try

2 Make affirmative (A) sentences, questions (Q) or negatives (N).

- ▶ She has not studied French. (Russian A) *She has studied Russian.*
- ▶ It hasn't snowed today. (rained Q) *Has it rained?*
- ▶ They've been to Greece. (Turkey N) *They haven't been to Turkey.*
- 1 We've been swimming. (walking A)
- 2 They haven't written. (phoned A)
- 3 I had seen her before. (spoken to A)
- 4 She hasn't been to New York. (Chicago A)
- 5 He hasn't bought a motorbike. (car A)
- 6 She's been studying German. (Italian A)

3 Circle the correct answers.

- ▶ Have you *saw* / *seen* this film before?
- 1 Our football team *lost* / *has lost* all its games this year. It *lost* / *has lost* all its games last year too.
- 2 *Did you ever drive* / *Have you ever driven* a bus?
- 3 My brother speaks good English, but he *has never had* / *never had* lessons.
- 4 *Did you see* / *Have you seen* Paul yesterday? 'No, but he *just phoned* / *has just phoned*.'
- 5 Have you done the shopping yet / yesterday?
- 6 I started this job *for eight weeks* / *eight weeks ago* / *ago eight weeks*.
- 7 *I'm* / *I've been* in this school *for* / *since* five years.
- 8 'What time does the lesson start?' '*It's already started*.' / '*It already started*.'

4 Circle the correct answers.

- 1 *We know* / *We've known* / *We've been knowing* John and Andy *for* / *since* years.
- 2 *I work* / *I'm working* / *I've been working* here *since* / *last* / *summer*.
- 3 'Good news! John *passed* / *has passed* his exam.' '*Has he got* / *Did he get* good marks?'
- 4 'Mary *went* / *has gone* to London.' 'When *did she leave*? / *has she left*?'
- 5 This house *has stood* / *been standing* here for 500 years.

5 Put in the simple past or past perfect.

- 1 When I him, I that
 I him before. (*see; know; meet*)
- 2 He enough money for food because he
 so many clothes. (*not have; buy*)
- 3 The meeting when I (*already start; arrive*)
- 4 The car down because I
 to put oil in. (*break; forget*)
- 5 I Mary for the first time thirty years ago. (*meet*)

More difficult questions