

The Present Perfect Tense

Introduction

1) We use the present perfect to describe past events which are connected to the present:

Sam has lost his keys. (=He is looking for his keys and he still hasn't found them.)

2) The present perfect is formed with the present tense of the auxiliary verb *to have* and *the past participle* (third column in the list of irregular verbs). Questions are formed by inverting the subject and *have/has*. Negatives are formed with *not*. Contracted forms are used.

(+) *I have already seen that movie./I've already seen that movie.*

(-) *I have not seen that movie yet./I haven't seen it yet.*

(?) *Have I seen that movie?*

The present perfect describes past events which are connected to the present, although this tense can be used to describe different situations:

a) experiences in our life up to now.

I've been to Spain and Portugal. I really want to go to the UK. I haven't been there yet.

b) an event in the past that has a result in the present.

Lilly has broken her foot. Her foot is still in a cast.

c) a situation that started in the past and continues until the present.

I've lived here for twenty years. And I am still living here now.

d) how many things are completed so far.

Peter has read 50 pages of this book so far. There are 150 pages left.

Pay attention to **the time markers**:

a) we use *ever* and *never* when we ask or talk about our experiences in life.

*Have you **ever** eaten Chinese food? – I've **never** eaten it.*

b) we use *already* in positive sentences to describe an action which has happened before. We use *yet* in questions and negative sentences to describe an action which hasn't happened before.

*I haven't finished this book **yet**, and my sister has **already** begun reading another one.*

c) we use *just* when we describe a very recent event.

*My mom has **just** come home from work.*

d) Such frequency adverbs as *always*, *often* etc. can also be used with the present perfect.

*He has **always** loved Ann.*

e) We use *for* to describe the length of a time period. We use *since* to describe the point when the time period started.

*Chris has worked here **for 5 months**. He has worked here **since May 5th**.*

Short Story Dialogue

The present perfect is widely used in daily life.

– **Have you seen John anywhere?**

– **No, I haven't seen him anywhere.**

– **Have you tried calling him?**

– **Yes, I've just sent him a voice message.**

– **Has he listened to it?**

– **It's impossible. I've just sent it. Has anything happened?**

– **Not really, but I haven't seen him since the party and I'm a bit worried. He's never ignored my calls before.**

– **I'm sure it'll be fine. He's been busy probably.**

Independent Practice - Present perfect tense

1) Match the sentences and the descriptions.

1. Cindy has graduated and is paying off her student loans now.	a. experiences in our life up to now
2. They've been best friends for nearly a decade. They always help each other.	b. an event in the past that has a result in the present
3. Lilly is on a diet. She's lost 5 kilos so far.	c. a situation that started in the past and continues until the present
4. Nate has seen nearly all Marvel movies.	d. to describe how many things are completed so far

2) Write the correct sentence.

a. I (not to see) never him so angry before.
b. Would you like something to eat? – No, thanks. I (to have) just dinner.
c. Shall I pay for our meal? – I (to do) already it.
d. Ann (not to call) me yet.

3) Answer the questions.

a. Have you ever been to the UK?
b. Have your friends thrown you a surprise b-day party?
c. What have you always dreamt of doing?

Independent Practice: Answers - Present perfect tense

1) Match the sentences and the descriptions.

1. Cindy has graduated and is paying off her student loans now.	b. an event in the past that has a result in the present
2. They've been best friends for nearly a decade. They always help each other.	c. a situation that started in the past and continues until the present
3. Lilly is on a diet. She's lost 5 kilos so far.	d. to describe how many things are completed so far
4. Nate has seen nearly all Marvel movies.	a. experiences in our life up to now

2) Write the correct answer.

- a. I've never **seen** him so angry before.
- b. Would you like something to eat? – No, thanks. I've just **had** dinner.
- c. Shall I pay for our meal? – I've already **done** it.
- d. Ann **hasn't called** me yet.

3) Answer the questions. Sample Answers:

- a. No, I've never been to the UK.
- b. Yes, my friends have thrown me a surprise b-day party once.
- c. I've always dreamt of climbing **Mt.** Everest.