

### Present Perfect Tense Examples

Present perfect tense combines the present tense and the perfect aspect used to express an event that happened in the past that has present consequences. This tense is used to show a link between the present and past and is commonly used in everyday conversations, in the news, on the radio, and when writing letters.

### Using Present Perfect Tense

To create the present perfect tense of any verb, you will combine the present tense of the verb "to have" plus the past participle of the main verb of the sentence. The past participle of a regular verb is the base word plus –ed. You can find a list of the past participle of irregular verbs .

One example of this tense is: "have jumped." "Have" is the present tense and "jumped" is the past participle. Some other forms of this tense are:

- Has lived: She has lived here all her life.
- Have written: They have written three letters already.
- Have worked: I have worked here since I graduated school.
- Has done: He has finished his homework.
- Have been: We have been to Canada.
- Has forgotten: She has forgotten her folder.

There are many different situations where the present perfect tense can be used. It can be used in the following ways:

- To describe an action that is being repeated between the past and present. Example: We have gone to the beach many times.
- To describe an action that started in the past and is still continuing in the future. Example: I have lived in the United States since 1990.
- To describe an action that has not yet been finished. Example: It has rained a lot this month.

- To describe an action that was completed in the recent past. Example: I have just finished my internship at the museum.
- To describe an action when time was not an important aspect. Example: She has lost her wedding ring.

There are times when you cannot use the present perfect tense. For example, you cannot use it with specific expressions of time that have already finished, such as last year, that month, when I was a baby, etc.

### Examples of Present Perfect Tense

Present perfect tense can be used with expressions that are unspecific in time:

- I have lost my purse.
- We have seen this movie already.
- He has broken his leg.
- There has been an accident.

Some examples of present perfect tense used to express an unfinished period of time are:

- We haven't seen her today.
- They have been to the mall twice this month.
- She has watched that show three times this week.

Examples of using present perfect in talking about events that happened in the recent past but the effect of the recent event is still felt in the present include:

- The children have made a mess in the kitchen.
- He has started a new job.
- She has finished her chores.

Present perfect tense can be used in questions as well. Here are some examples:

- Where have I left my sandals?
- Have you visited England?
- Has she met John?

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## Other Combinations of Words

In addition, you can use time-related adverbs in the present perfect tense, as long as they don't refer to a time which is finished. These words include: "already," "just" and "yet." Some examples of how these words are used are:

- The book came out yesterday, but I have already read it. (Already is used to express that something has happened sooner than expected.)
- She has just left the building. (Just is used to convey that the event happened a short time ago.)
- He hasn't finished it yet. (Yet is used in negative sentences to mean that something is expected to happen.)

Present perfect tense can also be used in questions using the words "already" and "yet." For example:

- Why has he gone already?
- Have you called your mom yet?
- Has Anthony played basketball yet?

## The Importance of Present Perfect Tense

The present perfect tense is used when talking about experiences from the past, a change or a situation that has happened in the past but is still continuing today. This tense is an important part of English grammar since it demonstrates that actions or events in the past have an effect on the present situation.

### Present perfect simple: form

We use *have/has* + the *-ed* form of the verb.

+	<i>I, you, we, they</i> <i>she, he, it</i>	(full form) <b><i>have</i></b> <b><i>has</i></b>	<b><i>worked.</i></b>
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	<i>I, you, we, they</i> <i>she, he, it</i>	(short form) <b>'ve</b> <b>'s</b>	
-	<i>I, you, we, they</i> <i>she, he, it</i>	(full form) <b>have not</b> <b>has not</b>	<b>worked.</b>
	<i>I, you, we, they</i> <i>she, he, it</i>	(short form) <b>haven't</b> <b>hasn't</b>	
? +	<b>Have</b> <b>Has</b>	<i>I, you, we, they</i> <i>she, he, it</i>	<b>worked?</b>
? -	(full form) <b>Have</b> <b>Has</b>	<i>I, you, we, they</i> <i>she, he, it</i>	<b>not</b>
	(short form) <b>Haven't</b> <b>Hasn't</b>	<i>I, you, we, they</i> <i>she, he, it</i>	<b>worked?</b>

## Time + *for* and *since*

We use the present perfect simple with *for* and *since* to talk about a present situation that began at a specific point in the past and is still going on in the present. We are looking back from the present to a point in the past.

### Compare

<p><i>That house on the corner <b>has been empty for</b> three years.</i></p> <p>Not: ... <del>since three years.</del></p>	<p><i>For</i> refers to periods of time, e.g. <i>three years, four hours, ages, a long time, months, years.</i></p>
<p><i>That house on the corner <b>has been empty since</b> 2006.</i></p> <p>Not: ... <del>for 2006.</del></p>	<p><i>Since</i> refers to a previous point in time, e.g. <i>last Monday, last year, 1987, yesterday.</i></p>
<p>The house was empty in 2006 and it is still empty now. (speaking in 2011)</p>	

### *How long ...?*

We often use expressions with *for* and *since* to answer the question *How long ...?* + present perfect simple. We use the *How long ...?* question to ask about the duration of a state or activity:

**A:**

*How long have you worked there?*

**B:**

*Since 21 August. So for about four months.*

*Yet*

We use *yet* + the present perfect simple, mainly in questions and negative statements, to refer to things we intend to do in the future but which are not done:

*Don't wash up that cup. I **haven't finished** my coffee **yet**.* (I intend to finish it.)

***Haven't** you **done** your homework **yet**?* (You intend to do it.)

**See also:**

- *Yet*

*Already*

We use *already* + the present perfect simple when we want to emphasize that something is done or achieved, often before the expected time:

*I've **already booked** my flight home.*

**A:**

*Will you go and clean your teeth!*

**B:**

*I've **already cleaned** them.*

**See also:**

- *Already*

*Still*

We use *still* + the present perfect simple when we want to emphasize that something we expected to happen continues not to happen:

*She **still hasn't said** sorry to me.*

*I feel really tired. I **still haven't recovered** from the jet lag.*

**See also:**

- *Still*
- *Yet*
- *Already*

## Introducing past time events

The present perfect simple is often used in newspaper headlines or TV news programmes to report a recent past event. It is then followed by a series of verbs in the past simple (underlined):

*Charlton Heston **has died** aged 84, a spokesman for his family **has said**. Heston died on Saturday at his home in Beverly Hills. His wife Lydia, whom he married in 1944, was at his side. Heston won a best actor Oscar for his starring role in the epic 'Ben Hur'.*

We can also use the present perfect simple to introduce an 'open' general point about something. We can then use the past simple (underlined) to give more detailed specific information:

***Have you seen** any Arthur Miller plays?*