## Present Perfect

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Grammar Notes

A. Introduction

The present perfect tense is very common in English. It is unlike other verb tenses because it has two separate uses. One use is a finished past action and the other is a continuing action. Time markers (words that show a verb’s tense) show if the verb has a finished or continuing meaning.

Let’s look at the finished action use (Use 1) of the present perfect first and compare it with the simple past. Then we’ll look at the continuing action use (Use 2).

B. Use 1

FINISHED ACTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present Perfect</th>
<th>Simple Past</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pattern: have / has + p.p. (past participle)</td>
<td>verb + -ed (or irregular forms)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use: shows a finished past action</td>
<td>shows a finished past action</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>does not show when it occurred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>shows when it occurred</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagram: no “when”</td>
<td>“when”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Time Markers:

- No time marker is needed, but for emphasis it is possible to use:
  - already
  - yet
  - still

- Yesterday
- the day before yesterday
- last
- ago
- when (for joining two past sentences)

Examples:

- I have seen Iron Man.
- She has never tried frog legs.
- They’ve bought a new car.

- I saw Iron Man last night.
- She tried frog legs last month.
- They bought a new car two weeks ago.
### Grammar Notes cont.

#### B. Use 1 cont.

#### Time Markers for Emphasis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Already</th>
<th>Recently &amp; Lately</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Already</em> implies an action that has occurred in the past.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>have + already + p.p.</em></td>
<td>*Recently and <em>lately</em> emphasize a recent past action.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• <em>I have already read that book.</em></td>
<td>• Scientists have discovered a new species <em>recently.</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Yet &amp; Still</th>
<th>Ever &amp; Never</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>Yet</em> and <em>still</em> emphasize the intention to do something.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>have + not + p.p. + O + yet</em></td>
<td><em>Ever</em> and <em>never</em> emphasize an action that could have occurred at <em>any</em> time in the past.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• <em>I haven’t read that book yet.</em></td>
<td>• <em>Have you ever been to Europe?</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>still + have + not + p.p.</em></td>
<td><em>I haven’t ever been to Europe.</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• <em>I still haven’t read that book.</em></td>
<td>• <em>I have never been to Europe.</em></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### Repeated Actions

*Use the present perfect even if a finished action happened more than once in the past. Do not mention *when* it occurred.*

- *I have performed* onstage many times.
- *We have been* to Mexico twice.
- *She has given* a presentation five times in her life.
Grammar Notes cont.

C. Use 2

CONTINUING ACTIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present Perfect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pattern</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diagram</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Time Markers    | • for  
|                 | • since  
|                 | • all    |
| Examples        | • She **has worked** in this office for two years.  
|                 | • He **has lived** in the same house since he was a child.  
|                 | • I’ve **studied** English all my life. |

For, Since & All

*For* and *all* show the **duration** of an action.

- He has taught math **for** 15 years.
- *Since* shows the **starting point** of an action.
- We have lived in France **since** 2012.
### Exercise 1

**PAST PARTICIPLES**

#### A. Simple Past and Past Participle

Write the simple past and past participle of the following verbs in the chart below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Simple Form</th>
<th>Simple Past</th>
<th>Past Participle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>work</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>do</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>eat</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>call</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>begin</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>give</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>answer</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>see</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>have</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>go</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>study</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>teach</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>make</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>talk</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

#### B. Complete the Chart

Complete the chart below with the correct forms of the verbs.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Simple Form</th>
<th>Simple Past</th>
<th>Past Participle</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>knew</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>met</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>was/were</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>fly</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>wrote</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>read</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>live</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>fell</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>feel</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>taken</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>drove</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>buy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>danced</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>told</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Exercise 2

FILL IN THE BLANKS

Choose the correct verb from the list to the right to complete the following sentences. Put the verb in the present perfect tense.

1. I met Barbara when we were in elementary school. We _____________ each other for over 20 years.
2. We _____________ many new words since we started this course.
3. That’s a wonderful movie. I _____________ it three times.
4. Mr. and Mrs. Tanner _____________ married for ten years.
5. You are late! The class _____________ already _____________ .
6. Robert is my neighbour. He _____________ next door to me for five years.
7. Mary _____________ several emails to her parents since she left home.
8. We _____________ in that restaurant a few times.
9. Our teacher _____________ us a lot of help with the homework assignment.
10. She _____________ to her landlord many times about the broken window.
11. We have a new camera. We _____________ some beautiful pictures of the grandchildren.
12. They _____________ already _____________ all their homework.
13. Mrs. Baxter _____________ all her groceries for the week.
14. Tommy _____________ a bad cold for two weeks.
15. Frank _____________ for that company for many years.
16. After three months of looking, she _____________ a beautiful apartment to rent.

Word List:
- take
- work
- find
- see
- speak
- know
- begin
- finish
- learn
- eat
- have
- write
- give
- live
- buy
- be
Exercise 3
NEGATIVE SENTENCES

A. Choose the Correct Word

Choose the correct verb from the list to the right to complete the following sentences. Put the verb in the negative form of the present perfect tense.

1. Matthew is waiting on the corner for his girlfriend, but she ________________ yet.
2. My brother lives in a different country. I ________________ him for two years.
3. Ellie and Bill got a divorce five years ago.
   They ________________ to each other since then.
4. It is only 8:45. The class ________________ yet.
5. It started to snow last night, and it still ________________ .
6. She has finally decided which car she wants, but she ________________ it yet.
7. I heard that the movie at the Roxy Theatre is great, but I ________________ it yet.
8. I bought a newspaper today, but I still ________________ it.
9. He took his car to the service station yesterday, but they ________________ it yet.
10. The Andersons moved out of New York ten years ago, and they ________________ back to the city since then.

B. Matching

Match each question on the left with the correct answer on the right.

___ 1. Has he finished university yet?  a) No, he hasn’t. He’s still talking.
___ 2. Have you eaten breakfast yet?  b) No, I haven’t. My wife’s still reading it.
___ 3. Have they gotten married yet?  c) No, he hasn’t graduated yet.
___ 4. Has the president finished speaking yet?  d) No, it hasn’t. The teacher isn’t here yet.
___ 5. Has Mary watered the plants yet?  e) No, they haven’t finished yet.
___ 6. Has the doctor seen you yet?  f) No, they haven’t. They’re still engaged.
___ 7. Has the sun come out yet?  g) No, she hasn’t. They are still dry.
___ 8. Have they finished their homework yet?  h) No, I haven’t. I’ll eat in a few minutes.
___ 9. Has the class begun yet?  i) No, she hasn’t. She is with another patient.

Word List:
• fix
• begin
• arrive
• be
• see
• stop
• speak
• buy
• read
• visit
Exercise 4

ALREADY, STILL & YET

A. Mrs. Tanner’s School Day Schedule

Read the schedule below and make ten positive and negative sentences using already, yet, or still and the present perfect tense. Assume it is now 12:00 pm.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30</td>
<td>arrive at school</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td>take attendance, teach French class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td>meet with the principal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00</td>
<td>teach Spanish class</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30</td>
<td>write report cards</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:15</td>
<td>eat lunch, go for a walk</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00</td>
<td>meet with Joe’s parents</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00</td>
<td>take students to the library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:00</td>
<td>read students’ essays</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00</td>
<td>go home</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ex. Mrs. Tanner has already taken attendance.

1. ____________________________________________
2. ____________________________________________
3. ____________________________________________
4. ____________________________________________
5. ____________________________________________
6. ____________________________________________
7. ____________________________________________
8. ____________________________________________
9. ____________________________________________
10. __________________________________________
Exercise 4 cont.

B. Your Daily Schedule

Follow the example on the previous page. Fill in the schedule with your own activities, and then write full sentences below. Assume it is now 12:00 pm.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2:00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6:00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ex. *I have already had breakfast, but I haven’t had lunch yet.*

1. _______________________________________________________
2. _______________________________________________________
3. _______________________________________________________
4. _______________________________________________________
5. _______________________________________________________
6. _______________________________________________________
7. _______________________________________________________
8. _______________________________________________________
9. _______________________________________________________
10. _____________________________________________________
Exercise 5

EVER & NEVER

Practise using the present perfect tense by asking questions beginning with “Have you ever...?” Use the words provided to make your questions. Then answer each question using either a positive or negative reply.

1. you / ever / be / to France
   
   Have you ever been to France? Yes, I have. I was there last year. / No, I haven’t. I’ve never been there.

2. the teacher / ever / be / late for class

3. the pilot / ever / fly / in a helicopter

4. your father / ever / make / dinner for your mother

5. you / ever / find / a lot of money on the street

6. the children / ever / go camping / in the forest

7. the baseball team / ever / win a championship game

8. the actress / ever / forget her lines

9. the police officer / ever / shoot anyone

10. the politicians / ever / break their promises
Exercise 6

PRESENT PERFECT VS. SIMPLE PAST

Complete the following sentences with the correct form of the verb provided (simple past or present perfect).

1. We ___________ to Vancouver last year. We ___________ there since April.
   (move) (live)

2. I ___________ to every hockey game this season. I ___________ to the game last night with my brother.
   (be) (go)

3. I ___________ my house key last week and I still ___________ it.
   (lose) (not/find)

4. “When ___________ you ___________ smoking?” “I ___________ for over five years now.”
   (quit) (not/smoke)

5. Nora ___________ a lot of souvenirs yesterday.
   She ___________ never ___________ this many souvenirs on a vacation before.
   (buy)

6. “Would you like another cup of coffee?” “No thanks. I ___________ already ___________ three cups.”
   (have)

   Now he owns his own business. He ___________ it for six years.
   (work) (have)

8. Grandma ___________ and ___________ her hip last week.
   She ___________ in the hospital since then.
   (fall) (break) (be)

9. My previous teacher ___________ Mr. Blair.
   Now my teacher is Mrs. Carter. I ___________ in her class for three months now.
   (be)

10. In my whole life, I ___________ never ___________ a famous person, but my brother ___________ to three famous actors when he was in Hollywood last year.
    (meet) (speak)

11. Last year, we ___________ through three Canadian provinces. Now we are travelling in Europe. We ___________ already ___________ through eight countries.
    (drive) (drive)

12. This French course ___________ three months ago. We ___________ already ___________ several verb tenses and hundreds of new words.
    (start) (learn)
Exercise 7

PAST PARTICIPLE BINGO

A. Write the Past Participle

Choose 24 words from the list below and write the past participle of each one in any space on your bingo card on the next page. Mix the verbs up. Do not write them in the same order as the list. Everyone should have a different card.

- become
- begin
- bet
- bite
- blow
- break
- bring
- build
- catch
- choose
- come
- cost
- cut
- dig
- do
- draw
- drink
- drive
- eat
- fall
- feel
- fight
- find
- fly
- forget
- freeze
- get
- give
- go
- grow
- hang
- have
- hear
- hide
- hit
- hold
- hurt
- keep
- know
- leave
- let
- lose
- make
- mean
- meet
- pay
- quit
- ring
- read
- ride
- run
- see
- sell
- send
- shake
- shoot
- shut
- sink
- sit
- sleep
- speak
- spend
- stand
- stick
- sweep
- swing
- swim
- take
- teach
- tell
- think
- throw
- wake
- wear
- win
- write
- understand

B. Play Bingo!

Your teacher will call out certain past participles one by one. If you have that past participle on your board, cover it with a marker or draw an X on it. When you have one line in any direction covered, shout “Bingo!” (You must have the correct past participle form under each marker or X in order to win.)
Exercise 7 cont.

C. Bingo Card

Free Space
Exercise 8

**SINCE & FOR**

Rewrite the following sentences using *since* or *for* and the verb provided. You may have to change some of the words, but keep the same meaning.

1. Bill and Rita got married 20 years ago. *(be)*
   
   *Bill and Rita have been married for 20 years.*

2. Jordan moved into his apartment in 2005. *(live)*

3. Ellen and Rose met each other 40 years ago. *(know)*

4. The teacher came to school at 8:00 this morning. *(be)*

5. Robbie grew a beard six months ago. *(have)*

6. Dennis bought his car four years ago. *(own)*

7. Maria started to wear glasses when she was five years old. *(wear)*

8. David fell in love with Patricia when they were teenagers. *(be)*

9. Mark started to work at the bank three years ago. *(work)*

10. Sam learned how to swim three years ago. *(know)*
Exercise 9

HOW LONG?

Read the following sentences and write a how long question for each one. Then answer each question using since, for, or all.

1. I live in Toronto.
   How long have you lived in Toronto?
   I have lived in Toronto for 20 years.

2. Jane works at a travel agency.

3. Bill wears glasses.

4. Mark and Sharon are married.

5. I know Ben very well.

6. Margaret has a bad cold.

7. John owns a Toyota.

8. The teacher is in the classroom now.

9. Daniel and Sara are on vacation now.

10. Andrea speaks English very well.

11. Kerry believes in ghosts.

12. The boss is angry at his secretary.

13. The fridge is empty.

Exercise 10

SCRAMBLED SENTENCES

Put the words below in the correct order to make grammatically correct sentences. Each sentence is in the present perfect tense.

1. finished they yet homework their haven’t
   
   *They haven’t finished their homework yet.*

2. week I flu had the since have last

3. time divorced she for been long a has

4. been week absent all school from has he

5. this city apartment lived since I in this have I moved to

6. lesson already that has teacher taught the

7. Edith child since glasses was a worn has she

8. since she at broke work hasn’t her been leg she

9. new very happy the a children puppy they have since got been

10. anxious we morning have all been
Exercise 11

WRITING

Write five to ten sentences about your childhood. Use the present perfect, the simple past, and some of the following time markers: for, since, all, already, still, yet, ever, never.

Example
I travelled a lot when I was a child. I've been to Europe many times, but I haven't been to Africa yet. I have wanted to go to Africa since I was a child...
Exercise 12

CLASS ACTIVITY

Interview your classmates. Use the words provided to ask questions with the present perfect tense. Write the name of the classmate who gives you a “yes” answer. Then follow up with another question using the simple past tense.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>#</th>
<th>Words</th>
<th>Classmate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>ever / see / the Eiffel Tower</td>
<td>Mary</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>move / to a new house or apartment / recently</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>ever / have / a pet bird</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>receive / a gift / in the past week</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>read / any good books / lately</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>ever / go to a hospital / in an ambulance</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>own / a car / for more than two years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>ever / win / money / in a lottery</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>ever / sleep / in a tent</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>have / more than one job / since you finished high school</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>ever / see / a ghost</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>ever / lose / your wallet</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>have / a cold / this month</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>ever / swim / in the ocean</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>wear / glasses / for more than ten years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>ever / go fishing</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>live / in this city / for more than five years</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example

You: Have you ever seen the Eiffel Tower?
Mary: Yes, I have.
You: When did you see it?
Mary: I saw it two years ago.
Exercise 13

QUIZ

Choose the correct answer.

1. The students _____ their assignments.
   a) have not completed
   b) hasn’t completed
   c) not have completed

2. _____ to the party last night?
   a) Have you gone
   b) Has you gone
   c) Did you go

3. My neighbour _____ English for 15 years.
   a) have taught
   b) has taught
   c) didn’t taught

4. Our dogs _____ their food yet.
   a) have finished
   b) haven’t finished
   c) not finished

5. My coworker _____ about the out-of-date software all month.
   a) have already complained
   b) has complained
   c) has already complained

6. The children _____ their dinner.
   a) still haven’t eaten
   b) haven’t still eaten
   c) haven’t eaten still

7. My brother _____ hockey since he was a child.
   a) have loved
   b) has loved
   c) loved

8. He _____ for work.
   a) already has left
   b) already hasn’t left
   c) has already left

9. I _____ to that restaurant.
   a) never has been
   b) have never been
   c) have been never

10. They _____ in the park yesterday.
    a) have jogged
    b) has jogged
    c) jogged

11. The employees _____ on that report for three weeks.
    a) have worked
    b) have already worked
    c) haven’t worked yet

12. She _____ to many exotic places.
    a) have already travelled
    b) has travelled
    c) hasn’t travelled yet