

Mohamed Kheider University

English division

Group 4

The present perfect

Examples:

David: Have you travelled a lot, Jane?

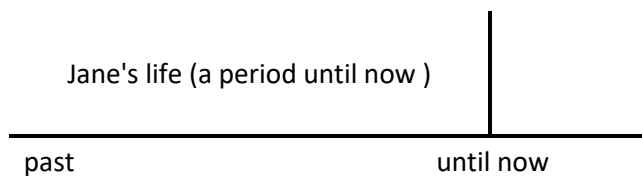
Jane: Yes, I have been to lots of places.

Dave: Really! Have you ever been to China?

Jane: yes, I have been to China twice.

Dave: what about India?

Jane: No, I haven't been to India.



We use the present perfect (I, you, we, they have travelled; he, she, it has travelled) to talk about a period of time that continues from the past until now.

Have you ever eaten caviar in your life? (Interrogative form)

We have never / we've never had a car. (Negative form)

He has never driven a bus. (Negative form)

Have you read Hamlet? Has he finished his thesis? Interrogative form)

Have you heard from George recently?

I've met a lot of people in the last few days.

I am hungry. I haven't eaten since breakfast.

We use the present perfect with today, this morning, when these periods are not finished at the time of speaking.

I have not seen (haven't seen) Tom since this morning.

Ron has not (hasn't) worked very hard this term

We use the present perfect when there is a connection with now; the action in the past has a result now.

I can't find my bag. Have you seen it? (Do you know where it is now?)

Is Sally here? No, she's gone out. (She's out now)

The road is closed. (There has been an accident)

We often use the present perfect to give new information, or to announce a recent happening.

Ow! I've cut my finger. The police have arrested two men in connection with the robbery.

The present perfect is used with the following time words that express past-to-present time.

Since or for, so far, up to now, up to the present, It can also be used with frequency words (always, never, ever, often, sometimes, occasionally etc., just, already, (negative yet), finally, recently, lately.

Exercises:

1- Complete the email with the present simple form of the verbs.

Hi. Flora

As you can see, I have /'ve arrived (arrive) safely. Paul and I (already / do) lots of things even though (I / only / be) in New York for twenty-four hours, (I not) sleep for two days! (I take) hundreds of photos already. Paul (show) me lots of landmarks and (I/eat) a real American breakfast. (I / ride) in a yellow cab and (I / travel) on the subway too. (I / not spend) any money yet because Paul (pay) for everything so far. I'll email you again tomorrow when (I / have) some sleep.

Love, Theresa

2- Complete the sentences – use the present perfect simple.

1.

a) Is it raining at the moment?

b) No, (it / just stop).

2. I can't find my keys. (You / see) them?

3.

a) Let's go and see ^^ Lions of Africa ^^ at the cannon cinema.

b) (I / already see) it.

4.

a) Please can I have my book back?

b) Oh, dear, (I / finish / it).

5. John looks thinner. He / lose / weight?

6. Mary, you're very late. I was worried about you (where / you be)?

7.

- a) How many times (you take) you driving test?
- b) Twice, my third one is next week

8. This music is new to me. I'm sure (I not / hear/ it) before.

Make questions from the words in brackets.

- 1- (ever/ ride/ horse). Have you ever ridden a horse?
- 2- (ever/ be/ California).
- 3- (ever/run/marathon).
- 4- (ever/speak/famous person).
- 5- (always/live/in this town).
- 6- (most beautiful place/ever/visited). What.....?

The present perfect continuous

Ex: I, we, they, you have (I've, you've, they've, we've) been working all day.

HE, she, it has (he's, it's, she's) been working all day.

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

Paul is very tired. He has been working very hard. (He's tired now.)

Why are your clothes so dirty? What have you been doing?

It is raining. 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 often use the present perfect continuous in this way, especially with how long, for and since. This activity is still happening (as in this example above) or has just stopped.

It can be used for actions repeated over a period of time.

Debbie is a very good tennis player. She's been playing tennis since she was eight.

The following verbs are not normally used in continuous tenses (here in the present perfect): like, love, hate, want, need, prefer, know, realize, suppose, mean, understand, believe, remember, belong, contain, consist, depend and seem.

Exercises

Read the situations and complete the sentences.

The rain started two hours ago. It's still raining now. *It has been raining for* two hours

We started waiting for the bus twenty minutes ago. We are still waiting now.

We.....for twenty minutes.

I started learning English in December. I am still learning English

I.....since December.

Ann began looking for a job a few months ago. She's still looking now.

.....for sixth months.

Mary started working in London on 18 January. She's still working there.

.....since January 18.

Years ago you started writing to a penfriend. You still write to each other regularly now.

We.....for years.

Write a question for each situation.

- 1- John looks sunburnt. You ask (you/ sit in the sun?) *Have you been sitting in the sun?*
- 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 living in Baker Street. You want to know. "How long...? You ask:
(How/long/you/live/ in Baker Street.
- 5- A friend tells you about his job.-he sells computers. You want to know" how long?You ask:
(how long/you/sell /computers.

Exercises

Tick the sentences which are correct. In some pairs, one sentence is correct, in other pairs, both sentences are correct.

- *She's had a headache all day. She's been having a headache all day.*
- *I've wanted a cat for a long time. I've been wanting a cat for a long time.*
- *They have eaten lunch. They have been eating lunch.*
- *I've known her for two years. I've been knowing her for two years.*
- *He's been very helpful. He's been being very helpful.*
- *He's tasted the soup. He's been tasting the soup.*
- *They have seen this movie before. They have been seeing this movie before.*
- *I have seen a throat specialist. I have been seeing a throat specialist.*
- *We have realized where we are now. We have been realizing where we are now.*
- *It's belonged to us for many years. It's been belonging to us for many years.*
- *He's explained the plan to us. He's been explaining the plan to us.*