

The Present Perfect (9B)

1. In English, the Present Perfect links past and present. It expresses the effect of the past on the present
2. Present Perfect means ‘**completed before now**’. The Present Perfect **does not** express **when** an action happened. If we say the exact time, we use the Past Simple.

In my life, I **have travelled** to all seven continents.

I **travelled** around Africa in 1998.

Form

Has/have + past participle

I’ve lived in Rome.

She’s lived in London.

He hasn’t lived here long.

They haven’t bought their flat.

How long have they known Peter?

How long has she been married?

Short answer

Have you always lived in Budapest. Yes, I have./ No, I haven’t.

Use

There are three main uses of the Present Perfect.

1. Unfinished past

The Present Perfect expresses an action that began in the past and still continues.

We’ve lived in the same house for 20 years.

How long have you known each other?

They’ve been married for 20 years.

Be careful! Many languages express this idea with a present tense, but in English this is wrong.

Jan has been a nurse for ten years.

NOT

~~Jan is a nurse for ten years.~~

Time expressions for this use are FOR (with a period of time) and SINCE (with a point in time).

2. Experience

The Present Perfect expresses an experience that happened at some time in one's life. The action is finished, but the effects of the action are still felt.

I've been to the United States. (I still remember.)

Have you ever had an operation? (at any time in your life)

Time expressions for this use are adverbs EVER, NEVER and BEFORE.

3. Present result

The Present Perfect expresses a past action that has a present result. The action is usually in the recent past.

The taxi hasn't arrived yet. (We're still waiting for it.)

What have you done to your lip? (It's still bleeding.)

We often announce news in the Present Perfect.

Have you heard? The Minister has resigned.

Susan's had her baby!

Details will be in the Past Simple.

She resigned because she lost a vote of no confidence.

It's a boy. He weighed 3.5 kg.

Time expressions for this use are adverbs YET, ALREADY and JUST.

Just means a short time ago.

Already means sooner than expected. We use yet when we are expecting something to happen.

Just and already come before the past participle. Yet comes at the end of a question or a negative sentence.

We've **just** come back from our holiday.

It isn't a very good party. Most people have **already** gone home.

It's eleven and you haven't finished your breakfast **yet**.

Has your course started **yet**?

Present Perfect Simple passive

Form

Has/have been +past participle

It has been sold.

They have been sold.

Use

The uses are the same in the passive as in the active.

Two million cars have been produced so far this year. (unfinished past)

Has she ever been made redundant? (past experience)

Have you heard? Two hundred homes have been washed away by a tidal wave! (present importance)

Here's an interesting link to a lesson on the Present Perfect:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XGw2-p2WuJk>

EXERCISES

1 Complete the conversation with the Present Perfect form of the verbs in brackets and short answers.

A How long (1) *have* you *been* (be) in Paris?

B For two weeks.

A (2) _____ you _____ (start) your new job?

B No, I haven't. I start next week.

A (3) _____ you _____ (find) somewhere to live?

B No, I (4) _____. I (5) _____ (see) a few apartments but I haven't found the right one yet.

A (6) _____ you _____ (visit) any of the museums and galleries?

B Yes, I (7) _____. I (8) _____ (go) to the Louvre but I (9) _____ (not go) to the Musée Rodin yet.

A And (10) _____ your French course _____ (start) yet?

B Oh yes, it (11) _____. It's been really helpful.

A Well, good luck with the job and the flat.

2 Complete the sentences with the phrases in the box.

the age of two ten years a few minutes 10 o'clock very long
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1 I've worked in fashion for _____.

2 She's lived in this city since _____.

3 We've only been here for _____.

4 Our guests have been here since _____.

5 It's our second anniversary, so we haven't been married for _____.

3 Correct the mistakes.

- 1 I've known Peter since ages.
- 2 She's been a qualified pilot for 20 August.
- 3 You're late. Where have you gone?
- 4 Gary and Paul haven't never been to Portugal.
- 5 Jo hasn't already finished cleaning the car.
- 6 Have they yet eaten?

4 Rewrite the sentences in the Present Perfect Simple passive.

- 1 No-one has ever robbed me or burgled my house.
I have never been robbed, and my house has never been burgled.
- 2 The company has recruited a number of people recently.

- 3 Nobody has discovered the cause of the accident.

- 4 They have held the festival in the city for over two hundred years.

- 5 I'm so happy! We have finally sold our house!

Connecting words (9C)

1 But, although and however

We can join two sentences with but.

The café was crowded, **but** we found a table. Nick has a car, **but** he doesn't often drive it.

But expresses a contract or conflict between two ideas. We can also use although.

Although the café was crowded, we found a table. **Although** Nick has a car, he doesn't often drive it.

The clause with although can come at the end.

We found a table, **although** the café was crowded.

However is a little formal and it is used to contract or conflict two ideas in separate sentences. The new system was supposed to be more efficient. **However**, in practice it caused chaos.

2 Though and even though

Though is informal. It means the same as although.

Though/Although I liked the sweater, I decided not to buy it.

We can also use **though** at the end of a sentence. I liked the sweater. I decided not to buy it, **though**.

Even though is stronger, more emphatic than although.

Matthew looked quite fresh, **even though** he'd been playing squash.

Even though you disliked Jessica, you should try to be nice to her.

3 In spite of and despite

We use in spite of before a noun or before the -ing form of a verb.

Kitty wanted to report on the war **in spite of** the danger.

Mark wanted on working **in spite of** feeling unwell.

We use despite in exactly the same way as in spite of and with the same meaning.

She wanted to go **despite** the danger. He went on working **despite** feeling unwell

I highly recommend watching film *Catch me if you can* as a part of this lesson.