

LÍNGUA ESTRANGEIRA IV - INGLÊS

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Language Study. Present Perfect

Consider this sentence from the text “The best self-catering holidays for a UK break”, by Roshina Jowaheer e Alex Mcfadyen:

“With this in mind, you'll want to browse the most wonderful self-catering accommodation we've found from the likes of Booking.com, Sykes Holiday Cottages and Snaptrip.”

What is the tense of the underlined verbs?

- a) Past Simple b) Present Continuous c) Present Perfect



The answer is **Present Perfect**.

<https://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/english-grammar-reference/present-perfect>

➤ The present perfect is formed from the present tense of the verb have and the past participle* of a verb.

➤ We use the present perfect:

a) for something that started in the past and continues in the present:

They've been married for nearly fifty years.

She has lived in Liverpool all her life.

* Common irregular verbs in the Past Participle:

<https://languageonschools.com/blog/english-irregular-verbs-list/>

b) when we are talking about our experience up to the present:

I've seen that film before.

I've played the guitar ever since I was a teenager.

He has written three books and he is working on another one.

We often use the adverb *ever* to talk about experience up to the present:

My last birthday was the worst day I have ever had.



and we use *never* for the negative form:

Have you ever met George?

Yes, but I've never met his wife.

c) for something that happened in the past but is important in the present:

I can't get in the house. I've lost my keys.

Teresa isn't at home. I think she has gone shopping.

have been and have gone

- ▶ **We use have/has been when someone has gone to a place and returned:**

A: Where have you been?

B: I've just been out to the supermarket.

A: Have you ever been to San Francisco?

B: No, but I've been to Los Angeles.

- ▶ **But when someone has not returned, we use have/has gone:**

A: Where's Maria? I haven't seen her for weeks.

B: She's gone to Paris for a week. She'll be back tomorrow.

Present perfect with time adverbials

- We often use the present perfect with adverbials which refer to the recent past: **recently / just / only just**

Scientists have recently discovered a new breed of monkey.

We have just got back from our holidays.

- or adverbials which include the present: **so far / until now / up to now / ever (in questions) / yet (in questions and negatives)**

Have you ever seen a ghost?

Where have you been up to now?

A: Have you finished your homework yet?

B: No, so far I've only done my history.

Be careful!

- We do not use the present perfect with adverbials which refer to a finished past time: yesterday / last week - month – year / in 2017 / when I was younger

*I **have seen** that film ~~yesterday~~.*

*We **have** just **bought** a new car ~~last week~~.*

*~~When we were children~~ we **have been** to California.*

- but we can use the present perfect with adverbials which refer to a time which is not yet finished: today / this week - month - year / now that I am 18

***Have** you **seen** Helen today?*

*We **have bought** a new car this week.*



Watch the video “Mini English lessons:
Present perfect v. simple past”, by British
Council:

➡ [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wEl_
O8Ugid0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wEl_O8Ugid0)