

4 An Exciting Trip

I have just received a letter from my brother, Tim. He is in Australia. He has been there for six months. Tim is an engineer. He is working for a big firm and he has already visited a great number of different places in Australia. He has just bought an Australian car and has gone to Alice Springs, a small town in the centre of Australia. He will soon visit Darwin. From there, he will fly to Perth. My brother has never been abroad before, so he is finding this trip very exciting.



Comprehension Précis and Composition

Answer these questions *in not more than 50 words*.

1. What has the writer just received from his brother, Tim?
2. Is Tim an engineer, or is he a doctor?
3. How long has he been in Australia?
4. Has he already visited many places or not?
5. Where is he now?
6. Has Tim ever been abroad before or not?
7. Is he enjoying his trip very much or not?

Key Structures

What has happened?

These sentences are from the passage. Study them carefully. Pay close attention to the words in *italics*:

I have *just* received a letter from my brother, Tim.

He has *just* bought an Australian car and has gone to Alice Springs.

He has been there *for six months*.

He has *already* visited a great number of different places.

My brother has *never* been abroad before.

Here are some more sentences:

He has retired *now*.

Have you *ever* been to Australia?

Have you read any good books *lately*?

I haven't been very successful *so far*.

The train has not arrived *yet*.

Exercises

A. Write these sentences again. Put the words in brackets in the right place:

1. I have had breakfast. (just)
2. He has been in prison. (for six months)
3. The police have not caught the thief. (yet)
4. You have asked that question three times. (already)
5. Have you been to Switzerland? (ever)

6. I have been to Switzerland. (never)
7. He is a wonderful runner. He has broken two records. (so far)
8. I haven't seen George. (lately)

B. Give the correct form of the verbs in brackets. Do not refer to the passage until you finish the exercise:

I just (receive) a letter from my brother Tim. He is in Australia. He (be) there for six months. Tim is an engineer. He is working for a big firm and he already (visit) a great number of different places in Australia. He just (buy) an Australian car and (go) to Alice Springs. My brother never (be) abroad before, so he is finding this trip very exciting.

C. What is happening? What has happened?

Read these two statements: The bell is ringing.

The bell has just rung.

Complete the following in the same way:

1. He is leaving the house. He has just . . .
2. He is having breakfast. He has . . .
3. She is writing a letter.
4. My sister is turning on the radio.
5. My mother is making the bed.
6. She is buying a new hat.

D. Read these two statements: He is still having breakfast.

He hasn't had breakfast yet.

Complete the following in the same way:

1. She is still washing the dishes. She hasn't . . .
2. She is still making the beds. She . . .
3. He is still combing his hair.
4. She is still sweeping the carpet.
5. We are still reading 'Macbeth'.

E. Read these two sentences: I've already had lunch.

Have you had lunch yet?

Ask questions in the same way:

1. I've already seen the new play at 'The Globe'. Have you . . .
2. I've already taken my holidays.
3. I've already read this book.
4. I've already done my homework.
5. I've already finished my work.

Special Difficulties

Words Often Confused

Receive and Take.

Receive: I have just received a letter from my brother. (ll. 1-2)

Take: Someone has taken my pen.

Exercise

Choose the correct words in the following:

1. Yesterday I (took) (received) a present from Aunt Jane.
2. Have you (taken) (received) a letter from him yet?
3. I (took) (received) the letter with me.
4. He has (taken) (received) some flowers to her.
5. Why did you (receive) (take) this book off the shelf?