



**It's the worst
book I've ever
read!**

B2 | Lesson 2





Objectives

1. Review the use and form of the present perfect with "ever" and "never"

2. Read some polarising book reviews

3. Talk about some of your best and worst life experiences



Tell us about yourself...

Where are you from? Where do you live now?

What do you do?

What do you usually enjoy doing at the weekend?

Why are you studying English?

Have you ever taken a Busuu Live Lesson before?





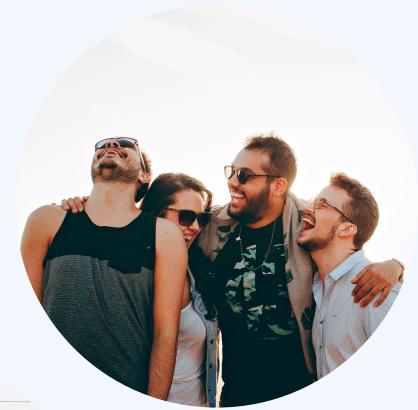
Never have I ever...

You'll need two pieces of paper. Write in big letters "I have" and "I have never". Listen to your teacher making statements about things they have never done.

Put up "I have" if you've done them or "I have never" if you haven't done them.

I HAVE

I HAVE
NEVER





Have you read any books by these authors?



Jane Austen

Haruki Murakami

Charles Dickens

J. K. Rowling

Leo Tolstoy





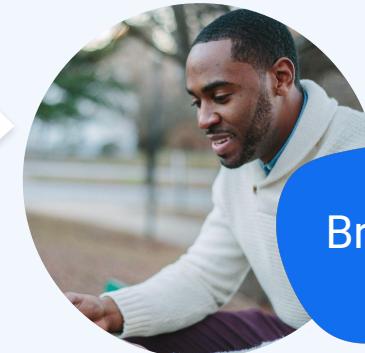
How do they feel about the book?



Angela

It's an important book that contributes to the debate on borders and migration policies and this big social issue is served as a thriller, which makes it a page-turner worth reading.

All in all, I wouldn't call it a waste of time, but definitely a disappointing attempt at capturing the complexities of the urgent question of migration.



Brian





Read the first review and complete the information

American Dirt by Jeanine Cummins is a fast-paced thriller that sets out to represent the stories of thousands of Latin American migrants who are trying to cross the US border.

The book opens with a [vivid scene](#) of Lydia, the main protagonist, and her 8-year-old son Luca hiding in the bathroom while their whole family is being killed outside in the garden.

Lydia is a strong female protagonist who [goes to great lengths](#) to protect her son; she shows strength and determination in undertaking an impossible journey to the US. The author's descriptive language and focus on emotions create instinctive empathy with the protagonist.

It's an important book that [contributes to the debate](#) on borders and migration policies and this big social issue is served as a thriller, which makes it a [page-turner](#) worth reading.

What does Angela say about...?

1. the main theme of the book

2. the genre

3. the writing style of the author

4. the plot

5. the main characters





Read the second review and complete the information

Jeanine Cummins' *American Dirt* takes us on an escape journey across modern Mexico. After Lydia's husband publishes an article on the local **drug lord** her family is no longer safe. When her worst fears come true and 16 members of her family are murdered, she has no other option but to seek safety in the US.

My main concern is that the characters in the thriller are nothing like the actual migrants. Lydia is a well-off, well-educated woman. Javier, the drug lord, is a book-loving *narco* and Luca is a geography genius. It's not exactly **representative of** the people who risk their lives crossing the border.

Her style is very **accessible**, making it **an easy read**. But I can't help thinking that the topic was too big for the author, who herself is not Mexican.

All in all, I wouldn't call it **a waste of time** but definitely a **disappointing** attempt at capturing the complexities of the urgent question of migration.

What does Brian say about...?

1. the main theme of the book

2. the genre

3. the writing style of the author

4. the plot

5. the main characters





Match the halves

1. a waste

2. a page

3. an easy

4. a vivid

A. scene

B. of time

C. read

D. turner





Let's talk!

1. Would you like to read *American Dirt*? Why? Why not?
2. Have you ever read a book about an important social issue? What was it?





Complete the sentences with the correct adjective



1. The books we have to read at school are often _____.
2. Reading in English is becoming more and more _____ to me.
3. The fact that people read less nowadays is _____ of our lifestyles.

accessible

representative

disappointing

Discuss the sentences. Which of them do you agree with?





Listening

Match the speaker and the situation they talk about. There are 3 extra situations you don't need to use.



Speaker 1 _____



Speaker 2 _____



Speaker 3 _____



A. a scary experience

B. a life-changing book

C. discovering a new talent

D. a disappointing film

E. an embarrassing social situation

F. an unforgettable holiday





When are these adjectives used? Match

1.

embarrassed
frightened
disappointed

2.

embarrassing
frightening
disappointing

A. To say how you feel

B. To say what something is like





Complete the sentences from the listening with the correct verb in the present perfect

sing

1. I _____ never _____ totally comfortable in a big group.

see

2. It's been the most frightening thing I _____ ever _____.

feel

3. We can't believe you _____ never _____ before.





Let's talk!

1. Have you ever had a scary experience?
2. Have you ever read a life-changing book?
3. Have you ever discovered you had a hidden talent?
4. Have you ever seen a disappointing film?
5. Have you ever been in an embarrassing social situation?
6. Have you ever been on an unforgettable holiday?





Remember

Vocabulary to

1. describe books:

a page-turner, an easy
read, a disappointing
attempt, a vivid scene,
a fast-paced thriller

How do you feel?

2. embarrassed
frightened
disappointed

What is it like?

embarrassing
frightening
disappointing

“Never” and “ever” are

3. often used with the
present perfect:

I've never wanted to be
a singer.

It's the scariest thing
I've ever seen.



Good work!

Review lesson 2 in our B2 English course.
Go a step further and **do lesson 3** in our B2 English course.



Additional material



Never have I ever ...

Now you come up with one statement starting with:

Never have I ever ...

Share it with your classmates and see what answers they put up. Ask them some questions to find out more details.

I HAVE

I HAVE NEVER





Have you ever done these things?



go skiing



eat sushi



listen to an
audiobook

Ask each other the question and find out more about the experience.





Complete the sentences with the correct adjective

1. I felt totally _____ when I mispronounced my manager's name.

embarrassing

embarrassed

2. I expected much more from this book.
It was really _____.

disappointing

disappointed

3. Don't be _____ but there is a spider on your shoulder.

frightening

frightened

4. The definition of this word is quite _____ to me.

confusing

confused

5. I'm _____ because you didn't help me with the cooking.

annoying

annoyed





Let's reflect!

Today I've learned

1. _____
2. _____

I found it difficult to _____.

I liked how I _____.



Answer key (1)

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Angela: she likes the book
(important book, page-turner worth reading)
Brian: he doesn't like the book
(definitely a disappointing attempt)

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Review 1

1. It represents the stories of thousands of Latin American migrants who are trying to cross the US border, big social issues
2. fast-paced thriller
3. The author's descriptive language and focus on emotions make it instinctive to empathise with the protagonist.
4. The book opens with a vivid scene where Lydia, the main protagonist, and her 8-year-old son Luca hide in the bathroom while their whole family is being killed outside in the garden.



Answer key (2)

5. Lydia is a strong female protagonist who goes to an incredible length to protect her son, she shows strength and determination in undertaking an impossible journey.

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Review 2

1. *American Dirt* takes us on an escape journey across modern Mexico.
2. thriller
3. Her style is very accessible, making it an easy read.
4. After Lydia's husband publishes an article on the local drug lord her family is no longer safe. When her worst fears come true and 16 members of her family are murdered she has no other option but to seek safety in the US.
5. Lydia is a well-off, well-educated woman. Javier, the drug lord is a book-loving narco and Luca is a geography genius.



Answer key (3)

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- 1. B 2. D 3. C 4. A

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- 1. disappointing 2. accessible
- 3. representative

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- Speaker 1 B
- Speaker 2 A
- Speaker 3 E

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- 1. A 2. B

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- 1. I have never felt totally comfortable in a big group.
- 2. It's been the most frightening thing I have ever seen.
- 3. We can't believe you have never sung before.

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- 1. embarrassed; 2. disappointing;
- 3. frightened; 4. confusing;
- 5. annoyed