

## Unit 10

# Present perfect continuous and simple (I have been doing and I have done)

A

Study this example situation:



There is paint on Kate's clothes.  
 She **has been painting** her bedroom.

**Has been painting** is the *present perfect continuous*.

We are thinking of the activity. It does not matter whether it has been finished or not. In this example, the activity (painting the bedroom) has not been finished.



Her bedroom was green. Now it is yellow.  
 She **has painted** her bedroom.

**Has painted** is the *present perfect simple*.

Here, the important thing is that something has been finished. **Has painted** is a completed action. We are interested in the result of the activity (the painted bedroom), not the activity itself.

B

Compare these examples:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> My hands are very dirty. <b>I've been repairing</b> my bike.<br><input type="checkbox"/> Joe <b>has been eating</b> too much recently. He should eat less.<br><input type="checkbox"/> It's nice to see you again. What <b>have you been doing</b> since we last met?<br><input type="checkbox"/> Where have you been? <b>Have you been playing</b> tennis? | <input type="checkbox"/> My bike is OK again now. <b>I've repaired</b> it.<br><input type="checkbox"/> Somebody <b>has eaten</b> all the chocolates. The box is empty.<br><input type="checkbox"/> Where's the book I gave you? What <b>have you done</b> with it?<br><input type="checkbox"/> <b>Have you ever played</b> tennis? |
|--|--|

C

We use the continuous to say *how long* (for something that is still happening):

- How long **have you been reading** that book?
- Lisa is writing emails. She's **been writing** emails all morning.
- They've **been playing** tennis since 2 o'clock.
- I'm learning Arabic, but I **haven't been learning** it very long.

We use the simple to say *how much, how many* or *how many times*:

- How much of that book **have you read**?
- Lisa is writing emails. She's **sent** lots of emails this morning.
- They've **played** tennis three times this week.
- I'm learning Arabic, but I **haven't learnt** very much yet.

D

Some verbs (for example, **know/like/believe**) are not normally used in the continuous:

- I've **known** about the problem for a long time. (*not I've been knowing*)
- How long **have you had** that camera? (*not have you been having*)

For a list of these verbs, see Unit 4A. For **have**, see Unit 17.

But note that you *can* use **want** and **mean** in the present perfect continuous:

- I've **been meaning** to phone Jane, but I keep forgetting.

## Exercises

**10.1** Read the situation and complete the sentences. Use the verbs in brackets.

- 1 Tom started reading a book two hours ago. He is still reading it and now he is on page 53.  
*He has been reading* .... for two hours. (read)  
*He has read* 53 pages so far. (read)
- 2 Rachel is from Australia. She is travelling round Europe at the moment. She began her trip three months ago.  
 She ..... for three months. (travel)  
 ..... six countries so far. (visit)
- 3 Patrick is a tennis player. He began playing tennis when he was ten years old. This year he won the national championship again – for the fourth time.  
 ..... the national championship four times. (win)  
 ..... since he was ten. (play)
- 4 When they left college, Lisa and Sue started making films together. They still make films.  
 They ..... films since they left college. (make)  
 ..... five films since they left college. (make)

**10.2** For each situation, ask a question using the words in brackets.

- 1 You have a friend who is learning Arabic. You ask:  
 (how long / learn / Arabic?) *How long have you been learning Arabic?*
- 2 You have just arrived to meet a friend. She is waiting for you. You ask:  
 (wait / long?) *Have* .....
- 3 You see somebody fishing by the river. You ask:  
 (catch / any fish?) .....
- 4 Some friends of yours are having a party next week. You ask:  
 (how many people / invite?) .....
- 5 A friend of yours is a teacher. You ask:  
 (how long / teach?) .....
- 6 You meet somebody who is a writer. You ask:  
 (how many books / write?) .....
- 7 A friend of yours is saving money to go on a world trip. You ask:  
 (how long / save?) .....
- 8 (how much money / save?) .....

**10.3** Put the verb into the more suitable form, present perfect simple (**I have done**) or continuous (**I have been doing**).

- 1 Where have you been? *Have you been playing* .... (you / play) tennis?
- 2 Look! ..... (somebody / break) that window.
- 3 You look tired. ..... (you / work) hard?
- 4 '..... (you / ever / work) in a factory?' 'No, never.'
- 5 'Liz is away on holiday.' 'Is she? Where ..... (she / go)?'
- 6 My brother is an actor. ..... (he / appear) in several films.
- 7 'Sorry I'm late.' 'That's all right. .... (I / not / wait) long.'
- 8 'Is it still raining?' 'No, ..... (it / stop).'
- 9 ..... (I / lose) my phone. ..... (you / see) it anywhere?
- 10 ..... (I / read) the book you lent me, but ..... (I / not / finish) it yet. It's very interesting.
- 11 ..... (I / read) the book you lent me, so you can have it back now.
- 12 This is a very old book. ..... (I / have) it since I was a child.

## Unit 11

# How long have you (been) ... ?

A

Study this example situation:



Dan and Jenny are married. They got married exactly 20 years ago, so today is their 20th wedding anniversary.

They **have been** married **for 20 years**.

We say: They **are** married. (*present*)

*but* **How long have they been** married? (*present perfect*)  
 (*not* How long are they married?)

They **have been** married **for 20 years**.  
 (*not* They are married for 20 years)

We use the *present perfect* to talk about something that began in the past and still continues now.  
 Compare the *present* and the *present perfect*:

- Paul is in hospital.
- but* He's **been** in hospital **since Monday**. (= He **has** been ...)  
 (*not* Paul is in hospital since Monday)
- Do you **know** each other well?
- but* Have you **known** each other **for a long time**?  
 (*not* Do you know)
- She's **waiting** for somebody.
- but* She's **been waiting** **all morning**.
- Do they **have** a car?
- but* How long have they **had** their car?

*present*  
 he is  
 do you know  
 she is waiting

*present perfect*  
 he has been  
 have you known  
 she has been waiting

past now

B

I **have known/had/lived** etc. is the *present perfect simple*.

I **have been learning / been waiting / been doing** etc. is the *present perfect continuous*.

When we ask or say 'how long', the continuous is more usual (see Unit 10):

- I've **been learning** English **for six months**.
- It's **been raining** **since lunchtime**.
- Richard **has been doing** the same job **for 20 years**.
- 'How long have you **been driving**?' 'Since I was 17.'

Some verbs (for example, **know/like/believe**) are not normally used in the continuous:

- How long **have you known** Jane? (*not* have you been knowing)
- I've **had** a pain in my stomach all day. (*not* I've been having)

See also Units 4A and 10C. For **have**, see Unit 17.

C

You can use either the present perfect continuous or simple with **live** and **work**:

- Julia **has been living / has lived** here for a long time.
- How long **have you been working / have you worked** here?

But use the simple (I've **lived / done** etc.) with **always**:

- I've **always lived** in the country. (*not* always been living)

D

We say '**I haven't done** something **since/for ...**' (*present perfect simple*):

- I **haven't seen** Tom since Monday. (= Monday was the last time I saw him)
- Sarah **hasn't phoned** for ages. (= the last time she phoned was ages ago)

## Exercises

### 11.1 Are the underlined verbs right or wrong? Correct them where necessary.

- 1 Ben is a friend of mine. I know him very well.
- 2 Ben is a friend of mine. I know him for a long time.
- 3 Sarah and Adam are married since July.
- 4 The weather is awful. It's raining again.
- 5 The weather is awful. It's raining all day.
- 6 I like your house. How long are you living there?
- 7 Gary is working in a shop for the last few months.
- 8 I don't know Tom well. We've only met a few times.
- 9 I gave up drinking coffee. I don't drink it for a year.
- 10 That's a very old bike. How long do you have it?

OK

I've known him


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### 11.2 Read the situations and write questions from the words in brackets.

- 1 A friend tells you that Paul is in hospital. You ask him:  
(how long / be / in hospital?) How long has Paul been in hospital?
- 2 You meet a woman who tells you that she teaches English. You ask her:  
(how long / teach / English?)
- 3 You know that Jane is a good friend of Katherine's. You ask Jane:  
(how long / know / Katherine?)
- 4 Your friend's brother went to Australia some time ago and he's still there. You ask your friend:  
(how long / be / in Australia?)
- 5 Tom always wears the same jacket. It's a very old jacket. You ask him:  
(how long / have / that jacket?)
- 6 You are talking to a friend about Joe. Joe now works at the airport. You ask your friend:  
(how long / work / at the airport?)
- 7 A friend of yours is having guitar lessons. You ask him:  
(how long / have / guitar lessons?)
- 8 You meet somebody on a plane. She says that she lives in Chicago. You ask her:  
(always / live / in Chicago?)

### 11.3 Complete B's answers to A's questions.

A

- 1 Paul is in hospital, isn't he?
- 2 Do you see Ann very often?
- 3 Is Amy married?
- 4 Are you waiting for me?
- 5 You know Mel, don't you?
- 6 Do you still play tennis?
- 7 Is Joe watching TV?
- 8 Do you watch TV a lot?
- 9 Do you have a headache?
- 10 Adrian is never ill, is he?
- 11 Are you feeling ill?
- 12 Sue lives in Berlin, doesn't she?
- 13 Do you go to the cinema a lot?
- 14 Would you like to go to New York one day?

B

- Yes, he has been in hospital since Monday.  
 No, I haven't seen her for three months.  
 Yes, she ..... married for ten years.  
 Yes, I ..... for the last half hour.  
 Yes, we ..... each other a long time.  
 No, I ..... tennis for years.  
 Yes, he ..... TV all evening.  
 No, I ..... TV for ages.  
 Yes, I ..... a headache all morning.  
 No, he ..... ill since I've known him.  
 Yes, I ..... ill all day.  
 Yes, she ..... in Berlin for the last few years.  
 No, I ..... to the cinema for ages.  
 Yes, I ..... to go to New York.  
 (use **always** / **want**)

## Unit 12

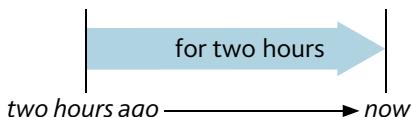
# For and since When ... ? and How long ... ?

A

We use **for** and **since** to say how long something has been happening.

We use **for** + a period of time (**two hours**, **six weeks** etc.):

- I've been waiting **for two hours**.

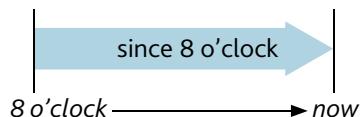


<b>for</b>		
two hours	20 minutes	five days
a long time	six months	50 years
a week	ages	years

- Sally has been working here **for six months**. (*not* since six months)
- I haven't seen Tom **for three days**.

We use **since** + the start of a period (**8 o'clock**, **Monday**, **1999** etc.):

- I've been waiting **since 8 o'clock**.



<b>since</b>		
8 o'clock	Monday	12 May
April	2001	Christmas
lunchtime	we arrived	I got up

- Sally has been working here **since April**. (=from April until now)
- I haven't seen Tom **since Monday**.

It is possible to leave out **for** (but not usually in negative sentences):

- They've been married (for) **ten years**. (with or without **for**)
- They **haven't had** a holiday **for ten years**. (you must use **for**)

We do *not* use **for + all ...** (**all day** / **all my life** etc.):

- I've lived here **all my life**. (*not* for all my life)

You can use **in** instead of **for** in negative sentences (**I haven't ... etc.**):

- They **haven't had** a holiday **in ten years**. (=for ten years)

B

Compare **when ... ?** (+ past simple) and **how long ... ?** (+ present perfect):



- A: **When** did it start raining?  
 B: It started raining **an hour ago** / **at 1 o'clock**.
- A: **How long** has it been raining?  
 B: It's been raining **for an hour** / **since 1 o'clock**.



- A: **When** did Joe and Carol first meet?  
 B: They first met **a long time ago**.  
**when they were at school**.
- A: **How long** have they known each other?  
 B: They've known each other **for a long time**.  
**since they were at school**.

C

We say:

<b>It's</b> (= It is) <b>or It's been</b> (= It has been)	a long time six months (etc.)	since something happened
--	----------------------------------	--------------------------

- It's two years since** I last saw Joe. **or It's been two years since ...**  
(=I haven't seen Joe for two years)
- It's ages since** we went to the cinema. **or It's been ages since ...**  
(=We haven't been to the cinema for ages)
- How long is it since** Mrs Hill died? **or How long has it been since ... ?**  
(=When did Mrs Hill die?)

**How long have you (been) ... ?** → Unit 11

## Exercises

### 12.1 Write for or since.

- 1 It's been raining ... since lunchtime.
- 2 Sarah has lived in Paris ..... 1995.
- 3 Paul has lived in Brazil ..... ten years.
- 4 I'm tired of waiting. We've been sitting here ..... an hour.
- 5 Kevin has been looking for a job ..... he left school.
- 6 I haven't been to a party ..... ages.
- 7 I wonder where Joe is. I haven't seen him ..... last week.
- 8 Jane is away. She's been away ..... Friday.
- 9 The weather is dry. It hasn't rained ..... a few weeks.

### 12.2 Write questions with how long and when.

- 1 It's raining.  
 (how long?) How long has it been raining?  
 (when?) When did it start raining?
- 2 Kate is learning Japanese.  
 (how long / learn?) .....  
 (when / start?) .....
- 3 I know Simon.  
 (how long / you / know?) .....  
 (when / you / first / meet?) .....
- 4 Rebecca and David are married.  
 (how long?) .....  
 (when?) .....

### 12.3 Read the situations and complete the sentences.

- 1 It's raining. It's been raining since lunchtime. It started raining at lunchtime.
- 2 Ann and Jess are friends. They first met years ago. They've known each other for years.
- 3 Mark is ill. He became ill on Sunday. He has ..... Sunday.
- 4 Mark is ill. He became ill a few days ago. He has ..... a few days.
- 5 Sarah is married. She's been married for a year. She got ..... .
- 6 You have a headache. It started when you woke up.  
 I've ..... I woke up.
- 7 Sue has been in Italy for the last three weeks.  
 She went ..... .
- 8 You're working in a hotel. You started six months ago.  
 I've ..... .

### 12.4 Write B's sentences using the words in brackets.

- 1 A: Do you often go on holiday?  
 B: No, I haven't had a holiday for five years.
- 2 A: Do you often see Laura?  
 B: No, I ..... about a month.
- 3 A: Do you often go to the cinema?  
 B: No, ..... a long time.
- 4 A: Do you often eat in restaurants?  
 B: No, ..... ages.

Now write B's answers again. This time use It's ... since ... .

- 5 (1) No, it's five years since I had a holiday.
- 6 (2) No, its .....
- 7 (3) No, .....
- 8 (4) .....

## Unit 13

# Present perfect and past 1 (I have done and I did)

**A**

Study this example situation:



Tom is looking for his key. He can't find it.

**He has lost** his key. (*present perfect*)

This means that he doesn't have his key *now*.

Ten minutes later:



Now Tom **has found** his key. He has it now.

**Has he lost** his key? No, he **has found** it.

**Did he lose** his key? Yes, he **did**.

**He lost** his key (*past simple*)  
 but now he **has found** it. (*present perfect*)

The present perfect (something **has happened**) is a *present* tense. It always tells us about the situation *now*. 'Tom **has lost** his key' = he doesn't have his key *now* (see Unit 7).

The past simple (something **happened**) tells us only about the *past*. If somebody says 'Tom **lost** his key', this doesn't tell us whether he has the key now or not. It tells us only that he lost his key at some time in the past.

Do *not* use the present perfect if the situation now is different. Compare:

- They've **gone** away. They'll be back on Friday. (they are away *now*)  
 They **went** away, but I think they're back at home now. (*not* They've gone)
- It **has stopped** raining now, so we don't need the umbrella. (it isn't raining *now*)  
 It **stopped** raining for a while, but now it's raining again. (*not* It has stopped)

**B**

You can use the present perfect for new or recent happenings:

- 'I've **repaired** the washing machine. It's working OK now.' 'Oh, that's good.'
- 'Sally **has had** a baby! It's a boy.' 'That's great news.'

Usually, you can also use the past simple:

- I **repaired** the washing machine. It's working OK now.

Use the past simple (*not* the present perfect) for things that are not recent or new:

- Mozart **was** a composer. He **wrote** more than 600 pieces of music.  
 (*not* has been ... has written)
- My mother **grew** up in Italy. (*not* has grown)

Compare:

- Did you know that somebody **has invented** a new type of washing machine?
- Who **invented** the telephone? (*not* has invented)

**C**

We use the present perfect to give new information (see Unit 7). But if we continue to talk about it, we normally use the past simple:

- A: Ow! I've **burnt** myself.  
 B: How **did** you **do** that? (*not* have you done)  
 A: I **picked** up a hot dish. (*not* have picked)
- A: Look! Somebody **has spilt** something on the sofa.  
 B: Well, it **wasn't** me. I **didn't do** it. (*not* hasn't been ... haven't done)

## Exercises

- 13.1** Complete the sentences using the verbs in brackets. Use the present perfect where possible. Otherwise use the past simple.

**1** I can't get in.  
I 've lost (lose) my key.

**2** The office is empty now.  
Everybody (go) home.

**3** I meant to call you last night,  
but I (forget).

**4** HELEN Helen (go) to Egypt for a holiday, but she's back home in England now.

**5** Are you OK?  
Yes, I (have) a headache, but I'm fine now.

**6** Can you help us? Our car (break) down.

- 13.2** Are the underlined parts of these sentences right or wrong? Correct them where necessary.

- 1 Did you hear about Sue? She's given up her job.
- 2 My mother has grown up in Italy.
- 3 How many poems has William Shakespeare written?
- 4 Ow! I've cut my finger. It's bleeding.
- 5 Drugs have become a big problem everywhere.
- 6 Who has invented paper?
- 7 Where have you been born?
- 8 Ellie isn't at home. She's gone shopping.
- 9 Albert Einstein has been the scientist who has developed the theory of relativity.

OK  
grew  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....  
.....

- 13.3** Put the verb into the correct form, present perfect or past simple.

- 1 It stopped raining for a while, but now it's raining again. (it / stop)
- 2 The town where I live is very different now. It has changed a lot. (it / change)
- 3 I studied German at school, but ..... most of it now. (I / forget)
- 4 The police ..... three people, but later they let them go. (arrest)
- 5 What do you think of my English? Do you think .....? (it / improve)
- 6 A: Are you still reading the paper?  
B: No, ..... with it. You can have it. (I / finish)
- 7 ..... for a job as a tourist guide, but I wasn't successful. (I / apply)
- 8 Where's my bike? ..... outside the house, but it's not there now. (it / be)
- 9 Quick! We need to call an ambulance. ..... an accident. (there / be)
- 10 A: Have you heard about Ben? ..... his arm. (he / break)  
B: Really? How .....? (that / happen)  
A: ..... off a ladder. (he / fall)

## Unit 14

# Present perfect and past 2 (I have done and I did)

A

Do not use the present perfect (**I have done**) when you talk about a *finished* time (for example, **yesterday / ten minutes ago / in 2005 / when I was a child**). Use a past tense:

- It was** very cold **yesterday**. (*not has been*)
- Paul and Lucy **arrived ten minutes ago**. (*not have arrived*)
- Did you eat** a lot of sweets **when you were a child**? (*not have you eaten*)
- I **got** home late **last night**. I **was** very tired and **went** straight to bed.

Use the past to ask **When ... ?** or **What time ... ?**:

- When did** your friends **arrive**? (*not have ... arrived*)
- What time did** you **finish** work?

Compare:

### Present perfect

- Tom **has lost** his key. He can't get into the house.
- Is Carla here or **has she left**?

### Past simple

- Tom **lost** his key **yesterday**. He couldn't get into the house.
- When did** Carla **leave**?

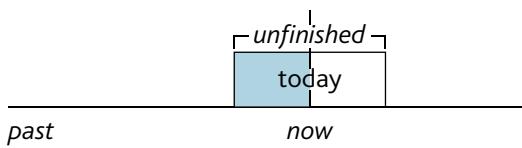
B

Compare:

### Present perfect (have done)

- I've done** a lot of work **today**.

We use the present perfect for a period of time that continues *until now*. For example:  
**today / this week / since 2007**.

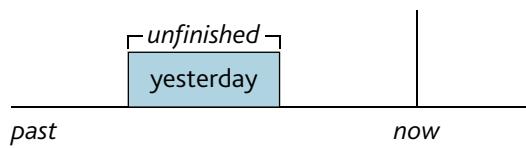


- It **hasn't rained** **this week**.
- Have you seen** Anna **this morning**? (it is still morning)
- Have you seen** Tim **recently**?
- I don't know where Lisa is. I **haven't seen** her. (= I haven't seen her recently)
- We've **been waiting** for an hour. (we are still waiting now)
- Jack lives in Los Angeles. He **has lived** there for seven years.
- I **have never played** golf. (in my life)
- It's the last day of your holiday. You say: It's **been** a really good holiday. I've really **enjoyed** it.

### Past simple (did)

- I did** a lot of work **yesterday**.

We use the past simple for a *finished* time in the past. For example:  
**yesterday / last week / from 2007 to 2010**.



- It **didn't rain** **last week**.
- Did you see** Anna **this morning**? (it is now afternoon or evening)
- Did you see** Tim **on Sunday**?
- A: **Was** Lisa at the party **on Sunday**?  
B: I don't think so. I **didn't** see her.
- We **waited** (or **were waiting**) for an hour. (we are no longer waiting)
- Jack **lived** in New York for ten years. Now he lives in Los Angeles.
- I **didn't play** golf **last summer**.
- After you come back from holiday you say: It **was** a really good holiday. I really **enjoyed** it.

## Exercises

**14.1** Are the underlined parts of these sentences right or wrong? Correct them where necessary.

- 1 I've lost my key. I can't find it anywhere.
- 2 Have you eaten a lot of sweets when you were a child?
- 3 I've bought a new car. You must come and see it.
- 4 I've bought a new car last week.
- 5 Where have you been yesterday evening?
- 6 Lucy has left school in 1999.
- 7 I'm looking for Mike. Have you seen him?
- 8 'Have you been to Paris?' 'Yes, many times.'
- 9 I'm very hungry. I haven't eaten much today.
- 10 When has this book been published?

OK

Did you eat

**14.2** Make sentences from the words in brackets. Use the present perfect or past simple.

- 1 (it / not / rain / this week) It hasn't rained this week.
- 2 (the weather / be / cold / recently) The weather .....
- 3 (it / cold / last week) It .....
- 4 (I / not / read / a newspaper yesterday) I .....
- 5 (I / not / read / a newspaper today) .....
- 6 (Emily / earn / a lot of money / this year) .....
- 7 (she / not / earn / so much / last year) .....
- 8 (you / have / a holiday recently?) .....

**14.3** Put the verb into the correct form, present perfect or past simple.

- 1 'What's Madrid like?' 'I don't know. I haven't been (I / not / be) there.'
- 2 When ..... (I / get) home last night, ..... (I / be)  
very tired and ..... (I / go) straight to bed.
- 3 A: ..... (you / see) Lisa recently?  
B: Yes, ..... (I / saw) her a few days ago.
- 4 I'm tired. ..... (I / not / sleep) well last night.
- 5 The bus drivers were on strike last week. ..... (there / be) no buses.
- 6 Mr Lee ..... (work) in a bank for 15 years. Then ..... (he / give)  
it up. Now he works as a gardener.
- 7 Mary lives in Dublin. ..... (she / live) there all her life.
- 8 A: ..... (you / go) to the cinema last night?  
B: Yes, but ..... (it / be) a mistake. The film ..... (be) awful.
- 9 My grandfather ..... (die) before I was born.  
(I / never / meet) him.
- 10 I don't know Karen's husband. ..... (I / never / meet) him.
- 11 It's nearly lunchtime, and ..... (I / not / see) Martin all morning.  
I wonder where he is.
- 12 'Where do you live?' 'In Boston.'  
'How long ..... (you / live) there?' 'Five years.'  
'Where ..... (you / live) before that?' 'In Chicago.'  
'And how long ..... (you / live) in Chicago?' 'Two years.'

**14.4** Write sentences about yourself using the ideas in brackets.

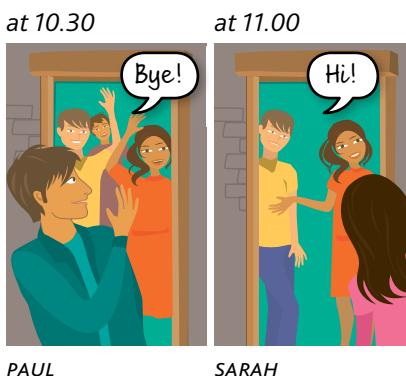
- 1 (something you haven't done today) I haven't eaten any fruit today.
- 2 (something you haven't done today) .....
- 3 (something you didn't do yesterday) .....
- 4 (something you did yesterday evening) .....
- 5 (something you haven't done recently) .....
- 6 (something you've done a lot recently) .....

## Unit 15

### Past perfect (I had done)

A

Study this example situation:



Sarah went to a party last week. Paul went to the party too, but they didn't see each other. Paul left the party at 10.30 and Sarah arrived at 11 o'clock. So:

When Sarah arrived at the party, Paul wasn't there.

He **had gone** home.

**Had gone** is the *past perfect (simple)*:

I/we/they/you he/she/it	<b>had</b>	(= I'd etc.) (= he'd etc.)	<b>gone</b> <b>seen</b> <b>finished</b> etc.
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The past perfect simple is **had + past participle (gone/seen/finished etc.)**.

Sometimes we talk about something that happened in the past:

- Sarah **arrived** at the party.

This is the starting point of the story. Then, if we want to talk about things that happened *before* this time, we use the past perfect (**had ...**):

- When Sarah arrived at the party, Paul **had** already **gone** home.

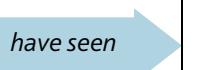
Some more examples:

- When we got home last night, we found that somebody **had broken** into the flat.
- Karen didn't want to go to the cinema with us because she'd already **seen** the movie.
- At first I thought I'd **done** the right thing, but I soon realised that I'd **made** a big mistake.
- The man sitting next to me on the plane was very nervous. He **hadn't flown** before.  
or ... He **had** never **flew** before.

B

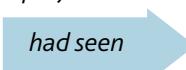
Compare the *present perfect (have seen etc.)* and the *past perfect (had seen etc.)*:

*Present perfect*



- Who is that woman? I've **seen** her before, but I can't remember where.
- We aren't hungry. We've just **had** lunch.
- The house is dirty. They **haven't cleaned** it for weeks.

*Past perfect*



- I wasn't sure who she was. I'd **seen** her before, but I couldn't remember where.
- We weren't hungry. We'd just **had** lunch.
- The house was dirty. They **hadn't cleaned** it for weeks.

C

Compare the *past simple (left, was etc.)* and the *past perfect (had left, had been etc.)*:

- A: Was Tom there when you arrived?  
B: Yes, but he **left** soon afterwards.
- Kate **wasn't** at home when I phoned. She **was** at her mother's house.

- A: Was Tom there when you arrived?  
B: No, he **had** already **left**.
- Kate **had** just **got** home when I phoned. She **had been** at her mother's house.

## Exercises

**15.1** Read the situations and write sentences from the words in brackets.

- 1 You went to Sue's house, but she wasn't there.  
(she / go / out) She had gone out.
- 2 You went back to your home town after many years. It wasn't the same as before.  
(it / change / a lot)
- 3 I invited Rachel to the party, but she couldn't come.  
(she / arrange / to do something else)
- 4 You went to the cinema last night. You got to the cinema late.  
(the film / already / start)
- 5 It was nice to see Daniel again after such a long time.  
(I / not / see / him for five years)
- 6 I offered Sue something to eat, but she wasn't hungry.  
(she / just / have / breakfast)

**15.2** For each situation, write a sentence ending with **never ... before**. Use the verb in brackets.

- 1 The man sitting next to you on the plane was very nervous. It was his first flight.  
(fly) He'd never flown before.
- 2 Somebody sang a song. I didn't know it.  
(hear) I ..... before.
- 3 Sam played tennis yesterday. He wasn't very good at it because it was his first game.  
(play) He .....
- 4 Last year we went to Mexico. It was our first time there.  
(be there) We .....

**15.3** Use the sentences on the left to complete the paragraphs on the right. These sentences are in the order in which they happened – so (a) happened before (b), (b) before (c) etc. But your paragraph begins with the underlined sentence, so sometimes you need the past perfect.

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|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 (a) Somebody broke into the office during the night.<br/><u>(b) We arrived at work in the morning.</u><br/>(c) We called the police.</li> <li>2 (a) Laura went out this morning.<br/><u>(b) I rang her doorbell.</u><br/>(c) There was no answer.</li> <li>3 (a) Jim came back from holiday a few days ago.<br/><u>(b) I met him the same day.</u><br/>(c) He looked very well.</li> <li>4 (a) Kevin sent Sally lots of emails.<br/><u>(b) She never replied to them.</u><br/>(c) <u>Yesterday he got a phone call from her.</u><br/>(d) He was very surprised.</li> </ol> | <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="flex: 1;"> <p>We arrived at work in the morning and found that <u>somebody had broken</u> into the office during the night. So ..... the police.</p> <p>I went to Laura's house this morning and rang her doorbell, but ..... no answer. .... out.</p> <p>I met Jim a few days ago. ..... just ..... holiday. very well.</p> <p>Yesterday Kevin ..... from Sally. ..... very surprised. lots of emails, but .....</p> </div> </div> |
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**15.4** Put the verb into the correct form, past perfect (**I had done**) or past simple (**I did**).

- 1 'Was Paul at the party when you arrived?' 'No, he ..... had gone ..... (go) home.'
- 2 I felt very tired when I got home, so I ..... (go) straight to bed.
- 3 The house was very quiet when I got home. Everybody ..... (go) to bed.
- 4 Sorry I'm late. The car ..... (break) down on my way here.
- 5 We were driving along the road when we ..... (see) a car which ..... (break) down, so we ..... (stop) to help.