**Present Perfect**

**FORM**

[has/have + past participle]

Examples:

* You **have seen** that movie many times.
* **Have** you **seen** that movie many times?
* You **have not seen** that movie many times.

**USE 1 Unspecified Time Before Now**

http://www.englishpage.com/image/verbs/presentperfect.gif

We use the Present Perfect to say that an action happened at an unspecified time before now. The exact time is not important. You CANNOT use the Present Perfect with specific time expressions such as: yesterday, one year ago, last week, when I was a child, when I lived in Japan, at that moment, that day, one day, etc. We CAN use the Present Perfect with unspecific expressions such as: ever, never, once, many times, several times, before, so far, already, yet, etc.

Examples:

* I **have seen** that movie twenty times.
* I think I **have met** him once before.
* There **have been** many earthquakes in California.
* People **have traveled** to the Moon.
* People **have not traveled** to Mars.
* **Have** you **read** the book yet?
* Nobody **has** ever **climbed** that mountain.
* A: **Has** there ever **been** a war in the United States?  
  B: Yes, there **has been** a war in the United States.

**How Do You Actually Use the Present Perfect?**

The concept of "unspecified time" can be very confusing to English learners. It is best to associate Present Perfect with the following topics:

**TOPIC 1 Experience**

You can use the Present Perfect to describe your experience. It is like saying, "I have the experience of..." You can also use this tense to say that you have never had a certain experience. The Present Perfect is NOT used to describe a specific event.

Examples:

* I **have been** to France.  
  *This sentence means that you have had the experience of being in France. Maybe you have been there once, or several times.*
* I **have been** to France three times.  
  *You can add the number of times at the end of the sentence.*
* I **have** never **been** to France.  
  *This sentence means that you have not had the experience of going to France.*
* I think I **have seen** that movie before.
* He **has** never **traveled** by train.
* Joan **has studied** two foreign languages.
* A: **Have** you ever **met** him?  
  B: No, I **have** not **met** him.

**TOPIC 2 Change Over Time**

We often use the Present Perfect to talk about change that has happened over a period of time.

Examples:

* You **have grown** since the last time I saw you.
* The government **has become** more interested in arts education.
* Japanese **has become** one of the most popular courses at the university since the Asian studies program was established.
* My English **has** really **improved** since I moved to Australia.

**TOPIC 3 Accomplishments**

We often use the Present Perfect to list the accomplishments of individuals and humanity. You cannot mention a specific time.

Examples:

* Man **has walked** on the Moon.
* Our son **has learned** how to read.
* Doctors **have cured** many deadly diseases.
* Scientists **have split** the atom.

**TOPIC 4 An Uncompleted Action You Are Expecting**

We often use the Present Perfect to say that an action which we expected has not happened. Using the Present Perfect suggests that we are still waiting for the action to happen.

Examples:

* James **has not finished** his homework yet.
* Susan **hasn't mastered** Japanese, but she can communicate.
* Bill **has** still **not arrived**.
* The rain **hasn't stopped**.

**TOPIC 5 Multiple Actions at Different Times**

We also use the Present Perfect to talk about several different actions which have occurred in the past at different times. Present Perfect suggests the process is not complete and more actions are possible.

Examples:

* The army **has attacked** that city five times.
* I **have had** four quizzes and five tests so far this semester.
* We **have had** many major problems while working on this project.
* She **has talked** to several specialists about her problem, but nobody knows why she is sick.

**Time Expressions with Present Perfect**

When we use the Present Perfect it means that something has happened at some point in our lives before now. Remember, the exact time the action happened is not important.

http://www.englishpage.com/image/verbs/presentperfect.gif

Sometimes, we want to limit the time we are looking in for an experience. We can do this with expressions such as: in the last week, in the last year, this week, this month, so far, up to now, etc.

http://www.englishpage.com/image/verbs/presentperfectlimit.gif

Examples:

* **Have** you **been** to Mexico **in the last year**?
* I **have seen** that movie six times **in the last month**.
* They **have had** three tests **in the last week**.
* She graduated from university less than three years ago. She **has worked** for three different companies **so far**.
* My car **has broken** down three times **this week**.

**NOTICE**

"Last year" and "in the last year" are very different in meaning. "Last year" means the year before now, and it is considered a specific time which requires [Simple Past](http://www.englishpage.com/verbpage/simplepast.html). "In the last year" means from 365 days ago until now. It is not considered a specific time, so it requires Present Perfect.

Examples:

* I **went** to Mexico **last year**.  
  *I went to Mexico in the calendar year before this one.*
* I **have been** to Mexico **in the last year**.  
  *I have been to Mexico at least once at some point between 365 days ago and now.*

**USE 2 Duration From the Past Until Now (Non-Continuous Verbs)**

http://www.englishpage.com/image/verbs/presentperfectcontinuous.gif

With [Non-Continuous Verbs](http://www.englishpage.com/verbpage/types.html) and non-continuous uses of [Mixed Verbs](http://www.englishpage.com/verbpage/types.html), we use the Present Perfect to show that something started in the past and has continued up until now. "For five minutes," "for two weeks," and "since Tuesday" are all durations which can be used with the Present Perfect.

Examples:

* I **have had** a cold for two weeks.
* She **has been** in England for six months.
* Mary **has loved** chocolate since she was a little girl.

Although the above use of Present Perfect is normally limited to Non-Continuous Verbs and non-continuous uses of Mixed Verbs, the words "live," "work," "teach," and "study" are sometimes used in this way even though they are NOT Non-Continuous Verbs.

**ADVERB PLACEMENT**

The examples below show the placement for grammar adverbs such as: always, only, never, ever, still, just, etc.

Examples:

* You have **only** seen that movie one time.
* Have you **only** seen that movie one time?

**ACTIVE / PASSIVE**

Examples:

* Many tourists **have visited** that castle. *Active*
* That castle **has been visited** by many tourists. *Passive*

Both present perfect and past perfect talk about something that happened before a point in time (reference point).

REVISION [AGAIN] OMG ARE WE THERE YET?

In the present perfect, our reference point is the present.

In the past perfect, our reference point is in the past.

Present Perfect

*An action that started in the past and continues to the present.*

I have lived in this city for six months.

*An action that happened before now (unspecified time)*

I have been to Japan twice.

My mother has just gone to the store.

Janet has lived abroad for five years.

I haven’t seen the new movie yet.

Have you finished your homework?

*It’s very common to use the contractions ‘ve and ‘s in the present perfect:*

I’ve been to Japan three times.

My mother’s just gone to the store.

Janet’s lived abroad for five years.

Past Perfect

An action that happened before a time in the past

When I arrived at the office this morning, I discovered that I had left my computer on the night before.

SITUATIONS WHERE YOU WOULD USE THE PAST PERFECT:

I went to Japan in 1988 and 1991. +I turned 10 years old in 1994.

I had been to Japan twice by the time I was 10 years old.

Situation:

My husband ate breakfast at 6:00 AM + I woke up at 7:00 AM

Past perfect sentence:

When I woke up this morning, my husband had already eaten breakfast.

*It’s common to use the contraction ‘d in the past perfect:*

I’d traveled to five different countries by the time I was 20 years old.

1.When I went to the car park, I found that my car \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ .(to steal)

2.John \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ in Paris for 4 years before he could speak French fluently. (to live)

3.I \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ English for 5 years now. (to learn)

4.The locals were amazed because they \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a horse before. (never, to see)

5.They wouldn't let him in because he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ his membership card. (to

forget)

6.They said : 'You can't come in because you \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ your membership

card.' (to forget)

7.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the new film by Spike Lee? (you, to see)

8.They \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ a lot of champagne by the time the party ended. (to drink)

9.They were angry because they \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for too long. (to wait)

10. I never get up from the table before others ­­­­(finish).

11. It is already 9:30 pm and I ­­­­ (wait) here for over an hour. If John does not get here in the next five

minutes, I am going to leave.

12. Did you hear that Ben was fired last month? He ­­­­ (work) for that import company for more than ten years and he ­­­­ (work) in almost every department.

13. I ­­­­(see) many pictures of the pyramids before I went to Egypt last summer. Pictures of the

monuments are very misleading. The pyramids are actually quite small.

14. Sarah (climb) Mount Everest, ­­­­ (sail) around the world, and ­­­­ (go) on safari in Kenya. She is

such an adventurous person.

15. Susan (climb) Mount Everest, ­­­­ (sail) around the world, and ­­­­ (go) on safari in Kenya by the time she was twenty­five. She ­­­­ (experience) more by that age than most people do in their entire lives.

16. Before my trip to Paris two years ago, I (never be) to France.

17. When we finally stopped him, the squirrel ­­­­ (already eat) five cookies.

18. Ben ­­­­ (try) to open his own restaurant for the last few years. He (just finish) the painting, but he ­­

­(not do) the decorating yet.

19. You look tired. How long­­­­ (run)?

1. A: Did you like the movie "Star Wars?"   
B: I don't know. I (see, never) that movie.   
  
2. Sam (arrive)in San Diego a week ago.   
  
3. My best friend and I (know)each other for over fifteen years. We still get together once a week.   
  
4. Stinson is a fantastic writer. He (write) ten very creative short stories in the last year. One day, he'll be as famous as Hemingway.   
  
5. I (have, not)this much fun since I (be) a kid.   
  
6. Things (change)a great deal at Coltech, Inc. When we first (start)  working here three years ago, the company (have, only) six employees. Since then, we (expand) to include more than 2000 full-time workers.   
  
7. I (tell) him to stay on the path while he was hiking, but he (wander) off into the forest and (be) bitten by a snake.   
  
8. Listen Donna, I don't care if you (miss) the bus this morning. You (be) late to work too many times. You are fired!   
  
9. Sam is from Colorado, which is hundreds of miles from the coast, so he (see, never) the ocean. He should come with us to Miami.   
  
10. How sad! George (dream) of going to California before he died, but he didn't make it. He (see, never) the ocean.  
  
11. In the last hundred years, traveling (become) much easier and very comfortable. In the 19th century, it (take) two or three months to cross North America by covered wagon. The trip (be) very rough and often dangerous. Things (change) a great deal in the last hundred and fifty years. Now you can fly from New York to Los Angeles in a matter of hours.   
  
12. Jonny, I can't believe how much you (change) since the last time I (see) you. You (grow)at least a foot!   
  
13. This tree (be)planted by the settlers who (found) our city over four hundred years ago.   
  
14. This mountain (be, never) climbed by anyone. Several mountaineers (try) to reach the top, but nobody (succeed, ever) . The climb is extremely difficult and many people (die) trying to reach the summit.   
  
15. I (visit, never) Africa, but I (travel)to South America several times. The last time I (go) to South America, I (visit) Brazil and Peru. I (spend) two weeks in the Amazon, (hike) for a week near Machu Picchu, and (fly) over the Nazca Lines.

16. Since computers were first introduced to the public in the early 1980's, technology (change) a great deal. The first computers (be) simple machines designed for basic tasks. They (have, not) much memory and they (be, not) very powerful. Early computers were often quite expensive and customers often (pay) thousands of dollars for machines which actually (do) very little. Most computers (be) separate, individual machines used mostly as expensive typewriters or for playing games.   
  
Times (change) . Computers (become)powerful machines with very practical applications. Programmers (create) a large selection of useful programs which do everything from teaching foreign languages to bookkeeping. We are still playing video games, but today's games (become) faster, more exciting interactive adventures. Many computer users (get, also) on the Internet and (begin) communicating with other computer users around the world. We (start) to create international communities online. In short, the simple, individual machines of the past (evolve) into an international World Wide Web of knowledge.

17. When I (arrive) home last night, I discovered that Jane (prepare) a beautiful candlelight dinner.   
  
18. Since I began acting, I (perform) in two plays, a television commercial and a TV drama. However, I (speak, never even) publicly before I came to Hollywood in 1985.   
  
19. By the time I got to the office, the meeting (begin, already) without me. My boss (be) furious with me and I (be) fired.  
  
20. When I (turn) the radio on yesterday, I (hear) a song that was popular when I was in high school. I (hear, not)the song in years, and it (bring) back some great memories.   
  
21. Last week, I (run) into an ex-girlfriend of mine. We (see, not) each other in years, and both of us (change) a great deal. I (enjoy) talking to her so much that I (ask) her out on a date. We are getting together tonight for dinner.   
  
22. When Jack (enter) the room, I (recognize, not) him because he (lose) so much weight and (grow)a beard. He looked totally different!   
  
23. The Maya established a very advanced civilization in the jungles of the Yucatan; however, their culture (disappear, virtually) by the time Europeans first (arrive) in the New World.   
  
24. I (visit) so many beautiful places since I (come) to Utah. Before moving here, I (hear, never) of Bryce Canyon, Zion, Arches, or Canyonlands.