

Present perfect 1 (I have done)

A

Study this example situation:



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

He **has lost** his key.He **has lost** his key = He lost it recently, and he still doesn't have it.**Have/has lost** is the *present perfect simple*:

I/we/they/you have (= I've etc.)	finished
	lost
he/she/it has (= he's etc.)	done
	been etc.

The present perfect simple is **have/has** + *past participle*. The past participle often ends in **-ed** (finished/decided etc.), but many important verbs are *irregular* (**lost/done/written** etc.).

For a list of irregular verbs, see Appendix 1.

B

When we say that 'something **has happened**', this is usually new information:

- ☐ Ow! I've **cut** my finger.
- ☐ The road is closed. There's **been** (there **has been**) an accident.
- ☐ (from the news) Police **have arrested** two men in connection with the robbery.

When we use the present perfect, there is a connection with *now*. The action in the past has a result *now*:

- ☐ 'Where's your key?' 'I don't know. I've **lost** it.' (= I don't have it *now*)
- ☐ He told me his name, but I've **forgotten** it. (= I can't remember it *now*)
- ☐ 'Is Sally here?' 'No, she's **gone** out.' (= she is out *now*)
- ☐ I can't find my bag. **Have** you **seen** it? (= Do you know where it is *now*?)

C

Note the difference between **gone (to)** and **been (to)**:

- ☐ James is on holiday. He **has gone to** Italy. (= he is there now or on his way there)
- ☐ Jane is back home now. She **has been to** Italy. (= she has now come back)

D

You can use the present perfect with **just**, **already** and **yet**.

Just = a short time ago:

- ☐ 'Are you hungry?' 'No, I've **just had** lunch.'
- ☐ Hello. **Have** you **just arrived**?

We use **already** to say that something happened sooner than expected:

- ☐ 'Don't forget to pay your electricity bill.' 'I've **already paid** it.'
- ☐ 'What time is Mark leaving?' 'He's **already left**.'

Yet = until now. **Yet** shows that the speaker is expecting something to happen. Use **yet** only in questions and negative sentences:

- ☐ **Has** it **stopped** raining **yet**?
- ☐ I've written the email, but I **haven't sent** it **yet**.

E

You can also use the past simple (**did**, **went**, **had** etc.) in the examples on this page. So you can say:

- ☐ 'Is Sally here?' 'No, she **went** out.' or 'No, she's **gone** out.'
- ☐ 'Are you hungry?' 'No, I **just had** lunch.' or 'No, I've **just had** lunch.'