

**LEVEL**  
**Intermediate**

**NUMBER  
EN BE 3117G**

**LANGUAGE**  
English





## Goals

- Can understand and explain the difference between the past simple and the present perfect.
- Can construct straightforward examples of the past simple and the present perfect, using both regular and irregular verbs.







## Preview and warm-up

- In this lesson, you are going to learn the differences between the **past simple** and the **present perfect**.

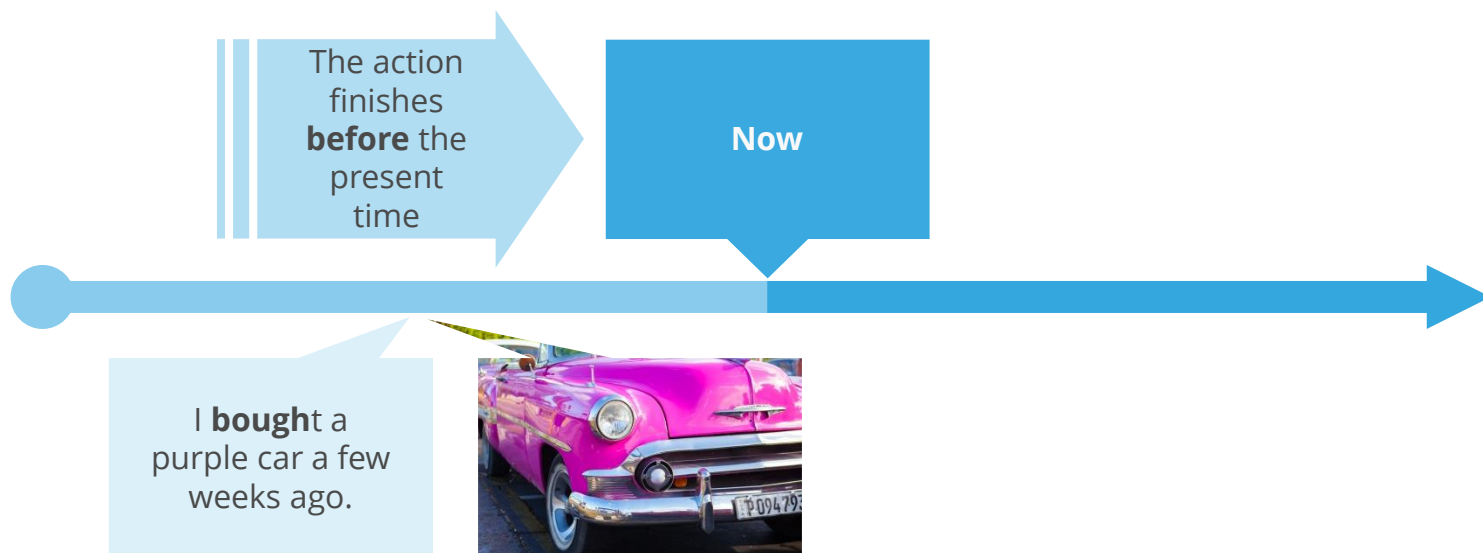


I **was** on time for work **yesterday**.  
I **have always been** on time for work.



## Past simple – a finished action with no result in the present

- We use the past simple:
  - For **completed events, states or actions.**
  - For events that **happened** and **finished** in the **past.**





## Present perfect 1 – *Roxanne has been to Spain*

- We use the present perfect to talk about a time from the **past** till **now**.
- This is often an **experience** in someone's life.





## Present perfect 1 – *Roxanne has been to Spain*

- We often use **never** with negative sentences in the present perfect.
- We use **ever** for **questions** – *Have you ever been to Spain?*
- We use words like **once** and **twice** to say **how many times** we have done something – *I have been to Spain twice.*



**Have you ever seen** a film in English?

Some young people **have never written**  
a letter.





## Using the present perfect

1. I / never / go / to Italy

→ I **have never been** to Italy.

2. She / see / that film / twice

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. You / ever / travel / by ferry?

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. I / break / my leg / twice

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

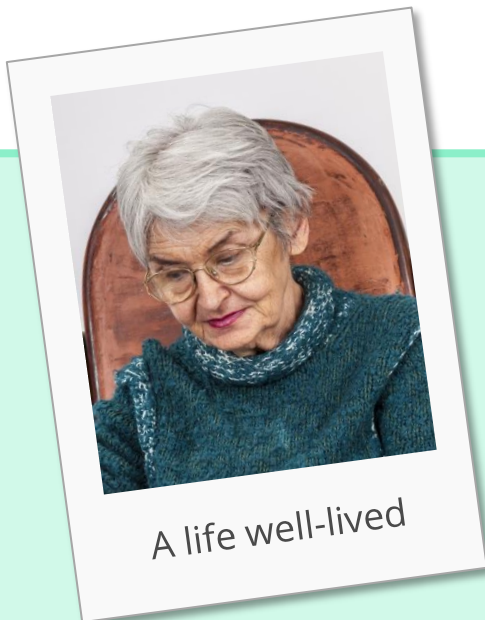
5. You / ever / work / abroad?

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_





## Using the present perfect



This is Bernadette. She is a retired filmmaker. She **has had** a fascinating and successful career.

What **has** Bernadette **done**?

**all over the world / at many important universities / three  
award-winning documentaries / married six times**

travel

teach

make

be



## Present perfect 2 – *I have known David for two years*

- We also use the present perfect for **unfinished actions** that **started in the past** and **continue to the present**.
- **For** tells us **how long** an action goes on – *for two years, for an hour, for a week*.
- **Since** tells us when an action **started** – *since last week, since 1994, since he was a child*.





## Using the present perfect

1. They \_\_\_\_\_ since they moved to London.
2. He \_\_\_\_\_ since he watched that sad film.
3. She \_\_\_\_\_ for ten years.
4. They \_\_\_\_\_ since 2014.

'We live in a small flat'



'I'm so upset'



'I'm self-employed'



'We know each other'





## Present perfect 2 – *For* or *since*?

1. I have lived here  
\_\_\_\_\_ I was  
born.

2. He lived there  
\_\_\_\_\_ 20  
years before he  
moved abroad.

3. I haven't been to  
work \_\_\_\_\_  
ages.

4. She hasn't spoken  
to me \_\_\_\_\_  
we left school.



## Present perfect 3 – *She has cleaned the kitchen*

- We also use the present perfect for **finished actions** that have a **result in the present**.
- *I've lost my phone.* → The result is that I can't use my phone to call my friend.

Present simple (Morning) →	Present continuous (Afternoon) →	Present perfect (Evening)
They <b>are at work</b> .	They are leaving work.	They <b>have left</b> work.
Sophie <b>needs a new phone</b> .	Sophie is shopping.	Sophie <b>has bought</b> a new phone.
The weather forecast <b>is bad</b> .	It is raining.	It <b>hasn't stopped</b> raining.



## Present perfect 3 – *She has cleaned the kitchen*

- Look at the sentences and pictures below.
- In this example below, the result is that the woman can now relax because she **has finished** cleaning the kitchen.

The kitchen is dirty. →



She is cleaning the kitchen. →



She **has cleaned** the kitchen.



Can you see how the **action in the past** has a result **now**?





## Present perfect 3 – *She has cleaned the kitchen*

1. Diego needs a key to get into his office building.



Diego is leaving his flat without his key.



\_\_\_\_\_  
(forget)

2. Kyle and Pauline are tired.



They are getting ready for bed.



\_\_\_\_\_  
(go)

3. The window is open in Laura's living room



Laura is getting cold.



\_\_\_\_\_  
(shut)



## Present perfect 4 – *just* and *already*

- We use the **present perfect** for **recent actions** in the **past** that **still affect** the **present**.
- To express this, we use the word ***just***. ***Just*** = a **short** time ago.
- We use ***already*** when something in the past happened **before** it was **expected**.

### Dialogue 1

A: Are Clara and Sonya here for the meeting?

B: Yes, they have just arrived.

### Dialogue 2

A: Priya, this is Heather.

B: Actually, we've already met. We went to a conference together last year.







## Present perfect 4 – *yet*

- **Yet** means **until now**.
- We use **yet** in **negative** present perfect sentences.
  - **Yet** goes at the end of these sentences.
- We also often use **yet** in **questions**.

### Dialogue 1

A: Is Martin here?

B: No he hasn't arrived yet.

### Dialogue 2

A: Has Martin arrived yet?

B: No, he hasn't.





## Complete the sentences using *just*



Are you hungry?

No, I've \_\_\_\_\_ (eat) lunch.



Where are you going?

Mike has \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) a new car. I'm going for a ride.





## Present perfect 4 – *just*, *already* and *yet*

Use the pictures and the words below them to make sentences using the present perfect.

Example:

\_\_\_\_\_.  
just catch / bus

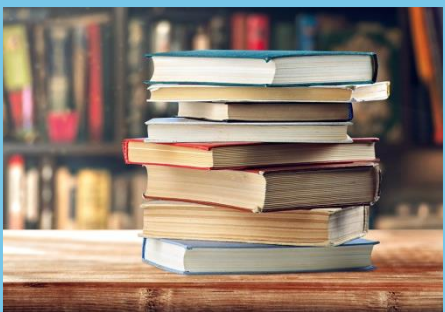
*I've just caught the bus.*



\_\_\_\_\_.  
just / start / rain



\_\_\_\_\_.  
already / meet



\_\_\_\_\_.  
read / yet



\_\_\_\_\_.  
eat / yet?

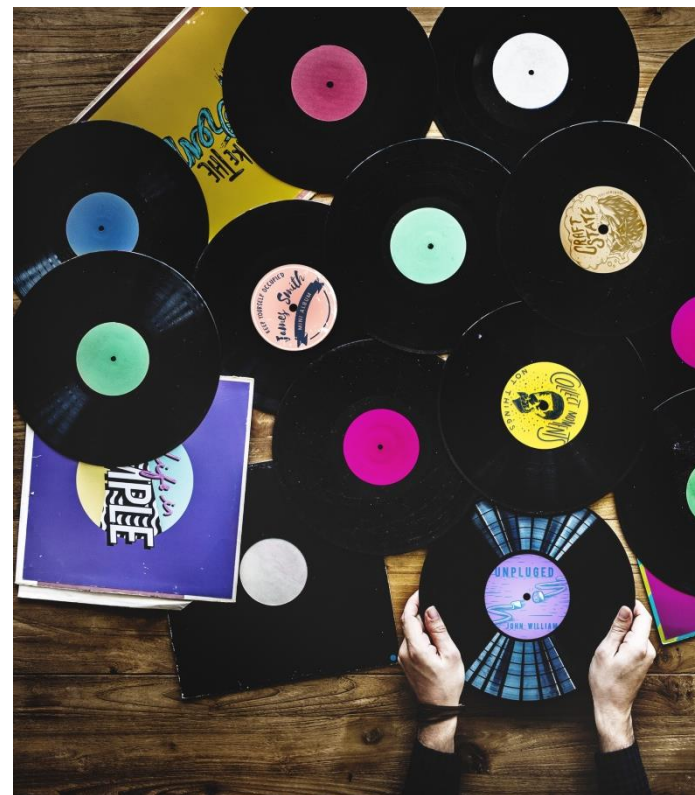


## Past simple vs. present perfect



- We use **past simple** + **finished time** – *yesterday, last week, this morning*.

Past simple	Present perfect
I <b>lost</b> my folder <b>last week</b> . (= <b>finished</b> action)	I <b>have lost</b> my folder. (= I can't find it <b>now</b> )
Paul <b>left</b> for work <b>after breakfast</b> . (= <b>finished</b> action)	Paul <b>has left</b> for work. (= He isn't here <b>now</b> )
<b>Did</b> you <b>buy</b> their new album when you <b>went</b> shopping <b>yesterday</b> ? (= <b>finished</b> actions)	<b>Have</b> you <b>heard</b> their new album? (= between the album coming out <b>up to now</b> )





## Past simple vs. present perfect

**Five of these sentences use the past simple or present perfect incorrectly. Can you find them?**

1. Have you been to the trade fair last month?
2. I spoke to Tim yesterday.
3. She has been at this company for a long time.
4. The company didn't update its software since 2009.
5. Yuri has worked for an advertising agency when he was at university.
6. Have you ever been to Jordan?
7. I never met him but I hope I will one day.
8. I like your suit. How long did you have it?





## Past simple vs. present perfect

Read about Peter's life and choose the correct verbs.

Peter **was/has been** born in Los Angeles, California. He **was/has been** a model all his life. He **starred/has starred** in his first photo shoot when he **was/has been** 2 months old. Peter **published/has published** two books of his photographs and he wants to publish another one. He **earned/has earned** over \$12 million in his career. Last year he **made/has made** more than \$2 million.





## Writing using the past simple and present perfect

**Using the previous page to help you, write a short text about your academic and professional life up to now. You may wish to include some of the suggested words below.**

achieved

graduated

worked as

studied

skills

learnt

A blank sheet of lined paper with a spiral binding on the left side, intended for writing a short text.



## Reflect on the goals

Go back to the second slide of the lesson and check if you have achieved all the goals of the lesson.

yes

no

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## Reflect on this lesson

Think about everything you have seen in this lesson.  
What were the most difficult activities or words? The easiest?



If you have time, go over  
the most difficult slides again



## Answer key (1/3)

### Exercise p. 11

1. They **have lived** in a small flat since they moved to London.
2. He **has been** so upset since he watched that sad film.
3. She **has been** self-employed for ten years.
4. They **have known** each other since 2014.

### Exercise p. 9

She **has travelled** all over the world.  
Bernadette **has taught** at many important universities.  
She **has made** three award-winning documentaries.  
She **has been** married six times.

### Exercise p. 8

2. She **has seen** that film twice.
3. **Have you ever travelled** by ferry?
4. I **have broken** my leg once.
5. **Have you ever worked** abroad?



## Answer key (2/3)

### Exercise p. 12

1. I have lived here **since** I was born.
2. He lived there **for** 20 years before he moved abroad.
3. I haven't been to work **for** ages.
4. She hasn't spoken to me **since** we left school.

### Exercise p. 15

1. Diego **has forgotten** his keys.
2. They **have gone** to bed.
3. Laura **has shut** the window.

### Exercise p. 18

No, I've **just eaten** lunch.  
Mike **has just bought** a new car. I'm going for a ride.

### Exercise p. 19 – other answers are possible

It **has just started** to rain.  
They **have already met**.  
I **haven't read** these books **yet**.  
Have you **eaten breakfast yet**?



## Answer key (3/3)

### Exercise p. 21

1. Incorrect – **Did** you **go** to the trade fair last month? (past simple)

2. Correct

3. Correct

4. Incorrect – The company **hasn't updated** its software since 2009. (present perfect)

5. Incorrect – Yuri **worked** for an advertising agency when he was at university. (past simple)

6. Correct

7. Incorrect – **I've never met** him but I hope I will one day. (present perfect)

8. Incorrect – I like your suit. How long **have** you **had** it? (present perfect)

### Exercise p. 22

Peter **was born** in Los Angeles. He **has been** a model all his life. He **starred** in his first photo shoot when he **was** 2 months old. Peter **has published** two books of his photographs so far and he wants to publish another one. He **has earned** over \$12 million in his career. Last year he **made** more than \$2 million.





## Unscramble the questions

A

visited

interesting place

where is

ever

the most

you have

B

far

so

what

have

today

you done



## Writing

**Write your answers to the questions on the previous page.  
Give as much detail as possible and use both the past simple  
and present perfect.**

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## Homework answer key

### **Exercise p. 32**

A. Where is the most interesting place you have ever been?  
B: What have you done so far today?





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