

# Talking about your past experience and knowledge

COMMUNICATION

LEVEL  
Lower-intermediate

NUMBER  
EN\_BE\_2316X

LANGUAGE  
English

lingoda

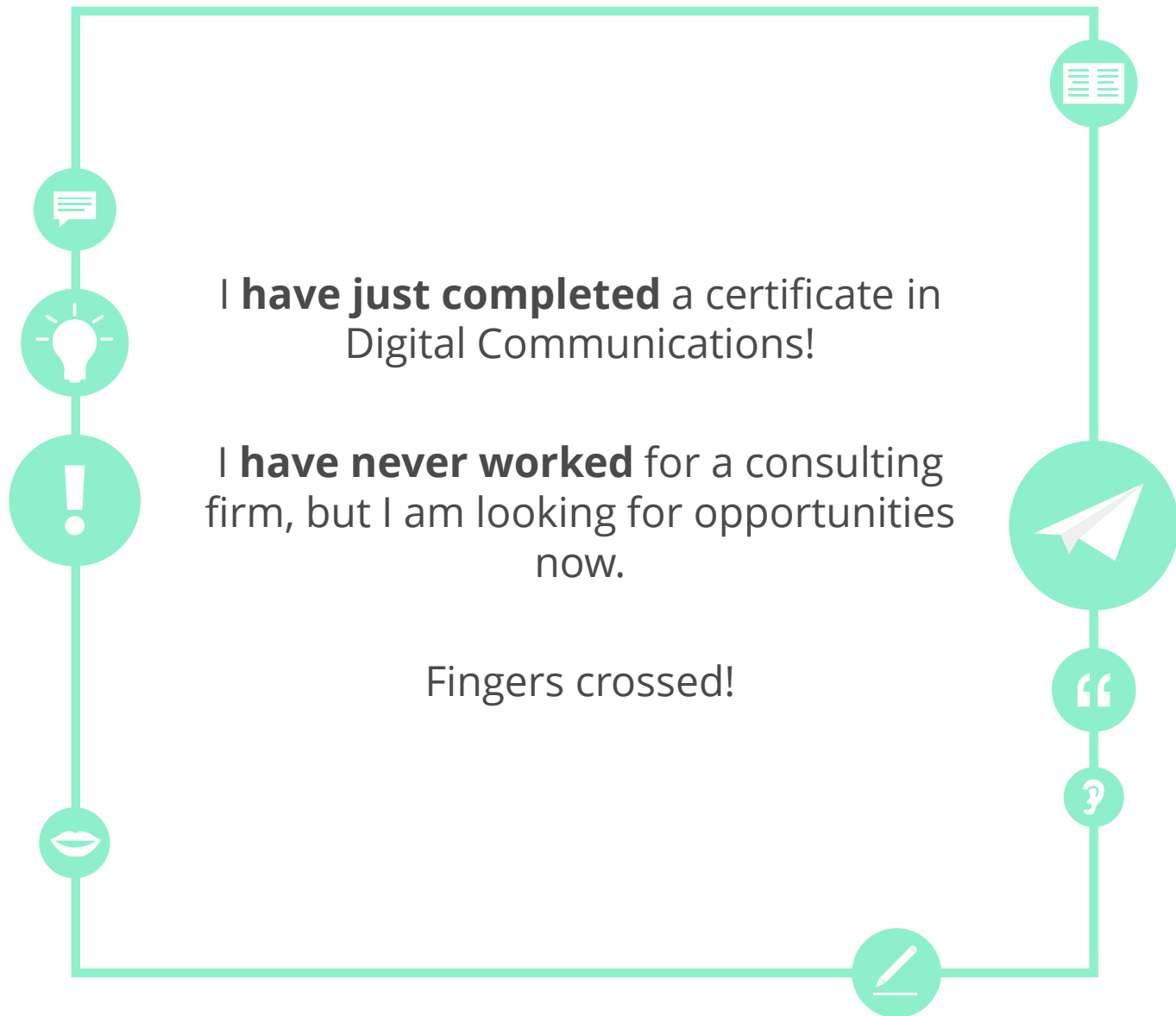




## Goals

- Can discuss my past experience and knowledge using the present perfect.
- Can talk about experiences with 'never' and 'ever'.







## Preview and warm-up

In this lesson, you will practise talking about your **past experience** and **knowledge** using the **present perfect**. You will also learn new words about time.



I have **recently** finished my master's degree.

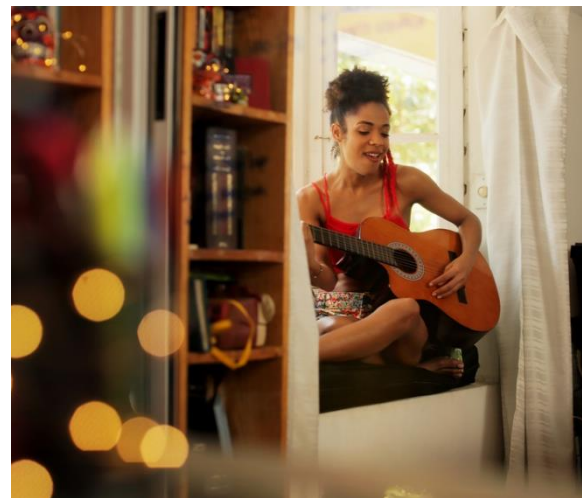


## Review: do you remember the present perfect?

It has the following structure:

**Subject + verb *to have* in the present + past participle of the verb**

subject + <i>to have</i>	past participle of the verb
I have...	... <b>lived</b> here before.
You have...	... <b>studied</b> marketing.
He / She has...	... <b>started</b> her own business.
They have...	... <b>travelled</b> together.



**Note:** The past participle of a regular verb looks like the past simple tense.  
But be careful! These two tenses are not the same!



Take a look at these examples



I **have finished** my IT course at work.

He **has completed** three certificates.



You **have lived** your entire life there.

They **have worked** in Barcelona before.





## Review: negative sentences with the present perfect

Do you remember this important rule? When you want to create a negative sentence, don't forget to add the word **not**.



I **have arrived** at the office → I **have not arrived** at the office



## Examples

Here are some negative sentences using the present perfect:



I **have not studied** Engineering.

He **hasn't started** his own business.



You **have not talked** to the team.





## Review: asking questions with the present perfect

Do you remember how to form question?

Remember to ask a question, you need to **invert the subject and verb!**



I **have arrived** at the office. → **Have** you **arrived** at the office?



## Examples

Here are some examples on how to use questions in the present perfect:



**Have you been** to New York?

**Have you travelled** in a group before?



**Have you had** many different job positions?

**Has she arrived** early for the meeting?





## Turn these sentences into questions

1. I have typed the report.

→ Have I typed the report?

2. You have arrived at the meeting.

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. We have worked here.

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. You have sent the e-mail.

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. She has organised the meeting.

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. I have managed a team.

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. You have finished the internship.

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. We have completed the task.

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Using the words *ever* and *never*

- We use the words *ever* and *never* with the present perfect to talk about **past experiences** in our lives.



Have you **ever** visited Berlin?  
No, I have **never** been before.



## Using the word *ever*

- We use ***ever*** a lot with **questions** in the present perfect to ask about experiences.
- You can answer the question with ***Yes, I have*** or ***No, I haven't***.
- Notice where it is placed in the question:

- Have you ***ever*** been to India?
- Have you ***ever*** done an internship?
- Have you ***ever*** worked in London?
- Have you ***ever*** started your own business?
- Have you ***ever*** participated in a conference?





## Create questions with *have you ever...*?

1. attend a conference

→ *Have you ever* attended a conference?

2. work abroad

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. study alone

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. finish a language course

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. manage a meeting

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. talk to your boss

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. call your colleagues

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. participate in a conference call

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Answer with a partner

Have you ever  
attended a  
conference?

Have you ever talked  
to your boss about a  
problem?

Have you ever been  
abroad?

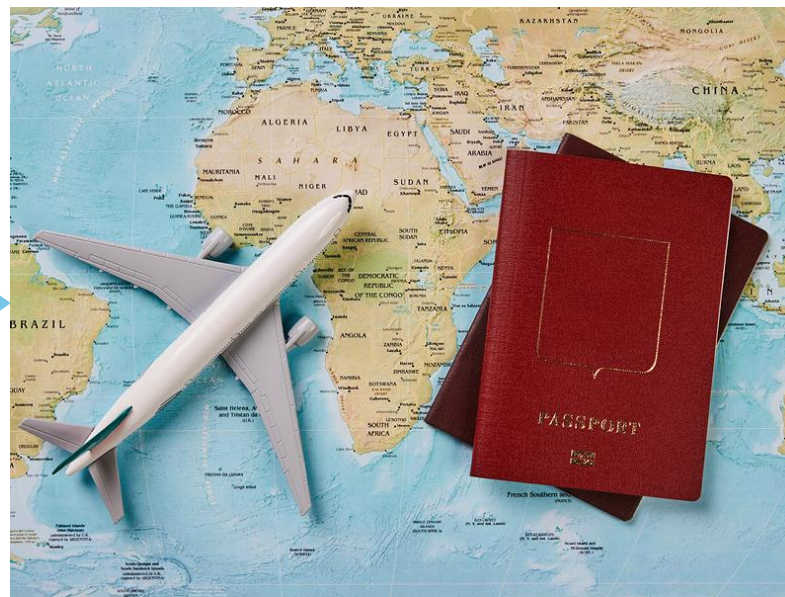
Have you ever studied  
a language?



## Using the word *never*

- Instead of saying *No, I haven't*, we can also use **never** to talk about something we haven't experienced until now.
- Of course, we use this word a lot with **negative sentences** in the present perfect.

- I have never been to the Congo.
- He has never started his own business.
- We have never worked as receptionists.
- She has never travelled alone.







## Match

1. I've never been to Italy.

2. I've never visited Paris.

3. I've never studied science.

4. I've never travelled alone.

5. I've never been a designer.

6. I've never finished an internship.

A



C



E



B



D



F





## Imagine the character

**This is Stephanie. What are some things she has done before and things she has never done?**



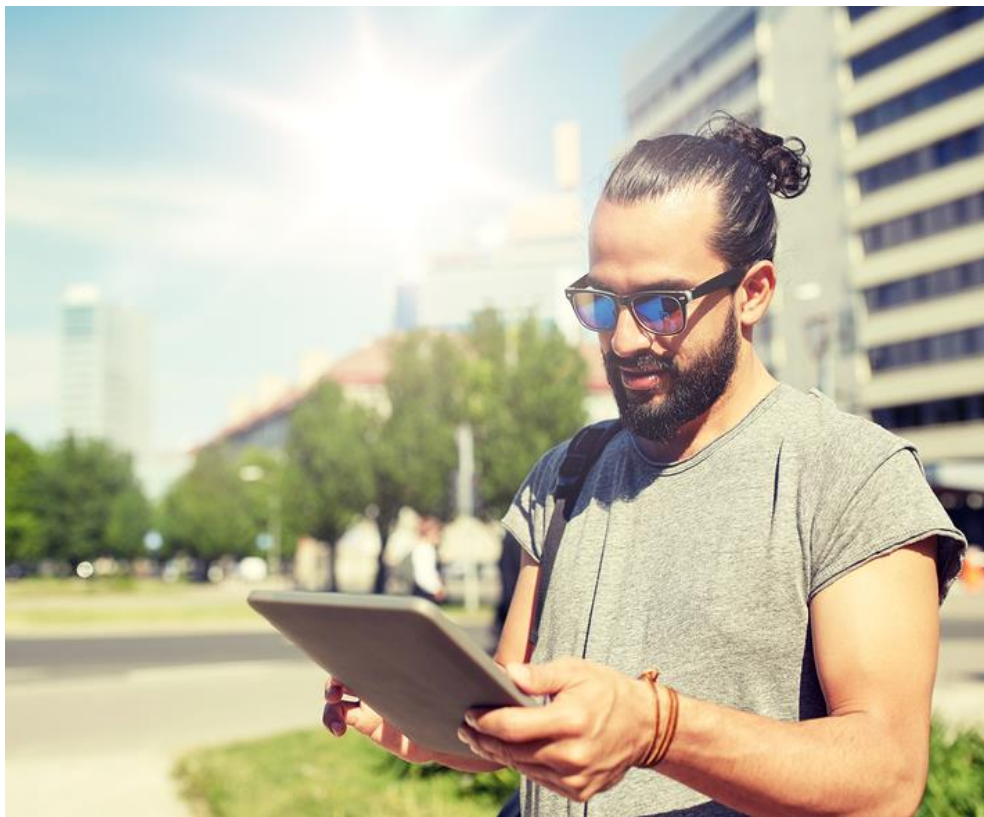
Half of the group  
ask the questions

The other half can  
answer them



## Imagine the character

**This is Charles. What are some things he has done before and things he has never done? Switch groups from last time!**



Has he ever...?

He has never...



## Speaking

**Ask and answer these questions as a group**  
**Remember to develop your answers and give some details!**



Have you ever  
studied abroad?

Have you ever  
finished an  
internship?

Have you ever  
completed a  
certificate?

Have you ever  
travelled alone?

Have you ever  
managed a  
team?

Have you ever  
studied abroad?

Have you ever  
taken a  
language  
course?

Have you ever  
managed a  
meeting?

Have you ever  
turned down a  
job offer?



## Using the words *recently*, *just* and *only just*

We can use the words **recently**, **just** and **only just** to show that an experience happened in a very, near past.



I have **recently** finished my training programme.

I have **just** finished my internship.





## Using the word *recently*

- The word **recently** shows we have done something in the **not-so-distant past**.
  - It could be in the last couple of days, weeks or months.
  - Notice where we put the word in the sentence

- I have recently been to Australia.
- He has **recently** finished his internship.
- Have you recently quit your job?
- We have recently received training.





## Using the words *just* and *only just*

- We use the words ***just*** and ***only just*** to talk about something that happened a **very short time ago**.
  - It could have been weeks, days, hours or even minutes ago!
  - The word ***only*** is used here for emphasis.
  - Again notice where these words go in the sentence:

- I have **just** finished my report.
- I have **only just** arrived at the office.
- She has **just** returned from her vacation.
- They have **only just** talked to their boss.





## Unscramble the phrases

A

She

recently

got

her master's

has

degree



Anna

B

He

only

the project

just

completed

has



Tom





Name...

somewhere you have  
never worked

something you have  
only just learnt to do

someone you have  
recently connected  
with

something you just  
worked on with your  
colleagues



## Look at these pictures

This is Anna, these are all something she has done a short time ago.  
What are they? Use *she has recently...* and *she has just...*





## Speaking

**Let's talk! Tell your classmates about your past experience with education and work**



Have you completed a degree?

Have you ever done any internships, training programmes or apprenticeships?

What training has your work never offered you?



## Game time!

Never have I ever...

You are going to play a simple game called "Never have I ever".

Each person holds up three fingers. One person says a statement and those who have done that must lower a finger.

The winner is the last remaining player!

Never have I ever been to France on holiday.



## 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





## 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

### Exercise p.11

1. Have you arrived at the meeting?
2. Have we worked here?
3. Have you sent the e-mail?
4. Has she organised the meeting?
5. Have I managed a team?
6. Have you finished the internship?
7. Have we completed the task?

### Exercise p. 17

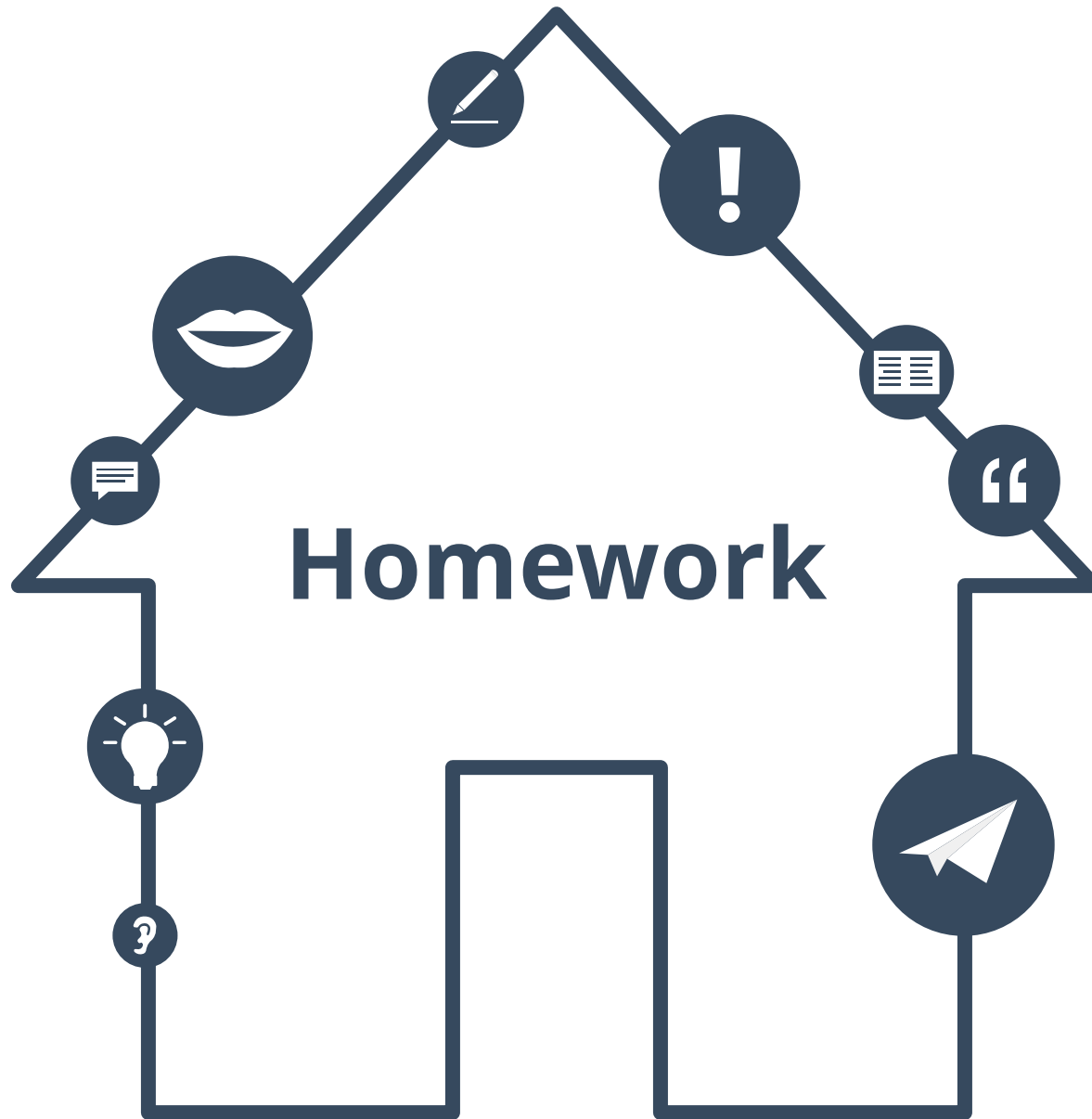
1. E
2. A
3. B
4. C
5. D
6. F

### Exercise p. 14

1. Have you ever worked abroad?
2. Have you ever studied alone?
3. Have you ever finished a language course?
4. Have you ever managed a meeting?
5. Have you ever talked to your boss?
6. Have you ever called your colleagues?
7. Have you ever participated in a conference call?

### Exercise p.24

- A – She has recently got her master's degree
- B – He has only just completed the project







## Grammar review: from simple present to present perfect

1. I study Accounting.

→ I *have studied* Accounting.

2. I volunteer here.

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

3. I specialise in Product Design.

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. I learn how to speak English.

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

5. I do an internship.

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

6. I visit Oxford.

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. I do a training program.

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

8. I receive training.

→ \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



## Put the words in the right order

A

never  
been to  
Ireland.  
I have

B

received  
training.  
never  
I've

C

a language  
certificate.  
I've  
completed  
only just

D

report.  
I haven't  
my  
finished



## Writing

**Write about your own educational background using the examples as inspiration!**

I have worked  
at...

I have  
completed a  
degree in...

I have  
specialised in...

I have  
volunteered...

I have taken a  
course in...

I have done an  
internship at...



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



## Answer key

### Exercise p.35

1. I have never been to Ireland.
2. I've never received training.
3. I've only just completed a language certificate.
4. I haven't finished my report.

### Exercise p.34

1. I have studied Accounting.
2. I have volunteered here.
3. I have specialised in Product Design.
4. I have learned how to speak English.
5. I have done an internship.
6. I have visited Oxford.
7. I have done a training program.
8. I have received training.



## About this material

Find out more at  
[www.lingoda.com](http://www.lingoda.com)



This material is provided by

**lingoda**

### **lingoda** Who are we?



Why learn English online?



What kinds of English classes do we offer?



Who are our English teachers?



How do our English certificates work?



We also have a language blog!