

Session 2

Time to focus on the language, as we learn how to make sentences with the present perfect and just, already and yet. Let's practise the rules!

Activity 1

Just and already

The rules

In this session we're learning how to use **just**, **already** and **yet** with the present perfect tense. First let's look at the meanings of **just** and **already**. They both indicate that an action has happened, but there's an important difference:

Just = a very short time ago

Already = before now, or earlier than expected.

In the video in Session 1, Finn said:

I've **just** ordered a nice, big, vegetarian breakfast

(I ordered a nice, big, vegetarian breakfast a short time ago)

I've **already** signed up at the gym

(I've signed up at the gym. It happened earlier than I expected / you expected)

Form

Now, let's remind ourselves how to make the present perfect. It's **subject + have/has + past participle**. With the present perfect, we normally use contractions like **I've** and **we've**.

So where do we put **just** or **already**? Usually they go between **have/has** and the **past participle**.

She's just finished her second year at university.
I've already done that module.' 'Wow, that's quick!'

But **already** can also go at the end of the sentence:

I've signed up at the gym **already**

Both **just** and **already** are usually used in positive sentences, not negative ones. However, we can occasionally use **just** in a negative sentence for emphasis or to correct someone.

What are you talking about? I haven't **just** finished. I finished ages ago!

Already may also be used in questions sometimes, especially when the speaker is surprised by something.

Have we **already** studied this? I thought it was a new topic!

To do

So, let's do a short quiz to see if you know which one to use – **just** or **already**.

Next

So, that's **just** and **already**. Now, it's time to look at **yet** in more detail.

