

DESCRIBING EXPERIENCES II

Listening: Look at the infographic showing some UK statistics. Guess the missing numbers.
A) Then listen to a report about these statistics and check your answers. (audio 40)



- B)** Complete the comments with the correct form of the present perfect. Then say which statistic in the infographic they refer to.

- 1 I (never / like) going out much in the evenings. But my girlfriend doesn't like staying in.
- 2 My mum (have) several jobs in her life, but she (also / be) a full-time mother.
- 3 All of my colleagues (study) journalism. But I haven't. I trained while I was working as a journalist.
- 4 My grandmother (never / use) a computer, but my grandfather loves computers.
- 5 He (be) abroad many times, but he (never / live) abroad.
- 6 Burglars (break) into their house three times before. One burglar broke in last week.

Revision: read the sentences. Choose the correct option and answer the question.

PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE

*Eighty per cent of Britons **have travelled** abroad at some time in their lives.*

*Some of the population **have never used** the Internet.*

*One in every six households **has been** the victim of a crime.*

Do the verbs in bold refer to:

- a a specific time in the present?
- b a specific time in the past?
- c a time in the past that is not specified?

Grammar: **present perfect and simple past**

Read the sentences and answer the questions:

- a) *Some of the population **never used** the Internet 15 years ago.*
- b) *Some of the population **have never used** the Internet before.*

- 1- Which verb in bold describes an event at a specific time in the past?
- 2- Which verb in bold describes an event at a time in the past that is not specified?

Present perfect tense vs. simple past tense

The present perfect tense is used to show an action that happened at any time in the past.

Alan **has been** to many countries.

The simple past tense is used to show an action that happened at a specific time in the past.

He **went** to France last year.

*We often use time expressions with the simple past tense.

*We use expressions like *just, never, ever* with the present perfect tense.

Have you **ever** been to another country?

Alan **has just** returned from France.

I have **never** been there.

Grammar reference:

Watch the following videos about the differences between the simple past and present perfect:

Part 1: <https://youtu.be/wlqzreiV700> (experiences)

Part 2: <https://youtu.be/c0NnPmFtOTY> (to express duration: using *for* and *since*)

1 Present perfect

GR6.2

- 1 I **have travelled** around the world.
- 2 He **hasn't met** our cousins.
- 3 A **Have you talked** to my brother?
B Yes I **have**.

We make the present perfect simple with the auxiliary *have* and the past participle of the verb.

- We often use *ever* and *never* with the present perfect simple when we talk about experiences. We put them between the auxiliary and the past participle. *Ever* (in questions) means 'at some time in your life'. *Never* means 'at no time up to now'.

Have you ever been to India? No, I've never been there.

We don't use *not* and *never* together.

I have never been to Turkey. NOT I haven't never been to Turkey.

- We often use the present perfect simple to start a conversation about our experiences. If we want to ask about or give more details, we use the past simple.

Have you ever visited your cousins in Canada?

Yes, we **went** there last year.

Present perfect simple with *just*, *already* and *yet*

- We use *just* for something which happened very recently. We put it between *have/has* and the past participle.
I've just got here.
- We use *already* for something which happened before now and earlier than expected. We usually put it before the main verb.
Winter has already arrived in Alberta!
- We use *yet* in negative sentences and questions, for something we expected to happen before now or that we plan to do but haven't up to now. We put it at the end of the sentence.
Have yo

PRESENT PERFECT

Vague times in the past

ever/never, not yet, already, so far, to date, till now, up to the present

Examples:

I've **never** gone to the park.
I **haven't** been to China **yet**.

2 Past simple

GR6.2 (continued)

- 1 I **travelled** around Asia five years ago.
- 2 He **didn't meet** our cousins in 2011.
- 3 A **Did you talk** to my brother?
B Yes I **did**.

- We use the present perfect simple to talk about an action or situation in the past when we don't know the exact time or it isn't important. We use the past simple to talk about a specific time in the past.

I have invited our in-laws for dinner.

I wrote to the Admissions Office yesterday.

We use the past simple to describe a finished action at a definite time in the past. When we use the past simple, we often say when something happened.
I went to Rome last year.

We often use the present perfect simple with *for* and *since*. We use *for* to talk about the duration of a present situation, for example, *for 30 minutes*, *for two months*.
My sister has lived in London for six months.

We use *since* to show the starting point of a present situation, for example, *since 2.00 p.m.*, *since Friday*, *since 2011*.

My sister has lived in London since September.

PAST SIMPLE

Specific times in the past

yesterday, five minutes ago, in 2000, the other day, last month

Examples:

I **went** to the park **yesterday**.
I **studied** in China in **2010**.

Talking about yourself (part 2)

WORK EXPERIENCE:

Apart from the expressions I *have experience in* / I *have experience of* —that we have seen last class— you can also say:

- I **worked** as a/an + job position + a specific time expression (in 2010; last year; 5 years ago; when I lived in the USA, etc.)
- I've **worked** as a/an... + job position + vague time or an expression of duration (since 2010 / for 3 years / for 6 months)

Examples:

I **worked** as an **assistant teacher** at Universidad de Buenos Aires **from 2012 to 2014**.

I've **worked** as a **project manager** for a global company **for 2 years**.

Now complete the sentences with your information:

I worked as a/an _____

I have worked as a/an _____

EDUCATION:

A **degree** is the qualification you receive when you have successfully completed a course at university.

do / pursue (in progress)	a/an ¹ degree in ²	specialised in...	at	+ name of institution
hold / have (finished)			from	

¹ Bachelor's/ undergraduate³/ Master's⁴/ PhD (or Doctorate)/ postdoctoral
² Atmospheric Science/ Biology/ Bromatology/ Chemistry/ Computer Science/ Environmental Science/ Food Science and Technology/ Geology / Mathematics/ Meteorology/ Oceanography/ Palaeontology/ Physics

E.g.

- My brother **is pursuing / doing** a Master's degree **in** Biotechnology **at** John Hopkins University. (present continuous: in progress)
- Christine **holds / has** a degree **in** Agricultural Engineering **from** the MIT (present simple: permanent situation)
- I **have** a degree **in** Information Technology **specialised in** Computer Systems and Networking.

³ Bachelor's degree = undergraduate degree (major / minor) —> 4 years

Bachelor of Science (BS)

Bachelor of Applied Science (BAS)

⁴ Licentiate degree = Master of Science (MSc) —> 4-6 years

- **Licentiate** is an academic degree ranking below that of doctor given by some European universities [and in some other countries].*

- The **Master of Science** (MSc) typically covers science, technology, engineering and mathematics programmes. Programmes are typically theory-heavy with an emphasis on reading and research**.

A **diploma** is a shorter and more practical course. It is also used to refer to high school studies.
study for / have / hold

E.g.

I have a high school diploma in Social Sciences from Roosevelt Academy. (= bachillerato en Cs. Sociales)

I am studying for a technical diploma at Lincoln Technical Institution.

I hold a diploma in Photography.

* <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/licentiate>

** <https://www.prospects.ac.uk/postgraduate-study/masters-degrees/what-is-a-masters-degree>

Speaking: **life experiences**

Look at the list of experiences. Ask and answer questions to the classmates **in your group**:
(son temas disparadores para conversar)

Life experiences

- learn any useful skills
- experience a different culture or lifestyle
- be a fan / supporter of something
- speak to a large group of people
- be in a dangerous situation
- fail to get something you really wanted
- do a job you didn't like
- succeed with a physical challenge

A: What useful skills have you learned in your life?

B: I learned to drive when I was eighteen.

Use the correct tenses: simple past and present perfect in the correct cases, as in the example.

In your subgroup on Edmodo, share one experience from a classmate that called your attention the most or you thought it was the most fascinating or interesting.

Example:

The most interesting experience: Ana has spoken to a large group of people before. It was two years ago, she was at university and she had to present about.... in front of 200 people.

GRAMMAR PRACTICE:

GRAMMAR Present perfect simple

- 1 Complete the statistics. Use the present perfect simple of the verbs in the box.

climb	fly	live	not make
score	serve	visit	walk

- 1 Only one person under age 25 _____ every country on Earth.
- 2 Two people _____ all the way around the Earth in a balloon.
- 3 Four footballers _____ in more than one World Cup final.
- 4 Twelve people _____ on the Moon.
- 5 About eighty women _____ as prime minister of their country.
- 6 More than 4,000 people _____ to the top of Mount Everest.
- 7 About half of the world's population _____ a phone call.
- 8 More than 107 billion people _____ on Earth.

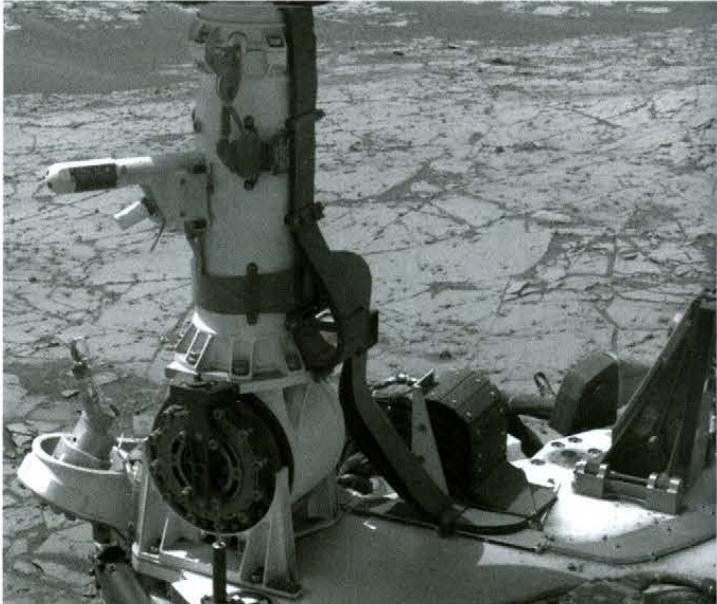
- 2 **1 2 3** Complete the conversations. Use the present perfect. Then listen and check your answers.

- 1 A: ¹_____ you ever ²_____ for a large business?
B: Yes, ³_____. I worked for HSBC – the bank – a few years ago.
- 2 A: ⁴_____ we ever seen a James Bond film together?
B: No, I don't think we ⁵_____.
- 3 A: ⁶_____ Linda ever met your boss?
B: No, ⁷_____.
- 4 A: Which European countries ⁸_____ they ⁹_____?
B: ¹⁰_____ visited Spain and France.

(audio 3)

Present perfect simple and past simple

- 3 Put the verbs in brackets in the correct tense: present perfect simple or past simple.



What have we learned from the *Curiosity* rover's experiences on Mars?

Curiosity is a small robot on a seriously big business trip. The machine ¹_____ (leave) Earth on November 26, 2011 and ²_____ (arrive) on Mars – 563 million miles away – on August 6, 2012. It started work immediately. Since arriving, the vehicle ³_____ (travel) across the planet and ⁴_____ (send) back information about it. In March, 2015, *Curiosity* had a problem with its arm, but scientists ⁵_____ (repair) it, and soon after the machine ⁶_____ (discover) that the ground on Mars may be able to support life. *Curiosity* ⁷_____ (tweet) thousands of times (including many selfies) and ⁸_____ (attract) nearly two million followers on Twitter.

- 4 Match the questions with the answers.

- 1 Have you ever travelled for work?
 - 2 Has anyone ever given you a gift you didn't expect?
 - 3 Have you ever been in a dangerous situation while travelling?
 - 4 Did anyone offer to help you when you were lost?
 - 5 How many countries have you visited in your life?
 - 6 Did you travel for work last year?
- a** Yes, several people did.
b Yes. My parents did, once.
c No, I haven't, but I'd love to.
d Yes, I did. It was fantastic.
e Five or six.
f No, I haven't. I hope I never am!

5)

Choose the correct options to complete the conversations.

- 1** A: *Have you travelled / Did you travel* much for your work?
B: Yes, I *have / did*.
A: What was the most interesting place you *have visited / visited*?
B: I *have really liked / really liked* Hong Kong. I *have gone / went* there again last year for a holiday.

- 2** A: How many jobs *have you had / did you have* in your life?
B: Oh, probably four or five.
A: What *has been / was* your first job?
B: When I *have been / was* sixteen, I *have worked / worked* part-time in a greengrocer's selling fruit and vegetables.

- 3** A: *Have you ever won / Did you ever win* a competition?
B: No, I *haven't / didn't*. But I *have come / came* second in a story competition when I was at school.
A: *Has the school published / Did the school publish* your story?
B: Yes, they *have put / put* it in the school magazine.

- 4** A: *Have you ever been / Were you ever the victim of cyber-crime?*
B: Yes. A couple of years ago, someone *has hacked / hacked* my email account.
A: *Have they stolen / Did they steal* money from you?
B: No, they *haven't / didn't*. But I *have had / had* to change all my passwords.

Present perfect with *for* and *since*
6) Complete the sentences with *for* or *since*.

- 1 There *have been* permanent research stations on the continent of Antarctica 1904.
- 2 The Argentinians *have had* an Antarctic station about fifty years longer than the Americans and the Russians.
- 3 the early part of last century, thirty countries *have built* an Antarctic station, including India and South Korea.
- 4 People *live* at some of these stations all year round. Antarctica *has had* a permanent population of about 1,000 people the last five years.
- 5 Scientific researchers *have lived* at the Amundsen-Scott Station at the South Pole the Americans *built* it over fifty years ago.
- 6 McMurdo Station is Antarctica's biggest station. It *has been* in operation governments *signed* the Antarctic Treaty in the 1950s.

ANSWERS:
Page 1:

- A) 1 6% 2 60% 3 11% 4 80% 5 one in every six
6 50

- B) 1 have never liked 2 has had, has also been 3 have studied 4 has never used 5 has been, has never lived 6 have broken

Page 2:

Grammar: answer c)

Present perfect and simple past:

1- Which verb in bold describes an event at a specific time in the past? **simple past**

2- Which verb in bold describes an event at a time in the past that is not specified? **present perfect**

Page 5:

1

1 has visited 2 have flown 3 have scored
4 have walked 5 have served 6 have
climbed 7 have never made 8 have lived

2

1 Have 2 worked 3 I have 4 Have
5 have 6 Has 7 she hasn't 8 have
9 visited 10 They've

3

1 left 2 arrived 3 has travelled 4 has
sent 5 repaired 6 discovered 7 has
tweeted 8 has attracted

4

1 c 2 b 3 f 4 a 5 e 6 d

Page 6:

5)

1 A: have you travelled B: have A: visited B: really liked, went

2 A: have you had A: was B: was, worked

3 A: Have you ever won B: haven't, came A: Did the school publish B: put

4 A: Have you ever been B: hacked A: Did they steal B: didn't, had

Note that the past simple would be possible for the first exchange of all of these dialogues if the situation no longer exists, for example, if in number 1 the person no longer works.

6)

1- since

2- for

3- since

4- for

5- since

6- since