

Headway Plus

Tikrit University
Accounting Department
Unit One
Present Tenses
Pre-Intermediate Book
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Present perfect

-Definition of the present perfect tense

The present perfect is used to indicate a link between the present and the past. The time of the action is **before now but not specified**, and we are often more interested in the **result** than in the action itself.

The present perfect is used to describe-

- An action or situation that started in the past and continues in the present. *I have lived in Baghdad since 1984.* (= and I still do.)
- An action performed during a period that has not yet finished. *She has been to the cinema twice this week.* (= and the week isn't over yet.)
- A repeated action in an unspecified period between the past and now. *We have visited Portugal several times.*
- An action that was completed in the very recent past, expressed by 'just'. *I have just finished my work.*
- An action when the time is not important. *He has read 'War and Peace'.* (= the result of his reading is important)

Actions started in the past and continuing in the present

- They *haven't lived* here for years.
- She *has worked* in the bank for five years.
- We *have had* the same car for ten years.
- *Have you played* the piano since you were a child?

When the time period referred to has not finished

- *I have worked* hard *this week*.
- It *has rained* a lot *this year*.
- We *haven't seen* her *today*.

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Actions repeated in an unspecified period between the past and now.

- They *have seen* that film six times
- It *has happened* several times already.
- She *has visited* them frequently.
- We *have eaten* at that restaurant many times.

Actions completed in the very recent past (+just)

- *Have you just finished* work?
- I *have just eaten*.
- We *have just seen* her.
- *Has he just left*?

When the precise time of the action is not important or not known

- Someone *has eaten my soup*!
- *Have you seen* 'Gone with the Wind'?
- *She's studied* Japanese, Russian, and English.

Present perfect + ever, never, already, yet

Ever

The adverbs *ever* and *never* express the idea of an unidentified time *before now* (*Have you ever visited Berlin?*) '*Ever*' and '*never*' are always placed **before the main verb (past participle)**.

Ever is used:

In questions

Examples

Have you **ever** been to England?

Has she **ever** met the Prime Minister?

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In negative questions

Examples

Haven't they **ever** been to Europe?

Haven't you **ever** eaten Chinese food?

In negative statements using the pattern nothing+ever or nobody+ever

Examples

Nobody has **ever** said that to me before.

Nothing like this has **ever** happened to us.

With 'The first time'

Examples

It's the first time that I've **ever** eaten snails.

This is the first time I've ever been to England.

Never

Never means *at no time before now*, and is the same as *not ever*: (*I have **never** visited Berlin*)

BE CAREFUL! You must not use **never** and **not** together

~~I haven't never been to Italy.~~

I have **never** been to Italy.

Already

Already refers to an action that has happened at an unspecified time before now. It suggests that there is no need for repetition.

Examples

I've **already** drunk three coffees this morning. (= and you're offering me another one!)

Don't write to John, I've **already** done it.

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It is also used in questions:

Have you **already** written to John?

Has she finished her homework **already**?

Already can be placed before the main verb (past participle) or at the end of the sentence:

I have **already** been to Tokyo.

I have been to Tokyo **already**.

Yet

Yet is used in negative statements and questions, to mean *(not) in the period of time between before now and now, (not) up to and including the present*. Yet is usually placed at the end of the sentence.

Examples

Have you met Judy **yet**?

I haven't visited the Tate Gallery **yet**

Has he arrived **yet**?

They haven't eaten **yet**.

Forming the present perfect

The present perfect of any verb is composed of two elements : the appropriate form of the auxiliary verb *to have* (present tense), plus the past participle of the main verb. The past participle of a regular verb is *base+ed*, e.g. *played, arrived, looked*. For irregular verbs, see the **Table of irregular verbs** in the section called '**Verbs**'.

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Affirmative		
Subject	<i>+to have</i>	+past participle
She	has	visited.
<u>Negative</u>		
Subject	<i>+to have + not</i>	+past participle
She	has not (hasn't)	visited.
Interrogative		
<i>to have</i>	+subject	+past participle
Has	she	visited?
Negative interrogative		
<i>to have + not</i>	+subject	+past participle
Hasn't	she	visited?

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To walk, present perfect

Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative
I have walked	I haven't walked	Have I walked?
You have walked	You haven't walked.	Have you walked?
He, she, it has walked	He, she, hasn't walked	Has he, she, it walked?
We have walked	We haven't walked	Have we walked?
You have walked	You haven't walked	Have you walked?
They have walked	They haven't walked	Have they walked?

All the best