

UNIT 4

Present Perfect Simple



Bob and Mary **have been** on holiday for a week. They've **visited** a lot of tropical beaches and they've **swum** in the blue sea. **Have they bought** any souvenirs yet? No, they haven't.

We form the present perfect simple with the auxiliary verb **have/has** and the **past participle**. We form the past participle of regular verbs by adding **-ed** to the verb.
e.g. play - played

We form the past participle of irregular verbs differently.
e.g. see - seen (See list of irregular verbs on page 152.)

We form questions by putting **have/has** before the subject. e.g. **Have they read** the book?

We form negations by putting **not** between have/has and the past participle.
e.g. He **has not/hasn't repaired** the TV yet.

Affirmative			
	Long form	Short form	
I	have	've	} finished/ left.
He/She/It	has	's	
You/We/They	have	've	
Interrogative			
Have	I	} finished/ left?	
Has	he/she/it		
Have	you/we/they		
Negative			
	Long form	Short form	
I	have not	haven't	} finished/ left.
He/She/It	has not	hasn't	
You/We/They	have not	haven't	

1 Make sentences using the prompts below as in the example.

- read / a newspaper / yesterday
...I haven't read a newspaper since yesterday...
- have / a break / this morning
- travel / abroad / last summer
- watch / TV / last night
- buy / a present / December
- write / a letter / Christmas
- eat / dinner / at a restaurant / last month

Short Answers

e.g. Has she called her parents? Yes, she has.

Have you ...?	Yes, I/we have. No, I/we haven't.
Has he/she/it ...?	Yes, he/she/it has. No, he/she/it hasn't.
Have they ...?	Yes, they have. No, they haven't.

2 Sam hasn't seen John for a long time. He wants to know what John has done since they last met. In pairs, ask and answer questions using the prompts below as in the example.

SA: *Have you found a new job?*
SB: *Yes, I have.*

	find / a new job?	✓
	buy / a bigger car?	✓
	move / house?	✗
	get / married?	✗
	finish / your studies?	✓
	start / taking karate lessons?	✓

Use

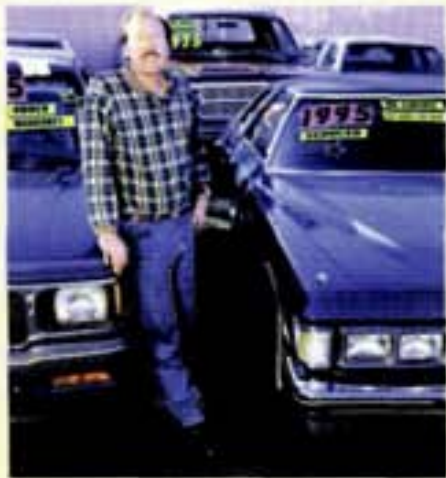
We use the present perfect simple:

- ◆ for actions which happened at an unstated time in the past. The exact time is not mentioned because it is not important. We put more emphasis on the action.



Kim has bought a new mobile phone. (When did she buy it? We don't mention the exact time because it is not important. What is important is the fact that she's got a new mobile phone.)

- ◆ for actions which started in the past and are still continuing in the present.



He has been a car salesman since 1990. (He started working as a car salesman in 1990 and he still is a car salesman.)

- ◆ for actions which have recently finished and their results are visible in the present.



They have done their shopping. (We can see that they have finished their shopping because they're leaving the supermarket and there are bags in their trolley.)

- ◆ with today, this morning/afternoon, etc. when these periods of time are not finished at the time of speaking.



He has made ten pots this morning. (It is still morning so this period of time is not finished.)

Time Expressions

Time expressions used with the present perfect simple include:

for, since, already, just, always, recently, ever, how long, yet, lately, never, so far, today, this morning/afternoon/week/month/year, etc.

Affirmative

- **for** e.g. I have known them **for** six years.
- **since** e.g. She has been ill **since** Monday.
- **already** e.g. We have **already** eaten our lunch.
- **just** e.g. I have **just** posted the letter.
- **always** e.g. She has **always** wanted to travel abroad.
- **recently** e.g. He has **recently** published a book.

Questions

- **ever** e.g. Have you **ever** met anybody famous?
- **how long** e.g. **How long** have you lived here?
- **yet** e.g. Has Paul left **yet**?
- **lately** e.g. Have you seen any good films **lately**?

Negations

- **for** e.g. I haven't talked to him **for** days.
- **since** e.g. They haven't been abroad **since** 1990.
- **yet** e.g. She hasn't answered my letter **yet**.
- **lately** e.g. I haven't seen John **lately**.
- **never** e.g. They have **never** worked abroad.

3

Fill in **since** or **for**.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 for ten years | 6 six months |
| 2 I was five | 7 lunch-time |
| 3 8 o'clock | 8 we moved |
| 4 two hours | to this town |
| 5 ages | 9 three minutes |

4

Match Column A with Column B.

Column A	Column B
1 Jerry hasn't typed	a visited Japan?
2 She has always	b talked to them.
3 Have you ever	c the letter yet.
4 We've already	d to New York twice
5 Tim has already	this year.
been	e known them?
6 How long have you	f wanted to be a singer.

5 Fill in the gaps with *recently, how long, yet, always, ever, already, since or never*.

- 1 A: ...*How long*... has she been an air hostess?
B: she left school.
- 2 A: Jonathan has moved house
B: What's his new address?
- 3 A: I can't phone you. I haven't got a phone
B: Well, I'll come to your house instead.
- 4 A: Has she finished her homework?
B: Yes. She's finished it.
- 5 A: He eats a lot of vegetables, doesn't he?
B: Yes. He's liked vegetables.
- 6 A: Have you been to China?
B: No, I have been there.

6 Put the verbs in brackets into the correct form of the present perfect simple.

- 1 A: Have you ever given an interview?
B: No, I ...*have never done*... (never/do) that.
- 2 A: What time does the train leave?
B: It (just/leave)!
- 3 A: Is the new restaurant good?
B: I (not/eat) there yet.
- 4 A: Shall I do the shopping now?
B: No, I (already/do) it.
- 5 A: Julia, are you ready?
B: No, I (not/dry) my hair yet.
- 6 A: Would you like to have lunch with me?
B: No, thanks. I (already/eat).

Have gone (to) - Have been (to)



- ◆ They **have gone to** the cinema. (This means that they haven't come back yet. They are still at the cinema.)
- ◆ She **has been to** London. (This means that she has visited London; she is not there now. She has come back.)

7 Fill in the gaps with *have/has been (to) or have/has gone (to)*.

- 1 'Where are Tom and Lucy?' 'They ...*have gone to*... the theatre.'
- 2 I don't live in London. I only there once.
- 3 I am alone in the house. My parents on holiday.
- 4 'Is Philip at home?' 'No, he work.'
- 5 My friend wants us to go on holiday to Madrid this summer, but I already there.
- 6 Anita has just come home. She the theatre.
- 7 'Where are Julia and Dave?' 'They the sports centre with their friends.'

8 Fill in the gaps with *have/has been (to) or have/has gone (to)*.

- A: Hi, Roger! Where is everybody? The house is very quiet.
B: Well, Mum **1**) ...*has gone to*... the cinema with Mavis.
A: How about your sister?
B: She's having a shower right now because she **2**) the gym.
A: I **3**) the gym twice this week. It's really exhausting.
B: As for Dad, he **4**) the library to get some books.
A: So, how about going to that new café that's just opened near the park?
B: Oh, I **5**) there. It isn't that great. Why don't we call Steve and go to the basketball court?
A: Okay, let's do that instead.

Past Simple versus Present Perfect Simple

Past Simple

We use the past simple for:

- an action which happened at a stated time in the past.



Ed Prior **won** his first gold medal in 1992. (When? In 1992. The time is mentioned.)

- an action which started and finished in the past.



Annette **had** a cold for two days. (She **hasn't got** a cold any more.)

Present Perfect Simple

We use the present perfect simple for:

- an action which happened at an unstated time in the past.



Ed Prior **has won** a lot of medals. (When? We don't know. The time is not stated.)

- an action which started in the past and is still continuing in the present.



Lucy **has had** a cold for three days. (She **has still got** a cold.)

9 Put the verbs in brackets into the past simple or the present perfect simple.

- A: I ...*went*... (go) to the new gym yesterday.
B: It's good, isn't it? I (go) there a few times.
- A: (you/write) to Simon lately?
B: Yes, I (write) him a letter last week.
- A: How long (you/be) married?
B: Only for six months. I (get) married last December.
- A: I (not/see) Sam for a long time.
B: Really? I (see) him yesterday at the swimming pool.
- A: (you/type) the report yet?
B: Yes, I (finish) it half an hour ago.
- A: Mary (know) Steven for six years.
B: When (they/meet)?
A: When they (be) at university together.
- A: (you/ever/play) rugby?
B: Yes, I have. I (play) for the first time last week.
- A: James (write) a new book last year.
B: I know. I (read) some great reviews about it in the newspaper.

10 In pairs, ask and answer questions using the prompts below as in the example.

- SA: *Have you ever been to the USA?*
SB: *Yes, I have.*
SA: *When did you go?*
SB: *I went in 1996.*



go/the USA (When)



plant/a tree (Where)



sing/in a choir (When)



save/your money (Why)



meet/a politician (Who)

travel/by boat (When)



11 Put the verbs in brackets into the past simple or the present perfect simple.

Dear Margaret,

Thank you very much for your letter which I
1) *...received...* (receive) last week. I 2) (be)
really happy to hear from you after all this time.

I've got a lot of news to tell you about myself. I
3) (get) a new job nine months ago.
I work as a reporter for our local TV station now. I 4)
..... (have) many interesting experiences so
far. When I first 5) (start) work, the
manager 6) (ask) me to interview
our old school headmaster. He 7) (be)
so surprised to see me with a microphone in my hand!

Last month, a fire 8) (break out) in a
big factory in the area. I 9) (be) the only
reporter who 10) (manage) to talk
to the owner! That 11) (make) me
feel very proud.

As you can see, I enjoy my job very much. I 12)
..... (meet) a lot of important people
and I 13) (have) the opportunity to
see lots of new places. I 14) (buy) a
new car because my old one 15)
(break down) a couple of weeks ago.

I have to go now because they 16)
(just/inform) me that I have to fly by helicopter to
Middleford. I have to talk to people whose homes were
damaged by the storm which 17) (hit) the
area last night. You see, I don't have a moment's rest!

Keep in touch.

Love,
Rosie

12 Put the verbs in brackets into the present perfect simple or the past simple.

A: Hello, Billy. I 1) *haven't seen* (not/see) you for a long time.

B: Yes, I 2) (be) very busy recently.

A: Really? Tell me what you 3) (do)
since we last 4) (see) each other.

B: Well, I 5) (get) my degree last month
and then I 6) (move) house.

A: When 7) (you/move)?

B: Last week, but I 8)
(not/unpack) everything yet.

A: I 9) (phone) you on Tuesday
but there 10) (be) no answer.

B: I 11) (be) busy at my new house
then.

A: Never mind, I only 12) (want) to
invite you to a party next week at my house.

B: Great! Thank you.

13 Put the verbs in brackets into the present perfect simple or the past simple.

1 Mr and Mrs Patel *...won...* (win) two free tickets to
Paris in a TV show last week.

2 First, Robert (brush) his teeth, then he
..... (go) to bed.

3 '..... (you/ever/see) a lion?' 'Yes, I saw
one when I (go) to Kenya in 1996.'

4 I (not/see) my family for two years.

5 'Where's John?' 'He (go)
fishing for the day with his father.'

6 My sister (not/play) the
violin since she was twelve.

7 I (already/see) this
film. Let's watch something else.

8 Last week, Fred (fall) off a
ladder and (break) his arm.

9 I (never/hear) such a moving
song before.

10 Jennifer (always/want)
to get Harrison Ford's autograph.

IN OTHER WORDS

Study these examples. The second sentence has a similar meaning to the first sentence.

1 He has never travelled by boat before.
time It's the *first time he has travelled* by boat.

2 Sharon hasn't been to a party for two months.
went The last time *Sharon went to a party* was
two months ago.

3 It's a long time since Mary visited Helen.
for Mary *has not visited Helen for* a long time.

14 Complete each sentence with two to five words, including the word in bold.

1 Kate hasn't phoned her mother for a week.
phoned The last time *...Kate phoned her mother*
was... a week ago.

2 They have never visited Vienna before.
time It's the Vienna.

3 It's a long time since I ate out.
for I a long time.

4 Roger hasn't played tennis for six weeks.
played The last time
tennis was six weeks ago.

5 It's years since Mr Smith went on holiday.
has Mr Smith
for years.

6 John hasn't been to his country house since Easter.
went The last time John
was at Easter.