

# 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 ..... <b>for</b> ..... 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

- Jerry hasn't typed
- She has always
- Have you ever
- We've already
- Tim has already been
- How long have you

## Column B

- visited Japan?
- talked to them.
- the letter yet.
- to New York twice this year.
- known them?
- wanted to be a singer.

5

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

- A: ...*How long*... has she been an air hostess?  
B: ..... she left school.
- A: Jonathan has moved house .....  
B: What's his new address?
- A: I can't phone you. I haven't got a phone .....  
B: Well, I'll come to your house instead.
- A: Has she finished her homework .....?  
B: Yes. She's ..... finished it.
- A: He eats a lot of vegetables, doesn't he?  
B: Yes. He's ..... liked vegetables.
- 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.

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

- 'Where are Tom and Lucy?' 'They ...*have gone to*... the theatre.'
- I don't live in London. I ..... only ..... there once.
- I am alone in the house. My parents ..... on holiday.
- 'Is Philip at home?' 'No, he ... work.'
- My friend wants us to go on holiday to Madrid this summer, but I ..... already ..... there.
- Anita has just come home. She ..... the theatre.
- '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.

# 15 Correct the mistakes.

- 1 We have bought a new sofa last month.
- 2 Jim lives in Germany for three years.
- 3 My father has went fishing.
- 4 She is just moved house.
- 5 We have eaten lunch at one o'clock.
- 6 Sophie has do her homework.
- 7 Ann and Tim have got married ten years ago.
- 8 I am at school since nine o'clock.

## Revision Box

# 16 Put the verbs in brackets into the correct tense.

Dear Bert,

I 1) ...*'m writing*... (write) to tell you what a great time we 2) ..... (have) at the Sour Grapes concert last weekend. It's a pity you 3) ..... (not/come).

The concert 4) ..... (take) place in the football stadium near the university. There 5) ..... (be) about 80,000 people there. While we 6) ..... (wait) to get in, we 7) ..... (see) the members of the group arrive in a big black limo. They 8) ..... (have) bodyguards with them.

Anyway, we 9) ..... (find) our seats and 10) ..... (wait) impatiently for the concert to begin. The Sour Grapes 11) ..... (recently/record) an album which 12) ..... (become) very successful.

The concert 13) ..... (last) for two and a half hours. I 14) ..... (send) you some photos that Alex 15) ..... (take) when we 16) ..... (be) there. We 17) ..... (hear) that the Sour Grapes 18) ..... (give) a big concert in London next month. Perhaps you can see them there.

Best Wishes,  
Roger

## ORAL Activity

Read the notes about Paul Vern who is a famous runner. Make sentences using the prompts given as in the example.

e.g. Paul Vern **was born** in Sussex.



- be born / in Sussex
- always want / be a runner
- start running / at the age of seven
- win / the school championship / when / be / 15 years old
- join / the national team / four years ago
- win / several medals / so far
- recently receive / the "Athlete of the Year" award
- get married / last month
- already take part / in two international championships

## WRITING Activity

Imagine you want to write an article about Paul Vern for your school newspaper. Use your notes from the Oral Activity to write a short text. You can begin like this:

*Paul Vern is a famous runner who competes internationally. He was born in Sussex.*

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....