

'just', 'yet', 'still' and 'already'

Grammar explanation

We often use *just*, *yet*, *still* and *already* with the present perfect because they are related to the **present moment**.

just

Just used with the present perfect means 'a short time before'.

*I've just seen Susan coming out of the cinema.
Mike's just called. Can you ring him back, please?
Have you just taken my pen?!*

Just comes **between** the **auxiliary** verb (*have/has*) and the **past participle**.

yet

Yet used with the present perfect means 'at any time up to now'. We use it to emphasise that we expect something to happen soon. *Yet* (in this context) is only used in negative sentences and questions.

*Have you finished your homework yet?
I haven't finished it yet. I'll do it after dinner.
A. Where's Sam? B: He hasn't arrived yet.*

Yet comes at the **end** of the sentence or question.

still

Still used with the present perfect means that something hasn't happened. We use it to emphasise that **we expected the thing to happen** earlier. *Still* (in this context) is only used in negative sentences.

*I've been waiting for an hour and the bus still hasn't come.
They promised me that report yesterday but they still haven't finished it.
She still hasn't replied to my email. Maybe she's on holiday.*

Still comes **between** the **subject** (*the bus, they, etc.*) and **auxiliary** verb (*haven't/hasn't*).

already

Already used with the present perfect means 'before now'. We use it to emphasise that something happened before something else or earlier than expected.

I've already spent my salary and it's two weeks before payday.

He wanted to see Sudden Risk but I've already seen it.

The train's left already!

Already can come **between** the **auxiliary** and the main **verb** or at the **end** of the clause.