

PRESENT PERFECT

1. It expresses an action which began in the past and still continues.

We **have lived** in the same house for twenty-five years.
How long **have you known** each other?

We use **for** with a period of time and **since** with a point in time.

for two years, for a few minutes, for ages, for a month
since 1970, since the end of the lesson, since August, since 8.00

2. It expresses an experience that happened at some time in one's life.

I **have been** to the States.
She **has written** poetry, children's stories, and biographies.
Have you ever had an operation?
How many times **has she been** married?

We use **past simple** when **the time of the action** is expressed in the sentence.

When **did you go** to the States?
I **saw** him yesterday.
He **met** his second wife in the dry cleaner's.

3. It expresses a past action that has a present result.

I **have lost** my wallet. (I haven't got it now.)
Peter **has shaved** his beard off. (He looks different.)
Have you heard? The Prime Minister **has resigned**.
I **have already done** my homework.

Details about the event will be **in the past time**.

The Prime Minister **has resigned**. She **resigned** because she lost....
Susan **has had** a baby. She **had** a baby boy this morning. It **was** a difficult birth.

NOTES:

1. been x gone

He **has been** to America. (= experience – he isn't there now.)
She **has gone** to America. (= present result – she is there now.)

2. Compare

- a) I **have lived** in Paris for six years. (I still live there.)
I **lived** in Paris for six years. (Now I live somewhere else.)
- b) Shakespeare **wrote** thirty plays. (He can't write any more.)
I **have written** several books. (I can still write some more.)
- c) **Have you seen** Billy this morning? (It's still morning.)
Did you see Billy this morning? (It's the afternoon or evening.)

EXERCISES

11.1 Are the underlined verbs right or wrong? Correct them if they are wrong.

- 1 Bob is a friend of mine. I know him very well. ...RIGHT...
- 2 Bob is a friend of mine. I know him for a long time. ...WRONG: I've known him...
- 3 Sue and Alan are married since July.
- 4 The weather is awful. It's raining again.
- 5 The weather is awful. It's raining all day.
- 6 I like your house. How long are you living there?
- 7 Graham is working in a shop for the last few months.
- 8 I'm going to Paris tomorrow. I'm staying there until next Friday.
- 9 'Do you still smoke?' 'No, I gave it up. I don't smoke for years.'
- 10 That's a very old bicycle. How long do you have it?

11.2 Read the situations and write questions from the words in brackets.

- 1 John tells you that his mother is in hospital. You ask him:
(how long / be / in hospital?) ...How long has your mother been in hospital?...
- 2 You meet a woman who tells you that she teaches English. You ask her:
(how long / teach English?)
- 3 You know that Jane is a good friend of Carol's. You ask Jane:
(how long / know / Carol?)
- 4 Your friend's brother went to Australia some time ago and he's still there. You ask your friend:
(how long / be / in Australia?)
- 5 Tim always wears the same jacket. It's a very old jacket. You ask him:
(how long / have / that jacket?)
- 6 You are talking to a friend about Alan. Alan now works at the airport. You ask your friend:
(how long / work / at the airport?)
- 7 A friend of yours is having driving lessons. You ask him:
(how long / have / driving lessons?)
- 8 You meet somebody on a train. She tells you that she lives in Glasgow. You ask her:
(always / live / in Glasgow?)

11.3 Complete B's answers to A's questions.



- | | |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Amy is in hospital, isn't she? 2 Do you see Ann very often? 3 Is Margaret married? 4 Are you waiting for me? 5 You know Linda, don't you? 6 Do you still play tennis? 7 Is Jim watching TV? 8 Do you watch TV a lot? 9 Have you got a headache? 10 George is never ill, is he? 11 Are you feeling ill? 12 Sue lives in London, doesn't she? 13 Do you still go to the cinema a lot? 14 Would you like to go to New York one day? | <p>Yes, she <u>has been</u> in hospital since Monday.</p> <p>No, I <u>haven't seen</u> her for three months.</p> <p>Yes, she married for ten years.</p> <p>Yes, I for the last half hour.</p> <p>Yes, we each other for ages.</p> <p>No, I tennis for years.</p> <p>Yes, he TV all evening.</p> <p>No, I TV for a long time.</p> <p>Yes, I a headache all morning.</p> <p>No, he ill since I've known him.</p> <p>Yes, I ill since I got up.</p> <p>Yes, she in London for the last few years.</p> <p>No, I to the cinema for ages.</p> <p>Yes, I to go to New York.
(use always/want)</p> |
|---|--|

EXERCISES

10.1 Read the situations and write two sentences using the words in brackets.

- 1 Tom started reading a book two hours ago. He is still reading it and now he is on page 53.
(read / for two hours) He has been reading for two hours.
(read / 53 pages so far) He has read 53 pages so far.
- 2 Linda is from Australia. She is travelling round Europe at the moment. She began her tour three months ago.
(travel / for three months) She
- 3 Jimmy is a tennis player. He began playing tennis when he was ten years old. This year he is national champion again – for the fourth time.
(win / the national championship four times)
- 4 When they left college, Mary and Sue started making films together. They still make films.
(make / ten films since they left college) They

10.2 For each situation, ask a question using the words in brackets.

- 1 You have a friend who is learning Arabic. You ask:
(how long / learn / Arabic?) How long have you been learning Arabic?
- 2 You have just arrived to meet a friend. She is waiting for you. You ask:
(how long / wait?)
- 3 You see somebody fishing by the river. You ask:
(how many fish / catch?)
- 4 Some friends of yours are having a party next week. You ask:
(how many people / invite?)
- 5 A friend of yours is a teacher. You ask:
(how long / teach?)
- 6 You meet somebody who is a writer. You ask:
(how many books / write?)
- 7 A friend of yours is saving money to go on holiday. You ask:
(how long / save?)

10.3 Put the verb into the more suitable form, present perfect simple (I have done etc.) or continuous (I have been doing etc.).

- 1 Where have you been? Have you been playing... (you/play) tennis?
- 2 Look! Somebody (break) that window.
- 3 You look tired. (you/work) hard?
- 4 '..... (you/ever/work) in a factory?' 'No, never.'
- 5 'Jane is away on holiday.' 'Oh, is she? Where (she/go)?'
- 6 My brother is an actor. He (appear) in several films.
- 7 'Sorry I'm late.' 'That's all right. I (not/wait) long.'
- 8 'Is it still raining?' 'No, it (stop).'
- 9 I (lose) my address book. (you/see) it anywhere?
- 10 I (read) the book you lent me but I (not/finish) it yet.
- 11 I (read) the book you lent me, so you can have it back now.