

Grammar Revision

Present Perfect Simple

Form

Have/has + past participle (regular past participle end –ed, like simple past, with irregular verbs, past participle is often different!!)

Positive

I/we/they/you	have (= I've etc.)	worked lived done
He/she/it	has (= he's etc.)	been arrived made

Negative

I/we/they/you **have not** (haven't) **worked/lived/done**
He/she/it **has not** (hasn't) **been/arrived/made**

Question

Have you/we/they worked?
Has he/she made ...?

Use

1. We think about the past and the present together – we use the present perfect for **actions that began in the past, still continue and are likely to continue in future.**

We have worked for the company for 4 years.

Have they worked for the company since 2006?

2. We often use the present perfect to tell people about **new things that have happened, for recent actions and events which have present results** (sth. that happened not long ago and is linked to present).

England footballers have arrived back in Britain after their match in Italy.

I have (I've) made a cake. Would you like some?

He hasn't broken his leg.

Who has eaten my dinner?

3. We use the present perfect for **an experience that happened at some time of one's life.**

Have you been to Norway? No, but I have been to Finland several times.

I have never watched tennis on TV.

I've just met Helen. She looked really smart!

Have you seen Mr. Burns today yet?

She has already seen Mr. Burns today. X She hasn't seen Mr. Burns yet.

Present Perfect Continuous (Progressive)

Form

Positive

I/we/they/you	have (= I've etc.) been working/living
He/she/it	has (= he's etc.) been doing

Negative

I/we/they/you	have not (haven't) been working
He/she/it	has not (hasn't) been doing

Questions

Have I/we/they/you been living ?

Has he/she/ been doing ... ?

Use

1. We use the present perfect continuous to say **how long things have been continuing** up to now, an action is not completed, or has recently stopped.

We have been travelling for six hours.

How long have you been learning English?

Mary has been painting her house for two days.

2. We use the present perfect continuous for **an activity that has recently stopped or just stopped**. There is a connection with **now**.

You look tired. Yes, I have been working in the garden.

My hair is wet, it has been raining outside.

!! We don't use the progressive with **be, have** (meaning 'possess'), **know** and other non-progressive verbs (**like, love, mean, need, prefer, seem, understand, want**)

Practice

1 Make present perfect simple affirmative, negative sentences and questions.

1 John/learn/not/anything

2 Where/you/put the keys?

3 The rain/stop/just

4 Bill/phone/already?

5 I/break/a red cup

6 Why/Mary/go home?

7 The postman/not/come/yet

2 Make present perfect continuous affirmative, negative sentences and questions

1 We/wait/the bus/since 8.30

2 How long/your brother/play/the piano?

3 They/drive/not/for about six hours

4 I/learn/English/for four years

5 Jane/talk/on the phone/20 minutes

6 I/live/here/since I was born

7 How long/your brother/work/in Glasgow?

3 Underline the correct form

1 How long have you *learnt/been learning* the piano?

2 Look! I have *bought/been buying* a coat.

3 It has *rained/been raining* since Tuesday.

4 John has *broken/been breaking* his leg.

5 He hasn't *told/been telling* me his address.

6 How long have we *driven/been driving* now?

7 Have you ever *read/been reading* this book?

9 How long have you *played/been playing* tennis?

10 How many games have you *played/been playing*?

Summary of three tenses

simple past and present perfect: summary

SIMPLE PAST: I worked/wrote/drove etc

finished actions

- **finished actions, no connection with present**
My grandfather **worked** for a newspaper. I **drove** back from York last night.
- **with words for a finished time, like yesterday, in 1990, ago, then, when**
I **saw** Ann yesterday. (NOT ~~I have seen Ann yesterday.~~) Bill **phoned** three days ago.
When **did** you **stop** smoking? (NOT ~~When have you stopped smoking?~~)
- **stories**
A man **walked** into a café and **sat** down at a table. The waiter **asked** ...
- **details (time, place etc) of news**
The cat has eaten your supper. She **took** it off the table.
Bill has had an accident. He **fell** off his bicycle when he was going to work.

(SIMPLE) PRESENT PERFECT: I have worked/written/driven etc

A finished actions

- **thinking about past and present together**
I've written to John, so he knows what's happening now. Jane **has found** my glasses, so I can see again.
- **news**
A plane **has crashed** at Heathrow airport. The Prime Minister **has left** for Paris.
- **up to now: how much/many; how often**
I've drunk six cups of coffee today. My father **has often tried** to stop smoking.
- **up to now: things that haven't happened; questions; ever and never**
John **hasn't phoned**. **Has** Peter **said** anything to you? **Have** you ever **seen** a ghost? *I've never seen one.*
- **already, yet and just**
'Where's Peter?' 'He's **already gone** home.' **Has** the postman **come** yet? 'Coffee?' 'I've just **had** some.'
- **NOT with words for a finished time**
I saw Penny yesterday. She's getting married. (NOT ~~I have seen Penny yesterday.~~)

B unfinished actions continuing up to now (only with *be, have, know* and other non-progressive verbs)

- **to say how long (often with *since* and *for*)**
How long have you been in this country? We've **had** our car for seven years.
I've known Jake since 1996. (NOT ~~I know Jake since 1996.~~)

PRESENT PERFECT PROGRESSIVE: I have been working/writing/driving etc

unfinished actions continuing up to now (most verbs)

- **to say how long (often with *since* and *for*)**
Have you been waiting long? I've **been learning** English since last summer.
We've been driving for three hours – it's time for a rest.
DON'T use a present tense to say how long.
I've been living here since January. (NOT ~~I'm living here since January.~~)
- **to say how we have been filling our time up to now**
Sorry I haven't written. I've been travelling. 'You look tired.' 'Yes, I've **been working** in the garden.'
- **NOT USUALLY to talk about long, unchanging situations**
The castle has stood on this hill for 900 years.

Present perfect and past simple: revision exercises

1 Put in the past simple, present perfect or present perfect progressive.

1. 'Where's the car?' 'Bill it. He it to go shopping.' (*take; need*)
2. I tickets for the match. Do you want to come with me? (*buy*)
3. My grandfather to school in Ireland. (*go*)
4. How long you there? (*stand*)
5. 'I my job.' 'Why?' 'I the hours.' (*change; not like*)
6. Mike his new watch. (*already lose*)
7. It since Sunday. (*snow*)
8. You can have the newspaper. I it. (*finish*)
9. I mathematics from 1996 to 1998. (*study*)
10. How long you Mary? (*know*)
11. you ever a poem? (*write*)
12. We for the electrician all day yesterday. (*wait*)
13. 'Where's Robert?' 'He out.' (*just go*)
14. 'Do you like skiing?' 'I it.' (*not try*)
15. That child - chocolate all day. (*eat*)

2 Underline the correct answer (the correct tense).

I **know / have known** Adrian for a very long time – we **are / have been** friends since our first day at school, thirty years **ago / before / since**. He **came / has come** round to see me last night to ask for my advice. His company **did / has been doing** very well for the last few years, and they **opened / have opened** several new offices. They **just asked / have just asked** Adrian to move to Scotland, to run an office there. He **didn't decide / hasn't decided** what to do yet. He doesn't really want to move: he **never lived / has never lived** outside Manchester, and he **bought / has bought** a new house there last year. But the new job would be interesting, and very well paid. We **talked / have talked / have been talking** about it for a long time last night, but of course I couldn't tell him what to do.

3 Underline the correct answer (in italics)

- 1 We *know*/We've known/We've been knowing John and Andy *for*/since years.
- 2 I *work*/I'm working/I've been working here since last summer.
- 3 'Good news! John *passed*/has passed his exam.' 'Has he got/Did he get good marks?'
- 4 'Mary *went*/has gone to London.' 'When *did* she leave?/has she left?'
- 5 This house has *stood*/been standing here for 500 years.

Taken and adapted from:

Swan, Michael. Walter, Catherine. The Good Grammar Book with answers. Oxford:OUP, 2004. ISBN 0-19-431519-3