

PRESENT PERFECT

1. Form

The present perfect of any verb is composed of two elements : the appropriate form of the auxiliary verb **to have** (present tense), plus the past participle of the main verb. The past participle of a regular verb is **base+ed**, e.g. *played, arrived, looked*.

Affirmative

Subject	to have	past participle
<i>She</i>	<i>has</i>	<i>visited</i>

Negative

Subject	to have + not	past participle
<i>She</i>	<i>hasn't</i>	<i>visited</i>

Interrogative

to have	subject	past participle
<i>Has</i>	<i>she</i>	<i>visited..?</i>

Interrogative negative

to have + not	subject	past participle
<i>Hasn't</i>	<i>she</i>	<i>visited...?</i>

Example: *to walk*, present perfect

Affirmative

Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative
I have walked	I haven't walked	Have I walked?
You have walked	You haven't walked	Have you walked?
He, she, it has walked	He, she, it hasn't walked	Has he, she, it walked
We have walked	We haven't walked	Have we walked?
You have walked	You haven't walked	Have you walked?
They have walked	They haven't walked	Have they walked?

2. Present perfect, function

The present perfect is used to indicate an action that started in the past, and is still going on, in the present. The time the action started is **not specified**. The interest lies in the **result** of the action rather than in the action itself.

The present perfect is used to describe:

1. An action or situation that started in the past and continues in the present.

I have lived in Bristol since 1984 (= and I still do.)

2. An action performed during a period that has not yet finished.

She **has been** to the cinema twice this week (= and the week isn't over yet.)

3. A repeated action in an unspecified period between the past and now.

We **have visited** Portugal several times.

4. An action that was completed in the **very recent** past, (expressed by '**just**').

I **have just finished** my work.

5. An action when the time is not important.

He **has read** 'War and Peace'. (the **result** of his reading is important)

Note: When we want to give or ask details about *when, where, who*, we use the simple past.
Example: He **read** 'War and Peace' **last week**.

Examples:

1. Actions started in the past and continuing in the present.

- They **haven't lived** here for years.
- She **has worked** in the bank for five years.
- We **have had** the same car for ten years.
- **Have you played** the piano since you were a child?

2. When the time period referred to has not finished.

- *I have worked* hard **this week**.
- It **has rained** a lot **this year**.
- We **haven't seen** her **today**.

3. Actions repeated in an unspecified period between the past and now.

- They **have seen** that film six times.
- It **has happened** several times already.
- She **has visited** them frequently.
- We **have eaten** at that restaurant many times.

4. Actions completed in the very recent past (+just).

- **Have you just finished** work?
- I **have just eaten**.
- We **have just seen** her.
- **Has he just left**?

5. When the precise time of the action is not important or not known.

- Someone **has eaten** my soup!
- **Have you seen** 'Gone with the Wind'?
- **She has studied** Japanese, Russian and English.