

SECTION 5 perfect tenses

grammar summary

(SIMPLE) PRESENT PERFECT: *I have worked, she has worked, he hasn't worked, etc*
PRESENT PERFECT PROGRESSIVE: *I have been working, he has been working, etc*
PAST PERFECT: *I had worked, she had worked, etc*

We use the present perfect to talk about past actions with some importance now.
I've written to John, so he knows what's happening.

We use the present perfect progressive mostly to say how long things have been going on up to now.
I have been writing letters since breakfast time.

When we are already talking about the past, we use the past perfect to talk about an earlier time.
Yesterday I found some old letters that Kate had written to me from Germany.

pre-test: which units do you need?

Try this small test. It will help you to decide which units you need. The answers are on page 283.

Which is correct – A, B or both?

- 1 A Yesterday I broke a cup. B Yesterday I broken a cup.
- 2 A The postman has already come. B The postman has just come.
- 3 A You haven't drank your tea. B You haven't drunk your tea.
- 4 A Have Mary and her children arrived? B Have arrived Mary and her children?
- 5 'What's the problem?' A 'I lost my keys.' B 'I have lost my keys.'
- 6 A When have you lost your keys? B When did you lose your keys?
- 7 A I bought a mountain bike last week. B I have bought a mountain bike last week.
- 8 A I went to London twice this week. B I've been to London twice this week.
- 9 A Did you ever visit Dublin? B Have you ever visited Dublin?
- 10 A Angela has gone to Ireland. B Angela has been to Ireland.
- 11 A We know Julia since 1996. B We have known Julia since 1996.
- 12 A I've had this sweater for years. B I've had this sweater since years.
- 13 A I knew that I have seen her before. B I knew that I had seen her before.
- 14 A Has Bill phoned yet? B Has Bill phoned today?
- 15 A It's rained for hours. B It's been raining for hours.

He's not here.
He's gone to Paris.

Look what I've found!

Who's taken my coat?

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

Have you ever been
to Canada?

Bill hasn't come in yet.

I've already read it.

She's been here since Monday.

I've been studying English
for three years.

Nobody was there.
They had all gone home.

present perfect: forms

I have said. Has she forgotten?

	REGULAR VERBS	AN IRREGULAR VERB
	<i>I have worked you have worked he/she/it has worked etc</i> <i>have I worked? have you worked? has he/she/it worked? etc</i> <i>I have not worked you have not worked etc</i>	<i>I have seen etc</i> <i>have I seen? etc</i> <i>I have not seen etc</i>
	For contractions (<i>I've, he's, haven't</i>), see page 277.	

To make the present perfect, put *have/has* with the past participle (*worked, seen, etc*).
Regular past participles end in *-ed*, like simple past tenses (for spelling rules, see page 42).

work → *worked* *hope* → *hoped* *stop* → *stopped* *try* → *tried*

With irregular verbs, the past participle is often different from the simple past tense.

You have to learn the forms one by one (see page 275).

see → *seen* *speak* → *spoken* *go* → *gone* *buy* → *bought*

Write as many of the irregular past participles as you can. Check them on page 275, and learn the ones that you don't know.

become *become* begin *begun* break bring
 come drink eat fall forget
 give hear hold keep know
 learn leave let make pay
 put read say shut sit
 stand take tell think write

Write affirmative (A) or negative (N) present perfect sentences.

- > I (*speak* A) to the boss *I have spoken to the boss.*
- > they (*eat* N) anything *They have not eaten anything.*
- 1 she (*forget* N) my address
- 2 I (*make* A) a mistake
- 3 you (*shut* A) the door
- 4 Alan (*work* A) very hard
- 5 I (*hear* A) from Mary
- 6 John (*learn* A) anything
- 7 I (*break* A) a cup
- 8 we (*remember* A) Ann's birthday
- 9 The rain (*stop* N)
- 10 I (*see* A) a newspaper today



'Somewhere with no irregular verbs.'

We make present perfect questions with *have/has* + subject + past participle.

STATEMENT \square : *You have paid. The rain has stopped. The children have gone to Dublin.*
QUESTION \square : *Have you paid? Has the rain stopped? Where have the children gone?*

4 Make present perfect questions.

- > John / leave ? *Has John left?*
- > why / Mary / go home ? *Why has Mary gone home?*
- > where / you / put the keys ? *Where have you put the keys?*
- 1 we / pay ?
- 2 Bill / phone ?
- 3 you / hear the news ?
- 4 the dogs / come back ?
- 5 what / Barbara tell the police ?
- 6 why / Andy and Sarah / bring the children ?
- 7 what / you / say to Mike ?

Be careful when questions have long subjects – the word order does not change.

Has Ann arrived?
Have Ann and her mother arrived?
Have Ann and her mother and father and the others arrived?
(NOT *Have arrived Ann and her mother and father and the others?*)

5 Make present perfect questions.

- 1 the Sunday newspapers / arrive ?
.....
- 2 all those people / go home ?
.....
- 3 the secretary from your father's office / telephone ?
.....
- 4 where / the family in the upstairs flat / go ?
.....
- 5 why / all the students in Mr Carter's class / give him presents ?
.....

6 Look at the picture and put the words in the correct order.

seen I ball sorry your haven't no /

'No,

