


# Present perfect (1) (I have done)

A

Study this example situation:



Tom is looking for his key. He can't find it.  
He **has lost** his key.  
'He **has lost** his key' = He lost it and he still hasn't got it.

**Have/has lost** is the *present perfect simple*:

I/we/they/you	<b>have</b> (= I've etc.)	<b>finished</b> <b>lost</b> <b>done</b> <b>been</b> etc.
he/she/it	<b>has</b> (= he's etc.)	

The present perfect simple is **have/has + past participle**. The past participle often ends in **-ed** (finished/decided etc.), but many important verbs are *irregular* (lost/done/been/written etc.). For a list of irregular verbs, see Appendix 1.

B

When we use the present perfect there is always a connection with *now*. The action in the past has a result *now*:

- 'Where's your key?' 'I don't know. I've **lost** it.' (I haven't got it *now*)
- He told me his name but I've **forgotten** it. (I can't remember it *now*)
- 'Is Sally here?' 'No, she's **gone** out.' (she is out *now*)
- I can't find my bag. **Have you seen** it? (do you know where it is *now*?)

We often use the present perfect to give new information or to announce a recent happening:

- Ow! I've **cut** my finger.
- The road is closed. There's **been** (= there **has been**) an accident.
- (*from the news*) The police **have arrested** two men in connection with the robbery.

C

You can use the present perfect with **just**, **already** and **yet**:

**Just** = 'a short time ago':

- 'Would you like something to eat?' 'No, thanks. I've **just had** lunch.'
- Hello. **Have you just arrived**?

We use **already** to say that something happened sooner than expected (see also Unit 110D):

- 'Don't forget to post the letter, will you?' 'I've **already posted** it.'
- 'What time is Mark leaving?' 'He's **already gone**.'

**Yet** = 'until now' and shows that the speaker is expecting something to happen. Use **yet** only in questions and negative sentences (see also Unit 110C):

- **Has it stopped** raining yet?
- I've written the letter but I **haven't posted** it yet.

D

Note the difference between **gone (to)** and **been (to)**:

- Jim is away on holiday. He **has gone to** Spain. (= he is there *now* or on his way there)
- Jane is back home from holiday now. She **has been to** Italy. (= she has now come back from Italy)

For **been (to)** see also Units 8 and 125B.

**EXERCISES**

You are writing a letter to a friend. In the letter you give news about yourself and other people. Use the words given to make sentences. Use the present perfect.

Dear Chris,

Lots of things have happened since I last wrote to you.

- 1 I / buy / a new car ...I've bought a new car...
- 2 my father / start / a new job .....
- 3 I / give up / smoking .....
- 4 Charles and Sarah / go / to Brazil .....
- 5 Suzanne / have / a baby .....

7.2 Read the situations and write sentences. Choose one of the following:

arrive break go up grow improve lose

- 1 Mike is looking for his key. He can't find it. ...He has lost his key...
- 2 Margaret can't walk and her leg is in plaster. She .....
- 3 Maria's English wasn't very good. Now it is much better. ....
- 4 Tim didn't have a beard last month. Now he has a beard. ....
- 5 This morning I was expecting a letter. Now I have it. ....
- 6 Last week the bus fare was 80 pence. Now it is 90. ....

7.3 Complete B's sentences. Use the verb in brackets + just/already/yet (as shown).

<p>A</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 Would you like something to eat?</li> <li>2 Do you know where Julia is?</li> <li>3 What time is David leaving?</li> <li>4 What's in the newspaper today?</li> <li>5 Is Ann coming to the cinema with us?</li> <li>6 Are your friends here yet?</li> <li>7 What does Tim think about your plan?</li> </ol>	<p>B</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 No, thanks. I've just had lunch. (just/have)</li> <li>2 Yes, I ..... her. (just/see)</li> <li>3 He ..... (already/leave)</li> <li>4 I don't know. I ..... (not/read/yet)</li> <li>5 No, she ..... the film. (already/see)</li> <li>6 Yes, they ..... (just/arrive)</li> <li>7 I ..... (not/tell/yet)</li> </ol>
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7.4 Read the situations and write sentences with just, already or yet.

- 1 After lunch you go to see a friend at her house. She says 'Would you like something to eat?'  
You say: No, thank you. ...I've just had lunch... (have lunch)
- 2 Joe goes out. Five minutes later, the phone rings and the caller says 'Can I speak to Joe?'  
You say: I'm afraid ..... (go out)
- 3 You are eating in a restaurant. The waiter thinks you have finished and starts to take your plate away. You say: Wait a minute! ..... (not/finish)
- 4 You are going to a restaurant this evening. You phone to reserve a table. Later your friend says 'Shall I phone to reserve a table?' You say: No, ..... it. (do)
- 5 You know that a friend of yours is looking for a job. Perhaps she has been successful. Ask her. You say: .....? (find)
- 6 Ann went to the bank, but a few minutes ago she returned. Somebody asks 'Is Ann still at the bank?' You say: No, ..... (come back)

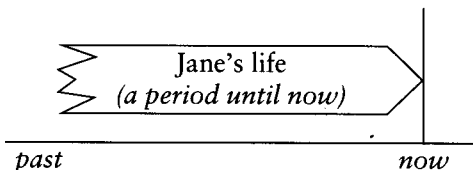
Put in been or gone.

- 1 Jim is on holiday. He's ...gone... to Italy.
- 2 Hello! I've just ..... to the shops. I've bought lots of things.
- 3 Alice isn't here at the moment. She's ..... to the shop to get a newspaper.
- 4 Tom has ..... out. He'll be back in about an hour.
- 5 'Are you going to the bank?' 'No, I've already ..... to the bank.'

# Present perfect (2) (I have done)

A Study this example conversation:

DAVE: Have you travelled a lot, Jane?  
 JANE: Yes, I've been to lots of places.  
 DAVE: Really? Have you ever been to China?  
 JANE: Yes, I've been to China twice.  
 DAVE: What about India?  
 JANE: No, I haven't been to India.

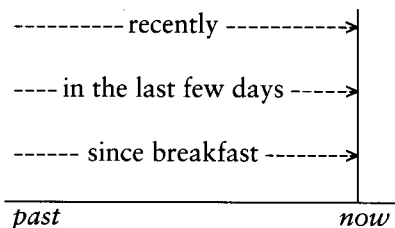


When we talk about a period of time that continues from the past until now, we use the *present perfect* (have been / have travelled etc.). Here, Dave and Jane are talking about the places Jane has visited in her life (which is a period that continues until now).

- Have you ever eaten caviar? (in your life)
- We've never had a car.
- 'Have you read *Hamlet*?' 'No, I haven't read any of Shakespeare's plays.'
- Susan really loves that film. She's seen it eight times!
- What a boring film! It's the most boring film I've ever seen.

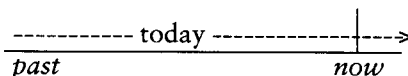
In the following examples too the speakers are talking about a period that continues until now (recently / in the last few days / so far / since breakfast etc.):

- Have you heard from George recently?
- I've met a lot of people in the last few days.
- Everything is going well. We haven't had any problems so far.
- I'm hungry. I haven't eaten anything since breakfast. (= from breakfast until now)
- It's nice to see you again. We haven't seen each other for a long time.



B We use the present perfect with today / this morning / this evening etc. when these periods are *not finished* at the time of speaking (see also Unit 14B):

- I've drunk four cups of coffee today. (perhaps I'll drink more before today is finished)
- Have you had a holiday this year (yet)?
- I haven't seen Tom this morning. Have you?
- Ron hasn't worked very hard this term.



C Note that we say 'It's the first time something has happened' (*present perfect*). For example:

Don is having a driving lesson. He is very nervous and unsure because it is his first lesson.

- It's the first time he has driven a car. (*not* 'drives')
- or He has never driven a car before.
- Linda has lost her passport again. It's the second time this has happened. (*not* 'happens')
- This is a lovely meal. It's the first good meal I've had for ages. (*not* 'I have')
- Bill is phoning his girlfriend again. That's the third time he's phoned her this evening.




**EXERCISES**

**8.1** You are asking somebody questions about things he or she has done. Make questions from the words in brackets.

- 1 (ever / ride / horse?) ... Have you ever ridden a horse?
- 2 (ever / be / California?) .....
- 3 (ever / run / marathon?) .....
- 4 (ever / speak / famous person?) .....
- 5 (always / live / in this town?) .....
- 6 (most beautiful place / ever / visit?) What .....

**8.2** Complete B's answers. Some sentences are positive and some negative. Use a verb from this list:  
be be eat happen have ~~meet~~ play read see see try

 A		B	
1	What's George's sister like?		I've no idea. ... <u>I've never met</u> her.
2	How is Amy these days?		I don't know. I ..... her recently.
3	Are you hungry?		Yes. I ..... much today.
4	Can you play chess?		Yes, but ..... for ages.
5	Did you enjoy your holiday?		Yes, it's the best holiday ..... for a long time.
6	What's that book like?		I don't know. .... it.
7	Is Brussels an interesting place?		I've no idea. .... there.
8	Mike was late for work again today.		Again? He ..... every day this week.
9	Do you like caviar?		I don't know. .... it.
10	The car broke down again yesterday.		Not again! That's the second time ..... this week.
11	Who's that woman by the door?		I don't know. .... before.

**8.3** Complete these sentences using today / this year / this term etc.


- 1 I saw Tom yesterday but ... I haven't seen him today.
- 2 I read a newspaper yesterday but I ..... today.
- 3 Last year the company made a profit but this year .....
- 4 Tracy worked hard at school last term but .....
- 5 It snowed a lot last winter but .....
- 6 Our football team won a lot of games last season but we .....

**8.4** Read the situations and write sentences as shown in the examples.

- 1 Jack is driving a car but he's very nervous and not sure what to do.  
You ask: ... Have you driven a car before?  
He says: ... No, this is the first time I've driven a car.
- 2 Len is playing tennis. He's not very good and he doesn't know the rules.  
You ask: Have .....  
He says: No, this is the first .....
- 3 Sue is riding a horse. She doesn't look very confident or comfortable.  
You ask: .....  
She says: .....
- 4 Maria is in London. She has just arrived and it's very new for her.  
You ask: .....  
She says: .....

# Present perfect continuous (I have been doing)

**A** It has been raining. Study this example situation:




Is it raining?  
No, but the ground is wet.  
It **has been raining**.  
Have/has been -ing is the *present perfect continuous*:

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

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

- You're out of breath. **Have you been running?** (you're out of breath *now*)
- Paul is very tired. He's **been working** very hard. (he's tired *now*)
- Why are your clothes so dirty? What **have you been doing?**
- I've **been talking** to Carol about the problem and she thinks that...

**B** It has been raining for two hours. Study this example situation:



It is raining now. It began raining two hours ago and it is still raining.  
How long **has it been raining?**  
It **has been raining** for two hours.  
We often use the present perfect continuous in this way, especially with *how long*, *for...* and *since...*. The activity is still happening (as in this example) or has just stopped.

- **How long have you been learning** English? (you're still learning English)
- Tim is still watching television. He's **been watching** television all day.
- Where have you been? I've **been looking** for you for the last half hour.
- George **hasn't been feeling** well recently.

You can use the present perfect continuous for actions repeated over a period of time:

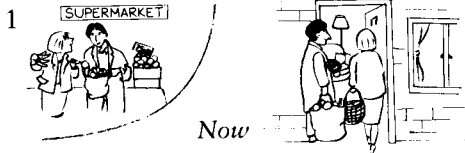
- Debbie is a very good tennis player. She's **been playing** since she was eight.
- Every morning they meet in the same café. They've **been going** there for years.

**C** Compare I am doing (see Unit 1) and I have been doing:

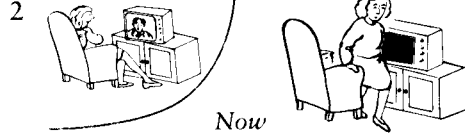
<div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>I am doing <i>present continuous</i></p> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">↓ <i>now</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Don't disturb me now. I'm <b>working</b>.</li> <li>● We need an umbrella. It's <b>raining</b>.</li> <li>● Hurry up! We're <b>waiting</b>.</li> </ul>	<div style="text-align: center; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p>I have been doing <i>present perfect continuous</i></p> </div> <p style="text-align: center;">↓ <i>now</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● I've <b>been working</b> hard, so now I'm going to have a rest.</li> <li>● The ground is wet. It's <b>been raining</b>.</li> <li>● We've <b>been waiting</b> for an hour.</li> </ul>
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EXERCISES

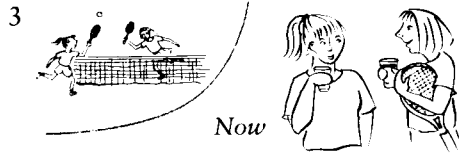
9.1 What have these people been doing or what has been happening?



They have been shopping...



She .....



They .....



He .....

9.2 Write a question for each situation.

- John looks sunburnt. You ask: (you / sit in the sun?) Have you been sitting in the sun?
- You have just arrived to meet a friend who is waiting for you. You ask: (you / wait / long?)  
.....
- You meet a friend in the street. His face and hands are very dirty. You ask: (what / you / do?)  
.....
- A friend of yours is now living in Baker Street. You want to know 'How long...?' You ask: (how long / you / live / in Baker Street?)  
.....
- A friend tells you about his job – he sells computers. You want to know 'How long...?' You ask: (how long / you / sell / computers?)  
.....

9.3 Read the situations and complete the sentences.

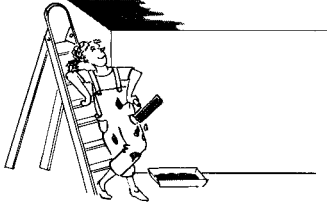
- The rain started two hours ago. It's still raining now. It has been raining for two hours.
- We started waiting for the bus 20 minutes ago. We're still waiting now.  
We ..... for 20 minutes.
- I started Spanish classes in December. I'm still learning Spanish now.  
I ..... since December.
- Ann began looking for a job six months ago. She's still looking now.  
..... for six months.
- Mary started working in London on 18 January. She's still working there now.  
..... since 18 January.
- Years ago you started writing to a penfriend. You still write to each other regularly now.  
We ..... for years.

9.4 Put the verb into the present continuous (I am -ing etc.) or present perfect continuous (I have been -ing etc.).


- Maria has been learning (learn) English for two years.
- Hello, Tom. I ..... (look) for you all morning. Where have you been?
- Why ..... (you/look) at me like that? Stop it!
- We always go to Ireland for our holidays. We ..... (go) there for years.
- I ..... (think) about what you said and I've decided to take your advice.
- 'Is Ann on holiday this week?' 'No, she ..... (work).'
- Sarah is very tired. She ..... (work) very hard recently.

# Present perfect continuous and simple (I have been doing and I have done)

A Study these example situations:



Ann's clothes are covered in paint. She **has been painting** the ceiling.  
**Has been painting** is the *present perfect continuous*.  
 We are interested in the activity. It does not matter whether something has been finished or not. In this example, the activity (painting the ceiling) has not been finished.



The ceiling was white. Now it is blue. She **has painted** the ceiling.  
**Has painted** is the *present perfect simple*.  
 Here, the important thing is that something has been finished. 'Has painted' is a *completed action*. We are interested in the *result* of the activity (the painted ceiling), not in the activity itself.

Compare these examples:

- My hands are very dirty. I've **been repairing** the car.
- She's **been smoking** too much recently. She should smoke less.
- It's nice to see you again. What **have you been doing** since we last met?
- Where have you been? **Have you been playing** tennis?

- The car is OK again now. I've **repaired** it.
- Somebody **has smoked** all my cigarettes. The packet is empty.
- Where's the book I gave you? What **have you done** with it?
- **Have you ever played** tennis?

- B We use the continuous to ask or say *how long* (for an activity that is still happening):
- How long **have you been reading** that book?
  - Mary is still writing letters. She's **been writing** letters all day.
  - They've **been playing** tennis since 2 o'clock.

- We use the simple to ask or say *how much, how many or how many times* (completed actions):
- How many pages of that book **have you read**?
  - Mary **has written** ten letters today.
  - They've **played** tennis three times this week.

C There are some verbs (for example, **know/like/believe**) that are normally not used in the continuous:

- I've **known** about it for a long time. (*not* 'I've been knowing')

For a list of these verbs, see Unit 4A.

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 .....  
(visit / six countries so far) .....
- 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) .....  
(play / tennis since he was ten) .....
- 4 When they left college, Mary and Sue started making films together. They still make films.  
(make / ten films since they left college) They .....  
(make / films since they left college) .....

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?) .....  
(how long / write / books?) .....
- 7 A friend of yours is saving money to go on holiday. You ask:  
(how long / save?) .....  
(how much money / 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.

# How long have you (been)...?

A

Study this example situation:



Bob and Alice are married. They got married exactly 20 years ago, so today is their 20th wedding anniversary.

They **have been married for 20 years.**

We say:

They **are** married. (*present*)

*but* How long **have they been** married? (*present perfect*)  
(*not* 'How long are they married?')

They **have been** married for 20 years.

(*not* 'They are married for 20 years')

We use the *present perfect* to talk about something that began in the past and still continues now. Compare the *present* and the *present perfect*:

- Amy **is** in hospital.
- but* She **has been** in hospital **since Monday**. (*not* 'Amy is in hospital since Monday')
- We **know** each other very well.
- but* We **have known** each other for a long time. (*not* 'we know')
- Are you **waiting** for somebody?
- but* How long **have you been** waiting?

B

I **have been doing** something (*present perfect continuous*) = 'I started doing something in the past and I am still doing it (or have just stopped)':

- I've **been learning** English for a long time. (*not* 'I am learning')
- Sorry I'm late. **Have you been** waiting long?
- It's **been raining** since I got up this morning.

The action can be a repeated action:

- 'How long **have you been** driving?' 'Since I was 17.'

C

I **have done** (*simple*) or I **have been doing** (*continuous*)

The continuous is more usual with **how long**, **since** and **for** (see also Unit 10B):

- I've **been learning** English for a long time. (*not usually* 'I've learnt')

You can normally use either the continuous or simple with **live** and **work**:

- John **has been living** / **has lived** in London for a long time.
- How long **have you been working** / **have you worked** here?

But we use the *simple* with **always**:

- John **has always lived** in London. (*not* 'has always been living')

You can use the continuous or the simple for actions repeated over a long period:

- I've **been collecting** / I've **collected** stamps since I was a child.

Some verbs (for example, **know/like/believe**) are not normally used in the continuous:

- How long **have you known** Jane? (*not* 'have you been knowing')
- I've **had** a pain in my stomach since I got up this morning.

For a list of these verbs, see Unit 4A. For **have** see Unit 17.

D

We use the present perfect *simple* in negative sentences like these:

- I **haven't seen** Tom since Monday. (= Monday was the last time I saw him)
- Jane **hasn't phoned** me for two weeks. (= the last time she phoned was two weeks ago)

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.



- 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?

- Yes, she has been in hospital since Monday.
- No, I haven't seen her for three months.
- Yes, she ..... married for ten years.
- Yes, I ..... for the last half hour.
- Yes, we ..... each other for ages.
- No, I ..... tennis for years.
- Yes, he ..... TV all evening.
- No, I ..... TV for a long time.
- Yes, I ..... a headache all morning.
- No, he ..... ill since I've known him.
- Yes, I ..... ill since I got up.
- Yes, she ..... in London for the last few years.
- No, I ..... to the cinema for ages.
- Yes, I ..... to go to New York.  
(use always/want)

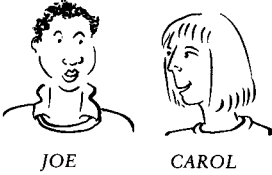
# When...? and How long...? For and since

**A** Compare **When...?** (+ *past simple*) and **How long...?** (+ *present perfect*):



A: When **did it start** raining?  
B: It **started** raining **an hour ago / at 1 o'clock.**

A: **How long has it been** raining?  
B: It's **been raining** **for an hour / since 1 o'clock.**



JOE

CAROL

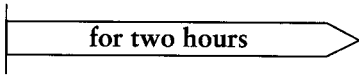
A: When **did Joe and Carol first meet**?  
B: They **first met** **a long time ago / when they were at school.**

A: **How long have Joe and Carol known** each other?  
B: They've **known** each other **for a long time. / since they were at school.**

**B** We use both **for** and **since** to say how long something has been happening.

We use **for** when we say a period of time (two hours, six weeks etc.):

- I've been waiting **for two hours.**



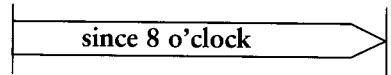
two hours ago -----> now

for	
two hours	a week
20 minutes	50 years
five days	a long time
six months	ages

- Sally's been working here **for six months.** (not 'since six months')
- I haven't seen Tom **for three days.** (not 'since three days')

We use **since** when we say the *start* of a period (8 o'clock, Monday, 1985 etc.):

- I've been waiting **since 8 o'clock.**



8 o'clock -----> now

since	
8 o'clock	1977
Monday	Christmas
12 May	lunchtime
April	they were at school

- Sally's been working here **since April.** (= from April until now)
- I haven't seen Tom **since Monday.** (= from Monday until now)

It is possible to leave out **for** (but not usually in negative sentences):

- They've been married (for) **ten years.** (with or without **for**)
- They **haven't had** a holiday **for ten years.** (you must use **for**)

We do *not* use **for** + **all...** (**all day / all my life** etc.):

- I've lived here **all my life.** (not 'for all my life')

**C** We say 'It's (a long time / two years etc.) **since** something happened':

- It's **two years since** I last saw Joe. (= I **haven't** seen Joe **for two years / the last time** I saw Joe was two years ago)
- It's **ages since** we went to the cinema. (= We **haven't been** to the cinema **for ages**)

The question is **How long is it since...?**

- **How long is it since** you last saw Joe? (= When did you last see Joe?)
- **How long is it since** Mrs Hill died? (= When did Mrs Hill die?)

**EXERCISES**

**12.1** Write questions with how long and when.

- 1 It's raining.  
(how long ?) ... How long has it been raining?  
(when?) ... When did it start raining?
- 2 Kate is learning Italian.  
(how long / learn?) .....  
(when / start / learn?) .....
- 3 I know Martin.  
(how long / know?) .....  
(when / first / meet?) .....
- 4 Bob and Alice are married.  
(how long?) .....  
(when?) .....

**12.2** Read the situations and complete the sentences beginning in the way shown.

- 1 (It's raining now. It's been raining since lunchtime.) It started raining at lunchtime.
- 2 (Ann and I are friends. We first met years ago.) We've known each other for years.
- 3 (Mark is ill. He became ill on Sunday.) He has .....
- 4 (Mark is ill. He became ill a few days ago.) He has .....
- 5 (Sarah is married. She's been married for two years.) She got .....
- 6 (You've got a camera. You bought it ten years ago.) I've .....
- 7 (Sue has been in France for the last three weeks.) She went .....
- 8 (You're working in a hotel. You started in June.) I've .....

**12.3** Put in for or since.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1 It's been raining <u>since</u> lunchtime.                   | 6 Please hurry up! We've been waiting<br>..... an hour.         |
| 2 Tom's father has been doing the same job<br>..... 20 years. | 7 Kevin has been looking for a job<br>..... he left school.     |
| 3 Have you been learning English .....<br>a long time?        | 8 The house is very dirty. We haven't<br>cleaned it ..... ages. |
| 4 Sarah has lived in London ..... 1985.                       | 9 I haven't had a good meal .....<br>last Tuesday.              |
| 5 ..... Christmas, the weather<br>has been quite good.        |   |

**12.4** Write B's sentences using the words in brackets.

- 1 A: Do you often go on holiday?  
B: (no / five years) ... No, I haven't had a holiday for five years.
- 2 A: Do you often eat in restaurants?  
B: (no / ages) No, I .....
- 3 A: Do you often see Sarah?  
B: (no / about a month) No, .....
- 4 A: Do you often go to the cinema?  
B: (no / a long time) .....

Now write B's answers again. This time use It's...since...

- 5 (1) ... No, it's five years since I had a holiday.
- 6 (2) No, it's .....
- 7 (3) No, .....
- 8 (4) .....

Present perfect and past (1) (**I have done** and **I did**)

A

Study this example situation:



Tom is looking for his key. He can't find it.

He **has lost** his key. (*present perfect*)This means that he doesn't have his key *now*.

Ten minutes later:

Now Tom **has found** his key. He has it now.**Has he lost** his key? (*present perfect*)No, he **hasn't**. He **has found** it.**Did he lose** his key? (*past simple*)Yes, he **did**.He **lost** his key (*past simple*)but now he **has found** it. (*present perfect*)

The *present perfect* is a *present* tense. It always tells us something about *now*. 'Tom **has lost** his key' = he doesn't have his key *now* (see Unit 7).

The *past simple* tells us only about the *past*. If somebody says 'Tom **lost** his key', we don't know whether he has it now or not. We only know that he lost it at some time in the past.

Two more examples:

- Jack **grew** a beard but now he **has shaved** it off. (so he doesn't have a beard *now*)
- They **went** out after lunch and they've just **come** back. (so they are back *now*)

B

Do *not* use the present perfect if there is no connection with the present (for example, things that happened a long time ago):

- The Chinese **invented** printing. (*not* 'have invented')
- How many plays **did** Shakespeare **write**? (*not* 'has Shakespeare written')
- Beethoven **was** a great composer. (*not* 'has been')

Compare:

- Shakespeare **wrote** many plays.
- My sister is a writer. She **has written** many books. (she *still* writes books)

C

We use the present perfect to give new information (see Unit 7). But if we continue to talk about it, we normally use the past simple:

- A: Ow! I've **burnt** myself.  
B: How **did** you **do** that? (*not* 'have you done')
- A: I **picked** up a hot dish. (*not* 'have picked')
- A: Look! Somebody **has spilt** milk on the carpet.  
B: Well, it **wasn't** me. I **didn't** **do** it. (*not* 'hasn't been...haven't done')
- A: I wonder who it **was** then. (*not* 'who it has been')

**EXERCISES**

**13.1** *What has happened in these situations?*

- 1 Jack had a beard. Now he hasn't got a beard. He has shaved off his beard.
- 2 Linda was here five minutes ago. Now she's in bed. She .....
- 3 The temperature was 25 degrees. Now it is only 17. The temperature .....
- 4 The light was off. Now it is on. Somebody .....
- 5 The tree was only three metres high. Now it is four. The tree .....
- 6 The plane was on the runway a few minutes ago. Now it is in the air.  
The plane .....

**13.2** *Put the verbs in brackets in the correct form, present perfect or past simple.*

- 1 'Where's your key?' 'I don't know. I ve lost it.' (lose)
- 2 I was very tired, so I lay down on the bed and went to sleep. (be)
- 3 Mary ..... to Australia for a while but she's back again now. (go)
- 4 'Where's Ken?' 'He ..... out. He'll be back in about an hour.' (go)
- 5 I did German at school but I ..... most of it. (forget)
- 6 I meant to phone Diane last night but I ..... (forget)
- 7 I ..... a headache earlier but I feel fine now. (have)
- 8 Look! There's an ambulance over there. There ..... an accident. (be)
- 9 They're still building the new road. They ..... it. (not/finish)
- 10 'Is Helen still here?' 'No, she ..... out.' (just/go)
- 11 The police ..... three people but later they let them go. (arrest)
- 12 Ann ..... me her address but I'm afraid I ..... it. (give, lose)
- 13 Where's my bike? It ..... outside the house. It .....!  
(be, disappear)
- 14 What do you think of my English? Do you think I .....? (improve)

**13.3** *Are the underlined parts of these sentences right or wrong? Correct the ones that are wrong.*

- 1 Do you know about Sue? She's given up her job. RIGHT.
- 2 The Chinese have invented printing. WRONG: The Chinese invented.
- 3 How many plays has Shakespeare written?
- 4 Have you read any of Shakespeare's plays?
- 5 Aristotle has been a Greek philosopher.
- 6 Ow! I've cut my finger. It's bleeding.
- 7 My grandparents have got married in London.
- 8 Where have you been born?
- 9 Mary isn't at home. She's gone shopping.
- 10 Albert Einstein has been the scientist who has developed the theory of relativity.

**13.4** (Section C) *Put the verb into the most suitable form, present perfect or past simple.*

- 1 A: Look! Somebody has spillt (spill) coffee on the carpet.  
B: Well, it wasn't (not/be) me. I didn't do (not/do) it.
- 2 A: Ben ..... (break) his leg.  
B: Really? How ..... (that/happen)?  
A: He ..... (fall) off a ladder.
- 3 A: Your hair looks nice. .... (you/have) a haircut?  
B: Yes.  
A: Who ..... (cut) it? ..... (you/go) to the hairdresser?  
B: No, a friend of mine ..... (do) it for me.

# Present perfect and past (2) (I have done and I did)

**A** Do *not* use the present perfect (I have done) when you talk about a *finished* time (for example, yesterday / ten minutes ago / in 1985 / when I was a child). Use a *past* tense:

- The weather **was** nice yesterday. (*not* 'has been nice')
- They **arrived** ten minutes ago. (*not* 'have arrived')
- I **ate** a lot of sweets when I was a child. (*not* 'have eaten')
- A: Did you see the news on television **last night**? (*not* 'Have you seen?')
- B: No, I **went** to bed early. (*not* 'have gone')

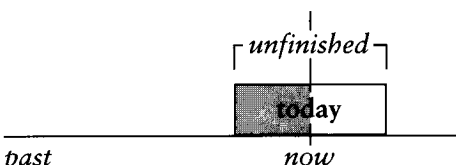
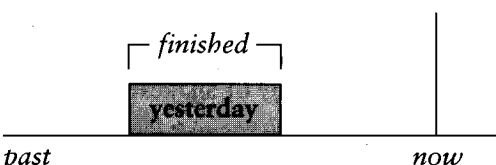
Use a past tense to ask **When...?** or **What time...?:**

- **When** did they arrive? (*not* 'have they arrived')
- **What time** did you finish work?

Compare:

<p><i>Present perfect</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Tom <b>has lost</b> his key. He can't get into the house.</li> </ul> <p>Here, we are not thinking of the past action. We are thinking of the present result of the action: Tom doesn't have his key <i>now</i>.</p>	<p><i>Past simple</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Tom <b>lost</b> his key yesterday. He couldn't get into the house.</li> </ul> <p>Here, we are thinking of the action in the past. We don't know from this sentence whether Tom has his key now.</p>
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**B** Compare present perfect and past:

<p><i>Present perfect (have done)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● I've <b>done</b> a lot of work <b>today</b>.</li> </ul> <p>We use the present perfect for a period of time that continues <i>from the past until now</i>. For example, <b>today, this week, since 1985</b>.</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● It <b>hasn't</b> rained <b>this week</b>.</li> <li>● <b>Have you seen</b> Ann <b>this morning</b>? (it is still morning)</li> <li>● <b>Have you seen</b> Ann <b>recently</b>?</li> <li>● I don't know where Ann is. I <b>haven't seen</b> her. (= I haven't seen her recently)</li> <li>● We've <b>been waiting</b> for an hour. (we are still waiting now)</li> <li>● Ian lives in London. He <b>has lived</b> there for seven years.</li> <li>● I <b>have never played</b> golf. (in my life)</li> </ul> <p>The present perfect always has a connection with <i>now</i>. See Units 7–12.</p>	<p><i>Past simple (did)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● I <b>did</b> a lot of work <b>yesterday</b>.</li> </ul> <p>We use the past simple for a <i>finished</i> time in the past. For example, <b>yesterday, last week, from 1985 to 1991</b>.</p>  <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● It <b>didn't</b> rain <b>last week</b>.</li> <li>● <b>Did you see</b> Ann <b>this morning</b>? (it is now afternoon or evening)</li> <li>● <b>Did you see</b> Ann <b>on Sunday</b>?</li> <li>● A: <b>Was</b> Ann at the party <b>on Sunday</b>?</li> <li>● B: I don't think so. I <b>didn't</b> see her.</li> <li>● We <b>waited</b> (<i>or were waiting</i>) for an hour. (we are no longer waiting)</li> <li>● Ian <b>lived</b> in Scotland for ten years. Now he lives in London.</li> <li>● I <b>didn't play</b> golf when I was on holiday <b>last summer</b>.</li> </ul> <p>The past simple tells us only about the past. See Units 5–6.</p>
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**EXERCISES**

**14.1** Are the underlined parts of these sentences right or wrong? Correct the ones that are wrong.

- 1 I've lost my key. I can't find it anywhere. .... **RIGHT**.....
- 2 Have you seen the news on television last night? .... **WRONG: Did you see**.....
- 3 I've bought a new car. Do you want to see it? .....
- 4 I've bought a new car last week. ....
- 5 Where have you been yesterday evening? .....
- 6 Jenny has left school in 1991. ....
- 7 I'm looking for Mike. Have you seen him? .....
- 8 I'm very hungry. I haven't eaten anything today. ....
- 9 Diane hasn't been at work yesterday. ....
- 10 When has this book been published? .....

**14.2** Make sentences from the words in brackets. Use the present perfect or past simple.

- 1 (it / not / rain / this week) .... **It hasn't rained this week.**.....
- 2 (the weather / be / cold / recently) The weather .....
- 3 (it / cold / last week) It .....
- 4 (I / not / read / a newspaper yesterday) I .....
- 5 (I / not / read / a newspaper today) .....
- 6 (Ann / earn / a lot of money / this year) .....
- 7 (she / not / earn / so much / last year) .....
- 8 (you / have / a holiday recently?) .....

**14.3** Put the verb into the correct form, present perfect or past simple.

- 1 I don't know where Amy is. **Have you seen** (you/see) her?
- 2 When I ..... (get) home last night, I ..... (be) very tired and I ..... (go) straight to bed.
- 3 Your car looks very clean. .... (you/wash) it?
- 4 George ..... (not/be) very well last week.
- 5 Mr Clark ..... (work) in a bank for 15 years. Then he gave it up.
- 6 Molly lives in Dublin. She ..... (live) there all her life.
- 7 '..... (you/go) to the cinema last night?' 'Yes, but it ..... (be) a mistake. The film ..... (be) awful.'
- 8 My grandfather ..... (die) 30 years ago. I ..... (never/meet) him.
- 9 I don't know Carol's husband. I ..... (never/meet/him).
- 10 A: Is your father at home? B: No, I'm afraid he ..... (go) out.  
A: When exactly ..... (he/go) out? B: About ten minutes ago.
- 11 A: Where do you live? B: In Boston.  
A: How long ..... (you/live) there? B: Five years.  
A: Where ..... (you/live) before that? B: In Chicago.  
A: And how long ..... (you/live) in Chicago? B: Two years.

**14.4** Write sentences about yourself using the ideas in brackets.

- 1 (something you haven't done today) .... **I haven't eaten any fruit today.**.....
- 2 (something you haven't done today) .....
- 3 (something you didn't do yesterday) .....
- 4 (something you did yesterday evening) .....
- 5 (something you haven't done recently) .....
- 6 (something you've done a lot recently) .....