

# PRESENT PERFECT X SIMPLE PAST

## HOW TO MAKE SENTENCES AND QUESTIONS IN THE "PRESENT PERFECT"

**Subject + has/have + past participle** (verb in the 3rd column of the irregular verb list)

Regular verb:

Want

Wanted (past)

**Wanted (past participle)**

Irregular verb:

Eat

Ate (past)

**Eaten (past participle)**

### Examples:

Affirmative: I **have** (I've) **seen** that movie three times.

Negative: I **have not** (I haven't) **seen** that movie yet.

Interrogative: **Have** you **seen** that movie?

Affirmative: Mary **has** (Mary's) **lived** in that house for 10 years.

Negative: Mary **has not** (Mary hasn't) **lived** in that house since she was 8 years old.

Interrogative: **Has** Mary **lived** in that house before?

### Contractions:

I have = I've

You have = You've

She has = She's

He has = He's

It has = It's

We have = We've

They have = They've

## MORE EXAMPLES:

### AFFIRMATIVE SENTENCES:

Subject + has/have + past participle

**Ex. We have lived here for over 10 years.**

**Ex. Kevin and I have known each other ever since we were teenagers.**

**Ex. Maggie has seen the movie Titanic 4 times.**

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## NEGATIVE SENTENCES:

Subject + has/have + not + past participle

**Ex. We haven't talked to each other for nearly 6 months.**

**Ex. The children haven't started school yet.**

**Ex. Gary hasn't ever flown in an airplane.**

- has + not = hasn't
- have + not = haven't

## INTERROGATIVE SENTENCES (QUESTIONS):

Have/Has + subject + past participle...?

**Ex. Have you ever seen a shooting star?**

**Ex. Has Evelyn already gotten her vaccinations?**

**Ex. Have the neighbors moved into their new home yet?**

## ■ WHEN DO WE USE THE PRESENT PERFECT?

The present perfect is used in 3 situations:

**1. To talk about things that happened in the past, but there's no specific mention of time OR the mention of time is not understood by the context of the conversation (key words: before and already)**

- I've (I have) eaten at this restaurant before.
- We've (We have) already seen this movie.
- I've (I have) traveled to Italy, Spain and France.
- Have you eaten frog legs before?
- We've (We have) met before, right?

**2. To talk about things that started in the past and continue into the present moment, it has not ended. (key words: since and for)**

- Julie has lived in Brazil for 8 years.
- I've lived in Florida for 6 months.
- I've (I have) never swum with dolphins.
- Martin has worked at this company for over 15 years.

**3. To talk about things that repeated in the past without a specific mention of time. (key words: several times, twice, many times)**

- I've (I have) watched this movie 5 times.
- The children have been to Disney several times.

# RESOURCE VIDEO

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**Tricky part!! When we use the “today” “this week/month/year/etc.”**

**Present perfect:**

I've drunk 10 cups of coffee today. (present perfect – I might drink more coffee still)

**Simple past:**

I drank 10 cups of coffee today. (simple past – no more coffee today, thanks!)

**Present perfect:**

Karen has missed 3 classes this week. (present perfect – this week hasn't ended yet)

**Simple past:**

Karen missed 3 classes last week. (simple past – last week ended and is over with)

**Ex.**

- We have eaten at this restaurant several times. (present perfect)
- We ate at this restaurant last week. (simple past – mention of time)

**Ex.**

- Have you heard this song before? (present perfect)
- No, I've never heard that song. / I haven't heard that song before. (present perfect)
- Yes, I heard that song on the radio this morning. (simple past – mention of time)

**Ex.**

- I have lived in Brazil for 8 years. (present perfect – I still live in Brazil)
- I lived in Brazil for 8 years. (simple past – I don't live in Brazil any more)

### SOME PRACTICE QUESTIONS

**1. How long have you worked at your current job?**

- Possible answers:

I've (I have) worked at my current job for 10 months /3 years /6 weeks, etc.

I have worked at my current job since 2015/January this year, etc.

**2. Have you (ever) gone skydiving?**

- Possible answers:

Yes, I have. / No, I haven't.

Yes, I have. I went skydiving last month/on my 18th Birthday.

**3. How long have you known your partner/husband/wife/best friend?**

- Possible answers:

I have known this person for 10 years/15 years/3 days/2 minutes, etc.

I have known this person since I was 13/2010/I was a child, etc.

## RESOURCE VIDEO

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### TIP

- \* Use “**been TO**” to talk about where we were in the past. = **I’ve been to** Canada twice.
- \* Use “**been IN**” to talk about where we are now. = **I’ve been in** Campinas for 6 months.

### EXERCISE

Fill in the blank with the present perfect or the simple past form of the verb in parentheses.

1. I \_\_\_\_\_ to Europe several times. Actually, I \_\_\_\_\_ there just last month. (be)
2. - “\_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ your project yet?”  
- “Yes, I \_\_\_\_\_ it this morning.” (finish)
3. Mary \_\_\_\_\_ never \_\_\_\_\_ a horse before. (ride)
4. I \_\_\_\_\_ the new secretary today. She seems nice. \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ her yet? (meet)
5. - “This is a wonderful book. I \_\_\_\_\_ it twice already.”  
- “I know! I \_\_\_\_\_ that book last month. It’s fantastic.” (read)
6. - “When are you going to write your report for Mr. Wilson?”  
- “I \_\_\_\_\_ already \_\_\_\_\_ it. I \_\_\_\_\_ it last night.” (write)
7. “This is my favorite restaurant. I \_\_\_\_\_ here so many times that I lost count.”  
- “Really! Mine too! I \_\_\_\_\_ here last week on my birthday.” (eat)
8. My parents \_\_\_\_\_ in this house for the past 10 years. I don’t think they will ever move. (live)
9. Before moving to this apartment, I \_\_\_\_\_ in a house with a group of friends. (live)
10. Megan \_\_\_\_\_ the most beautiful dress to the party last night. (wear)
11. Megan \_\_\_\_\_ glasses ever since she was a child. (wear)
12. My grandpa \_\_\_\_\_ many different cars throughout his life. He likes to collect them. (has)
13. When I was a teenager I \_\_\_\_\_ the coolest blue bike. I wonder what happened to it. (has)
14. The weather \_\_\_\_\_ warm all week! I love it! (be)
15. Last night the temperature dropped and it \_\_\_\_\_ so cold that I couldn’t sleep. (be)

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## ■ RESPOSTAS (ANSWERS):

1. have been, was
2. Have (you) finished, finished
3. has (never) ridden
4. met, Have (you) met
5. have read, read
6. have (already) written, wrote
7. have eaten, ate
8. have lived
9. lived
10. wore
11. has worn
12. has had
13. had
14. has been
15. was