

Topic: The Present Perfect Tense

Use the present perfect tense to talk about happenings in the past that explain or affect the present. The verbs **have** and **has** are used as “helping” or auxiliary verbs to form the present perfect tense.

To form the present perfect tense join have or has to the past participle of the verb.

Using the Present Perfect Tense.

Examples:

Sam **has scored** two goals.

I **’ve just finished** my shower.

It **has not rained** for months.

They **have opened** a new shop

The Simpsons **have moved** to Ohio.

Uncle Tom **has lost** his wallet.

John **has gone** out.

Have you found your keys yet?

Tim **has made** two spelling mistakes.

It’s been very hot today.

Dave **has cut** his hair.

More examples

The **present perfect** is formed from the present tense of the verb *have* and the past participle of a verb.

We use the present perfect:

- for something that **started in the past** and **continues in the present**:

*They’ve **been married** for nearly fifty years.*

*She **has lived** in Liverpool all her life.*

- when we are talking about our **experience up to the present**:

*I’ve **seen** that film before.*

*I’ve **played** the guitar ever since I was a teenager.*

*He **has written** three books and he is working on another one.*

We often use the adverb *ever* to talk about experience up to the present:

*My last birthday was the worst day I **have ever had**.*

and we use *never* for the negative form:

Have you ever met George?
Yes, but I've never met his wife.

have been and have gone

We use **have/has been** when someone has **gone** to a place and **returned**:

*A: Where **have** you **been**?*

*B: I've just **been out to** the supermarket.*

*A: **Have you ever been to** San Francisco?*

*B: No, but I've **been to** Los Angeles.*

But when someone **has not returned**, we use **have/has gone**:

A: Where's Maria? I haven't seen her for weeks.

*B: She's **gone to** Paris for a week. She'll be back tomorrow.*

Present perfect continuous

The **present perfect continuous** is formed with **have/has been** and the **-ing** form of the verb.

We normally use the present perfect continuous to **emphasize that something is still continuing in the present**:

*She **has been living** in Liverpool all her life.*

*It's **been raining** for hours.*

*I'm tired out. I've **been working** all day.*

*They **have been staying** with us since last week.*

We do **not** normally use the present perfect continuous with **stative verbs**. We use the **present perfect simple** instead:

*I've always ~~been liking~~ **liked** John.*