



7

Famous couples

Present Perfect • *for, since* • Adverbs, word pairs • Short answers

7.1 Present Perfect

Form

have/has + *-ed* (past participle)

The past participle of regular verbs ends in *-ed*. There are many common irregular verbs. See the list on p143.

Positive and negative

I We/You/They	've (have) haven't	worked in a factory.
He/She/It	's (has) hasn't	

Question

Have	I we/you/they	been to the United States?
Has	he/she/it	

Short answer

Have you been to Egypt?	Yes, I have./No, I haven't.
Has she ever written poetry?	Yes, she has./No, she hasn't.

Note

We cannot use *I've*, *they've*, *he's*, etc. in short answers.

Yes, I **have**. NOT ~~Yes, I've~~.

Yes, we **have**. NOT ~~Yes, we've~~.

Use

- 1 The Present Perfect looks back from the present into the past, and expresses what has happened before now. The action happened at an indefinite time in the past.

I've **met** a lot of famous people. (before now)

She **has won** awards. (in her life)

She's **written** twenty books. (up to now)

The action can continue to the present, and probably into the future.

She's **lived** here for twenty years. (she still lives here)

- 2 The Present Perfect expresses an experience as part of someone's life.

I've **travelled** a lot in Africa.

They've **lived** all over the world.

Ever and *never* are common with this use.

Have you **ever** been in a car crash?

My mother has **never** flown in a plane.

- 3 The Present Perfect expresses an action or state which began in the past and continues to the present.

I've **known** Alice for six years.

How long **have you worked** as a teacher?

Note that the time expressions *for* and *since* are common with this use. We use *for* with a period of time, and *since* with a point in time.

We've lived here **for** two years. (a period of time)

I've had a beard **since** I left the army. (a point in time)

2 Compare these sentences.

X	I've broken my leg last year.
✓	I broke my leg last year.
X	He works as a musician all his life.
✓	He has worked as a musician all his life.
X	When have you been to Greece?
✓	When did you go to Greece?
X	How long do you have your car?
✓	How long have you had your car?

Note

In many languages, this use is expressed by a present tense. But in English, we say:

Peter **has been** a teacher for ten years.

NOT ~~Peter is a teacher for ten years.~~

4 The Present Perfect expresses a past action with results in the present. It is often a recent past action.

I've **lost** my wallet. (I haven't got it now.)

The taxi's **arrived**. (It's outside the door now.)

Has the postman **been**? (Are there any letters for me?)

The adverbs *just*, *already*, and *yet* are common with this use. *Yet* is used in questions and negatives.

She's **just** had some good news.

I've **already** had breakfast.

Has the postman been **yet**?

It's 11.00 and she hasn't got up **yet**.

7.2 Present Perfect and Past Simple

1 Compare the Past Simple and Present Perfect.

Past Simple

- 1 The Past Simple refers to an action that happened at a definite time in the past.

He **died** in 1882.

She **got** married when she was 22.

The action is finished.

I **lived** in Paris for a year (but not now).

- 2 Time expressions + the Past Simple

I did it **in** 1999.

last week.

I did it **two months ago**.

on March 22.

for two years.

Present Perfect

- 1 The Present Perfect refers to an action that happened at an indefinite time in the past.

She **has won** awards.

She's **written** twenty books.

The action can continue to the present.

She's **lived** there for twenty years (and she still does.)

- 2 Time expressions + the Present Perfect

I've worked here **for** twenty years.

since 1995.

since I left school.

We've **never** been to America.

IRREGULAR VERBS

Base form	Past Simple	Past Participle
be	was/were	been
become	became	become
begin	began	begun
break	broke	broken
bring	brought	brought
build	built	built
buy	bought	bought
can	could	been able
catch	caught	caught
choose	chose	chosen
come	came	come
cost	cost	cost
cut	cut	cut
do	did	done
drink	drank	drunk
drive	drove	driven
eat	ate	eaten
fall	fell	fallen
feel	felt	felt
fight	fought	fought
find	found	found
fly	flew	flown
forget	forgot	forgotten
get	got	got
give	gave	given
go	went	gone/been
grow	grew	grown
have	had	had
hear	heard	heard
hit	hit	hit
keep	kept	kept
know	knew	known
learn	learnt/learned	learnt/learned
leave	left	left
lose	lost	lost
make	made	made
meet	met	met
pay	paid	paid
put	put	put
read /ri:d/	read /red/	read /red/
ride	rode	ridden
run	ran	run
say	said	said
see	saw	seen
sell	sold	sold
send	sent	sent
shut	shut	shut
sing	sang	sung
sit	sat	sat
sleep	slept	slept
speak	spoke	spoken
spend	spent	spent
stand	stood	stood
steal	stole	stolen
swim	swam	swum
take	took	taken

VERB PATTERNS

Verb + <i>-ing</i>	
like love enjoy hate finish stop	swimming cooking

Note

We often use the verb *go* + *-ing* for sports and activities

I **go swimming** everyday.

I **go shopping** at the weekend.

Verb + <i>to</i> + infinitive	
choose decide forget promise manage need help hope try want would like would love	to go to work

Verb + <i>-ing</i> or <i>to</i> + infinitive	
begin start	raining/to rain

Verb + sb + infinitive without <i>to</i>		
let make	somebody	go do

Modal auxiliary verbs	
can could shall will would	go arrive