

# Grammar Focus: Revision

## Present Perfect

The Present Perfect is used to talk about an action that has happened at an unspecified time before the Present. It uses the structure *have/has + past participle*.

The Present Perfect CANNOT be used with specific time expressions such as: an hour ago, yesterday, one year ago, last week, when I was a child, when I lived in Japan, at that moment, that day, one day, etc.

The Present Perfect CAN be used with unspecific expressions of time such as: just, recently, already, since, ever, never, once, many times, for (an hour), several times, before, so far, yet, etc.

Using the Present Perfect when talking about...

### 1. Experiences.

While the Present Perfect is not used when talking about a specific experience, using the Present Perfect indicates that you have had the experience.

Examples:

- I **have been** to France.  
*This sentence means that you have had the experience of being in France. Maybe you have been there once, or several times.*
- I **have been** to France three times.  
*You can add the number of times at the end of the sentence.*
- I **have never been** to France.  
*This sentence means that you have not had the experience of going to France.*
- I think I **have seen** that movie before.
- He **has never traveled** by train.
- Joan **has studied** two foreign languages.
- A: **Have** you ever **met** him?  
B: No, I **have not met** him.

### 2. Change over time.

The Present Perfect is also used to indicate that something has happened a period of time.

Examples:

- You **have grown** since the last time I saw you.
- The government **has become** more interested in arts education.
- Japanese **has become** one of the most popular courses at the university since the Asian studies program was established.
- My English **has** really **improved** since I moved to Australia.

### 3. Accomplishments.

The Present Perfect is often used to list accomplishments of individuals or of humanity (provided that there is no mention of a specific time).

Examples:

- Man **has walked** on the Moon.
- Our son **has learned** how to read.
- Doctors **have cured** many deadly diseases.
- Scientists **have split** the atom.

### 4. An expected action that hasn't been completed yet.

Using the Present Perfect when talking about an action that is expected, indicates that the action has not been completed at the time of the utterance.

Examples:

- James **has not finished** his homework yet.
- Susan **hasn't mastered** Japanese, but she can communicate.
- Bill **has** still **not arrived**.
- The rain **hasn't stopped**.

### 5. Multiple actions at different times.

The Present Perfect is furthermore used to talk about actions which have occurred in the past at different times and there is the possibility that these actions might happen again.

Examples:

- The army **has attacked** that city five times.
- I **have had** four quizzes and five tests so far this semester.
- We **have had** many major problems while working on this project.
- She **has talked** to several specialists about her problem, but nobody knows why she is sick.

**The Present Perfect in translation:**

Ich habe mein Zimmer aufgeräumt.

Er hat gerade Handball gespielt.

Wir haben seit 1989 in Kanada gelebt.

Ich war kürzlich in London.

Sie war noch nie in New York.

**Further examples (try to assign them to the categories mentioned above):**

- I've been an officer in some of the town bands. It's not much compared to other people, but it's what I've done.
- I've never so much as drunk a beer in my life. I've seen the damage that it can cause.
- While he hasn't drunken a beer, alcohol has passed his lips.
- Yeah, I've been wondering about that.
- We have crossed paths many times.
- He has managed to make it work, even though the odds were stacked against him.
- I've grown accustomed to the way they do things around here.

- Even though I've reminded them on several occasions, they have not fulfilled the task yet.