

# Present Perfect Simple: Experience and Recent Events

## INTERMEDIATE

Focus: have/has + past participle, Irregular past participles, Past actions with present results, Giving new information, Just for short time ago, Already for sooner than expected, Yet in questions and negatives, Position of adverbs in a sentence, Completed visits (been to), Current travel/not returned (gone to)

### 1. Formation

We form the Present Perfect Simple using the auxiliary verb **have** or **has** followed by the **Past Participle** (V3).

- **Positive:** Subject + have/has + Past Participle
  - *I **have finished** my work.*
  - *She **has eaten** lunch.*
- **Negative:** Subject + haven't/hasn't + Past Participle
  - *We **haven't seen** that movie.*
- **Question:** (Wh-) + Have/Has + Subject + Past Participle?
  - *Where **have** you **put** my keys?*

**Note:** For regular verbs, the past participle ends in **-ed** (played, worked). For irregular verbs, you must memorize the third column of the verb list (write -> wrote -> **written**).

### 2. Main Uses

1. **Past Action, Present Result:** An action happened in the past, but the result is important *now*.
  - *Oh no! I **have lost** my passport. (Result: I don't have it now.)*
2. **News / New Information:** Used to introduce a recent event.
  - *The police **have arrested** two men.*
3. **Life Experience:** Things you have done in your life (up to now). We often use **ever** (in questions) and **never**.
  - *I **have never been** to China.*
4. **Unfinished Time / Numerical Occurrences:** Actions happened in a time period that hasn't finished yet (today, this week) or counting how many times something happened.
  - *I **have drunk** three coffees **today**. (Today is not over).*

### 3. Time Markers: Just, Already, and Yet

- **Just:** A very short time ago. (Position: Between *have* and *participle*)
  - *Be careful, I **have just broken** a glass.*
- **Already:** Sooner than expected. (Position: Between *have* and *participle*)
  - *Don't buy tickets. I **have already bought** them.*
- **Yet:** Until now. Used in **negatives** and **questions**. (Position: End of the sentence)
  - *Have you finished **yet**?*
  - *I **haven't called** him **yet**.*

### 4. Confusing Verbs: Been vs. Gone

When talking about travel using the verb **to go**, the meaning changes based on the participle:

- **Have/Has GONE to:** The person is traveling or is there now. They have **not returned**.
  - *Where is Mike? He **has gone** to the shops. (He is not here).*
- **Have/Has BEEN to:** The visit is completed. The person went and **returned**.
  - *I **have been** to London twice. (I am back home now).*

## Practice Exercises

**Instructions:** Complete the sentences using the **Present Perfect Simple**. Use the verbs in parentheses. Pay attention to the position of adverbs (*just, already*) and the difference between *been* and *gone*.

1. Can I have that newspaper? Yes, I \_\_\_\_\_ (finish) with it.
2. I \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) a new car. Do you want to see it?
3. Where is Alice? She \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the supermarket. She will be back in ten minutes.
4. "Would you like some lunch?" "No, thanks. I \_\_\_\_\_ (just / eat)."
5. I \_\_\_\_\_ (not / complete) the report yet. I need one more hour.
6. We \_\_\_\_\_ (know) each other for ten years.
7. Look at the weather! It \_\_\_\_\_ (stop) raining, so we can go out now.
8. I am looking for my phone. \_\_\_\_\_ (you / see) it anywhere?
9. "Can we watch the new Marvel movie?" "No, I \_\_\_\_\_ (already / see) it twice."
10. My sister \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to Paris three times in her life. She loves it there.
11. Why is the fridge empty? Someone \_\_\_\_\_ (drink) all the milk!
12. I \_\_\_\_\_ (never / be) to South America, but I want to go one day.
13. "Is Peter here?" "No, he isn't. He \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to the dentist."
14. Don't touch that bench! They \_\_\_\_\_ (just / paint) it.
15. We are very busy today. We \_\_\_\_\_ (sell) fifty tickets this morning.

## Answer Key

1. have finished
2. have bought
3. has gone (*She is not here now*)
4. have just eaten
5. haven't completed / have not completed
6. have known
7. has stopped
8. Have you seen
9. have already seen
10. has been (*She went and returned / life experience*)
11. has drunk
12. have never been
13. has gone (*He is not here now*)
14. have just painted
15. have sold