

English A2 · Present perfect

Elementary English for Chinese speakers; classroom examples, not official exam items.

The open door

The past simple tells a story; the present perfect leaves a footprint. The story is over — the footprint is still here.

have plus the participle

Person	Form	Example
I / you / we / they	have + participle	I have finished.
he / she / it	has + participle	She has finished.

Use the evidence

Rebels grow a third column: go → went → gone, eat → ate → eaten, be → was → been.

Your turn: the third column

Your turn

She has ____ to Beijing twice. (go)

- A. went
- B. go
- C. gone
- D. going

The experience words

Word	Where it sits	Example
ever	questions	Have you ever eaten hotpot?
never	before the participle	I have never seen snow.
just	before the participle	She has just left. — a minute ago
already	before the participle	We have already eaten.
yet	negatives and questions, at the end	I haven't finished yet.

Use the evidence

yet sits at the end like a cat waiting at the door.

Open door, closed door

perfect — open

I have seen that film. — sometime in life

She has lived here for ten years. — still here

today, this week, ever, since, for

simple — closed

I saw it last week. — named time

She lived here for ten years. — moved away

yesterday, last week, in 2019, ago

Your turn: open or closed

Your turn

Which sentence is correct?

- A. I have seen that film yesterday.
- B. I saw that film yesterday.
- C. I have saw that film yesterday.
- D. I seen that film yesterday.

been or gone: where is she standing?

has gone to Beijing

She is there now. Not here.

The trip is still happening.

has been to Beijing

She went and came back.

The trip is an experience she owns.

Your turn: where is she

Your turn

She has ____ to the shops. She will be back for lunch.

- A. been
- B. gone
- C. went
- D. go

Say it aloud

Show off: I have eaten hotpot. I have never seen snow.



Brag responsibly: I have already finished my homework. (One lie is allowed.)



Ask: Have you ever been to Shanghai?



Answer: Yes, I have. / No, I haven't. But I have seen photos.

Check yourself

- I have eaten breakfast, so I'm not hungry — the footprint is still here.
- I saw that film last week — a named time kills the perfect.
- She has gone to Beijing — she is there now; been means back already.
- Have you finished yet? — yet waits at the end.