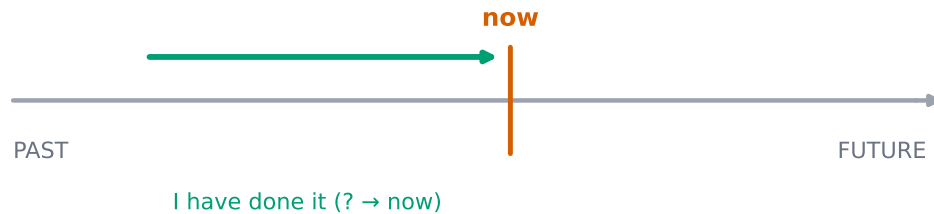


Present perfect

English Grammar · A2

Structure (have / has + past participle)

Present perfect - past, linked to now



Present perfect: past, linked to now: tense timeline

The present perfect tense **connects the past and the present**: a past action has an effect on the present now, or it refers to life experience.

Structure: + have / has + (he / she / it → has)

I have finished my homework.

I have finished my homework. (So I am free now)

She has lost her keys.

She has lost her keys. (She hasn't found them yet)

Past Participle:

- Regular verbs = -ed: work → worked, finish → finished.
- Irregular verbs must be memorized: go → **gone**, see → **seen**, do → **done**, be → **been**, eat → **eaten**.

Note: Present perfect usually does not specify **exact times**. If you mention a specific past time (yesterday, in 2019), use the simple past instead.

ever / never / just / already / yet

These words are frequently used with the present perfect tense:

- **ever:** Used in questions to mean “at any time.” **never:** “not ever.”
- **just:** “just now.” **already:** “already.” **yet:** Used at the end of negative or interrogative sentences to mean “not yet.”

Have you ever been to London?

Have you ever been to London?

I have just eaten lunch.

I have just had lunch.

He hasn't finished yet.

He hasn't finished yet.

for and since

To say how long something has “continued,” use **for** or **since**:

- **for + a period of time:** for three years, for a week.
- **since + starting point:** since 2020 (from the year 2020), since Monday (from Monday).

I have lived here for five years.

I have lived here for five years. (And I still live here)

We have known each other since 2018.

We have known each other since 2018.

Note: Use 'for' with duration and 'since' with a starting point; don't mix them up: ~for 2018~ × → since 2018 ✓.

Common Errors

- × ~I have seen him yesterday.~ → ✓ I **saw** him yesterday. — Once a specific past time is mentioned (yesterday, last week, in 2019), switch to the simple past.
- × ~I live here for ten years.~ → ✓ I **have lived** here for ten years. — “Lived here for ten years and still live here” requires the present perfect. Chinese lacks this distinction, making it easy to overlook.
- × ~She has go home.~ → ✓ She has **gone** home. — After have / has, use the past participle, not the base form.

- × ~~Have you ever went to Beijing?~~ → ✓ Have you ever **been** to Beijing? — Use have been to for “visited a place.”
- Distinguish gone and been: He has **gone** to Beijing. (He went there and hasn't returned yet) vs He has **been** to Beijing. (He visited there and has come back).