

7 Present perfect 1 (I have done)

A Study this example situation:



Tom is looking for his key. He can't find it.
He **has lost** his key.
He **has lost** his key = He lost it recently, and he still doesn't have it.

Have/has lost is the *present perfect simple*:

I/we/they/you	have (= I've etc.)	finished lost done been etc.
he/she/it	has (= he's etc.)	

The present perfect simple is **have/has + past participle**. The past participle often ends in **-ed** (finished/decided etc.), but many important verbs are *irregular* (**lost/done/written** etc.).

For a list of irregular verbs, see **Appendix 1**.

B When we say that 'something **has happened**', this is usually new information:

- Ow! I've **cut** my finger.
- The road is closed. There's **been** (there **has been**) an accident.
- (from the news) Police **have arrested** two men in connection with the robbery.

When we use the present perfect, there is a connection with **now**. The action in the past has a result *now*:

- 'Where's your key?' 'I don't know. I've **lost** it.' (= I don't have it *now*)
- He told me his name, but I've **forgotten** it. (= I can't remember it *now*)
- 'Is Sally here?' 'No, she's **gone** out.' (= she is out *now*)
- I can't find my bag. **Have** you **seen** it? (= Do you know where it is *now*?)

C Note the difference between **gone (to)** and **been (to)**:

- James is on holiday. He **has gone to** Italy. (= he is there now or on his way there)
- Jane is back home now. She **has been to** Italy. (= she has now come back)

D You can use the present perfect with **just, already** and **yet**.

Just = a short time ago:

- 'Are you hungry?' 'No, I've **just had** lunch.'
- Hello. **Have** you **just arrived**?

We use **already** to say that something happened sooner than expected:

- 'Don't forget to pay your electricity bill.' 'I've **already paid** it.'
- 'What time is Mark leaving?' 'He's **already left**.'

Yet = until now. **Yet** shows that the speaker is expecting something to happen. Use **yet** only in questions and negative sentences:

- Has** it **stopped** raining **yet**?
- I've written the email, but I **haven't sent** it **yet**.

E You can also use the past simple (**did, went, had** etc.) in the examples on this page. So you can say:

- 'Is Sally here?' 'No, she **went** out.' or 'No, she's **gone** out.'
- 'Are you hungry?' 'No, I **just had** lunch.' or 'No, I've **just had** lunch.'

Exercises

7.1 Read the situations and write sentences. Use the following verbs in the present perfect:

- arrive break fall go up grow improve ~~lose~~

- | | |
|---|------------------------------|
| 1 Tom is looking for his key. He can't find it. | Tom <u>has lost his key.</u> |
| 2 Lisa can't walk and her leg is in plaster. | Lisa |
| 3 Last week the bus fare was £1.80. Now it is £2. | The bus fare |
| 4 Maria's English wasn't very good. Now it is better. | Her English |
| 5 Dan didn't have a beard before. Now he has a beard. | Dan |
| 6 This morning I was expecting a letter. Now I have it. | The letter |
| 7 The temperature was 20 degrees. Now it is only 12. | The |

7.2 Put in **been** or **gone**.

- James is on holiday. He's gone to Italy.
- Hello! I've just to the shops. I've bought lots of things.
- Alice isn't here at the moment. She's to the shop to get a newspaper.
- Tom has out. He'll be back in about an hour.
- 'Are you going to the bank?' 'No, I've already to the bank.'

7.3 Complete B's sentences. Make sentences from the words in brackets.

A	B
1 Would you like something to eat?	No, thanks. <u>I've just had lunch.</u> (I / just / have / lunch)
2 Do you know where Julia is?	Yes, (I / just / see / her)
3 What time is David leaving? (he / already / leave)
4 What's in the newspaper today?	I don't know. (I / not / read / it yet)
5 Is Sue coming to the cinema with us?	No, (she / already / see / the film)
6 Are your friends here yet?	Yes, (they / just / arrive)
7 What does Tim think about your plan? (we / not / tell / him yet)

7.4 Read the situations and write sentences with **just**, **already** or **yet**.

- After lunch you go to see a friend at her house. She says, 'Would you like something to eat?'
You say: No thank you. I've just had lunch. (have lunch)
- Joe goes out. Five minutes later, the phone rings and the caller says, 'Can I speak to Joe?'
You say: I'm afraid (go out)
- You are eating in a restaurant. The waiter thinks you have finished and starts to take your plate away. You say: Wait a minute! (not / finish)
- You plan to eat at a restaurant tonight. You phoned to reserve a table. Later your friend says, 'Shall I phone to reserve a table?' You say: No, (do it)
- You know that a friend of yours is looking for a place to live. Perhaps she has been successful. Ask her. You say:? (find)
- You are still thinking about where to go for your holiday. A friend asks, 'Where are you going for your holiday?' You say: (not / decide)
- Linda went shopping, but a few minutes ago she returned. Somebody asks, 'Is Linda still out shopping?' You say: No, (come back)