

Tikrit University

College of Nursing

Basic Nursing Sciences



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English

(Present Perfect)

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Present Perfect

The present perfect is used to indicate a link between the present and the past. The time of the action is **before now but not specified**, and we are often more interested in the **result** than in the action itself.

The **present perfect** is formed from the present tense of the verb **have** and the **past participle of a verb**.

S + (have or has) + PP + Comp.

We use the present perfect:

1-for something that **started in the past** and **continues in the present**:

They have just spoken to the doctor.
She has lived in Baghdad all her life.

2-when we are talking about our **experience up to the present**:

I have seen that film before.
He has done three surgeries and he is working on another one.

NOTE: We often use the adverb *ever* to talk about experience up to the present:

My last birthday was the worst day I have ever had.

and we use *never* for the negative form:

Have you ever met Khalid?
Yes, but I have never met his wife.

3-for something that **happened in the past** but is **important in the present**:

I cannot get in the house. I have lost my keys.

Sara is not at home. I think she has gone shopping.

4-An action performed during a period that has not yet finished.

She has been to the cinema twice this week (= and the week isn't over yet.)

5-A repeated action in an unspecified period between the past and now.

We have visited Portugal several times.

6-An action that was completed in the very recent past, expressed by 'just'.

I have just finished my work.

7-An action when the time is not important.

He has read 'War and Peace'. (= the result of his reading is important)

Have been and Have done

1-We use *have/has been* when someone has *gone* to a place and *returned*:

A: *Where have you been?*

B: *I've just been out to the supermarket.*

A: *Have you ever been to Basrah?*

B: *No, but I've been to Los Babil.*

But when someone **has not returned**, we use *have/has gone*:

A: *Where's Maria? I haven't seen her for weeks.*

B: *She's gone to Paris for a week. She'll be back tomorrow.*

Present Perfect with Adverbs of Time

We often use the present perfect with adverbs **which refer to the recent past**:

Recently, just, only just

Scientists **have recently discovered** a new breed of monkey.
We **have just got** back from our holidays.

or **adverbs which include the present:**

so far until now up to now
ever (in questions)
yet (in questions and negatives)

Have you ever seen a ghost?

Where **have you been up to now**?

A: **Have you finished your homework yet**?

B: No, **so far** I've only **done** my history.

After a clause with the present perfect we often use **a clause with *since* to show when something started in the past:**

I have worked here since I left school.

I have been watching that programme every week since it started.

We do not use the present perfect with adverbs which refer to a finished past time:
last week/month/year, yesterday, in 2017, when I was younger

I have seen that film ~~yesterday~~.

We have just ~~bought~~ a new car ~~last week~~.

~~When we were children~~ we have been to California.

but we can use the present perfect with **adverbs which refer to a time which is not yet finished:**

Today, *this week/month/year*

Have you seen Helen today?

We have bought a new car this week.