

THE USAGE OF PRESENT TENSE

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The present tense of the auxiliary verb to have (have or has) plus the past participle of the verb we want to employ make up the present perfect. The -ed suffix is added to the verb's infinitive form to create the latter. For instance, "have finished," "have looked," "have painted," and numerous other phrases. On any list of such verbs, the past tense of irregular verbs can be found in the third column as an exception. These verbs are instances of present perfect irregular verbs: have won, eaten, defeated, been, seen, selected, written, etc. The present perfect tense is used in numerous situations.

When we use the term, we are referring to past events that have continued to be true.

As an illustration

For fifteen years, Joe and Anna have been wed.

In addition, we use it to refer to events that happened in a period of time that is still ongoing.

Two times this summer, they have visited the beach.

They could visit the seaside for a third time if they go by this example's implied inference that summer is still in full swing.

The repeated activities that occurred across an ambiguous time period—and are anticipated to continue occurring—are another situation in which we utilize the present perfect.

Example: They've won the competition numerous times.

Referring to a recently finished activity is one of the most frequent applications of present perfect.

I recently read an essay that made me realize how stupid my perceptions on global politics were. Another frequent application of this verb tense is to discuss events that take place at a specific time, regardless of where or when they occur.

As an illustration, she appropriately responded to each question.

The present perfect indicates that everything is important in this situation because the questions have been resolved and the action has been carried out satisfactorily.

He has been accused of a crime formally.

This statement indicates that the person was assessed a fee. He has been charged, which complicates his life even if we don't know what, when, or why that is.

Last but not least, we employ this tense and the word ever to discuss experiences from the past up to the present.

Example: That lunch was the best I've ever had in my life.

To describe recent behavior or inquire about recent events, we employ the present perfect tense. With words like just, already, yet, and still, it is frequently used. When something happens in the present that affects it, we frequently use the present perfect. for instance

I've lost my passport so I can't get on the plane!

(Finished action in recent past – consequence now.)

Here are some other examples:

Have you finished the report yet?

I haven't seen Pablo today.

Sally has just gone out.

We've already had lunch.

They still haven't delivered the goods!

Without mentioning a precise period of time, we use the present perfect to talk about events that have occurred or have not occurred in our lives. With this usage, we frequently use "ever" in inquiries and "never" in negative phrases. For instance,

Have you been to Montreal before?

I haven't been there, so no.

She has made three trips to Australia!

Fortunately, we've never missed a flight.

Has this team ever captured a competition?

It's customary to provide details using the simple past after discussing the primary life experience in the present perfect. For instance,

Unfinished actions In his career, he has earned three significant promotions. (Plain English)

The present perfect is also used to describe events or acts that began in the past but are still occurring now. Since and for are terms used to indicate when an action began, respectively, and for. For instance,

We've lived here for 10 years.

They've been married for 25 years.

How long have you worked for this company?

It hasn't rained for weeks.

You've had that car for ages.

As you can see, using the present perfect is simpler than you could have anticipated after you comprehend and remember these important facts about it. Of course, practice is key, and speaking is the best way to practice. At Wall Street English, you can take courses that cover a range of present perfect usages, even at different levels, and you'll always learn how to use it effortlessly through speaking and listening.

The Present Perfect is most commonly used to indicate that an action has been completed but that the time has not. As a result, the activity is considered complete and the tense is present perfect. One of the most frequent uses of the Present Perfect is to wrap up a topic of conversation or, alternately, to introduce a topic of conversation before moving on to the Present Simple or, more frequently, the Past Simple.

Examples to end discussions

A: Did you complete the report?

B: I've already turned it in, and yes.

A: Have you traveled to Spain before?

B: I haven't been there, no.

A: What exactly is a stalwart?

B: I haven't heard of that, no.

A: Would you kindly let me know how to travel to Sunbury?

B: Pardon me! I'm really sorry, but I haven't heard of it.

Here, things become even more perplexing, and mistakes are very simple to make. This is so that we can employ the verb's third form, the past participle. You probably already know that there are three forms for each verb in English.

The first verb tense, sometimes known as the present, is the verb in its plane condition. The second verb tense, or in the past, is represented by the verb. The Past Participle, which means to bring the past into the present, is the third verb tense.

Time expressions, sometimes known as time adverbs, are widely used in everyday English. Use the proper time adverbs if you wish to seem more natural when speaking English. Time adjectives that frequently accompany the Present Perfect include:

Ever is a temporal adverb that can be used positively or interrogatively to mean "in all of one's days."

The opposite of "ever" is "never."

I've never witnessed anything so peculiar.

Before refers to anything that happened before this particular period.

In this location before.

The Past Perfect is only used to indicate that one action occurred more in the past than another and only before a specified point in time in the past.

For instance, I attended university after completing high school.

An action has already been finished before this time point, and the word "already" can be used to emphasize this.

I've already finished the homework.

Yet is the opposite of already or a question mark.

I still haven't finished the task.

Have you finished the task yet?

simply referring to a brief duration, time, or moment

Reference:

1. Simple Present Tense: How to use it, with examples, April 11.2023
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