

Present perfect (2)

1 You can use the present perfect after words like when, after, until, as soon as, to talk about something in the future:

Tell me when you have finished. I'll write to you as soon as I have heard from Jenny.

[For a note about the present simple in sentences like this see Unit 11]

2 If you say someone has gone to a place you mean he is still there:

A: Where are the children? B: They've gone to school.

Ken and Angela have gone to London for a holiday.

If you say someone has been to a place you mean they went there once but they are not there now (see Unit 5 - Practice, Exercise B):

The children have been to school. They're back at home now.

I've been to Paris but I've never been to Rome.

3 Look at questions and negatives with have in Unit 4, sections 3 and 4:

Now look at question and negatives with the present perfect:

A: Have you found your book yet?

B: No. I've looked everywhere, but I still haven't found it.

A: Have you seen Bill lately?

B: No. I haven't seen him for a couple of months.

4 Some verbs are 'continuous' verbs because the action goes on for some time. The following verbs, for example, are 'continuous' verbs:

drive live make stand study travel watch wait walk work

You often use the present perfect continuous form with these verbs to emphasise how long something has been going on up to the present:

We've been travelling for three hours.

He's been working very hard.

She's been watching TV all day.

[For verbs not normally used in the continuous form see Unit 66]

**5 You can use the present perfect continuous tense to show that something is still going on:**

Compare: I have read your book. I enjoyed it very much.

and: I've been reading your book. I'm enjoying it very much.

6 You can use the present continuous to show that something is temporary:

I have been working as a ski instructor, but now I'm looking for a new job.

A In these time expressions the present simple refers to a time in the future.
Change present simple to present perfect:

1 When I finish Oliver Twist I will read Don Quixote.

When I have finished Oliver Twist I will read Don Quixote.

2 You can do the shopping after you make the beds.

3 Don't go out before you do your homework.

4 I'm going to stay in class until I finish my essay.

B Write out these dialogues putting the verbs in the present perfect question form or negative form:

1 A: (Your sister/ pass her exams)?

Has your sister passed her exams?

B: I don't know. (She/not get/the results)

I don't know. She hasn't got the results.

2 A: (Your brother/go/to America)?

_____?

B: No, (he/not go/yet)

No, _____.

3 A: (Peter/start/ school)?

_____?

B: No, (he/ not start/ yet)

No, _____.

4 A: (You/read/the newspaper)?

_____?

B: No, (I/ not read it/yet)

No, _____.

C Write under these pictures what these people have been doing:



He's been waiting for a bus.

