

# 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 lost it and he still doesn't have it.)

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

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

The present perfect is **have/has + past participle**. The past participle often ends in **-ed** (**finished/decided**, etc.), but many important verbs are irregular (**lost/done/been/written**, etc.). For a list of irregular verbs, see Appendix 1.

**B**

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

- He told me his name, but I've forgotten it. (I can't remember it now.)
- "Is Kimberly here?" "No, she's gone out." (She is out now.)
- I can't find my purse. Have you seen it? (Do you know where it is now?)

We often use the present perfect to give new information or to announce a recent happening:

- The road is closed. There's been an accident.
- (*from the news*) The police have arrested two men in connection with the robbery.

We also use the *simple past* (I played, I did, etc.) in these situations. So you can say:

- He told me his name, but I've forgotten it. *or* ... but I forgot it.
- Kimberly isn't here. She's gone out. *or* ... She went out.

**C**

We often use the present perfect with **just**, **already**, and **yet**. You can also use the simple past:

**Just** = a short time ago:

- "Are you hungry?" "No, I've just had lunch." (*or* I just had lunch.)

We use **already** to say that something happened sooner than expected (see also Unit 107D):

- "Don't forget to mail the letter." "I've already mailed it." (*or* I already mailed it.)

**Yet** = until now. It shows that the speaker is expecting something to happen. Use **yet** only in questions and negative sentences (see also Unit 107C):

- Has it stopped raining yet? (*or* Did it stop raining yet?)
- I wrote the letter, but I haven't mailed it yet. (*or* ... I didn't mail it yet.)

**D**

Do not use the present perfect when you talk about a finished time (for example, **last night / two years ago / yesterday**, etc.). Use the *simple past* (see also Unit 13):

- It snowed last night. (*not* has snowed)
- Where were you at 3:00? (*not* Where have you been)
- I started my new job two weeks ago. (*not* have started)
- Nicole didn't go out yesterday. (*not* hasn't gone)

# Exercises

## 7.1 Read the situations and write sentences with the present perfect. Choose one of the following: break drop go up grow improve lose turn on

1. Mike is looking for his key. He can't find it. He has lost his key.
2. Jennifer can't walk and her leg is in a cast. She \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Maria's English wasn't very good. Now it is much better. \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Jason didn't have a beard last month. Now he has a beard. \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Last week the bus fare was 80 cents. Now it is 90. \_\_\_\_\_.
6. The temperature was 55 degrees. Now it is only 36. The temperature \_\_\_\_\_.
7. The light was off. Now it is on. Somebody \_\_\_\_\_.

## 7.2 Complete B's sentences. Use the verb in parentheses + just/already/yet.

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

## 7.3 Read the situations and write sentences with the words in parentheses and just, already, or yet.

1. 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)
2. Joe goes out. Five minutes later, the phone rings and the caller says: "Can I speak to Joe?" You say: "I'm sorry, \_\_\_\_\_." (go out)
3. 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)
4. You are going to a restaurant this evening. You call to reserve a table. Later your friend says: "Should I call to reserve a table?" You say: "No, \_\_\_\_\_ it." (do)
5. You know that a friend of yours is looking for a job. Perhaps she has been successful. Ask her. You say: "\_\_\_\_\_?" (find)
6. Laura went to the bank, and she returned a few minutes ago. Somebody asks: "Is Laura still at the bank?" You say: "No, \_\_\_\_\_." (come back)

## 7.4 Are the underlined parts of these sentences right or wrong? Correct the ones that are wrong.

1. It has snowed last night. It snowed
2. Have you seen my purse? RIGHT
3. "Don't forget to pay the gas bill." "I've already done it."
4. The accident has happened three days ago.
5. Sue hasn't been at work yesterday.
6. Jerry gave me his address, but I've lost it.
7. Have you seen Brad on Monday?
8. Where is the newspaper? What have you done with it?
9. We have bought our house in 1985.