A Present perfect (1) • ever, never, recently

1 We use the Present perfect to talk about past actions or experiences, but we don’t say exactly when they happened. We sometimes use the Present perfect with the adverbs recently/lately to talk about an action in the near past and with adverbs of frequency, such as once, twice.

He’s been to Paris recently.
I’ve been to Paris last year.
I’ve seen this film three times.

2 We also use the Present perfect with ever in questions and never in negative sentences to talk about experiences we have had or haven’t had.

Have you ever seen a lion?
I’ve never been to Sweden.

1/you/we/they he/she/it
+ I’ve been to England. She’s been to Poland.
− You haven’t eaten sushi. It hasn’t rained recently.
? Have they seen this film? Has he left school?
✓ Yes, they have. Yes, he has.
✗ No, they haven’t. No, he hasn’t.

3 We form the Present perfect with have/has + past participle of the verb. We usually use the contracted forms ‘ve and ’s when we are speaking.

4 We form the past participle of regular verbs in the same way as the Past simple, by adding -ed to the base form.

play – played – played
Irregular verbs often have a past participle which is different from the Past simple form.

be – was – been
begin – began – begun
come – came – come
do – did – done
eat – ate – eaten
give – gave – given
go – went – gone
see – saw – seen

Look out!

Look at the difference between been and gone:

They’ve been to Russia. (= They’ve been to Russia and come back.)
They’ve gone to Russia. (= They’re still in Russia at the moment.)

In both cases the verb is followed by the preposition to.

B Present perfect (2) • just, already, yet

1 We use just in affirmative sentences with the Present perfect to say that something has happened very recently.

+ He’s just finished his breakfast.
She’s already done her homework.

? Have you had dinner yet?
− They haven’t left yet.

2 We use already with the Present perfect in affirmative sentences to say that something happened before the moment of speaking.

They’ve never been to Paris.

3 We use yet in questions with the Present perfect to ask about something which we expect to happen. We use not… yet in negative sentences with the Present perfect to say something we expected to happen hasn’t happened yet.

C Agreeing and disagreeing • so, neither

1 We use So… to say we agree with what someone says in affirmative sentences or that we have had the same experience.

So + auxiliary verb + subject pronoun
I like pizza. – So do I.
I enjoyed the film. – So did I.
I’ve been to Athens. – So have I.

2 We use Neither… to say we agree with what someone says in negative sentences or that we too have not had a specific experience.

Neither + auxiliary verb + subject pronoun
I don’t speak German. – Neither do I.
I didn’t go to school yesterday. – Neither did I.
I’ve never eaten squid. – Neither have I.

3 To express disagreement with affirmative sentences we use:

subject pronoun + auxiliary verb + n’t (not)
I’ve visited the Pyramids. – I haven’t.
I watched TV last night. – I didn’t.

And with negative sentences we use:

subject pronoun + auxiliary verb
I didn’t go to the party. – I did.
I’ve never been on a plane. – I have.
A

Present perfect (1) • ever, never, recently

1 Complete the sentences with the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1 I’ve never visited (never/visit) Canada but I’m going there next summer.
2 You’ve (you/read) any Harry Potter books? Yes, I have.
3 We never have (never have) lunch in that restaurant. Let’s go there tomorrow.
4 This is the second time I (read) this book.
5 Harry never (never/play) tennis.
6 We have (have) lots of homework recently. I hope things get better soon.
7 We spend (spend) a lot of money recently.
8 Where’s Amar? He’s home.

B

Present perfect (2) • just, already, yet

3 Write sentences using these words and the Present perfect.

1 miss/just/them/you
   You’ve just missed them.
2 a/him/send/already/present/birthday/I
3 breakfast/already/have/she
4 yet/we/keys/not/the/find
5 yet/Chris/phone?
6 you/yet/do/homework/your?
7 that/I/read/book/yet/not
8 playing/they/tennis/just/finish

C

Agreeing and disagreeing • so, neither

5 Match the sentences and the replies.

1 I’ve never been to the USA.
2 I had a great time at the party.
3 I love going shopping.
4 I’ve been really busy lately.
5 I don’t like doing homework.
6 I didn’t go out last Saturday.

a Neither do I.  
b Neither did I.  
c So did I.  
a So do I.  
b So have I.  
c Neither have I.

6 Translate the sentences into English in your exercise book.

2 Sono andato ad una festa grandiosa sabato. Io no.
3 Ho conosciuto tante persone famose. Io no.
4 Ho mangiato la pizza ieri sera. Anch’io.
5 Non sono mai stato a Nizza. Io sì.
6 Non mi sono alzato presto oggi. Neanch’io.
7 Sono stato malato questa settimana. Anch’io.
8 Non sono andato a scuola oggi. Io sì.