

# Unit 7

## 7.1 Present Perfect

### Form

have/has + -ed (past participle)

The past participle of regular verbs ends in -ed. There are many common irregular verbs. See the list on p143.

### Positive and negative

I We/You/They	've (have) haven't	worked in a factory.
He/She/It	's (has) hasn't	

### Question

Have	I we/you/they	been to the United States?
Has	he/she/it	

### Short answer

Have you been to Egypt?	Yes, I have./No, I haven't.
Has she ever written poetry?	Yes, she has./No, she hasn't.

### Note

We cannot use *I've, they've, he's, etc.* in short answers.

Yes, I **have**. NOT ~~Yes, I've.~~

Yes, we **have**. NOT ~~Yes, we've.~~

### Use

- 1 The Present Perfect looks back from the present into the past, and expresses what has happened before now. The action happened at an indefinite time in the past.

I've **met** a lot of famous people. (before now)

She **has won** awards. (in her life)

She's **written** twenty books. (up to now)

The action can continue to the present, and probably into the future.

She's **lived** here for twenty years. (she still lives here)

- 2 The Present Perfect expresses an experience as part of someone's life.

I've **travelled** a lot in Africa.

They've **lived** all over the world.

*Ever* and *never* are common with this use.

Have you **ever** been in a car crash?

My mother has **never** flown in a plane.

- 3 The Present Perfect expresses an action or state which began in the past and continues to the present.

I've **known** Alice for six years.

How long **have** you **worked** as a teacher?

Note that the time expressions *for* and *since* are common with this use. We use *for* with a period of time, and *since* with a point in time.

We've lived here **for** two years. (a period of time)

I've had a beard **since** I left the army. (a point in time)

### Note

In many languages, this use is expressed by a present tense. But in English, we say:

Peter **has been** a teacher for ten years.

NOT ~~Peter is a teacher for ten years.~~

- 4 The Present Perfect expresses a past action with results in the present. It is often a recent past action.

I've **lost** my wallet. (I haven't got it now.)

The taxi's **arrived**. (It's outside the door now.)

**Has** the postman **been**? (Are there any letters for me?)

The adverbs *just*, *already*, and *yet* are common with this use. *Yet* is used in questions and negatives.

She's **just** had some good news.

I've **already** had breakfast.

Has the postman **been yet**?

It's 11.00 and she hasn't got up **yet**.

## 7.2 Present Perfect and Past Simple

- 1 Compare the Past Simple and Present Perfect.

### Past Simple

- 1 The Past Simple refers to an action that happened at a definite time in the past.

He **died** in 1882.

She **got** married when she was 22.

The action is finished.

I **lived** in Paris for a year (but not now).

- 2 Time expressions + the Past Simple

**in** 1999.

last week.

I did it **two months ago**.

**on** March 22.

**for** two years.

### Present Perfect

- 1 The Present Perfect refers to an action that happened at an indefinite time in the past.

She **has won** awards.

She's **written** twenty books.

The action can continue to the present.

She's **lived** there for twenty years (and she still does.)

- 2 Time expressions + the Present Perfect

**for** twenty years.

I've worked here **since** 1995.

**since** I left school.

We've **never** been to America.

- 2 Compare these sentences.

X	I've broken my leg last year.
✓	I broke my leg last year.
X	He works as a musician all his life.
✓	He has worked as a musician all his life.
X	When have you been to Greece?
✓	When did you go to Greece?
X	How long do you have your car?
✓	How long have you had your car?