

A2 · TEENS · LESSON 13 · PRESENT PERFECT

I've never been there (yet).

A tense for experiences, recent news, and the time you can't quite place. English uses it constantly — and Turkish speakers often skip it. This lesson shows when to reach for *have/has + past participle* and when *Past Simple* wins instead.

have/has + p.p.

The formula

ever · never · yet

Key signals

no exact time

The golden rule

I

Warm-Up

Life experiences · recent news

Life so far...

Before we begin, think about your life as a big list of experiences. Some are done, some are not yet — this lesson is about the word *yet*, and about everything you *have* or *haven't* done.

1. Name **two things** you have done this week. (Anything: eaten, watched, finished...)
2. What's *the most interesting place* you **have ever visited**?
3. Is there a famous book or film you **haven't seen yet** but want to?
4. Have you *just* finished something today? What was it?

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Grammar Focus

The Present Perfect

The *Present Perfect* connects **the past** to **now**. It describes things that happened in your life before this moment — but the exact *when* is either not important, not known, or still going on.

Form it with two parts: **have** (or **has** for he/she/it) + the *past participle* of the main verb. Regular verbs add *-ed* (lived, worked, tried). Irregular verbs have their own third form to memorise (go → gone, see → seen, eat → eaten).

THE FORMULA

Subject + *have / has* + past participleI/you/we/they **have** · he/she/it **has** · contracted: I've, you've, he's, she's

CONJUGATION — HAVE & HAS + PAST PARTICIPLE

AFFIRMATIVE

I **have** lived — I've lived
 You **have** lived — You've lived
 He / She / It **has** lived — He's lived
 We / They **have** lived — We've lived

NEGATIVE & QUESTION

I **haven't** lived there. (= have not)
 She **hasn't** eaten yet. (= has not)
Have you finished? — Yes, I have.
Has he arrived? — No, he hasn't.

USE 1 · LIFE EXPERIENCES

Things that happened (or didn't) in your life

Use the Present Perfect to talk about things you **have or haven't done** at some point in your life. The *exact time* doesn't matter or isn't mentioned. Often pairs with *ever* and *never*.

"I **have visited** seven countries."

"She **has never tried** sushi."

"Have you ever seen snow?"

USE 2 · RECENT NEWS / JUST-NOW ACTIONS**Something has just happened — and it matters now**

Use the Present Perfect for news — an action finished very recently, and the effect is *still felt now*. Often pairs with *just*, *already*, and *recently*.

"I've just seen Marco at the shop."

"They've already eaten dinner."

"She's recently moved to Ankara."

USE 3 · UNFINISHED TIME / STILL WAITING**Something hasn't happened — and you're still waiting**

Use the negative Present Perfect (with *yet*) for actions that are **not done**, but expected. Questions with *yet* ask if the thing is finished.

"I haven't finished my homework yet."

"Have they arrived yet?"

"We haven't decided yet."

⚠ THE BIG TRAP**Present Perfect vs. Past Simple — when time is specified**

This is the most common A2 mistake, especially for Turkish speakers. The rule is simple: **if you say *when something happened*, use Past Simple**. If you don't say when (or can't), use Present Perfect.

PRESENT PERFECT

"I **have been** to Paris."

No exact time — just: **at some point in my life**. The focus is on the *experience*, not when.

PAST SIMPLE

"I **went** to Paris last summer."

Exact time: *last summer*. Finished action, finished time — use **Past Simple**, not Present Perfect.

PRESENT PERFECT

"She **has met** the president."

Just the experience. She has done this thing in her life.

PAST SIMPLE

"She **met** the president in 2019."

With *in 2019*, the time is specific — switch to Past Simple.

The time adverbs that travel with Present Perfect

LEARN THESE — THEY ARE THE PRESENT PERFECT'S BEST FRIENDS

ever

In questions about life experience:
"Have you ever been to Rome?"

never

Not once in your life:
"I've never tried oysters."

just

A moment ago:
"She's just left the building."

already

Happened before expected:
"I've already done it."

yet

In negatives & questions:
"Haven't finished yet." "Has he called yet?"

recently

In the last days/weeks:
"I've recently moved house."

for / since

Continuing time:
"for five years" / "since 2020."

so far

Up to now:
"We've read three books so far this year."

III

Key Vocabulary

10 irregular past participles to master

BASE	PAST	PAST PARTICIPLE	EXAMPLE
be	was/were	been	"I've been to Italy twice."
go	went	gone/been	"She's gone home." / "I've been there."
see	saw	seen	"Have you ever seen the ocean?"
eat	ate	eaten	"I've never eaten octopus."
do	did	done	"I've just done my homework."
take	took	taken	"He's taken the early train."
write	wrote	written	"She has written three books."
speak	spoke	spoken	"I've never spoken to her."
meet	met	met	"Have you met our new teacher?"
forget	forgot	forgotten	"I've forgotten his name again."

IV

Reading

Four teenagers, four life lists

THE TRAVEL & EXPERIENCES ISSUE · VOLUME 13

Things I've done. Things I *haven't*.

Four teenagers unroll their lives — from Marrakech to Osaka, from Bogotá to Belgrade. Each story spotlights one corner of Present Perfect so you can hear the tense in action.

STORY ONE · A LIFE LIVED BIG

Zineb, 16 · Marrakech

Zineb keeps a notebook of everything she **has done** and everything she *hasn't done yet*. The left page is the "done" list: she **has climbed** the Atlas Mountains, **has eaten** tagine in six different cities, **has ridden** a camel (twice, she insists), and **has watched** the sunset over the Sahara. She **has also met** her favourite football player in a café, which still feels unreal.

The right page is the "not yet" list: she *hasn't seen* Paris yet, she *hasn't tried* skiing, and she *hasn't learned* to drive. She's sixteen. There is time.

"I look at this notebook when I'm sad," Zineb says, turning a page. "My grandmother **has lived** for eighty years and she says the best lives have lots of things crossed off *and* lots of things still waiting. I think she's right."

EXPERIENCE + LIFE Zineb uses Present Perfect for things she has done in her life — no specific time. "I **have climbed** the Atlas Mountains" focuses on the *experience*, not when.

STORY TWO · BREAKING NEWS

Daichi, 17 · Osaka

Daichi has *just* stepped out of his first proper day at work. He **has just opened** the envelope with his first paycheck and counted it three times on the train home. It's not a lot. It's everything.

He **has already called** his mother. He **has already decided** what he'll spend it on: half goes into savings, a quarter to his sister's birthday present, and the last quarter — his. He **has recently started** saving for a second-hand guitar he **has wanted** for two years.

"It *hasn't* quite hit me yet," he admits. "I *haven't told* my best friend yet, because he's at practice. But the money is in my pocket, and that's the first time *that* has ever happened."

RECENT · JUST · ALREADY Daichi's news is fresh — it happened minutes or hours ago, and the result still matters *right now*. This is the perfect case for Present Perfect with *just* and *already*.

STORY THREE · THE BUCKET LIST

Camila, 15 · Bogotá

Camila lives 2,600 metres above sea level and she *has never* been to the beach. Not once. Not in her whole life. Her friends think this is impossible. "How?" they ask. "You're fifteen. Colombia has two coasts." She shrugs. "I *haven't been* yet."

Her family **has planned** four trips in the last five years. None of them **has happened**. Something always comes up: her father's work, her grandmother's surgery, the cost of tickets, the pandemic.

"I *haven't tasted salt water yet*," she says. "I *haven't felt hot sand*. I *haven't seen* a fish in the wild. But I will. This summer, maybe. And when I do, I think I'll cry a little." She smiles. "That's okay. Grown-ups do it too."

NOT YET — UNFINISHED "yet" is the magic word here. The action hasn't happened, but it's **expected to**. "I haven't seen the sea yet" implies: *but one day I will*.

STORY FOUR · THE GRAMMAR MISTAKE

Luka, 16 · Belgrade

Luka's English teacher, Mrs Petrović, has a special red pen. It only comes out for one specific mistake. Last Tuesday, Luka wrote a paragraph about his family's holiday: "*I have been to London last March with my parents*." The red pen came out.

"Luka," Mrs Petrović said kindly, "**last March** is a specific past time. So we use Past Simple: *I went to London last March*. Present Perfect is for when we *don't* say when."

He rewrote it. "*I have been to London*." — no *last March*. "Or," she continued, "if you want to keep the detail: *I went to London last March*." Luka nodded. The rule clicked. It's not hard, he realised — it's just a switch. If the time is named, use **went**. If not, use **have been**.

△ THE GOLDEN RULE If a sentence has *last week, yesterday, in 2020, two hours ago, when I was young*, — any specific past time — use **Past Simple**, not Present Perfect.

V

Practice

Choose the correct form for each sentence

Choose the correct form for each sentence. Coloured tags tell you what kind of form or rule to look for.

LEGEND: EVER/NEVER JUST/ALREADY YET NEGATIVE PP vs PAST

- I ____ to Japan three times. **EVER/NEVER**
 - A has been
 - B have been
 - C have went
- She has ____ finished her test. **JUST/ALREADY**
 - A yet
 - B never
 - C just
- They haven't arrived _____. **YET**
 - A yet
 - B already
 - C just
- I ____ that film before. **NEGATIVE**
 - A have saw
 - B haven't see
 - C haven't seen
- I ____ to Paris *last summer*. **PP vs PAST**
 - A have been
 - B went
 - C have gone

6. ____ you ever eaten Thai food? **EVER/NEVER**
- A Has B Did C Have
7. He has ____ written the email. **JUST/ALREADY**
- A already B yet C last night
8. We ____ that restaurant two weeks ago. **PP vs PAST**
- A have tried B tried C haven't tried

VI

Speaking

Life-experience survey

Have you ever...? A quick survey

ASK A PARTNER — THEN ANSWER YOURSELF

Use "Have you ever...?" for each. Answer "Yes, I have — I went/saw/trying ..." (with Past Simple detail!) OR "No, I never have" OR "No, I haven't — yet."

1. Have you ever *travelled alone* on a long journey?
2. Have you ever *eaten* something you regretted immediately?
3. Have you ever *met* someone famous — even briefly?
4. Have you ever *stayed up all night* doing something? (Not homework!)
5. What's one thing you *haven't done yet* but really want to?

MODEL DIALOGUE — SWAPPING EXPERIENCES

A: "Have you ever been to Greece?"

B: "Yes, I have! I went there with my family two summers ago — we saw the Acropolis."

A: "Nice. I haven't been yet, but I want to. Have you ever tried diving?"

B: "No, I never have. I'm a bit scared, honestly. Have you?"

A: "I've just finished a diving course, actually — last Saturday!"

VI

Writing

My life list (80-120 words)

Test your Present Perfect — Quick Check

Choose the best answer. 8 questions.

Q1 OF 8 · FORMATION**Which sentence is correctly formed?**

- A I has seen that film.
- B I have seen that film.
- C I have saw that film.
- D I am seen that film.

Q2 OF 8 · TIME MARKER**Complete: "She _____ her homework."**

- A has finish already
- B have already finished
- C has already finished
- D already finish has

Q3 OF 8 · THE BIG TRAP**Which sentence is *incorrect*?**

- A I've been to Spain.
- B I went to Spain in 2022.
- C I have never been to Spain.
- D I have been to Spain last year.

Q4 OF 8 · PAST PARTICIPLE**What is the past participle of "eat"?**

- A eaten
- B ate
- C eated
- D eat

Q5 OF 8 · READING RECALL**In Story Three, why hasn't Camila been to the sea yet?**

- A She doesn't like the sea.
- B Colombia has no coast.
- C Several family trips were cancelled.
- D She's afraid of fish.

Q6 OF 8 · QUESTION FORM**Complete: "_____ you ever tried surfing?"**

- A Did
- B Have
- C Has
- D Are

Q7 OF 8 · "YET"**Which is correct?**

- A I have yet eaten lunch.
- B I have already yet eaten.
- C I haven't eaten lunch yet.
- D I ate lunch yet.

Q8 OF 8 · PAST VS. PERFECT**Fill the gap: "Last Monday, I _____ my cousin at the station."**

- A met
- B have met
- C has met
- D have meet

Answer Key

PRACTICE (PART VI)

1. B 2. C 3. A 4. C 5. B 6. C 7. A 8. B

QUIZ (PART IX)

Q1. B Q2. C Q3. D Q4. A Q5. C Q6. B Q7. C Q8. A