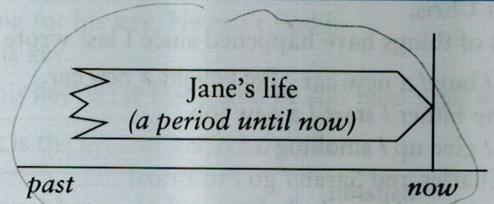


Present perfect (2) (I have done)

A Study this example conversation:

DAVE: **Have you travelled** a lot, Jane?
 JANE: Yes, I've **been** to lots of places.
 DAVE: Really? **Have you ever been** to China?
 JANE: Yes, I've **been** to China twice.
 DAVE: What about India?
 JANE: No, I **haven't been** to India.



When we talk about a period of time that continues from the past until now, we use the *present perfect* (**have been / have travelled** etc.). Here, Dave and Jane are talking about the places Jane has visited in her life (which is a period that continues until now).

- Have you ever **eaten** caviar? (in your life)
- We've never **had** a car.
- 'Have you **read Hamlet**?' 'No, I **haven't read** any of Shakespeare's plays.'
- Susan really loves that film. She's **seen** it eight times!
- What a boring film! It's the most boring film I've **ever seen**.

In the following examples too the speakers are talking about a period that continues until now (recently / in the last few days / so far / since breakfast etc.):

- Have you **heard** from George recently? ----- recently ----->
 - I've **met** a lot of people **in the last few days**. ---- in the last few days ---->
 - Everything is going well. We **haven't had** any problems **so far**. ----- since breakfast ----->
 - I'm hungry. I **haven't eaten** anything **since breakfast**. (= from breakfast until now)
 - It's nice to see you again. We **haven't seen** each other **for a long time**. ----->
- past now

B We use the present perfect with **today / this morning / this evening** etc. when these periods are *not finished* at the time of speaking (see also Unit 14B):

- I've **drunk** four cups of coffee **today**. (perhaps I'll drink more before today is finished)
 - Have you **had** a holiday **this year** (yet)?
 - I **haven't seen** Tom **this morning**. Have you?
 - Ron **hasn't worked** very hard **this term**.
- today ----->
- past now

C Note that we say 'It's the first time something **has happened**' (*present perfect*). For example:

Don is having a driving lesson. He is very nervous and unsure because it is his first lesson.

- It's **the first time** he **has driven** a car. (*not 'drives'*)
- or He **has never driven** a car before.
- Linda has lost her passport again. It's the second time this **has happened**. (*not 'happens'*)
- This is a lovely meal. It's the first good meal I've **had** for ages. (*not 'I have'*)
- Bill is phoning his girlfriend again. That's the third time he's **phoned** her **this evening**.

