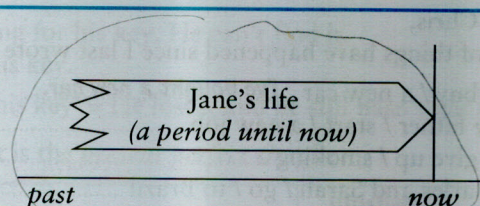


## Present perfect (2) (I have done)

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.

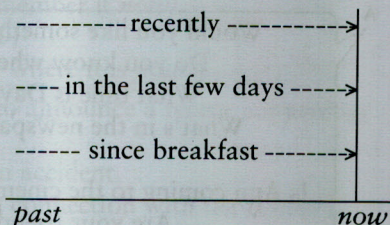


When we talk about a period of time that continues from the past until now, we use the *present perfect* (**have been / have travelled** etc.). Here, Dave and Jane are talking about the places Jane has visited in her life (which is a period that continues until now).

- 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.

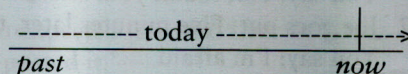
In the following examples too the speakers are talking about a period that continues until now (recently / in the last few days / so far / since breakfast etc.):

- Have you heard from George recently?
- I've met a lot of people in the last few days.
- Everything is going well. We haven't had any problems so far.
- 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.



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**.



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**.

This is the first time I've driven a car.



Present perfect → UNIT 7 Present perfect + **for/since** → UNITS 11-12 Present perfect and past → UNITS 12-14  
 American English → APPENDIX 7