

Present perfect (1) (I have done)

see also pg 26

A

Study this example situation:



Tom is looking for his key. He can't find it.
He **has lost** his key.

'He **has lost** his key' = He lost it and he still hasn't got it.

Have/has lost is the *present perfect simple*:

I/we/they/you	have	(= I've etc.)	finished
he/she/it	has	(= he's etc.)	lost
			done
			been etc.

The present perfect simple is **have/has + past participle**. The past participle often ends in **-ed** (finished/decided etc.), but many important verbs are *irregular* (lost/done/been/written etc.). For a list of irregular verbs, see Appendix 1.

B

When we use the present perfect there is always a connection with **now**. The action in the past has a result **now**:

- 'Where's your key?' 'I don't know. I've **lost** it.' (I haven't got it **now**)
- He told me his name but I've **forgotten** it. (I can't remember it **now**)
- 'Is Sally here?' 'No, she's **gone** out.' (she is out **now**)
- I can't find my bag. **Have you seen** it? (do you know where it is **now**?)

We often use the present perfect to give new information or to announce a recent happening:

- Ow! I've **cut** my finger.
- The road is closed. There's **been** (= there **has been**) an accident.
- (from the news) The police **have arrested** two men in connection with the robbery.

C

You can use the present perfect with **just**, **already** and **yet**:

Just = 'a short time ago':

- 'Would you like something to eat?' 'No, thanks. I've **just had** lunch.'
- Hello. **Have you just arrived**?

We use **already** to say that something happened sooner than expected (see also Unit 110D):

- 'Don't forget to post the letter, will you?' 'I've **already posted** it.'
- 'What time is Mark leaving?' 'He's **already gone**.'

Yet = 'until now' and shows that the speaker is expecting something to happen. Use **yet** only in questions and negative sentences (see also Unit 110C):

- **Has it stopped** raining yet?
- I've written the letter but I **haven't posted** it yet.

D

Note the difference between **gone (to)** and **been (to)**:

- Jim is away on holiday. He **has gone to** Spain. (= he is there **now** or on his way there)
- Jane is back home from holiday now. She **has been to** Italy. (= she has now come back from Italy)

For **been (to)** see also Units 8 and 125B.

Present perfect → **UNITS 8,11**

Present perfect continuous → **UNITS 9-10**

Present perfect and past → **UNITS 12-14**

American English → **APPENDIX 7**