



Present perfect simple

Grammar:

Present perfect simple

In English, we use the present perfect simple to refer to an action that started in the past and continues in the present. It focuses on the (present) result of an action.

1/ the pattern is: HAVE /HAS + (NOT) + Past participle (3rd column or the irregular verbs)

Example: I have always lived here.(= I live here)

Since last summer, I have not put on weight.(=my weight is the same)

2/ A few time markers accompany the present perfect tense such as:

Not yet, already, just.

Examples: He hasn't arrived yet. / I have already had lunch. / They have just married.

3/ We usually use the Present perfect simple when we refer to figures(ordinal or cardinal numbers).

Example: We have sold 200 concert tickets today.

It is the second time I have seen this movie.



4/ GONE and BEEN

a) When you use GONE, you explain the reason of someone's absence.

Example: Michael is not here, he's gone to New York.(=he is (still)in New York)

b) When you use BEEN, you refer to where someone who came back but was somewhere else, at some time in the past.

Example: Margaret has been to Africa (in the past, she was in Africa but she is here now).

5/ Time markers EVER and NEVER

a) EVER

We use ever in questions to ask if the person experienced something once in their lives.

Examples: Have you ever been to the United States? / Have you ever watched this movie?

We use ever in positives statements to mean **at any time**. It can be used to refer to past, present and future situations.

Example: It is the most beautiful sunset I have ever seen.

b) NEVER

We use never for negative statements, to refer to an action which never occurred before.

Example: I've never met your manager. (= until now)

c) Never ever

Never ever is used when we want to insist on NEVER.

Never ever tell me lies!



Dialogue:

HAVE YOU EVER...?

- Wentworth: Today, let's play a little game. I have a little quiz with very serious questions you have to answer!
- Sarah: Are you being ironic?
- Wentworth: Sarah wants to volunteer... That's perfect! Let's start! Sarah, have you ever been to Africa?
- Sarah: No, I've never been. But I've been to Asia and South America several times.
- Wentworth: Have you ever watched the Weather Channel?
- Sarah: I did once... By mistake
- Wentworth: Have you ever pulled an all-nighter?
- Sarah: Of course, for exams and parties as well.
- Wentworth: Have you ever dyed your hair blond?
- Sarah: Never. I mean totally. I've had streaks in my hair.
- Wentworth: Have you ever been skinny-dipping?
- Sarah: Oh no! I can't. I'm too self-conscious. I'm bashful about being in states of undress already. I could never do this.
- Wentworth: Okay. Have you ever locked your keys in your car or in your house?
- Sarah: Never. It has never happened to me until now!
- Wentworth: Have you ever been lost?
- Sarah: I don't have a very good sense of direction so it happened quite many times.
- Wentworth: Have you ever cheated in an exam?
- Sarah: I did when I was in high school. I was really bad at maths. I was just trying to get an average mark...
- Wentworth: That's history now, don't worry. Haha. Have you ever felt like dying from embarrassment?
- Sarah: I can't tell you but it happened to me. One time only and I can still remember, quite vividly. Uhhh
- Wentworth: Have you ever confessed to a crush?
- Sarah: I have twice. During my high school years, I asked my crush out. The first year, he turned me down. I was devastated. But the year after, I asked him out and we've been going out for almost 6 years now.



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Wentworth: Congratulations! Now, here is the last question, not too personal... Sarah, have you ever pretended to speak a language you don't know?

Sarah: I've done that. It is not something I am proud of, but I was happy going away with it. I was holidaying overseas with my cousin and, at a party we met two fellow countrymen who did not speak the language. They were gross so we acted as if we were from the country we were in. They left us alone because they didn't know the language at all. My cousin complimented me on my gibberish! haha

Wentworth: Okay, very good. Who's next? Patrick?! Here you go, question number one...