

# Present perfect

# Present perfect have/has+ v3

Present perfect

- Past experiences

I've **been** to London but I **haven't been** to Oxford.

She's **never met** his ex-wife.

**Have** you **ever lost** your credit card?

- We often use *never* and *ever* when we ask or talk about past experiences. They go before the main verb.
- *Just* and *already* go before the main verb in positive sentences, *yet* goes at the end in negative sentences and questions.
- Recent past actions

I've **cut** my finger!

He's **just arrived** at the airport.

- *Yet* and *already* for emphasis

I've **already** done my homework. Can I watch TV?

Have you **finished** **yet**?

My brother **hasn't found** a new job **yet**.

- Use *how long ?* + present perfect to ask about an unfinished period of time (from the past until now)
- Use *for* + a period of time, e.g. *for two weeks*, or *since* with a point of time, e.g. *since 1990*.

They **have known** each other **for** 10 years.

-How long have you **been** married?

-**Since** 2004.

# Present perfect or past simple?

- Present perfect

Use the present perfect when there is a connection between the past and the present.

I **have been** to Madrid twice.(=in my life up to now)

How long **have** you **been** married to Alan?

(=you are married to Alan now)

I **have just bought** a new laptop. (= I don't say exactly when)

- Past simple

Use the past simple to talk about **FINISHED** actions in the past, when the time is mentioned or understood. We often use a past time expression, e.g. last week.

I **went** there in 1998 and 2002. (=on two specific occasions)

How long **were** you married to Jake?

(=you are not married to Jake now)

I **bought** a new laptop last Saturday. (= I say when)

# Present perfect continuous have/has + been + verb- ing

- Use the Present perfect continuous for unfinished actions.
- Use the present perfect continuous with *since* and *for* with **action verbs**.

How long **have** you **been learning** English?

He's **been working** here **since** April.

They **have been going out** together **for** three years.

➤ With **non-action** verbs (e.g. *know*) use the present perfect **NOT** the present perfect continuous with *for* and *since*.

I **have known** her for ages.

**Not** ~~I have been knowing her for ages.~~

➤ With *live* and *work* you can use the present perfect or the present perfect continuous with *for* and *since*

I've **been living** here for six months.

I've **lived** here for six months.

- Use the present perfect continuous for recent continuous actions which have been going on very recently. They have just stopped.

Your eyes are red. **Have you been crying?**

No, I **have been cutting** onions.

Complete the dialogues. Use the verbs in brackets in the present perfect simple or the past simple.

- **Petra** <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (you / remember) to pay that cheque into the bank?

**Alan** Yes, it went in this morning.

- **Tom** <sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (you / ever / borrow) anyone's car?

**Dave** Yes, I borrowed my brother's and I crashed it!

- **Anna** Hi, can I speak to Sally, please?

**Beth** I'm sorry, she <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (just / go) out.

- **Doctor** What seems to be the problem?

**John** I <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (fall) over playing volleyball. I think I <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (break) my finger.

- **Peter** How long <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (you / know) Mike?

**Liz** Well, we <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (meet) in 2008 and we've been good friends ever since.

## Underline the correct word or phrase.

- 1 How long *have you been saving up / do you save up* for a motorbike?
- 2 He's *learning / been learning* Chinese for three years now.
- 3 I've *been planning / planned* my visit to the Amazon for years.
- 4 She's *known / been knowing* him for years.
- 5 Don't worry. I haven't *been crying / cried* – I've got a cold.
- 6 He's *disliked / been disliking* bananas since he was a child.
- 7 I've *had / been having* the same bank account since I was a student

# Read the article and tick (✓) A, B, or C.

We interviewed three people about how family and friends have affected their personalities.

## **Maria Stanovich**

I've always had a strong relationship with my family. An important influence on my personality was my grandmother, Hannah. She was born in 1930 into a poor family with seven children – they had to take very good care of each other in order to survive. Growing up in such difficult conditions had a positive effect on her, teaching her to share everything, be honest, helpful, hard-working, and affectionate. My grandmother taught me all these things, making me realize that family is more important than material possessions.

## **Katie Dupont**

The people around you have the greatest influence on your life – they affect the way you behave and think. As soon as Rob and I met, we connected. When Rob was young, his father died in a motorcycle accident. Being brought up as an only child by a single parent made him independent and ambitious. He left home at 16, and since then has lived in different places and had various jobs. He's taught me that it's important to find time for friends and family and to do what makes you happy. He always has fun, trying new things, keeping his mind and body healthy, and he still works hard to achieve his goals. I greatly admire Rob and I hope that one day I can look at life in the way that he does.

## **Jed Mitchell**

I spent many hours as a child listening to my uncle Wilson's stories. He was the youngest of 11 children whose family lived in a fishing town in Scotland. Life was hard and with so many mouths to feed, the children began working from an early age. At just 14, my uncle began his first job as a fisherman. That was the beginning of his adventures – he travelled and worked in Alaska, South-East Asia, India, and Africa. He educated himself, learnt to be a chef, an engineer, a farmer, and photographer. Uncle Wilson taught me that life is special and that you should take every opportunity that you can to fill it with adventure.

1 Maria's personality was affected by her grandmother.

A True      B False      C Doesn't say

2 There were some advantages to Maria's grandmother's hard life.

A True      B False      C Doesn't say

3 Maria's grandmother taught her to tell the truth.

A True      B False      C Doesn't say

4 As soon as Rob and Katie met, they got on well.

A True      B False      C Doesn't say

5 Katie and Rob both appreciate life in the same way.

A True      B False      C Doesn't say

6 Katie is younger than Rob.

A True      B False      C Doesn't say

7 Jed's uncle Wilson worked to help buy food for his family.

A True      B False      C Doesn't say

8 Jed's uncle Wilson taught his children a lot about life.

A True      B False      C Doesn't say

9 Jed's uncle taught him how to fish.

A True      B False      C Doesn't say

10 Jed travels a lot like his uncle did.

A True      B False      C Doesn't say

## Match the underlined words to a word with a similar meaning below

- To develop into an adult:
- A child who doesn't have any brothers or sisters:
- Impact:
- Families where the mother or father is bringing up the children on his/her own:
- People want to be successful in life:
- Continue to exist:
- People like doing things on their own, without help:
- Look after a child until he/she is an adult: