

UNIT 7

Introduction to the Present Perfect

The same form (*have* + past participle) exists in many European languages, but the uses in English are different. In English, the Present Perfect is essentially a present tense, but it also expresses the effect of past actions and activities on the present.



Present Perfect means 'before now'. The Present Perfect does not express when an action happened. If we say the exact time, we have to use the Past Simple.

*In my life, I **have travelled** to all seven continents.*

*I **travelled** around Africa in 1998.*

7.1 The Present Perfect

Form

Positive and negative

I We You They	've haven't	lived in Rome.
He She	's hasn't	

Question

How long have	I we you	known Peter?
How long has	she he	

Short answer

Have you always lived in Budapest?	Yes, I have. No, I haven't.
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Use

The Present Perfect expresses:

- an action that began in the past and still continues (unfinished past).

*We've **lived** in the same house for 25 years.*

*Peter's **worked** as a teacher since 2000.*

*How long **have you known** each other?*

*They've **been married** for 20 years.*

Note

Many languages express this idea with a present tense, but in English this is wrong.

*Peter **has been** a teacher for ten years.* NOT ~~Peter is a teacher for ten years.~~

These time expressions are common with this use.

for	two years	since	1970
	a month		the end of the class
	a few minutes		August
	half an hour		8 o'clock
	ages		New Year

We use *for* with a period of time and *since* with a point in time.

- 2 an experience that happened at some time in one's life. The action is in the past and finished, but the effects of the action are still felt. When the action happened is not important.

I've been to the United States. (I still remember.)
She's written poetry and children's stories. (in her writing career)
Have you ever had an operation? (at any time in your life up to now)
How many times has he been married? (in his life)

The adverbs *ever*, *never*, and *before* are common with this use.

Have you ever been to Australia?
I've never tried bungee jumping.
I haven't tried sushi before.

Questions and answers about definite times are expressed in the Past Simple.

When did you go to the United States?
Was her poetry published while she was alive?
I broke my leg once, but I didn't have to stay in the hospital.
He met his best friend when they were at school.

- 3 a past action that has a present result. The action is usually in the recent past.

The taxi hasn't arrived yet. (We're still waiting for it.)
What have you done to your lip? (It's bleeding.)

We often announce news in the Present Perfect because the speaker is emphasizing the event as a present fact.

Have you heard? Tomorrow's exam has been cancelled.
Susan's had her baby!
I've ruined the meal.

Details about definite time will be in the Past Simple.
She resigned because she got a better job offer.
She had a baby boy this morning. It was a difficult birth.
I didn't watch it carefully enough.

The adverbs *yet*, *already*, and *just* are common with this use.

I haven't done my homework yet. (Negative)
Has the taxi arrived yet? (Question)
I've already done my homework.
She's just had some good news.

- Ⓜ Be careful with *been* and *gone*.

He's been to the United States. (experience – he isn't there now)
She's gone to the United States. (present result – she's there now)

▶ **Workbook p45** Further practice of *been* and *gone*

▶ **7.2 Present Perfect or Past Simple?**

- 1 The Present Perfect is for unfinished actions. The Past Simple is for completed actions. Compare:

Present Perfect	Past Simple
<i>I've lived in Texas for six years.</i> (I still live there.)	<i>I lived in Texas for six years.</i> (Now I live somewhere else.)
<i>I've written several books.</i> (I can still write some more.)	<i>Shakespeare wrote 30 plays.</i> (He can't write any more.)

- 2 We can see that the Present Perfect refers to indefinite time and the Past Simple refers to definite time by looking at the time expressions used with the different tenses.

Present Perfect – indefinite	Past Simple – definite
<i>I've done it</i>	<i>I did it</i>
for a long time.	yesterday.
since July.	last week.
before.	two days ago.
recently.	at 8 o'clock.
<i>I've already done it.</i>	in 1987.
<i>I haven't done it yet.</i>	when I was young.
	for a long time.

- Ⓜ Be careful with *this morning/afternoon*, etc.

Have you seen Amy this morning? (It's still morning.)
Did you see Amy this morning? (It's the afternoon or evening.)

▶ **7.3 Present Perfect Simple passive**

Form

has/have been + past participle

It	has been	sold.
They	have been	

Use

The uses are the same in the passive as in the active.
Two million cars have been produced so far this year. (unfinished past)
Has she ever been made redundant? (past experience)
'Have you heard? Two hundred homes have been washed away by a tidal wave!' (present importance)

▶ **7.4 Phrasal verbs**

There are four types of phrasal verbs. Types 1, 2, and 3 can be literal or idiomatic. Type 4 are nearly always idiomatic.

Type 1

Verb + particle (no object)

- a *He put on his coat and went out.*
 b *I didn't put enough wood on the fire and it went out.*

In a, the verb and particle are used literally. In b, they are used idiomatically. *Go out* means stop burning.

Examples with literal meaning:

Sit down.
She stood up and walked out.
Please go away.
She walked right past the store without noticing it.

Examples with idiomatic meaning:

The marriage didn't work out. (= succeed)
Our plans fell through. (= fail)

Type 2

Verb + particle + object (separable)

- a *I put up the picture.*
 b *I put up my sister for the night.*

In a, the verb and particle are used literally. In b, they are used idiomatically. *Put up* means give someone food and a place to sleep usually for the night or a few days.

Type 2 phrasal verbs are separable. The object (noun or pronoun) can come between the verb and the particle.

I put up the picture. *I put up my sister.*
I put the picture up. *I put my sister up.*

If the object is a pronoun, it *always* comes between the verb and the particle.

I put it up. NOT ~~*I put up it.*~~
I put her up. NOT ~~*I put up her.*~~

Examples with a literal meaning:

The waiter took away the plates.

Don't throw it away.

They're pulling that old building down.

Examples with an idiomatic meaning:

I put off the meeting. (= postpone)

Don't let me down. (= disappoint)

Type 3

Verb + particle + object (inseparable)

a *She came across the room.*

b *She came across an old friend while she was out shopping.*

In a, the verb and particle are used literally. In b, they are used idiomatically. *Come across* means find by accident.

Type 3 phrasal verbs are inseparable. The object (noun or pronoun) always comes after the particle.

NOT ~~*She came an old friend across.*~~ or ~~*She came her across.*~~

Examples with a literal meaning:

I'm looking for Jane.

They ran across the park.

We drove past them.

Examples with an idiomatic meaning:

I'll look after it for you. (= care for)

She takes after her father. (= resemble in features, build, character, or disposition)

He never got over the death of his wife. (= recover from)

Type 4

Verb + particle + particle

I get along very well with my boss.

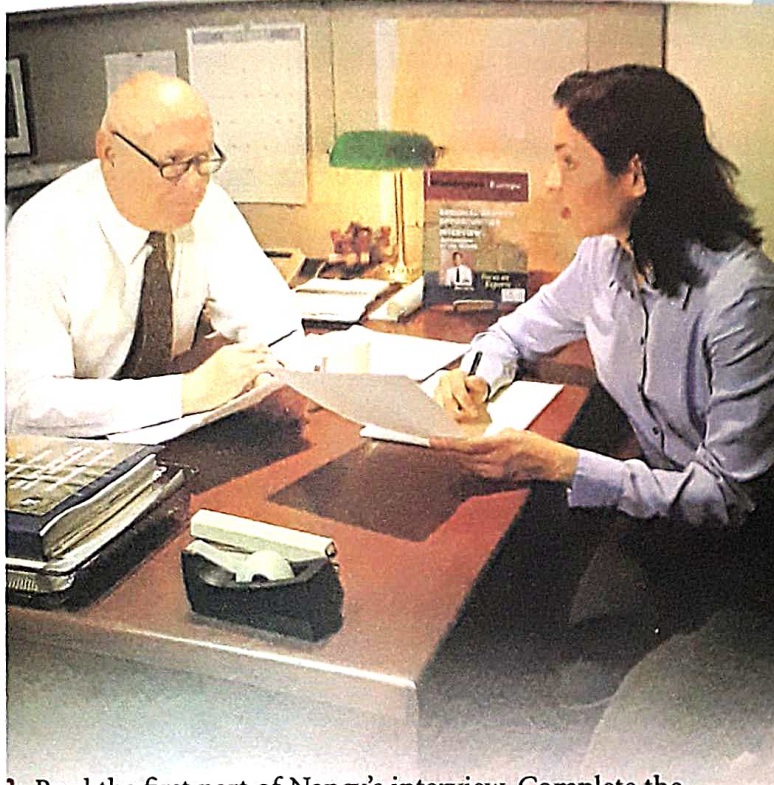
I'm looking forward to it.

How can you put up with that noise?

Type 4 phrasal verbs are nearly always idiomatic. The object cannot change position. It cannot come before the particles or between the particles.

NOT ~~*I'm looking forward it to.*~~

- 2 **T 7.1** Listen to Nancy Watson being interviewed for the job. Do you think she will get it? Why/Why not?



- 3 Read the first part of Nancy's interview. Complete the sentences with *do*, *did*, or *have*.

D Who do you work for now, Nancy?

N I work for Intertec Publishing. We publish international business magazines.

D I see. And how long have you worked for them?

N I have worked there for nearly five years.
No, *exactly* five years.

D And how long have you been in charge of Eastern Europe publications?

N For two years.

D And what did you do before you were at Intertec?

N I worked for the BBC World Service.

- T 7.1** Listen again and check.

GRAMMAR SPOT

1 Does Nancy still work for Intertec? Does she still work for the BBC?

2 Nancy says:

I **work** for Intertec Publishing.

I've **worked** there for nearly five years.

I **worked** for the BBC World Service.

What are the different tenses? Why are they used?



Grammar Reference 7.1 and 7.2 pp143-144

PRACTICE

Life stories

- 1 Here are some more events from Nancy's life. Match a line in **A** with a time expression in **B** to tell her life story.

A		B
1 She was born	4	for the last five years.
2 She went to school in Buenos Aires	5	five years ago.
3 She studied modern languages and journalism	2	until she was eleven.
4 She's worked for Intertec	6	while she was working for the BBC.
5 She left the BBC	7	twice.
6 She lived in Berlin	9	yet.
7 She's been married	3	for three years at University College, London.
8 She's visited Japan	1	in Argentina in 1969.
9 She hasn't heard if she got the job at Worldwatch Europe	8	a few times.

T 7.3 Listen and check. Then tell Nancy's life story to a partner.

- 4 Work with a partner. Underline the correct verb form.
- 1 The President has resigned / has been resigned and a new president has elected / has been elected.
 - 2 His resignation announced / was announced yesterday on television.
 - 3 'Where did you go / have you gone on your last holiday?' 'To Malaysia. It was fabulous.'
 - 4 'Did Saeed ever go / Has Saeed ever been to Paris?' 'Oh, yes. Five times.'
 - 5 The plane took off / has taken off a few minutes ago.
 - 6 A huge snowstorm has hit / has been hit Toronto. Over 40cm of snow fell / has fallen over the past twelve hours. Residents have advised / have been advised to stay at home.


VOCABULARY

Phrasal verbs


! 1 There are many examples of phrasal verbs in the reading texts on p58–59.
I **came across** an ad ...
It's exciting to **end up** in different cities ...

2 Some phrasal verbs are literal and some are idiomatic.

Literal
She **looked out** of the window at the sunset.



Idiomatic
Look **out!** That dog's going to bite you!



▶ Grammar Reference 7.4 p144

Literal or idiomatic?

- 1 In these pairs of sentences, one meaning of the phrasal verb is *literal* and the other is *idiomatic*. Say which is which.
- a The plane has just *taken off*.
b Please *take off* your coat and sit down.
 - a Oh, no! The lights have *gone out* again.
b If you *go out*, take an umbrella. It's going to rain.
 - a (*On the phone*) Hello? Hello? I can't hear you. I think we've been *cut off*.
b She *cut off* a big piece of meat and put it in the pot.
 - a She *looked up* and smiled.
b I *looked up* the word in the dictionary.
 - a Can you *pick up* my pen for me? It's under your chair.
b I *picked up* some Italian when I was working in Rome.

Separable or inseparable?

- 2 Replace the words in *italics* with a pronoun.
- He turned on *the light*. He *turned it on*.
 - I'm looking for *my glasses*. I'm *looking for them*.
 - She's taken off *her boots*.
 - He took up *golf* when he retired.
 - I get on well with *my parents*.
 - I came across *the ad*.
 - I looked up *the words* in my dictionary.
 - The waiter took away *the dirty plates*.

Verbs with two particles

- 3 Complete each pair of sentences below with one of the phrasal verbs from the box.

4 get on with	1 put up with	3 run out of
5 looking forward to	2 come up with	

- How do you manage to the noise from your neighbours?
Most parents won't bad behaviour from their children.
- I'm broke. I have to an idea for making money.
We need to a solution to this problem.
- Has the photocopier paper again?
The children always school as soon as the bell rings.
- How well do you your colleagues?
Our teacher told us to our work quietly.
- She's going on holiday.
We're meeting you very much.

In which pairs of sentences is the meaning of the phrasal verb different?

Look out!
run out of
cut off
Looked up
pick up
Go out
turn on
took off
put up with
get on
look forward to
took away
take off
come up with