

6

Present perfect 1

Over the last 18 years, the Erasmus program **has allowed** 1.2 million young people to study abroad within Europe.

International Herald Tribune website

Toyota **has set a goal to capture 15 percent of the global car market in the next decade, and has spent heavily on new factories in the United States, China and elsewhere.**

New York Times website



"This is goodbye, gentlemen. I have met another board of directors, and we have fallen in love."

A Form

- We form the present perfect with the auxiliary *has/have* + the past participle.

Affirmative	Negative	Question
<i>I have ('ve) worked</i>	<i>I have not (haven't) worked</i>	<i>Have I worked?</i>
<i>You have ('ve) worked</i>	<i>You have not (haven't) worked</i>	<i>Have you worked?</i>
<i>He/she/it has ('s) worked</i>	<i>He/she/it has not (hasn't) worked</i>	<i>Has he/she/it worked?</i>
<i>We have ('ve) worked</i>	<i>We have not (haven't) worked</i>	<i>Have we worked?</i>
<i>They have ('ve) worked</i>	<i>They have not (haven't) worked</i>	<i>Have they worked?</i>

- Regular verbs like *work* form the past participle with *-d* or *-ed*. In verb tables, the second column (past simple) and third column (past participle) are the same: *work – worked – worked*.
- Irregular verbs often have a different past simple and past participle: *do – did – done*, *go – went – gone*. For a list of irregular verbs see pages 150-1.
- The contractions (in brackets) are used in speech and informal writing.

B Uses

- We use the present perfect for a situation that started in the past and continues to the present.
 - I've worked in marketing all my life.*
 - I've known Kumiko since we were at university together.*
 - We use the present perfect to talk about a series of actions up to the present.
 - I've visited Spain several times.*
 - We have made many improvements to this software in the new version.*
 - We use the present perfect for a past event that has a present result.
 - I've lost their invoice – I can't find it anywhere.*
 - Your taxi has arrived. See you again soon – have a safe journey!*
 - In general, the present perfect connects the past with the present. The first two cases are 'life up to now' and the third is 'present result of a past action'.
 - Notice that with the present perfect the time period is not finished or not definite.
 - I've worked in marketing all my life.* (not finished – I continue to work in marketing)
 - I've visited Spain many times.* (not definite – no time given)
 - I've lost their invoice.* (not definite – no time given)
- Compare with the past simple (unit 4) where the time is finished and definite.

C Been and gone

- Notice the difference between *has been to* and *has gone to*.
 - She's been to Paris* means she went there and has now returned.
 - She's gone to Paris* means she went there but has not yet returned. She is still there.

Exercises

- 6.1 Complete this verb table of irregular verbs. The last letter has been given to help you. Check on pages 150-1.

	Infinitive	Past simple	Past participle		Infinitive	Past simple	Past participle
1	be	was	_____ <i>been</i>	9	have	had	_____ d
2	begin	began	_____ n	10	know	knew	_____ n
3	buy	bought	_____ t	11	make	made	_____ e
4	come	came	_____ e	12	meet	met	_____ t
5	do	did	_____ e	13	see	saw	_____ n
6	get	got	_____ t	14	think	thought	_____ t
7	give	gave	_____ n	15	take	took	_____ n
8	go	went	_____ e	16	write	wrote	_____ n

- 7 6.2 Complete this extract from an Annual Report using these verbs in the present perfect: *be, begin, buy, have, make*.

Annual Report

I am pleased to report that we (1) *have had* an excellent year. Our financial services division (2) _____ a profit of over eight million dollars, and for the first time we (3) _____ activities in the area of life insurance. Our expansion plans in Central Europe are also going well: senior managers (4) _____ there many times over the year to look at the possibilities of setting up subsidiaries, and in Slovakia we (5) _____ a controlling share in an existing local company.

- 6.3 Complete this email by putting the verbs into the present perfect. There are affirmative, negative and question forms.

Subject construction of new line for Bucharest metro

Jim - (1) *have you heard* (you/hear) about the plans to extend the Bucharest metro? The European Union (2) _____ (announce) that they will provide funding for another line. All construction companies are invited to make a bid. Several points occur to me:

- Our big competitors like Alstom and Bechtel (3) _____ (not/make) any public statements yet, but I'm sure they will be interested.
- What about us? Should we put in our own bid? I (4) _____ (prepare) a short report with my own ideas. It's attached to this email. Let me know what you think.
- It would be good to talk to Dimitrie about this, but he (5) _____ (not/reply) to my last few emails. (6) _____ (you/see) him recently?

Anyway, my secretary will schedule a meeting on this issue at the end of March. Please discuss the matter with your team members before then.