# ESOL Entry 3 – Present Perfect

# 1 of # - Welcome

In this unit, you will learn to use the present perfect tense. This is used to talk about the present results of past actions.

By the end of this session you will be able to:

* Form the present perfect
* Talk about the present results of past actions
* Use already, just and yet to talk about things you need to do

# 2 of # - Examples

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Verb 1 | Verb 2 | Verb 3 |
| See | Saw | Seen |
| Have/has | Had | Had |
| Go | Went | Been/gone |
| Buy | Bought | Bought |
| Clean | Clean**ed** | Clean**ed** |

Regular verbs end in ed for verbs 2 and 3.

VERB 2 is used to make the past simple tense. This is for specific events that finished in the past.

The present perfect tense is formed using have + the past participle. In this unit, we will say VERB 3 and not the past participle.

VERB 3 usually needs a helping word. For perfect tenses we use HAVE. To make the present perfect, we use HAVE + VERB 3.

The present perfect tense is not really about the past. It is used to show the results of the past. The action may be finished but the result is still present.

# 3 of # – Comparing the past simple and present perfect

Let’s compare the past simple with the present perfect.

We’re going to use the verb break:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Verb 1 | Verb 2 | Verb 3 |
| Break | Broke | Broken |

# 4 of # – Using have with verb three This is an example of the present perfect.

I’ve broken my leg. (Have + Verb 3).

Look at how we use have with verb 3. Can you answer these questions?

1. Can he walk?
2. Is his leg still broken?
3. When do you think he broke his leg?

Answers:

1. No, he can’t
2. Yes, it is
3. Maybe yesterday or a few days ago

His accident happened in the past, but what we can see is the result of the past. We’re talking about the present situation.

# 5 of # – Exceptions

This is an example of the past simple.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Verb 1 | Verb 2 | Verb 3 |
| Break | Broke | Broken |

Last year I broke my leg. (Verb 2)

Can you answer these questions?

1. Can he walk?
2. Is his leg still broken?
3. When do you think he broke his leg?

Answers:

1. Yes, he can
2. No, it isn’t
3. Last year

His accident happened in the past, and the results of the accident are finished. We’re talking about a finished time.

# 6 of # – Using finished time expressions

If we use a finished time expression (e.g. yesterday) then we have to use the past simple, for example:

‘I broke my leg yesterday’, it would be incorrect to say, ‘I have broken my leg yesterday’.

# 7 of # – Summary

Let’s go through this idea once more.

We use have + verb 3 to talk about the results of the past. For example:

1. I have washed my car now I can relax.
2. I have broken my arm.
3. I haven’t been to bed yet.

# 5 of # – Question 1

Are these sentences correct or incorrect?

1. I went shopping last week.
2. I’ve spoken to my brother last week.
3. I’ve been to France on holiday.
4. I’ve been to France on holiday last year.
5. Have you had breakfast today?

Answers: a, c and e are correct. B and d are incorrect.

# 6 of # – Question 2

Are these sentences correct or incorrect?

1. Did you been shopping yet.
2. I been to the park with my daughter.
3. I’ve not had any emails today.
4. I’ve been to the gym twice this week.
5. I’ve done my homework last night.

Answers: c and d are correct. A, b and e are incorrect.

# 7 of # – Using already, just and yet

We can use the present perfect to talk about things we need to do, for example:

1. I have already made dinner. Already means earlier than expected.
2. I have just made dinner. Just means a short time before.
3. Have you made dinner yet? Yet means expected to happen.
4. I haven’t made dinner yet. Not yet means that it is expected to happen but not at this time.

# 8 of # – Samir’s task list

Let’s test what we know about the present perfect. Look at the ‘to do’ list.

What has Samira already done? What hasn’t she done yet?

Samir’s to do list:

1. Go shopping. Done
2. Book a dental appointment
3. Clean the windows
4. Phone my auntie. Done
5. Check the smoke alarms. Done
6. Feed my neighbours cat

# 9 of # – Question 3

Looking back at Samir’s to do list, are the following sentences true or false?

1. Samira has already been shopping.
2. Samira hasn’t booked a dental appointment yet.
3. Samira has already cleaned the windows.
4. Samira has just phoned her auntie.
5. Samira hasn’t checked the smoke alarms yet.

Answers:

1. True – she has already done it
2. True – she hasn’t booked it yet
3. False – she hasn’t done it yet
4. True – she has just done it
5. False – she has already done it

# 10 of # – Using the present perfect and past simple

To recap, the present perfect is used to talk about the present results of past actions.

‘I’ve broken my leg.’

The present perfect tense is about the present situation so we can’t use it with a past time (unless we use for or since). If we say exactly when this happened, then we use the past simple. For example:

‘Last year I broke my leg.’

# 11 of # – Using since

Since means from the past to now. Because we are including now, we can use this with the present perfect, for example:

‘I have lived in Birmingham since 2017’. This is equal to I have lived in Birmingham from 2017 to now.

For is used to show how long. We use it with lengths of time, for example:

‘I have lived in Birmingham for three years.’

# 12 of # – Using the present perfect - simple

Let’s recap on the main reasons for using present perfect.

Have + verb 3 to talk about the results of the past.

I’m washing my car. I wash my car every Sunday. I washed my car last Sunday.

Think about these questions:

1. Is the man still washing the car?
2. Is the car clean now?
3. What is the result of the past?

‘I have washed my car.’ (Have + verb 3)

The car is clean now. So the man says ‘I have washed my car.’ He is talking about the present situation.   
Have + verb 3 is used to show the result of the past. We can still see it.

If the car is now dirty, then he needs to say, ‘I washed my car.’ This is because the result of the washing is not here anymore. We can’t see the result.

If he cleaned his car yesterday, and the car is still clean, he can say: ‘I have cleaned my car this week.’  
But he can’t say, ‘I have cleaned my car yesterday.’

# 13 of # – Comprehension test

Read this email from Timmy’s mum to his teacher.

Dear Miss Smith,

I am writing to let you know why Timmy hasn’t been in school this week. Last week he developed a cough and had a high temperature. We have taken him to the doctor twice this week. The doctor hasn’t found anything wrong with him yet. He will return to school as soon as he is feeling better.

Kind regards

Mrs Peters

Can you answer these questions?

1. Where do you think Tommy is at the moment?
2. What do you think is wrong with him?

# 14 of # – Comprehension test - continued

Read the following email and check to see if your ideas were correct.

Dear Miss Smith,

I am writing to let you know that Timmy will be in school this afternoon. I’ve just had a look under his bed and have found a kettle and a hot water bottle. It turns out that Timmy has been pretending all along. He hasn’t told me why yet.

I’ve made him do some extra homework and he’s told me that he’s sorry.

Kind regards

Mrs Peters

# 15 of # – Writing task

This task is designed to test your writing skills from this session. ​

Write an email explaining why your child hasn’t been to school. Use these ideas to help you. Add in any extra details you can think of.

Dear Miss Smith,

I am writing to let you know why \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  
Last week he \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_   
We have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ twice this week. He will return to school \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Kind regards,

Mrs Peters

# 16 of # – End

Well done. You have completed this session on using the Present Perfect.

You show now be able to:

* Form the present perfect
* Talk about the present results of past actions
* Use already, just and yet to talk about things you need to do

If you are unsure or have any questions about any of these topics, make a note and speak to your tutor for more help.