

# Present perfect 1 (I have done)

**A** Study this example situation:



Tom is looking for his key. He can't find it.  
He **has lost** his key.

He **has lost** his key = He lost it recently, and he still doesn't have it.

Have/has lost is the *present perfect simple*:

I/we/they/you	have (= I've etc.)	finished lost
he/she/it	has (= he's etc.)	done been etc.

The present perfect simple is **have/has + past participle**. The past participle often ends in **-ed** (finished/decided etc.), but many important verbs are *irregular* (lost/done/written etc.).

For a list of irregular verbs, see Appendix 1.

**B** When we say that 'something **has happened**', this is usually new information:

- Ow! I've **cut** my finger.
- The road is closed. There's **been** (there **has been**) an accident.
- (*from the news*) Police **have arrested** two men in connection with the robbery.

When we use the present perfect, there is a connection with *now*. The action in the past has a result *now*:

- 'Where's your key?' 'I don't know. I've **lost** it.' (= I don't have it *now*)
- He told me his name, but I've **forgotten** it. (= I can't remember it *now*)
- 'Is Sally here?' 'No, she's **gone** out.' (= she is out *now*)
- I can't find my bag. **Have you seen** it? (= Do you know where it is *now*?)

**C** You can use the present perfect with **just**, **already** and **yet**.

**Just** = a short time ago:

- 'Are you hungry?' 'No, I've **just had** lunch.'
- Hello. **Have you just arrived**?

We use **already** to say that something happened sooner than expected:

- 'Don't forget to send the letter.' 'I've **already sent** it.'
- 'What time is Mark leaving?' 'He's **already gone**.'

**Yet** = until now. **Yet** shows that the speaker is expecting something to happen. Use **yet** only in questions and negative sentences:

- Has it stopped** raining yet?
- I've written the letter, but I **haven't sent** it yet.

**D** Note the difference between **gone (to)** and **been (to)**:

- Jim is on holiday. He **has gone to** Italy. (= he is there now or on his way there)
- Jane is back home now. She **has been to** Italy. (= she has now come back)

Present perfect → Units 8, 11    Been to → Units 8A, 126B    Present perfect continuous → Units 9–10  
Present perfect and past → Units 12–14    Yet and already → Unit 111    American English → Appendix 7

7.1 Read the situations and write sentences. Use the following verbs:

- |   |       |      |       |      |         |                      |
|---|-------|------|-------|------|---------|----------------------|
| arrive  | break | fall | go up | grow | improve | lose-                |
| 1 Tom is looking for his key. He can't find it.         |       |      |       |      |         | He has lost his key. |
| 2 Margaret can't walk and her leg is in plaster.        |       |      |       |      |         | She .....            |
| 3 Last week the bus fare was 80 pence. Now it is 90.    |       |      |       |      |         | The bus fare .....   |
| 4 Maria's English wasn't very good. Now it is better.   |       |      |       |      |         | Her English .....    |
| 5 Dan didn't have a beard before. Now he has a beard.   |       |      |       |      |         | He .....             |
| 6 This morning I was expecting a letter. Now I have it. |       |      |       |      |         | The letter .....     |
| 7 The temperature was 20 degrees. Now it is only 12.    |       |      |       |      |         | The .....            |

7.2 Complete B's sentences. Use the verb in brackets + just/already/yet.

A	B
1 Would you like something to eat?	No, thanks. <u>I've just had lunch.</u> (I / just / have / lunch)
2 Do you know where Julia is?	Yes, ..... (I / just / see / her)
3 What time is David leaving?	..... (he / already / leave)
4 What's in the newspaper today?	I don't know. .... (I / not / read / it yet)
5 Is Sue coming to the cinema with us?	No, ..... (she / already / see / the film)
6 Are your friends here yet?	Yes, ..... (they / just / arrive)
7 What does Tim think about your plan?	..... (we / not / tell / him yet)

7.3 Read the situations and write sentences with just, already or yet.

- After lunch you go to see a friend at her house. She says, 'Would you like something to eat?'  
You say: No thank you. I've just had lunch. (have lunch)
- Joe goes out. Five minutes later, the phone rings and the caller says, 'Can I speak to Joe?'  
You say: I'm afraid ..... (go out)
- You are eating in a restaurant. The waiter thinks you have finished and starts to take your plate away. You say: Wait a minute! ..... (not / finish)
- You are going to a restaurant tonight. You phone to reserve a table. Later your friend says, 'Shall I phone to reserve a table.' You say: No, ..... (do it)
- You know that a friend of yours is looking for a place to live. Perhaps she has been successful. Ask her. You say: ..... ? (find)
- You are still thinking about where to go for your holiday. A friend asks, 'Where are you going for your holiday?' You say: ..... (not / decide)
- Linda went to the bank, but a few minutes ago she returned. Somebody asks, 'Is Linda still at the bank?' You say: No, ..... (come back)

7.4 Put in been or gone.

- Jim is on holiday. He's gone to Italy.
- Hello! I've just ..... to the shops. I've bought lots of things.
- Alice isn't here at the moment. She's ..... to the shop to get a newspaper.
- Tom has ..... out. He'll be back in about an hour.
- 'Are you going to the bank?' 'No, I've already ..... to the bank.'