

Lesson 6

Present perfect
Simple past

Present Perfect Continuous

Writing a Summary

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Presentation-1: Mini-Dialogues

Read the mini-dialogues below. Practise saying them in pair.

A.



: Have you ever been to Nepal?
No, I haven't. Have you?
: Yes, I have. I went there with my parents.
: When did you go?
: Last year, during the summer vacation.

B.

: Have you read the new novel by Arif Ahmed?
: Oh yes, I loved it. It's a story about the dreams and the nightmares of a little boy.
: Where did you get it from? I've been looking for a copy at every book store for the last few days
: Well, I bought it from The New Library two days ago and finished reading it in one night. You can borrow it from me if you want.
: Oh! Thanks so much.

C.

: Have you seen Najma anywhere? We have been waiting for her for almost an hour now. We surely are going to miss the film!
: Well, she has gone home.
: I can't believe it! When did she go?
: She left around 2. There was a phone call for her from home.
: How can that be? She said that she'd go with us!
: Come on, Rony. Don't get so upset. Maybe there has been some problem.
: I don't know. She's been acting quite strange for the last few days.

D.

: Have you ever seen a peacock?
: Yes, I have. In fact, I've seen quite a few of them.
: Where did you see them?
: At the Mirpur zoo, in Dhaka.
: Oh, really? Who did you go with?
: Our teacher took us there last month.



Language Focus

The Present perfect is formed by **has** or **have** plus a **past participle** (such as *have done* or *has been*; *done* and *been* are the past participle).

We use the Present perfect

- to talk about our experiences, about something we have done in our life up to now, often used with *ever* or *never*. *For example:*

Have you ever been to Nepal?
Have you ever seen a peacock?

Note: that the focus in the questions above is on whether you have ever visited Nepal, or seen a peacock before now, not when.

- to talk about something that happened very recently. *For example:*

Have you heard the news?
Najma and Sharif have just got married.
The train has just arrived.

- to talk about recent actions or events the results of which are still relevant.

For example:

She isn't here. She has gone home.

The Present perfect continuous is formed with **have / has + been + ing form of the verb**.

We use Present perfect continuous

- to talk about a situation or an activity which started in the past and has continued up to now. We often mention a time phrase to indicate the time period or say how long.

For example:

The boy has been waiting here for two hours.
I have been writing this report since morning.

Note: When we ask *when* or *mention time*, the focus is on a specific time which is past and the answer would be in the past tense. *For example:*

: When did you go there? : Last year

: When did she go? : She left at two.

Also note that when the present perfect of **go** changes to **has been**, it means **has visited**.

Thus, **has gone** and **has been** have different meanings.

Look at the following examples:

She has gone home. (= She is at home now.)

I have been to Nepal. (= I have visited Nepal. I am not there now.)

Activity-1

Fill in the blanks in the following conversation with the present perfect or present perfect continuous forms of appropriate verbs.

A. : Well, what has brought you along today?

: Doctor, I have a terrible headache.

: Since when _____ you _____ it?

: I first _____ it about three days ago.

: _____ you _____ any medicine?

: Yes, I _____ taking some pain killer tablets.

: Have you _____ ing the TV a lot recently?

: Not really. But because of load shedding I _____ been _____ in the candle light a lot recently.

B. Abhi : Hi, Amir. You look so happy!

Amir : Hi Abhi! I _____ a letter from The Riverside College. I _____ the scholarship that I _____ for last month. (just receive) (get) (apply)

Abhi : Congratulations! I _____ that you'd make it. (know)

Amir : Thanks, Abhi.

Abhi : _____ you _____ your father about it? (tell)

Amir : No, I _____ him, but he wasn't home. But I _____ to my elder brother over telephone. (call) (talk)

Presentation-2: A Classroom Bulletin

A bulletin is a printed report that gives news about an organization or a group. In Presentation-2A a student of class ten writes to his friend about his classroom bulletin, *The Rainbow Report*.

Activity-2

Read the letter in Presentation-2A carefully and underline all the verbs in the Present perfect and the Present perfect continuous.

Presentation-2B



Class Ten Bulletin

Riverside School

The Rainbow Report

15 September 2009

Visit to the Liberation War Museum

On September 10 our class went on a field trip to the Liberation War Museum at Segunbagicha in Dhaka. The trip was planned as part of our Bangladesh Studies course. Our bus arrived just as the museum was opening at 10.00 a.m. A guide was waiting for us. He took us on a quick tour to show us what kind of exhibits there were. Then we were allowed to look around on our own and go to any exhibit we liked.

There were six galleries that exhibited rare photographs, documents, media coverage and objects used by the freedom fighters and the martyrs of our liberation war. Most of us went back to Gallery 3 and read through the Declaration of Independence by Bangabandhu. While visiting Gallery 5 we felt sad as we looked at the personal belongings of some of the martyred intellectuals and freedom fighters—a pair of glasses, a shirt, a pen and a wallet, and such things.

Before leaving at 12.30, we watched a video film on our Independence. It was a unique experience for all of us.

Activity-4

Read the news story in Presentation-2B and ask and answer questions about what happened, and when, where and why it happened.

Presentation-2A

A Letter

09 October, 2009

My dear Sajid,

Today I'm writing to give you a surprise! We have recently started a classroom bulletin called 'The Rainbow Report'. This has been the first of its kind in our school. The first issue came out on 15 July, 2009. Since then we have had two more issues, one in every month.

Initially, when we first told our teachers of our idea of bringing out a bulletin, they were not sure if it was a good idea. They thought that it would hamper our studies and didn't give us the permission. But we kept insisting that starting a bulletin would encourage us to write more and improve our writing skills. Seeing our enthusiasm, the teachers and the Headmaster finally gave us the permission.

Since the first issue of the bulletin came out, every one has been talking about it. Our class has never felt such confidence and pride in itself before. But it has also put up a challenge before us. It has increased our responsibility a lot. For the last one week, the bulletin committee of which I am a member has been working very hard. We have been reviewing and editing the news stories for the next issue. We have been doing all the graphic designs too.

I think I should stop here. You see, once I start telling you about my bulletin, I can go on and on. Well, I am enclosing a news story from 'The Rainbow Report' of 15 September, 2009 with this letter. Read it and let me know what you think of it.

Love,

Sudeep

Presentation-3

Strange Dreams Come True

In years gone by
Men thought and dreamed
Of things that could not be _____
Like travelling
Up in the sky,
Or, deep down in the sea;

Or, watching things
That eyes can't see _____
Too little _____ or too far _____
Or hearing distant
Voice or sound,
No matter where you are.

But now we have
The radio,
And subs and cars and jets,
And phones and trains,
And microscopes
And television sets.

So many things
Have seemed absurd,
But in men's minds they grew _____
The dreams which were
Impossible
Have, in the end, come true!

-Ilo Orleans

Activity-3

Choose the most appropriate answer for each sentence below.

- Sudeep's class has already published _____ of the bulletin.
a. two issues
b. three issues
c. a number of issues
- At first, the teachers were _____ about the students' studies.
a. annoyed
b. irritated
c. worried
- The *Rainbow Report* gives news about what's going on _____.
a. in school
b. in class ten
c. in the teacher's room
- Sudeep and his friends have been bringing out the bulletin
a. since last year.
b. for the last six months.
c. since July this year.

Activity-5

Write a summary of the poem in Presentation-3. And then try to add a few more things that the poem has not mentioned, but which have come to be there over the past few years.

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