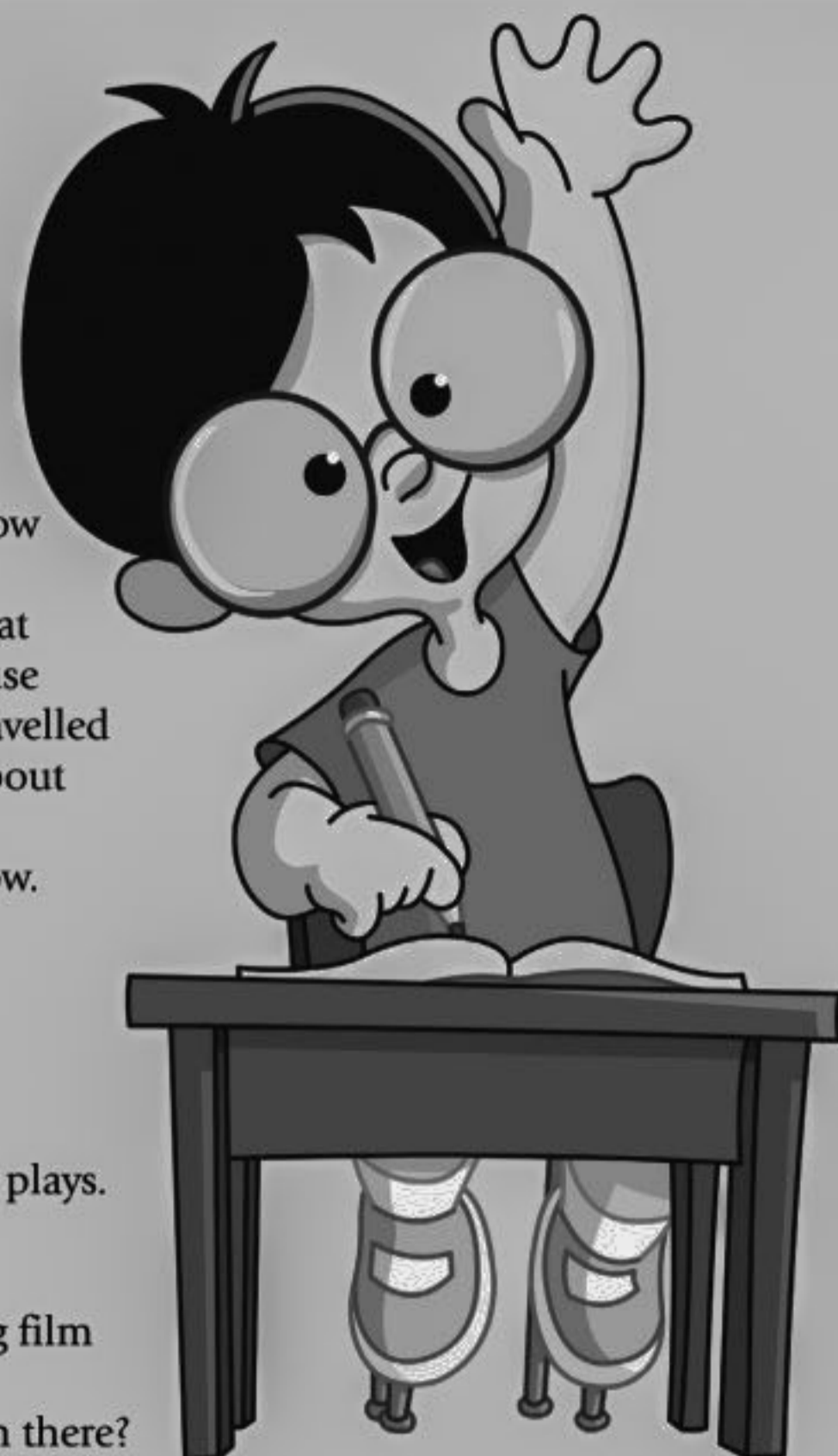


How Perfect is Your Present Perfect Tense ?

Present perfect (I have done)
Study this example conversation:
dave: Have you travelled a lot, Jane?
jane: Yes, I've been to lots of places. Jane's life
dave: Really? Have you ever been to China? (a period until now)
jane: Yes, I've been to China twice.
dave: What about India?
jane: No, I haven't been to India. past now



When we talk about a period of time that continues from the past until now, we use the present perfect (have been / have travelled etc.). Here, Dave and Jane are talking about the places Jane has visited in her life, which is a period that continues until now.

Some more examples:
Have you ever eaten caviar?
We've never had a car.
'Have you read Hamlet?'
'No, I haven't read any of Shakespeare's plays.
'Susan really loves that film. She's seen it eight times!
What a boring film! It's the most boring film I've ever seen. Been (to)= visited:
I've never been to China. Have you been there?

In the following examples too, the speakers are talking about a period that continues until now (recently / in the last few days / so far / since breakfast etc.):

- Have you heard anything from Brian recently? (recently)
- I've met a lot of people in the last few days. (in the last few days)
- Everything is going well. We haven't had any problems so far. (since breakfast)
- I'm hungry. I haven't eaten anything since breakfast. (= from breakfast until now) past now
- It's good to see you again. We haven't seen each other for a long time.

In the same way we use the present perfect with today / this evening / this year etc. when these periods are not finished at the time of speaking:

I've drunk four cups of coffee today.
Have you had a holiday this year?
Today I haven't seen Tom this morning. Have you?
Rob hasn't worked very hard this term.

We say: It's the (first) time something has happened. For example:
Don is having a driving lesson. It's his first one. It's the first time he has driven a car. (not drives) He has never driven a car before.
This is the first time I've driven a car.
or
Sarah has lost her passport again. This is the second time this has happened, (not happens)
Bill is phoning his friend again. That's the third time he's phoned her this evening.

EXERCISE 1

You ask people about things they have done. Write questions with ever.

- 1 (ride / horse?) Have you ever ridden a horse?
- 2 (be / California?) Have you ever been to California?
- 3 (run / marathon?) Have you ever run a marathon?
- 4 (speak / famous person?) Have you ever spoken to a famous person?
- 5 (most beautiful place / visit?) What's the most beautiful place you've ever visited? / ... you have ever visited?

KEY : 2 Have you ever been to California? 3 Have you ever run (in) a marathon? 4 Have you ever spoken to a famous person? 5 What's the most beautiful place you've ever visited? / ... you have ever visited?

EXERCISE 2

Write four sentences about yourself. Use I haven't and choose from the boxes. used a computer been to the cinema travelled by bus read a book eaten any fruit lost anything

- 1 I haven't used a computer today.
- 2 I haven't been to the cinema recently.
- 3 I haven't travelled by bus this week.
- 4 I haven't read a book for ages.
- 5 I haven't lost anything today.

KEY: 2 I haven't travelled by bus this week. 3 I haven't been to the cinema recently. 4 I haven't read a book for ages. 5 I haven't lost anything today.

EXERCISE 3

Read the situations and write sentences as shown in the example.

- 1 Jack is driving a car, but he's very nervous and not sure what to do.
You ask: Have you driven a car before?
He says: . No, this is the first time I've driven a car.....
- 2 Ben is playing tennis. He's not good at it and he doesn't know the rules.
You ask: Have you ever played tennis before?
He says: No, this is the first time I've played tennis.
- 3 Sue is riding a horse. She doesn't look very confident or comfortable.
You ask: Have you ever ridden a horse before? / Have you been on a horse before?
She says: No, this is the first time I've ridden a horse. / ... I've been on a horse.
- 4 Maria is in Japan. She has just arrived and it's very new for her.
You ask: Have you ever been to Japan before?
She says: No, this is the first time I've been to Japan.

KEY: 2 Have you played tennis before? No, this is the first time I've played tennis. 3 Have you ridden a horse before? / Have you been on a horse before? No, this is the first time I've ridden a horse. / ... I've been on a horse. 4 Have you been to Japan before? No, this is the first time I've been to Japan.

EXERCISE 4

Write a question for each situation. (ORAL PRACTICE) NO KEY PROVIDED

- 1 You meet Paul as he is leaving the swimming pool.
You ask: (you / swim?) Have you been swimming?.....
- 2 You have just arrived to meet a friend who is waiting for you.
You ask: (you / wait / long?).....
- 3 You meet a friend in the street. His face and hands are very dirty.
You ask: (what / you / do?).....
- 4 A friend of yours is now working in a shop. You want to know how long.
You ask: (how long / you / work / there?).....
- 5 A friend tells you about his job - he sells mobile phones. You want to know how long.
You ask: (how Long / you / sell / mobile phones?).....

EXERCISE 5

Read the situations and complete the sentences.

- 1 It's raining. The rain started two hours ago. It's been raining for two hours.
- 2 We are waiting for the bus. We started waiting 20 minutes ago. We..... for 20 minutes.
- 3 I'm learning Spanish. I started classes in December. I..... since December.
- 4 Jessica is working in a supermarket. She started working there on 18 January. since 18 January.
- 5 Our friends always spend their holidays in Italy. They started going there three years ago. for years.

KEY: 2 've been waiting / have been waiting 3 've been learning Spanish / have been learning Spanish 4 She's been working there / She has been working there 5 They've been going there / They have been going there

EXERCISE 6

Put the verb into the present continuous (I am -ing) or present perfect continuous (I have been -ing).

- 1 has been Learning (Maria / learn) English for two years.
- 2 Hello, Tom. (!/ look) for you. Where have you been?
- 3 Why..... (you / look) at me like that? Stop it!
- 4 Linda is a teacher..... (she/ teach) for ten years.
- 5 (I / think) about what you said and I've decided to take your advice.
- 6 'Is Paul on holiday this week?'
'No..... (he/work).'
- 7 Sarah is very tired. (she / work) very hard recently.
- 8 I've been looking / I have been looking 3 are you looking 4 She's been teaching / She has been teaching 5 I've been thinking / I have been thinking 6 he's working / he is working 7 She's been working / She has been working

Read the passage and answer the following question:
When Anne reached the school that morning . . . for the first time in her life she had traversed the Birch Path deaf and blind to its beauties . . . all was quiet and still. The preceding teacher had trained the children to be in their places at her arrival, and when Anne entered the school-room she was confronted by prim rows of "shining morning faces" and bright, inquisitive eyes. She hung up her hat and faced her pupils, hoping that she did not look as frightened and foolish as she felt and that they would not perceive how she was trembling.

She had sat up until nearly twelve the preceding night composing a speech she meant to make to her pupils upon opening the school. She had revised and improved it painstakingly, and then she had learned it off by heart. It was a very good speech and had some very fine ideas in it, especially about mutual help and earnest striving after knowledge. The only trouble was that she could not now remember a word of it.

After what seemed to her a year . . . about ten seconds in reality . . . she said faintly,
"Take your Testaments, please," and sank breathlessly into her chair under cover of the rustle and clatter of desk lids that followed. While the children read their verses Anne marshalled her shaky wits into order and looked over the array of little pilgrims to the Grownup Land.



List three examples from the passage that show Anne is nervous on her first day of teaching school

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

KEY:

- 1 Anne was "hoping that she did not look as frightened and foolish as she felt."
- 2 "The only trouble was that she could not now remember a word" of her speech.
- 3 "Anne marshalled her shaky wits"

Spell the words correctly:

1. comi-
2. os - - ich
3. Co - - ecticut
4. in - - lt
5. gr - - ble
6. ga - - op
7. hu - - y
8. dis - - nct
9. co - - estan -
10. de - - nd - nt
11. a - - istan -
12. bri - - ian -
13. c - - liant
14. e - tra - - gan -
15. ign - ran -
16. co - - - nant
17. a - - lican -
18. mi - - - tion
19. ro - te
20. t - ace



1. comi- 2. ostrich 3. Connecticut 4. insult 5. grumble 6. gallop 7. hurry 8. distinct 9. contestant 10. defendant 11. assistant 12. brilliant 13. compliant 14. extravagant 15. ignorant 16. consonant 17. applicant 18. migration 19. route 20. trace

Choose "is" or "are" for each sentence.

1. There are _____ (is/are) flowers in the garden next door.
2. There _____ (is/are) a new rug on the floor.
3. There _____ (is/are) eleven candles on the birthday cake.
4. There _____ (is/are) peanut butter in the cupboard.
5. There _____ (is/are) a sale on green beans today at the store.
6. There _____ (is/are) only three more chapters left to read!
7. There _____ (is/are) a newspaper sitting on the porch.
8. There _____ (is/are) several quarters on the table by the couch.
9. There _____ (is/are) two stray dogs running loose in the street.
10. There _____ (is/are) a lost cell phone on the desk in the office.
11. There _____ (is/are) three more months of school this year.
12. There _____ (is/are) a package of crayons for you so you can color

KEY: 1 are 2 is 3 are 4 is 5 is 6 are 7 is 8 are 9 are 10 is 11 are 12 is

Homophones:

Recall that homophones are words that sound the same, but have different meanings. For example, a home can be for sale, while a boat can have a sail. The context of the word can help you decide which homophone should be used. Complete each sentence by choosing the correct homophone and writing it in the blank.

1. After he was sick for several days, his face was _____ (pail/pale).
2. She purchased a beautiful new gown _____ (for/four) the dance.
3. Walking down the _____ (I'll/aisle/isle) to get married can be scary.
4. Glass containers have been _____ (band/banned) on the beach.
5. The baker systematically kneaded the _____ (doe/dough) for the bread.
6. I'd rather receive my _____ (male/mail) electronically than on paper.
7. He was considered _____ (bald/bawled) because he had no hair.
8. We searched everywhere trying to _____ (fined/find) our lost dog.
9. My favorite stringed instrument is the _____ (base/bass) because it is so big.
10. The fight _____ (scene/seen) in the movie was extremely exciting!
11. Though he was already tired, the farmer had to _____ (so/sew/sow) the seeds.
12. Annabella sat on the bottom _____ (stair/stare) without being noticed.
13. After running out of _____ (flour/flower), the baker had to stop baking.
14. Fierce winds _____ (blew/blue) all night during the thunderstorm.
15. Rover sat and scratched the place where the _____ (flea/flee) bit him.
16. The government has the right to _____ (sees/seas/seize) the stolen property

KEY: 1 pale 2 for 3 aisle 4 banned 5 dough 6 mail 7 bald 8 find 9 bass 10 scene 11 sow 12 stair 13 flour 14 blew 15 flea 16 seize

