

6 Reasons to Use Present Perfect in English

have ('ve) / has ('s) + past participle (3rd form)

positive: I **have ('ve) been** to the bank today.
negative: I **have not (haven't) been** to the bank today.
question: **Have you been** to the bank today? / Yes, I **have ('ve)**. / No, I **have not (haven't)**.

1. To talk about **finished** actions in **unfinished time**:

I've been to the shops today .	today
He's sent fourteen emails this morning .	this morning / this afternoon / this evening
We've watched a good film tonight .	tonight
I've started two projects this week .	this week
She's read four books this month .	this month
They've had a few holidays this year .	this year
I've worked hard in the last few days .	in the last / past few days / weeks / months / years
He hasn't cleaned the bathroom recently .	recently / lately
Kim has won fifteen matches up to now .	up to now / until now / till now
They've eaten four apples each so far .	so far
I've installed this app twice .	once / twice / x times (up to now)

2. To talk about **life experience** (your life is **unfinished time**):

*What you have done in your life **up to now**:*

Have you ever visited Ely?	ever
Yes, I have . I've visited Ely a few times .	a few times

What you haven't done:

Lorna has never visited Ely.	never
We haven't seen that film before .	before
My brother hasn't done his homework yet .	yet
Mike still hasn't paid our invoice.	still

3. To talk about **very recent actions**:

We've just met your teacher in the park.	just
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4. To talk about **unfinished** actions (often states) in **unfinished time**. 'How long...?'

I have lived in Canada for twenty years .	for + number	(and I still do)
He has worked at Burger King since Tuesday .	since + time	(and he still does)
I have known Ronald for most of my life .	for most of...	(and I still do)
She's ridden horses all her life .	all...	(and she still does)

5. With **adverbs of frequency**:

We've always loved Mexican art.	always
I have frequently asked you to stop talking.	frequently
Bob has often wondered why he can't whistle.	often
I've usually finished my homework by 6pm.	usually
Yes, I have sometimes overslept , it's true.	sometimes
I have rarely felt so grateful to my partner.	rarely / hardly ever
Annie has never been to Bristol.	never

6. To talk about a **future timetable**:

As soon as (when) you've finished dinner, you can start your homework.	as soon as
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