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The **Present Perfect** tense refers to an action or state that either occurred at an indefinite time in the past (e.g., we have met before) or began in the past and continued to the present (e.g., he has learnt much over the last month).

Meaning

We use the Present Perfect to ask about **life experiences**. We often use the adverb '**ever**' to talk about experience up to the present:

- *I've **been** to India twice.*
- *She **hasn't eaten** sushi.*

This tense expresses actions of duration that occurred in the past (before now) but are of unspecified time:



via <https://writingexplained.org/grammar-dictionary/present-perfect-tense>

Positive and negative forms of Present Perfect

To form the Present Perfect use:

[Subject] + has/have + [Past Participle](#) of verb

- *Tom **has been** to London.*
- *Sue **has been** to London too.*

- They **have** (both) **been** to London.
- Sue **hasn't been** to Paris.
- Sue **has never been** to Paris.

In negative forms, we add '**not**' or use '**never**':

- **Have you ever met** George?
- Yes, but **I've never met** his wife.

I	have	
You		Past Participle
We	haven't (have not)	
They		
He	has	
She		
It	hasn't (has not)	

Questions in Present Perfect

- Tom: **Have** you ever **been** to London?
- Sue: Yes, I **have**.
- Tom: Me too. What about Paris? **Have** you ever **been** to Paris?
- Sue: No, I **haven't** - but I'd love to go!

	I	
Have	you	(ever) Past Participle
	we	
	they	
	he	
Has	she	
	it	

Short answers

With short answers, we use:

- *Have you ever been to London?*
- Yes, I / you / we / they **have**. - Yes, he / she / it **has**.
- No, I / you / we / they **haven't**. - No, he / she / it **hasn't**.

Past Participle

The [Past Participles](#) of **regular verbs** end in 'ed':

- Tom **has visited** Big Ben.
- He **has walked** in Hyde Park.
- He **has travelled** on a red bus.

A lot of common verbs have [irregular](#) past participles:

- He **has been** to London.
- He **has seen** the river Thames.
- He **has eaten** fish and chips.

go → *been* buy → *bought*
see → *seen* drive → *driven*
eat → *eaten* have → *had*
drink → *drunk* write → *written*

Present Perfect & Past Simple

Compare:

- Tom **has been** to London. (*Present Perfect*)
- He **went** there in 2016. (*Past Simple*)

We use the Present Perfect to talk about life experiences. However, we use the [Past Simple](#) when we talk about an action at a definite past time.

Check out this video and learn how to use Present Perfect to talk about past experiences:

See also:

[Present Perfect or Past Simple?](#)

[Present Perfect: Statements](#)

[Present Perfect: Negative & Questions](#)

[Present Perfect for Unfinished Past](#)

[Present Perfect with 'Just' and 'Yet'](#)