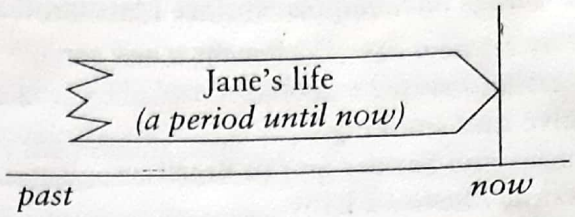
UNIT 8

Present perfect (2) (I have done)

A

Study this example conversation:

DAVE: Have you travelled a lot, Jane?
JANE: Yes, I've been to lots of places.
DAVE: Really? Have you ever been to China?
JANE: Yes, I've been to China twice.
DAVE: What about India?
JANE: No, I haven't been to India.

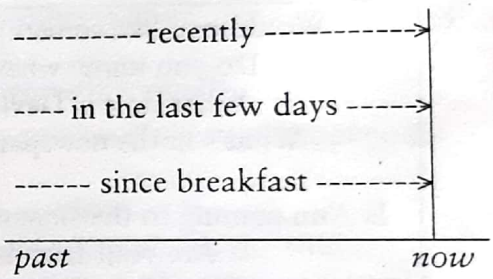


When we talk about a period of time that continues from the past until now, we use the *present perfect* (**have been / have travelled** etc.). Here, Dave and Jane are talking about the places Jane has visited in her life (which is a period that continues until now).

- Have you ever **eaten** caviar? (in your life)
- 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.**

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.):

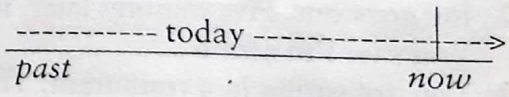
- **Have you heard** from George **recently**?
- **I've met** a lot of people **in the last few days.**
- Everything is going well. We **haven't had** any problems **so far.**
- I'm hungry. I **haven't eaten** anything **since breakfast.** (= from breakfast until now)
- It's nice to see you again. We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



B

We use the present perfect with **today / this morning / this evening** etc. when these periods are *not finished* at the time of speaking (see also Unit 14B):

- I've drunk four cups of coffee **today.** (perhaps I'll drink more before today is finished)
- Have you had a holiday **this year** (yet)?
- I haven't seen Tom **this morning.** Have you?
- Ron hasn't worked very hard **this term.**



C

Note that we say 'It's the first time something **has happened**' (*present perfect*). For example:

Don is having a driving lesson. He is very nervous and unsure because it is his first lesson.

- It's **the first time** he **has driven** a car. (*not* 'drives')

or

- He **has never driven** a car **before.**

- Linda has lost her passport again. It's the second time this **has happened.** (*not* 'happens')
- This is a lovely meal. It's the first good meal **I've had** for ages. (*not* 'I have')
- Bill is phoning his girlfriend again. That's the third time **he's phoned** her **this evening.**

Present perfect → UNIT 7 Present perfect + **for/since** → UNITS 11–12 Present perfect and past → UNITS 12–14
American English → APPENDIX 7

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EXERCISES

8.1 *You are asking somebody questions about things he or she has done. Make questions from the words in brackets.*

1 (ever / ride / horse?) Have you ever ridden a horse?
2 (ever / be / California?) .....
3 (ever / run / marathon?) .....
4 (ever / speak / famous person?) .....
5 (always / live / in this town?) .....
6 (most beautiful place / ever / visit?) What .....

8.2 *Complete B's answers. Some sentences are positive and some negative. Use a verb from this list:*
be ~~be~~ **eat** **happen** ~~have~~ ~~meet~~ **play** **read** **see** ~~see~~ ~~try~~

A

B

	A	B
1	What's George's sister like?	I've no idea. I've never met her.
2	How is Amy these days?	I don't know. I ..... her recently.
3	Are you hungry?	Yes. I ..... much today.
4	Can you play chess?	Yes, but ..... for ages.
5	Did you enjoy your holiday?	Yes, it's the best holiday ..... for a long time.
6	What's that book like?	I don't know. ..... it.
7	Is Brussels an interesting place?	I've no idea. ..... there.
8	Mike was late for work again today.	Again? He ..... every day this week.
9	Do you like caviar?	I don't know. ..... it.
10	The car broke down again yesterday.	Not again! That's the second time ..... this week.
11	Who's that woman by the door?	I don't know. ..... before.

8.3 *Complete these sentences using* **today / this year / this term** *etc.*

1 I saw Tom yesterday but I haven't seen him today.
2 I read a newspaper yesterday but I ..... today.
3 Last year the company made a profit but this year .....
4 Tracy worked hard at school last term but .....
5 It snowed a lot last winter but .....
6 Our football team won a lot of games last season but we .....

8.4 *Read the situations and write sentences as shown in the examples.*

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 Len is playing tennis. He's not very good and he doesn't know the rules.
You ask: Have .....
He says: No, this is the first .....
3 Sue is riding a horse. She doesn't look very confident or comfortable.
You ask: .....
She says: .....
4 Maria is in London. She has just arrived and it's very new for her.
You ask: .....
She says: .....

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