

Present Perfect Simple

The present perfect simple expresses an action that is still going on or that stopped recently, but has an influence on the present. It puts emphasis on the result.

Form of Present Perfect

	Positive	Negative	Question
I / you / we / they	I have spoken.	I have not spoken.	Have I spoken?
he / she / it	He has spoken.	He has not spoken.	Has he spoken?

For irregular verbs, use the participle form (see [list of irregular verbs](#), 3rd column). For regular verbs, just add “ed”.

Exceptions in Spelling when Adding ‘ed’

Exceptions in spelling when adding <i>ed</i>	Example
after a final <i>e</i> only add <i>d</i>	love – loved
final consonant after a short, stressed vowel or <i>/</i> as final consonant after a vowel is doubled	admit – admitted travel – travelled
final <i>y</i> after a consonant becomes <i>i</i>	hurry – hurried

Use of Present Perfect

- puts emphasis on the result
Example: She *has written* five letters.
- action that is still going on
Example: School *has not started* yet.
- action that stopped recently
Example: She *has cooked* dinner.
- finished action that has an influence on the present
Example: I *have lost* my key.

- action that has taken place once, never or several times before the moment of speaking

Example: I *have never been* to Australia.

To make the positive present perfect tense, use:

- **'have' / 'has' + the past participle**
- Make the past participle by adding **'ed' to regular verbs** (for example, 'play' becomes 'played')
- There are a few verbs that change their spelling when you add 'ed' (for example, 'study' becomes 'studied')
- We also have some completely **irregular verbs**

(Also, here's some help if you are not sure **how to pronounce '-ed'** at the end of a verb).

Positive

I **have played**
 you **have worked**
 he **has written**
 she **has walked**
 it **has rained**
 we **have travelled**
 they **have studied**

Positive Short Form

I **'ve played**
 you **'ve worked**
 he **'s written**
 she **'s walked**
 it **'s rained**
 we **'ve travelled**
 they **'ve studied**

Try an exercise about the positive form here

The negative is really simple too. Just put 'not' after 'have' or 'has':

Negative

I **have not eaten** breakfast today
 you **have not been** to Asia
 he **has not seen** the new film
 she **has not played** tennis
 it **has not snowed** this winter
 we **have not slept** all night
 they **have not tried** the food

Negative Short Form

I **haven't eaten**
 you **haven't been**
 he **hasn't seen**
 she **hasn't played**
 it **hasn't snowed**
 we **haven't slept**
 they **haven't tried**

Try an exercise about the negative form here

To make a question, put 'have' or 'has' in front of the subject:

'Yes / No' Questions

have I **missed** the bus?

have you **visited** London?

has he **worked** as a waiter before?

has she **met** John?

has it **been** cold this week?

have we **arrived** too early?

have they **studied** English grammar before?

As you can imagine, for 'wh' questions, we just put the question word before 'have' or 'has':

'Wh' Questions

where **have** I **left** my umbrella?

what **have** you **done** today?

why **has** he **gone** already?

where **has** she **been** in the UK?

why **has** it **rained** so much this summer?

what **have** we **done**?

where **have** they **learned** English before?