

The Present Tense – Present Perfect

There are three aspects of the present tense:

- 1) Simple present
- 2) Present progressive
- 3) **Present perfect (simple and progressive)**

★ = truth of a fact



The **present perfect (simple) tense** is used to describe a *fact* that has been true from sometime in the past and continues to be true up through the present.

- Use the helping verb “**has**” before a verb in present perfect simple tense to describe (**he, she, it**).
- Use the helping verb “**have**” before a verb in the present perfect simple tense when used to describe all other subjects (**I, we, you, they**).

he / she / it [has] [verb in participle form]
I / we / you / they [have] [verb in participle form]

Example: It has rained a lot this week.

Example: I have flown on an airplane before.

- Use the helping verb “**been**” after “**have**” or “**has**” when using the verb “**to be**” in the present perfect simple tense.

he / she / it [has] [been] [object clause]
I / we / you / they [have] [been] [object clause]

Example: It has been a secret for thirty years.

Example: They have been nice in the past.

Directions: Complete the following sentences in the present perfect simple tense.

- 1) She _____ (to be) happy all day.
- 2) It _____ always _____ (to snow) here in December.
- 3) Dan _____ (to be) sick for three days.
- 4) Li and Susan _____ (to try) four times already and will not give up.
- 5) The old car _____ (to be) a piece of junk since I bought it.
- 6) We _____ not _____ (to take) this test before.
- 7) My uncle _____ (to be) to China.
- 8) Our father _____ never _____ (to drive) to California before.
- 9) I _____ (to speak) to the president before.
- 10) The old man _____ occasionally _____ (to need) help crossing the street.

Directions: Put the following sentences in present perfect simple tense.

- 1) I do the laundry.
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2) It is cold.

Directions: Now make your own sentences in the present perfect simple tense.

1) _____

2) _____

The **present perfect (progressive) tense** is used to describe an **action** that has already begun to happen sometime in the past and continues to happen up through the present.

- Use the helping verb phrase “**has been**” before a verb in present perfect progressive tense to describe (**he, she, it**).
- Use the helping verb phrase “**have been**” before a verb in the present perfect progressive tense when used to describe all other subjects (**I, we, you, they**).

he / she / it [has] [been] [verb + “ing”] I / we / you / they [have] [been] [verb + “ing”]

Example: He has been running for twenty minutes.

★ = action

Example: I have been running for twenty minutes.



Directions: Write the correct form of the verb in the spaces below.

- 1) We _____ (to learn) English for one hour.
- 2) He _____ (to go) to school here for five years.
- 3) I _____ (to play) the piano since I was eight years old.
- 4) Li _____ (to talk) on the phone for forty five minutes.
- 5) Wang, Ted, and Ko _____ (to drive) since morning.
- 6) Andy and I _____ (to look) for my keys for two hours.
- 7) The Colorado River _____ (to flow) for centuries.
- 8) My CD player _____ (to skip) since I bought it.
- 9) Tommy _____ not _____ (to save) his money for eight years.
- 10) Nidia _____ (to run) in the race for six minutes.

Directions: Put the following sentences in present perfect progressive tense.

1) I make cakes.

2) The car does not start.

Directions: Now make your own sentences in the present perfect progressive tense.

1) _____

2) _____