

Present perfect simple

have/has + past participle

statement

negative

question

I/you/we/they **have ('ve) learnt** ... I/you/we/they **have not (haven't) learnt** ... **Have** I/you/we/they **learnt** ...?

Use

Example

Situations that started in the past and are still true

*Mrs Jenkins **has been** the head teacher for three years.*

Completed actions at a time in the past which is not mentioned

*I've **already read** that book.*

Completed actions where the important thing is the result now

*They've **all done** their homework.*

Helpful hints

The present perfect simple is often used with the following words and phrases:

- for *She's taught German here **for** over five years.*
- since *Mr Gray has taught French here **since** 2006.*
- just *We've **just** done this exercise.*
- already *We've **already** done this exercise.*
- yet *We haven't checked the answers **yet**.*
- ever *Have you **ever** had guitar lessons?*
- never *I've **never** understood why they give us so much homework!*
- it's the first time ***It's the first time** we've watched a video in class.*

Watch out!

- We don't use the present perfect simple when we want to say **when** something happened in the past. We use the past simple.
✓ *I **did** my homework **last night**.*
- We don't use the past simple when we want to show that something happened **before now** or is **still important now**. We use the present perfect simple.
✓ *I've **finished!** Can I go home now?*
- Some verbs have irregular past participle forms. See page 182.

Present perfect continuous

have/has + been + -ing

statement

negative

question

I/you/we/they **have ('ve) been studying** ...I/you/we/they **have not (haven't) been studying** ...**Have** I/you/we/they **been studying** ...?He/she/it **has('s) been studying** ... He/she/it **has not(hasn't) been studying** ... **Has** he/she/it **been studying** ...?

Use

Example

Actions continuing up to now or just before now

*We've **been doing** grammar exercises for over an hour.
Can we have a break now?**They're **having** a break now because they've **been working** so hard.*

Helpful hints

The present perfect continuous is often used with the following words:

- for *I've been learning English **for** over three years.*
- since *He's been learning Chinese **since** 2004.*
- just *I've **just** been reading the school newspaper.*

Watch out!

- The present perfect simple often emphasises the result of an action:
✓ *She's **written** an article for the school newspaper. (= She's finished it.)*
- The present perfect continuous often emphasises the action, and the time spent on the action, rather than the result:
✓ *She's **been writing** an article for the school newspaper. (= She's started, but she hasn't finished it yet.)*

D Complete using the correct present perfect continuous form of the verbs in brackets. Use short forms where possible.

Mandy: Hi Matt. How are you? What (1) (you / do) recently?

Matt: Oh, hi Mandy! Well, (2) (I / study) for my exams.

Mandy: That sounds boring! (3) (you / work) hard?

Matt: Very! Basically, (4) (I / just / sit) at my desk in my bedroom for the past three weeks and (5) (I / not / go) out at all.

(6) (I / work) with Michael, my best friend, some of the time, though, so at least I've had some company. How about you?

Mandy: Well, my mum and (7) (I / paint) my bedroom for the last few days. That has been fun! And (8) (we / also / plan) our summer holiday.

Matt: Great! Where are you going?

Mandy: Well, we haven't decided yet. (9) (We / look) at different places to see which we like best.

Matt: I'm sure you'll have a great time, wherever you go. Oh, by the way, (10) (I / think) of having a party when I finish my exams. Would you like to come?

Mandy: Sure! That would be great!

E Circle the correct word or phrase.

- 1 I think I've **heard** / **been hearing** that song before.
- 2 They haven't **arrived** / **been arriving** yet, but they should be here soon.
- 3 You've **written** / **been writing** that e-mail for over an hour: How long is it going to take you?
- 4 Have you **talked** / **been talking** on the phone since eight o'clock?
- 5 Jo has already **invited** / **been inviting** Shirley to dinner.
- 6 I've **read** / **been reading** an interview with Brad Pitt, but I haven't finished it yet.
- 7 Have the boys **played** / **been playing** computer games since this morning?

F Complete using the words in the box.

already • ever • for • just • never • since • yet

- 1 I haven't listened to their new CD Is it any good?
- 2 We've been waiting for you over an hour. Where have you been?
- 3 Have you been to the UK before?
- 4 I'm afraid we've made plans for this weekend, so we won't be free.
- 5 Pedro has been having English lessons he was five years old.
- 6 It's strange that you mention the film *Crash*. I've been reading about it in the paper.
- 7 I've heard of a 'sudoku'. What is it?

Grammar

Past perfect simple, past perfect continuous

Past perfect simple

had + past participle

statement

I/you/he/she/it/we/they **had ('d)**
written ...

negative

I/you/he/she/it/we/they **had not (hadn't)**
written ...

question

Had I/you/he/she/it/we/they
written ...?

Use

Actions and states
before a moment in
the past

Example

I'd **finished** my homework
a few minutes before the
lesson started.
Mrs Cross **had been** a
teacher for twenty years
before she became a head
teacher.

Finished actions and
states where the
important thing is the
result at a moment in
the past

We were happy because
we'd **all done** our
homework.

Helpful hints

The past perfect simple is often used with the following words and phrases:

- by I'd finished my homework **by** eight o'clock.
- by the time **By the time** I got to class, the lesson had started.
- before The teacher had checked the answers **before** the lesson.
- after I left **after** I'd finished the test.
- just I **just** finished the test when the bell rang.
- when I left **when** I'd finished the test.

Watch out!

- Whether we use the past simple or the past perfect simple can change the meaning of a sentence.
 - ✓ The lesson **started** when I arrived. (= I arrived and then the lesson started.)
 - ✓ The lesson **had started** when I arrived. (= The lesson started and then I arrived.)
- Some verbs have irregular past participle forms. See page 182.

Past perfect continuous

had + been + -ing

statement

I/you/he/she/it/we/they **had ('d)**
been writing ...

negative

I/you/he/she/it/we/they **had not (hadn't)**
been writing ...

question

Had I/you/he/she/it/we/they
been writing ...?

Use

Actions continuing
just before, or stopping
up to, a
moment in the past

Example

We'd **been doing** grammar
exercises for over an hour, so
we were really bored!
They had a break because
they'd **been working** so hard.

Helpful hints

The past perfect continuous is often used with the following words and phrases:

- for Tony had been studying **for** hours, so he had a headache.
- since She'd been hoping to win the competition **since** the summer.
- before We'd been talking about the Internet **before** the lesson started.
- all day/night/etc I'd been studying **all day**.

Watch out!

- The past perfect simple often emphasises the result of an action:
 - ✓ She'd **written** an article for the school newspaper. (= She'd finished it.)
- The past perfect continuous often emphasises the action, and the time spent on the action, rather than the result:
 - ✓ She'd **been writing** an article for the newspaper. (= She'd started, but she hadn't finished it.)

A Complete using the correct past perfect simple form of the verbs in brackets.

- 1 By the time I arrived, everyone (leave)!
- 2 Steve (already / see) the film, so he didn't come with us to the cinema.
- 3 Tina (not / finish) doing the housework by seven o'clock, so she called Andrea to tell her she would be late.
- 4 (you / just / speak) to Billy when I rang?
- 5 The car broke down just after (we / set off).
- 6 I didn't eat anything at the party because (I / already / eat) at home.
- 7 (you / hear) about the accident before you saw it on TV?

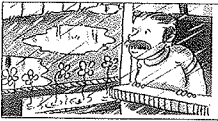
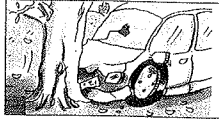
B Choose the sentence (A or B) which means the same as the first sentence.

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 We'd had dinner when Wendy arrived. A Wendy arrived and then we had dinner. B We had dinner and then Wendy arrived. 2 I read the book after I'd seen the film. A I saw the film and then I read the book. B I read the book and then I saw the film. 3 By the time Dad came home, I'd gone to bed. A I went to bed before Dad came home. B I went to bed after Dad came home. 4 She didn't go to bed until her mum had come home. A She went to bed and then her mum came home. B Her mum came home and then she went to bed. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5 Mr Banks hadn't arrived at the office by the time I got there. A I arrived before Mr Banks. B Mr Banks arrived before me. 6 They'd bought the plane tickets before they heard about the cheaper flight. A They bought the plane tickets and later they heard about the cheaper flight. B They heard about the cheaper flight and then they bought the plane tickets. 7 The girls had tidied the house when the visitors arrived. A The visitors arrived and later the girls tidied the house. B The girls tidied the house and then the visitors arrived. |
|--|---|

C Write sentences using the prompts. One of the verbs must be in the past perfect simple.

- 1 we / just / hear / the news / when / you / ring
.....
- 2 I / already / think of / that / before / you / suggest / it
.....
- 3 when / I / turn on / the TV / the programme / already / start
.....
- 4 she / be / hungry / because / she / not / eat / anything / all day
.....
- 5 by the time / I leave / school / I / decide / to become / a musician
.....

D Look at the pictures and complete the sentences. Use the correct form of the past perfect continuous.



- 1 She was tired because
..... (run).
- 2 They were hot because
..... (dance).
- 3 The garden was flooded because
..... (it / rain / all night).
- 4 Did they crash because
..... (drive / too fast)?
- 5 When I arrived,
..... (they / wait / for over half an hour).
- 6 When I got there,
..... (they / not / wait / long).

E Choose the correct answer.

- 1 I'd only the washing-up for a few minutes when Clare came home, so she offered to finish it.
A done B been doing
- 2 Had you already James his birthday present when we gave him ours?
A given B been giving
- 3 Gail hadn't me that she would help me, so I wasn't angry when she didn't.
A told B been telling
- 4 Mum had her cup of tea for several minutes before she realised it had salt in it!
A drunk B been drinking
- 5 We'd ready all day when they called to say the party had been cancelled.
A got B been getting
- 6 It was a fantastic experience because I'd never in a plane before.
A flown B been flying

F If a line is correct, put a tick (✓). If there is an extra word in a line, write the word.

Dear Diary,

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 had 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 | <p>This morning my exam results finally had came. I'd been expecting them for the last week. I knew I'd been done quite well, but I was still nervous as I had opened the envelope. Before I'd had a chance to look at them, my sister ran up and pulled them out of my hand! She had read them out one by one. 'English A, maths A, biology A, French A ...' This was the news I'd been waiting for. I'd got As in every subject – even geography, which I hadn't been making sure about! When Mum and Dad heard the news, they immediately started been shouting with joy. By the time I'd had breakfast, Mum had already called Grandma and Grandpa and had yet told the neighbours!</p> |
|---|---|

Unit 4

A

- 1 have seen
- 2 have had
- 3 hasn't taken
- 4 has been
- 5 Have you ridden
- 6 has made
- 7 haven't decided
- 8 Has Paul ever met

B

- 1 A
- 2 B
- 3 A
- 4 B
- 5 A
- 6 A
- 7 B
- 8 A

C

- 1 The lesson hasn't started yet.
- 2 The teacher has already written on the board.
- 3 Joe and Tim have just come into the classroom.
- 4 Tony hasn't finished getting his books ready.
- 5 Christine has already opened her book.
- 6 Dave has dropped his pen on the floor.
- 7 He hasn't picked it up yet.

D

- 1 have you been doing
- 2 I've been studying
- 3 Have you been working
- 4 I've just been sitting
- 5 I haven't been going
- 6 I've been working
- 7 I've been painting
- 8 we've also been planning
- 9 We've been looking
- 10 I've been thinking

E

- 1 heard
- 2 arrived
- 3 been writing
- 4 been talking
- 5 invited
- 6 been reading
- 7 been playing

F

- 1 yet
- 2 for
- 3 ever
- 4 already
- 5 since
- 6 just
- 7 never

Unit 5

A

- 1 had left
- 2 had already seen
- 3 hadn't finished
- 4 Had you just spoken
- 5 we'd set off
- 6 I'd already eaten
- 7 Had you heard

B

- 1 B
- 2 A
- 3 A
- 4 B
- 5 A
- 6 A
- 7 B

C

- 1 We'd just heard the news when you rang.
- 2 I'd already thought of that before you suggested it.
- 3 When I turned on the TV, the programme had already started.
- 4 She was hungry because she hadn't eaten anything all day.
- 5 By the time I left school, I'd decided to become a musician.

D

- 1 she'd been running
- 2 they'd been dancing

- 3 it had been raining all night
- 4 they'd been driving too fast
- 5 they'd been waiting for over half an hour
- 6 they hadn't been waiting long

E

- 1 B
- 2 A
- 3 A
- 4 B
- 5 B
- 6 A

F

- 2 been
- 3 had
- 4 ✓
- 5 had
- 6 ✓
- 7 making
- 8 ✓
- 9 been
- 10 yet