PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE

Text I

Disease **has always been** part of life. Researchers **have had** great success in fighting some illnesses, but they **have been** less successful in fighting others.
They **have made** progress in fighting serious diseases such as cancer, but they **haven't found** a definite cure **yet**. And although they **have already developed** vaccines to prevent many childhood diseases, they **haven't yet developed** a vaccine for some types of influenza!

Exercise 1. Reading Comprehension. Decide whether these statements are true or false.

1) Researchers have failed to fight diseases.
2) Researchers have made progress in cancer.
3) Researchers have found a definite cure for cancer.
4) Researchers have developed vaccines for all types of influenza.
5) Research has helped to develop vaccines for a variety of childhood diseases.

Text II

Marge and Bill are on a blind date – they have never met before.

Marge: I'm not sure about this. I **have never been** on a blind date like this before. I mean, I don't even know you, and here we are!
Bill: Well, does it make you feel better to know that I **have never taken** a girl to such a fancy café on a first date?
Marge: Thanks, it's really a lovely café! Tell me about yourself, Bill.
Bill: OK. I **have lived** in Philadelphia all my life.
Marge: **Have you ever wanted** to live outside Philadelphia?
Bill: No, I **have never wanted to** try any other place. I like it here.
Marge: Well, but **have you ever travelled** somewhere outside this city?
Bill: No, travelling is definitely not for me. I really like it here, don't you?
Marge: It's ok here, but I **have visited different countries**. It's a big world out there, you know.
Bill: Philadelphia is good enough for me. I don't want to go anywhere else, but I do want to see you again. How about tomorrow evening? Same time, same place.
Marge: Well …

Exercise 2. Reading comprehension. Answer the following questions.

1. Have Marge and Bill met before?

_____

2. Do you know what a blind date is?

_____

3. Have you ever had a blind date? If so, did you like it? Did you meet anyone interesting?

_____

4. Where has Bill always lived? Has he ever travelled outside his hometown?

_____

5. What about Marge?

_____

6. What does Marge like to do?

_____

7. Do Bill and Marge have things in common?

_____

8. Do you think they will have a second date?

_____

Remember this!

We use the **present perfect simple** to talk about:

a. an action or situation that **started in the past and stretches up to the present** (often with ***for*** and ***since***).

Example: I have known her for over ten years.

b. A completed **experience** at an **unspecified time in the past**. (often with ***ever*** and ***never***).

Examples: Have you ever visited Egypt? / I have never been to the Moon.

c. An event that is strongly **connected with the present** (often with ***just***, ***already*** and ***yet***).

Examples: We **have just finished** the test. / We **have already answered** all the questions. / We **haven't met** the new School Head **yet**.

Now, check if you can match *a, b or c* to the highlighted words in Text 1 and Text 2 above. Give some examples:

1...

2…
3…

SINCE (point in time) or FOR (period of time)?	
since one o'clock	for two hours
since Tuesday	for five minutes
since May	for long
since 2015	for about two weeks
since the beginning of the semester	for almost a month
since I was a child	for a long time
since yesterday	for many years

Exercise 3. Match the sentence halves:

1. We haven't lost a game	a you studied English?
2. Have you been here	b six o'clock?
3. Rudy has been at college for	c I joined the team.
4. How long have you	d two years.
5. I've known you since	e Lara played soccer?
6. 6 Has Alice lived in L.A. for	f ten years?
7. How long has	g we were five.

Exercise 4. Complete the second sentence so that it has a similar meaning to the first sentence, using the word given:

1) I met Peter ten years ago.

known _____

2) It's over a year since I last saw him.

seen

_____

3) This is the first time I 've been to the cinema on my own.

never _____

4) I haven't been to Rome before.

first

_____

5) I don't know who the winner of the competition is.

has

_____

PAST SIMPLE OR PRESENT PERFECT?

Text III

In the **past**, people went exploring to find new countries, open up new markets, make money or spread their religions.

Nowadays, young people travel to see interesting places, have new experiences, find things out about themselves, meet new people, learn new languages…

EXPLORERS AND TRAVELLERS
MARCO POLO, 1254 – 1324

MARCO POLO was the first person to travel the entire 8,000-kilometre length of the Silk Route, the main trade link between China and the West for over two thousand years.
He was born in Venice, the son of a merchant. In 1217, when he was 17, he set off for China. The journey took him four years. His route led him through Persia, Afghanistan, and Mongolia. He was one of the first Europeans to visit the territory, and he travelled extensively. He stayed in China for seventeen years. He arrived back home with a fortune in gold and jewellery.
He wrote a book called *The Travels of Marco Polo*, which gave Europeans their first information about China and the Far East.

TOMMY WILLIS, backpacker in Asia

Tommy Willis is in Fiji. He's on a nine-month backpacking trip round southeast Asia. He flew into Bangkok five months ago. Since then, **he's been** to Vietnam, Hong Kong, South Korea and Japan. **He's visited** royal palaces and national parks in South Korea, and **climbed** to the summit of Mount Fiji in Japan. **He's been staying** in cheap hostels along with a lot of other young people. "**I've met** a lot of really great people, but it **hasn't** all **been** easy," said Tommy.
"I've had diarrhoea a few times and **I've been pickpocketed** once. **I've also been mugged**, which was really scary." Apart from that, his only worry is the insects. He's been stung all over his body.

He's been travelling mainly by public transport – bus, train, and ferry, but when he's been able to afford it, he's also taken the occasional plane. He's looking forward to taking things easy for another week, then setting off for Australia. "Once you've got the bug, it becomes hard to stay in the same place for too long.", he said.
Now, let's ask questions to the following answers:

About Marco Polo

1. _____

In 1254 in Venice.

2. _____

Four years.

3. _____

For seventeen years.

4. _____

Gold and jewellery.

5. _____

No, not a newspaper. A book, called *The Travels of Marco Polo*.

About Tommy Willis

6. _____ ***How long … away from home?***

For five months**.**

_____ **Which…?**

7. Thailand, Vietnam, Hong Kong, South Korea and Japan

In cheap hostels.

8. _____ **How many**

A few times.

9 _____ ***Has …?***

Yes, once.

Remember this!

The **past simple** expresses an activity that occurred at a **specific time in the past**.

Example: I **went** to Europe **last year/ a year ago/ in 2018/ when I was 15 years old**.

The **present perfect** expresses an activity that occurred at an **unspecified time in the past**. (The speaker specifies time).

Example: I have been to Europe **many times/several times/once** (no mention of specified time)

Compare: I **have lived** in New York for two years. (I still live here).

I **lived** in New York for two years. (I don't live in NY now).

Exercise 5. Read about Monica Cox and circle the correct verb forms.

Monica Cox is a tennis player. She [1] **won / has won** many tournaments in her life. She [2] **started / has started** playing tennis with his father when she [3] **has been / was** three years old. Two years ago, she [4] **went / has gone** to America to a famous tennis school in California. Monica and her father [5] **travelled / have travelled** to many countries. Last month they [6] **went / have gone** to a tournament in Australia. Monica [7] **played / has played** well, but she [8] **didn't win / hasn't won.** She [9] **didn't play / hasn't played** at Wimbledon yet, but she hopes to do so next year. She [10] **was never / has never been** so happy before!

Exercise 6. Rewrite the following sentences using ***for*** or **<u>since</u>**. Make all necessary changes but keep the meaning of the original sentence:

1. They started studying English two years ago.

   _____

2. I started working in my current job a year ago.

   _____

3. We moved to our house when I was 16.

_____

4. I did yoga for the first time six months ago.

_____

5. My mother bought her car three years ago.

_____

6. I play the guitar. I started about five years ago.

_____

PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

Text IV

It **has been raining**. The ground is still wet. John Traver **has been sitting** on the same park bench for hours. His clothes are soaked. A while ago, someone gave him a cup of coffee. It's no longer warm, but **John has been drinking** it anyway. John is just one of a possible three million American who **have been making** their homes in the streets, parks and subway stations of our cities. The number of homeless men, women and children **has been climbing** steadily and will continue to rise until the government takes action.

Exercise 7. Writing and speaking:

Are there any similarities with your own country? **Discuss with your classmates**. You can use some of these ideas:

for the past century/decade	number of homeless people or families
since /for	unemployment
between … and …	inflation
in (2019)	economic crash
never	dollar

already / still

since I can remember

when I was born

corruption

peace

NGOs to aid homeless

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Text V

Ellie: At last! I**'ve been waiting for ages**. Where **have you been**? What **have you been doing**?
Jack: My bus didn't come. I**'ve been trying** to phone you since 7.30…
Ellie: You're 25 minutes late! The film **has already started**.
Jack: Sorry. Do you still want to see it?
Ellie: Yes, I do. I**'ve been looking** forward to it for weeks. It stars my favourite actor. And I**'ve already bought** the tickets!
Jack: Let's go inside, then.
Ellie: OK. But why is your hair wet? It **hasn't been raining**.
Ellie: That's sweat. I**'ve been running** for 25 minutes! And I **haven't eaten**. Can we see the film later?

Exercise 8. Decide whether the following statements are true or false.

1. Ellie has been waiting for Jack for over an hour.
2. Jack is late because he had a car accident.
3. Ellie hasn't got a phone.
4. The film they want to see is going to start in 5 minutes.
5. Ellie wants to see the movie but does not.

6. Jack is wet because it has been raining.

Remember this!

We use the **present perfect continuous** to talk about:

a. An event that **began in the past and is still in progress** (often with time words such as **since, for all morning, all day, all week**) to say how long the event has been in progress); to express and **emphasise the duration** of an activity that is still in progress (continues in the present time).
Example: Rita **has been talking** to Peter on the phone **for twenty minutes**.

b. An event without any specific mention of time, it expresses **a general activity in progress** (time words: **lately, recently**)
Examples:
John **has been doing** a lot of work on his thesis. He should be finished by May.
My back hurts, so I **have been sleeping** on the floor lately. The bed is too soft.

c. An event that has recently stopped and which **explains the present situation**. (A past activity that has caused a present result). The past activity might be finished or not. The context usually makes this clear.
Example: They **are** tired because they **have been studying** hard.
Look out of the window1 It**'s been snowing**. (It has stopped snowing now.)
I**'ve been writing** this book for two years. (It's not finished.)
I'm covered in paint because I**'ve been decorating** the bathroom. (It might be finished or not. We don't know.)

PRESENT PERFECT OR PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS?

Text VI

Elephants, which are among the largest animals in the world, **have been roaming** this earth for hundreds and hundreds of years. They **have always been** an important link in the African wildlife chain, but today they are in danger of becoming extinct. Local ivory-factory owners **have been killing** elephants and **removing** their valuable tusks, leaving the rest of the animals to rot. Over half of the estimated 1.5 million elephants that existed in 1979 **have died** for their tusks. People **have used** their ivory to make jewellery. Sculptures, and other ornaments. Some environmental groups **have been protesting** this situation. They want to prevent the extinction of the elephant.

Now, check if you can match *a, b or c* to the highlighted words in Text 1 above. Give some examples:

a. _____

b. _____

c. _____

Text VII

Mike **has been volunteering** at the animal shelter since he was ten. He **has loved** animals for as long as he can remember. Cats are his favourite, but Mike enjoys playing with all dogs, rabbits, and ferrets at the shelter, too.
Lately, Mike **has been seeing** more kittens being dropped off at the shelter. Seeing all these young animals without a home **has made** Mike unhappy. It is hard to find so many animals safe and loving places to live in.
Mike **has been thinking** about telling his friends and neighbours about all the homeless kittens and other animals at the shelter. He **has written** a short speech and has created some posters to explain how people can adopt a pet.
Mike **has raised** some money from a lemonade stand that he plans to donate to the animal shelter. Mike hopes that if he can save enough money, maybe there won't be so many animals in cages.

https://sse6348price.weebly.com/uploads/2/0/4/6/20464482/6328881_orig.jpg

Exercise 9. Speaking

How about you? Have you ever volunteered to work for the ones in need? Surf the internet and search for volunteer work

in Argentina. Discuss with your partner.

Remember this!

1. The simple expresses a completed action: I**'ve painted the kitchen** and now I'm doing the bathroom.
The continuous expresses an activity over a period of time: I've got paint in my hair because I**'ve been decorating.**

2. We use the **simple** if the sentence has a **number or quantity**, because the simple expresses completion. The continuous is impossible: I've been reading all day. I**'ve read** three chapters.

3. Some verbs have the idea of a **long time**, for example, *wait, work, play try, learn, rain*. These verbs are often used in the **continuous:** I**'ve been cutting** wood (perhaps **over several hours**).
I**'ve cut** my finger (**one short action**).
However, some verbs **don't** have the idea of a long time, for example, *find, start, buy, die, lose, break, stop*. These verbs are more usually found in the **simple**.
I've lost my passport.
Have you started your Christmas shopping yet?

4. Sometimes, duration can be expressed by either the present perfect simple or the present perfect continuous (verbs such as live, play, teach, work) and have essentially the same meaning when ***since*** or ***for*** is used.
Example: I**'ve played** the piano since I was a boy. / I**'ve been playing** the piano since I was a boy.

5. The continuous can express a temporary activity, while the simple expresses a permanent state.
Example:
I **have lived** in Buenos Aires for 30 years. (permanent)
I **have been living** in Buenos Aires for the past few months. (temporary)

Exercise 10. Read the first sentence. Then decide whether the second sentence is true (T) or false (F).

1. Professor Owen has been reading a book about African wildlife.

   _____ She finished the book.

2. She's read a book about African wildlife.

   _____ She finished the book.

3. She's written a magazine article about the rain forest.

   _____ She finished the article.

4. She's been waiting for some supplies.

   _____ She received the supplies.

5. She and her husband have lived in Uganda for many years.

   _____ They are still in Uganda.

6. They've been living in Uganda since for many years.

   _____They are still in Uganda.

7. We've been discussing environmental problems with the leaders of many countries.

   _____The discussions are probably over.

8. We've discussed these problems with many leaders.

   _____ The discussions are probably over.

Exercise 11. Choose the correct form of the verb:

1. I don't believe it! Somebody *has eaten / has been eating* my chocolates! They're nearly all gone!
2. How many biscuits *have you eaten / have you been eating* today?
3. I *have never met / have never been meeting* a nicer person in my life!
4. How long *have you known / have you been knowing* Charles and Lisa?
5. He*'s written / 's been writing* a book for nearly a year. It'll be finished soon.

6. He*'s written / 's been writing* a book. I saw it in the bookshop.
7. The children are very quiet. They'*ve watched / 've been watching* videos all morning.
8. They'*ve watched / 've been watching* five already.

Exercise 12. Complete the dialog with the right tense and (simple or continuous) form of the verbs in brackets:

Gina: Hi! I [1] _____ (see) you for months. [2] _____you _____ (stay) in?

Yvette: Yes, a lot!

Gina: Why? 3 What _____you_____ (do)? [4]_____ you _____ (study) for the exams?

Yvette: Yes, a bit. But money is the main reason.

Gina: Why? [5] _____ you _____ (save) money?

Yvette: Yes, I [6] _____ (save) $500 but that's not enough! Well, you know. I've got a new friend.

Gina: Yes, you [7]_____ (show) me a photo. He's really good-looking! So, [8]_____ he _____ (phone) you?

Yvette: Yes, and guess what? I'm going to visit his family in the summer holiday.

Gina: Wow! How long [9] _____ he _____ (write) to you? About a year?

Yvette: One year, two months and … four days! I [10] _____ (receive) over 100 letters!

Gina: Hmm, I think this is love!

Exercise 13. <u>Complete the following with the words in brackets</u>:

1- It's been three years since I started to work here.

I [1] _____ (working / for)

2- Sorry I'm late! [2] _____ (you / wait) here long?

No, I [3] _____ (just / arrive).

3- Oh! You've got a new hairstyle!

Not exactly! I [4] _____ (have) it for over three months!

4- [5]_____ (ever/ you / buy) anything online?"

"Yes, I [6]_____ (buy) a book last week in fact."

6) I'm so happy you came to visit me! I [7] _____(wait) for you all day.

7) [8] _____ (you/yet/finish reading) the novel?

No, I [9] _____ (yet/not have).

8) I'm going to the movies to see *Joker*. Would you like to come?

Thanks, but I'm afraid I [10] _____ (see/already) it.

Exercise 14. Writing: **A job interview**.

Let's write a dialog between a job interviewer and a job applicant. Next, let's role play it.

First, decide name of company and type of work. Then think about your qualifications: courses you've taken, languages you speak, computing skills, etc.

Interviewer's name

Candidate's name

Company name and kind of company

Type of work to be done

Qualifications

Experience

Language

Computing skills

Now, the interview: Draft it, write it in full and role paly it!

Interviewer: Good morning Mr. / Mss… Please take a seat. Tell me about yourself.

Applicant:

SOME MORE GRAMMAR EXERCISES

A- **Use the present perfect progressive in the following**.

1. The boys are playing soccer right now. They (play) *have been playing* for almost two hours. They must be getting tired.
2. Alex is talking on the phone. He (talk) _____on the phone for over a half an hour. He should hang up soon. Long distance is expensive.
3. I'm trying to study. I (try) _____to study for the last hour, but something always seems to interrupt met I think I'd better go to the library.

B- **Use the present perfect or the present perfect progressive. In some sentences, either tense may be used with little or no change in meaning.**

1. It (snow) _____all day. I wonder when it stops.
2. We (have) _____three major snowstorms so far this winter. I wonder how many more we will have.
3. It's ten p.m. I _____(study) for two hours and probably won't finish until midnight.
4. I (write) _____ them three times, but I still haven't received a reply.
5. I (live) _____ here since last March.
6. The telephone (ring) _____ four times in the last hour, and each time it has been for my roommate.
7. The telephone (ring) _____ for almost a minute. Why doesn't someone answer it?
8. The little boy is dirty from head to foot because he (play) _____ in the mud.

C- **Use the present perfect or the present perfect progressive. In some sentences, either tense may be used with little or no change in meaning.**

1. A: (Be, you) _____ able to reach Bob on the phone yet? B: Not yet. I (try)_____for the last twenty minutes, but the line (be) _____busy.

2. A: Hi, Jenny. I (see, not) _____you for weeks. What (do, you) _____ lately? B: Studying.

3. A: What are you going to order for dinner?

B: Well, I (have, never) _____pizza, so I think I'll order that.

4. A: What's the matter? Your eyes are red and puffy. (Cry, you) _____?

B: No. I just finished peeling some onions.

4. A: Dr Jones is a good teacher. How long (be, he) _____at the university?

B: He (teach) _____here for twenty-five years.

D- **What have they been doing?**

Complete the sentences with the present perfect simple or the present perfect continuous.

Jane *has been writing* (write) a letter to a magazine. She hasn't finished it yet.

1. Ben _____(look) for his pen-knife, but he hasn't found it yet.
2. Jenny _____ (wait) for the bus for half an hour, but it hasn't arrived yet.
3. Nick _____ (play) a computer game for two hours and he's still playing.
4. Mike hasn't finished painting his car yet. He _____ (work) on it for two weeks.
5. Amanda _____ (not come) home yet. She has been shopping in town since 10 o'clock.
6. Mike's car _____(make) strange noises. Nick and Jane have cleaned all the parts.
7. Ben has been drawing cartoons for two hours. He _____ (not finished) yet.
8. Amanda has been waiting for Jenny in town. Jenny _____ (not arrive) yet.
9. Jane has been knitting a pullover. She _____ (just finish) it.
10. It _____ (rain) all day and it hasn't stopped yet.
11. Mr Blake has been marking tests all evening but he _____ (not find) a perfect one yet.
12. Trig _____(practise) the present perfect, but he hasn't got it right.