Present perfect: *just, yet, already and still*
Goals

- Can recall and provide a simple explanation of the present perfect tense, with examples.

- Can accurately use 'just', 'yet', 'already', and 'still' with the present perfect tense.
I’ve just started my English lesson and I’m already enjoying it.
In this grammar lesson you are going to learn how to use the adverbs *just*, *yet*, *already* and *still* in the *present perfect* tense.

I’ve *just* dropped a huge steak!
Find the present perfect

Which of these sentences is in the present perfect tense? Why?

Sarah broke her wrist.

Sarah has broken her wrist and now she can’t go to school.
What is the difference between these two questions?

Did you go to London last week?

Have you ever been to London?

I have never been on the underground.

I love London!
The present perfect

What is the difference in meaning between these two sentences?

I had my dog for ten years.

I have had my dog for ten years.
The present perfect

We use the **present perfect** in three main ways:

- For **past actions** which have **effects** in the **present**.
- For **experiences** which happened at some time during our lives.
- For things which **began in the past** but have **not finished**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Past actions – present effects</th>
<th>Experiences</th>
<th>Began in the past – not finished</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I have broken my leg so I can’t play football.</td>
<td>Have you ever been to New York?</td>
<td>I have known Alice for 3 years.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I have finished my homework so I can go out now.</td>
<td>I have never had an English breakfast.</td>
<td>I have lived in my flat for a long time.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Make present perfect sentences or questions from the prompts

1. You/go/skiing?
   → Have you ever been skiing?

2. She/see/the Lion King?
   →

3. I/never/eat/turkey.
   →

4. Harry/hurt/his leg.
   →

5. I/know/her/10 years.
   →
Tell the class about...

- a place you have never been that you really want to go to
- a friend you have known for a long time
- something you have done recently
- a city you have visited which you didn’t like
Present perfect practice

Answer the questions below in the present perfect tense.
Use page 8 to help you.

Have you ever been to Cornwall?

What have you always wanted to do?

What is the most exotic food you have eaten?

How long have you known your best friend?
**Just**

- *Just* is used when we want to say that something happened **very recently**.
- It is always used with the **present perfect tense**.
- It is used **between** the **auxiliary** and the **main verb**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I’ve just been to the shop and the police were there!</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I’ve just had dinner so I’m not hungry.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgina isn’t ill, I’ve just seen her shopping in town.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joseph’s just called to say they’re going to be late.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I’ve just told you to stop doing that!</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Still is used for an activity which is ongoing. It is often used in the present perfect tense but it can be used with other tenses too. Look at the examples below.

- In positive sentences it is used between the auxiliary and the main verb.
- In negative sentences and questions it is used after the subject.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present perfect</th>
<th>Other tenses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I've still got all my toys from my childhood.</td>
<td>Graham is still working on his thesis.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We still haven’t seen that film you recommended to us.</td>
<td>My girlfriend still surprises me, even after three years together.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I’ve still never been to England even though I’ve been learning English all my life.</td>
<td>Will you still love me when I’m old and grey?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>She still hasn’t spoken to me since our argument.</td>
<td>He said he was still eating his lunch when I called him.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
I’ve just got back from Spain. It was a wonderful holiday!

I still haven’t been to Spain. I really must go.
Just or still?

Put *just* or *still* into these sentences in the correct place.

1. I have had lunch so I’m really full.
2. Donna is working on her speech. I can’t believe it’s not ready.
3. I will come even if my wife can’t.
4. I’ve spoken to Jack and he promised that he’s 5 minutes away.
5. I haven’t met your boyfriend. We need to arrange a time to meet.
Writing

Use the prompts below to write three sentences about things you have done today.

I have just...

I still haven’t...

I am still...

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Now think about your education. Tell your classmates or teacher about your education using the prompts below.

1. I have just...
2. I still haven’t...
3. I am still...
Yet

- We use **yet** when the thing we are talking about is **expected to happen**.
- It is usually used at the **end of the sentence**, and is almost always used in **questions** and **negatives**.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I haven’t finished my homework yet, I’ll be done in 5 minutes.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Have you had dinner yet?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lara hasn’t seen John yet, he’s waiting for her at home.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have they come back from their holiday yet?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Already

- We use *already* to say that something has happened.
- We often use it when something happened earlier than expected.
- We use already after the auxiliary verb.

- I’ve *already* finished my homework.
- Has she *already* left? That was fast.
- They have *already* been to London so they want to see a different part of the UK this time.
- Have we *already* talked about this?
Yet and already

- Here are some more examples of *yet* and *already* with other tenses.
- Look at the fourth sentence. In everyday British English, we don’t usually use *yet* with the past perfect.

He had **already** eaten his dinner when I arrived.

**He is yet to speak.**

I had **already** tried sushi before I went to Japan.

My boss wanted my report, but I hadn’t finished it.
Yet or already

Put yet or already into the sentences in the correct places.

1. I haven’t finished my homework but I’m nearly there.
2. Have you finished that presentation? You’re ahead of schedule.
3. Don’t worry about a thing. I’ve arranged everything.
4. Has she written to grandma? She said she’d do it ages ago.
5. I can’t believe they’re here! Nothing is ready.
Think of a historical or interesting event. Then think about another two events: one which has already happened and one which hasn’t yet occurred in relation to your chosen event. Your classmates and teacher have to guess your event.

The First World War has already happened.

But the Second World War hasn’t happened yet.

Is your event the Great Depression?
Make a few sentences about your chores or errands for the week using the prompts below.

I still haven’t ...
I haven’t __________ yet.
I have just been to the post office and...
I have already...

Your chores and errands
Write a short text about your experiences with education using what you talked about on p. 16

Make sure you use the words:
- already
- yet
- still
- just
What can you say about the scenes in the picture using the adverbs below.

- just
- yet
- still
- already
Reflect on the goals

Go back to the second slide of the lesson and check if you have achieved all the goals of the lesson.

yes

no
Reflect on this lesson

Think about everything you have seen in this lesson. What were the most difficult activities or words? The easiest?

If you have time, go over the most difficult slides again.
Answer key

Exercise p. 9
1. have just had, 2. is still working, 3. will still come, 4. I've just spoken, 5. I still haven't

Exercise p. 15
1. have just had, 2. is still working, 3. will still come, 4. I've just spoken, 5. I still haven't

Exercise p. 21
1. homework yet, 2. you already finished, 3. I've already arranged, 4. grandma yet?

Put *just, already, yet* and *still* into the sentences in the correct place.

1. Have you finished your homework?
   That was fast!
2. I haven’t spoken to him, but I will see him this afternoon.
3. I’m waiting to hear from Mr. Davies. He should have replied weeks ago.
4. I’m so tired, I have finished running a marathon.
Write four sentences about you similar to the ones on the previous page. Make sure you use *still, already, just* and *yet*.
1. Have you finished your homework already? That was fast!

2. I haven’t spoken to him yet, but I will see him this afternoon.

3. I’m still waiting to hear from Mr. Davies. He should have replied weeks ago.

4. I’m so tired, I have just finished running a marathon.

Exercise p. 30
Who are we?

Why learn English online?

What kinds of English classes do we offer?

Who are our English teachers?

How do our English certificates work?

We also have a language blog!