

Present Perfect

Teacher's Notes

Description: Despite being one of the most useful and versatile of the English grammar tenses, the Present Perfect is, for many students, also one of the most baffling, and it's certainly not difficult to understand why. This handy tense, which connects the past with the present, uses concepts which, in many languages, don't even exist. The exercises in this activity sheet allow students to practise this Present Perfect through an array of written and spoken exercises.

Aim: To practise the Present Perfect through a series of written and communicative exercises.

Procedure: Give each student a copy of the two-page activity sheet.

Exercise A: Students begin by matching the beginnings of the Present Perfect sentences with the correct endings, writing 'C' next to the sentences referring to completed actions, 'U' next to the ones referring to unfinished actions, and 'X' next to the ones which haven't happened.

answer key:

1. e, U 2. d, U 3. g, C 4. f, X 5. a, U 6. c, X 7. b, C

Exercise B: Next, students complete the sentences using words in bold from the previous exercise.

answer key:

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

Exercise C: Students then create Present Perfect sentences using the words provided, adding one of the words from the previous exercises.

answer key:

1. We have been friends since 1988. 5. The lesson has just started.
2. I have never been to Rome. 6. I have already had lunch.
3. Peter hasn't had a shower yet. 7. It's the best book I've ever read.
4. She has known him for 20 years.

Exercise D: After this, students make guesses about their partner and complete the sentences by either adding a number or underlining the word that they think is true. After doing this, they write the Present Perfect question that they need to ask to find the real answer. Once both students have finished their questions, they take turns asking their questions, earning a point for each correct guess.

answer key:

- | Student A | Student B |
|---|--|
| 1. How long have you been awake? | 1. How many messages have you sent today? |
| 2. How many countries have you visited? | 2. How long have you lived in your home? |
| 3. How long have you had your phone? | 3. How many holidays have you had this year? |
| 4. Have you ever broken a bone? | 4. Have you ever ridden a horse? |
| 5. How many calls have you made today? | 5. How many coffees have you drunk today? |

Exercise E: Lastly, the pairs think of a country and imagine they are going on a holiday there. Next, they agree on something to do each day while they're there. Students then imagine time has passed and they are now on day four of their holiday. Referring to their table, they write sentences using 'just', 'already', and 'yet', to describe the things they've already done, have recently done, and haven't done but intend to do. e.g., 'We have already visited Buckingham Palace.', 'We haven't ridden on a red bus yet.' Once they've done this, they swap partners and read out their sentences. After hearing all the sentences, their new partner then guesses which country they are in.