

## Perfect Tenses

At the end of this lecture, students should be able to :

- ✓ Understand the types of perfect tenses.
- ✓ Use perfect tenses appropriately.

✚ The *present perfect tense* is so named because the auxiliary have is conjugated in the present tense. It is used to describe an action that began in the past and continues until the present.

--She has drawn her mom a picture every day for the past two weeks.

--I haven't met anyone interesting since I moved into this apartment complex.

--I have navigated a sailboat many times.

--He has already showered.

**Exercise 01/** Complete each sentence, using either the simple past or the present perfect tense of the verb in parentheses.

1. Up to now, Mrs. Rosenthal \_\_\_\_\_ (give) us few tasks. I thought she would be more demanding than this.
2. So far this month, I \_\_\_\_\_ (smoke) only two cigarettes.
3. We \_\_\_\_\_ (know) each other for almost ten years now.
4. In my whole lifetime, I \_\_\_\_\_ (never + see) such a violent storm.
5. Last November, I \_\_\_\_\_ (feel) heartbroken for the first time in my life.
6. Try not to talk too loudly again before the end of the movie.  
You \_\_\_\_\_ (already + annoy) the people sitting behind us.  
You \_\_\_\_\_ (get) us in trouble the last time we came to this theater.
7. Henry \_\_\_\_\_ (be) here since the Easter holidays.
8. Olivia \_\_\_\_\_ (land) in Hawaii four hours ago.
9. Alicia \_\_\_\_\_ (break) the door last weekend, but it was an accident.

**Exercise 02/** Complete each sentence with appropriate chronological references. Use any reference you wish (for example, dates, days, or years), as long as it makes sense in the sentence.

Example : Today is *the 12th of January*. I first met my English teacher *five months ago*. I have known him *since September*. I have known him *for five months*.

1. Today is \_\_\_\_\_. I bought this book \_\_\_\_\_. I have had this book since \_\_\_\_\_. I have had it for \_\_\_\_\_.
2. I first decided she was my best friend \_\_\_\_\_. I have known her for \_\_\_\_\_. I have known her since \_\_\_\_\_.
3. It is 200 \_\_\_\_\_. I started going to school in 19 \_\_\_\_/200 \_\_\_\_\_. I have been a student for \_\_\_\_\_. I have been a student since \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Yesterday was \_\_\_\_\_. ) moved to this town \_\_\_\_\_. I have been living in this town since \_\_\_\_\_. I have been here for \_\_\_\_\_.

**Exercise 03/** Complete each sentence, using either the simple past or the present perfect tense of the verb in parentheses.

1. Since the end of the nineteenth century, scientists \_\_\_\_\_ (make) many important discoveries.
2. Thanks to new techniques and new discoveries, medical analysis \_\_\_\_\_ (advance) a great deal in the twentieth century.
3. Economic systems are different from those implemented in the 1800s. For example, the information gathered to conduct analysis \_\_\_\_\_ (change) greatly through the years. In the 1800s, these systems \_\_\_\_\_ (be) mainly focused on national indicators. Today, however, international economies \_\_\_\_\_ (become) efficient, and it is necessary to take them into account. In the 1800s, domestic economies \_\_\_\_\_ (be) self-sufficient and could survive with little trade. Today, all economies, small and large, are connected.
4. It's undeniable that she \_\_\_\_\_ (get) older since we last saw her, but one can't deny she \_\_\_\_\_ (also + get) wiser. She also seems to \_\_\_\_\_ (become) funnier.
5. Yesterday, my father and I \_\_\_\_\_ (have) some free time, so we \_\_\_\_\_ (go) to watch the movie Hotel Rwanda. We then headed out to a coffeehouse and (talk) about it for hours.
6. What \_\_\_\_\_ (you + learn) since you

- \_\_\_\_\_ (begin) reading this chapter?
7. How many people \_\_\_\_\_ (you + meet) who only spoke English? I hope you \_\_\_\_\_ (already + meet) many interesting people.

**Exercise 04/** Put in the appropriate verb tense.

1. Ann .....her job at the bank. She.....her boss. (leave ; not like)
2. I.....a beautiful dress. I.....it at Parker's yesterday. (buy ; find)
3. Cathy and Sam.....their house. They..... a very good price. (sell ; get)
4. 'Dad.....his glasses.' 'Where.....he.....them ?' 'Under his pillow.' (find ; find)
5. Mrs Collins.....into hospital. She.....to the doctor this morning, and he.....her straight in. (go ; go ; send)
6. Bill.....an accident. He.....off his bike last night. (have ; fall)
7. I.....from Jan. She.....us a postcard from Peru. (hear ; send)
8. 'I.....your mother about us.' 'What.....she..... ?' 'She was very nice about it.' (tell ; say)
9. Two climbers.....in the Alps. They.....their way in bad weather. (die ; lose)
10. John and Sue.....yet. They.....the wrong train. (not arrive ; take)
11. The cat.....your supper. She.....it off the table when I was out. (eat ; take)

**Exercise 05/** Make questions to ask for more details.

'I've bought a new jacket.' 'Oh, yes ? *Where did you buy it ?*'

1. 'Joe's passed his exam.' .....
2. 'Cathy's moved to London.' .....
3. 'Andy's lost his job.' 'I know.' .....
4. 'My brother's been to San Francisco.' .....
5. 'Mark's sold his car.' .....
6. 'Phil's bought a bike.' .....

7. 'Bob's found a new girlfriend.' .....
8. 'I've given up smoking.' .....