

# The Present Perfect Tense



# Formation

The Present Perfect Tense is formed with *the subject* plus the present tense of the verb *to have* (**have/has**) and *the past participle form* of the main verb. The past participle form often ends in **-ed** (e.g. *finish**ed***) but many important verbs are *irregular* (*lost, written, etc.*).

Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative
You <b>have</b> tried They <b>have been</b> to Rome	You <b>haven't</b> tried They <b>haven't been</b> to Rome	<b>Have you</b> tried? <b>Have</b> they <b>been</b> to Rome?
He <b>has</b> started She <b>has sung</b>	He <b>hasn't</b> started She <b>hasn't sung</b>	<b>Has</b> he started? <b>Has</b> she <b>sung</b> ?

# Use 1: Finished actions that have some connection with the present

We use The Present Perfect for completed actions that happened at some point before now and still have an influence on the present. We don't know or aren't focusing on exactly when the action happened. The main point here is that the action has a *result* now.

- 'Where's your key?' - 'I don't know. I've **lost** it.' (=I don't have it now)
- 'Is Sally here?' - 'No, she **has gone** out.' (=she is out now)
- I can't find my bag. **Have** you **seen** it? (= Do you know where it is now?)