



Università degli Studi del Sannio  
Centro Linguistico di Ateneo

# LESSON 6

## Level A1/A2

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*Video realizzato*



*Centro Linguistico di Ateneo  
Università degli Studi del Sannio*

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# The present perfect simple – use (1)

The **present perfect** is used in the following situations:

- actions that started in the past and still continue or have an **effect in the present**.

**Example:** *I can't play football today: I have broken my leg.*

- *There's been a change in the programme. Lunch is at 1.00 instead of 1.30.*

- situations in which we refer to something that has (not) happened so far, **up to the present**.

**Example:** *In her life she has visited 20 countries.*

*They've never played cricket before.*

# The present perfect simple – use (2)

- *I have told my students to buy the book.* (now they know)
- *This class has improved a lot.* (now they are better)
- *I've lost my keys.* (I can't find them now)
- *Paula has booked tickets for everybody.* (she booked them some time ago but they are available to us now)
- *They have never tried Japanese food. Shall we go tonight?*  
(so far, up to today)
- *There's been a problem with the internet connection. We can't send you the file.* (the effect is still present)
- *Have you seen Quentin Tarantino's new film? It's great!* (so far)

## **Remember!**

*Il present perfect non si usa MAI per azioni che si sono completate nel passato. Per queste azioni si usa il past simple.*

# The present perfect simple – forms

Subj. + *have/has (not)* + past participle.

## **affirmative/negative**

I/you/we/they **have (not) seen**

He/she/it **has (not) seen**

## **interrogative**

**Have** I/you/we/they **seen?**

**Has** he/she/it **seen?**

Short forms are: 've / 's: I've been to Thailand twice. She's never been there.

### ***Remember!***

Il **past participle** dei verbi regolari si forma aggiungendo –ed alla forma base del verbo (es. *start* – *started*).

Per i verbi irregolari il past participle è la forma nella terza colonna del paradigma (es. *go* – *went* – *gone*).

# The present perfect simple – use (3)

Words that are often used with the present perfect are:

- *Have you **ever** been to the US? – No, I've **never** been abroad, actually.*
- *This is the best sushi I've **ever** eaten.*
- *Have you seen Jamie **recently**?*
- *We've often had friends for dinner **in the last few days**.*
- *She's the best candidate we've interviewed **so far**.*
- *We've been best friends **since** school days.*
- *My grandparents have been married **for** 50 years.*
- *They haven't done their homework **yet**.*
- *Have you finished **yet**? / Have you **already** finished?*
- *I've **already** read that book. It's excellent!*
- *My friends have **just** arrived. Let's go and meet them!*

# The present perfect simple – use (4)

The present perfect is also used with the words *today, this morning, this year*, etc. when these periods are not finished at the time of speaking:

## Examples:

- *I've smoked only 10 sigarettes **this month**.*
- *She's written 20 e-mails **today**.*
- *I haven't been to the gym **this week**. Have you?*
- *Have you seen Ann **today**? I haven't.*
- *I've drunk 4 cups of coffee **this afternoon**. I must stop now!*

## **BUT**

- *This morning she wrote 20 e-mails.*

(now it's afternoon, so the morning is over: past simple)

# The Present Perfect Continuous – use (1)

The **present perfect continuous** is used to stress the duration of an action having an effect in the present.

## Examples:

- *Why are you so late? I've been waiting for an hour!*
- *Why are your clothes so dirty? - I've been working in the garden.*

The stress is on the action, not on its effect in the present.

## Examples:

- *I've been learning English for 3 years. (stress is on duration)*
- *In this course I've learnt at least two important things. (stress is on what I know now as a result of my learning)*



# The Present Perfect Continuous – use

The **present perfect continuous** cannot be used in the following situations:

## - Negative sentences

**Example:** *I haven't seen my parents for years now.*

~~NON: *I haven't been seeing my parents...*~~

## - Verbs which do not usually go in a continuous form:

*Be, see, hear, think, believe, love, hate, like, etc.*

**Example:** *She has always loved skating.*

*-Have you heard from Tom? - I've been waiting for his call for days, but he hasn't called.*

**BUT**

*- I've been thinking of you all day...*

# *How long, for and since*

The **present perfect continuous** is often used with expressions indicating the duration of an action:

**How long** is used in questions:

**Example:** How long have you been studying here?

**Since** is followed by the time when the action started:

**Example:** I've been studying here since 2007.

**For** is followed by the duration of the action:

**Example:** I've been studying here for two years.

## ***Remember!***

Molto spesso il present perfect (simple & continuous) in italiano si rende con il presente indicativo.

**Ex.** *Studio qui dal 2007 / da 2 anni.*

# Present perfect vs. Past simple

## **Remember!**

Il Past simple si riferisce ad azioni FINITE nel passato. Spesso ci si riferisce a QUANDO l'azione è avvenuta (*when?*).

**Example:** *Yesterday morning I **woke up** late. Of course, I **was** late at work.*

Il Present perfect si riferisce a) ad azioni che continuano o b) hanno un effetto nel presente. Spesso è indicata la durata dell'azione.

## **Examples:**

a) ***We've had** this car for 20 years now. We'll have to buy a new one soon.*

b) *Ouch! **I've cut** my finger!*

## **Study these examples:**

1. *George needs a new door lock: he **has lost** all his keys. (he doesn't have his keys now)*

2. *George lost his keys at the cinema, but luckily somebody found them. (when did he lose them? When he was at the cinema: he is no longer at the cinema now, the action is finished)*