

**A** Study this example situation:



Tom can't find his key.  
He's **lost** his key. (= He **has lost** ...)

he **has lost** his key =  
he lost it and he doesn't have it now

**have lost / has lost** is the *present perfect simple*:

I/we/they/you	<b>have</b> (= I've etc.)	<b>finished</b> <b>lost</b> <b>done</b> <b>been</b> etc.
he/she/it	<b>has</b> (= he's etc.)	

The present perfect simple is **have/has + past participle**. The past participle often ends in **-ed** (finished/decided etc.), but many verbs are *irregular* (**lost/done/written** etc.).

For a list of irregular verbs, see Appendix 1.

**B** When we say 'something **has happened**', this is usually new information:

- ☐ Owl! I've **cut** my finger.
- ☐ The road is closed. There's **been** an accident. (= There **has been** ...)
- ☐ Police **have arrested** two men in connection with the robbery.

When we use the present perfect, there is a connection with *now*. The action in the past has a result *now*:

- ☐ Tom **has lost** his key. (= he doesn't have it *now*)
- ☐ He told me his name, but I've **forgotten** it. (= I can't remember it *now*)
- ☐ Sally is still here. She **hasn't gone** out. (= she is here *now*)
- ☐ I can't find my bag. **Have you seen** it? (= do you know where it is *now*?)

Compare **gone (to)** and **been (to)**:

- ☐ James is on holiday. He **has gone to** Italy. (= he is there now or on his way there)
- ☐ Amy is back home now. She **has been to** Italy. (= she has now come back)

**C** You can use the present perfect with **just, already** and **yet**.

**Just** = a short time ago:

- ☐ 'Are you hungry?' 'No, I've **just had** lunch.'
- ☐ Hello. **Have you just arrived**?

**Already** = sooner than expected:

- ☐ 'Don't forget to pay the bill.' 'I've **already paid** it.'
- ☐ 'What time is Mark leaving?' 'He's **already left**'.

**Yet** = until now. We use **yet** to show that we are expecting something to happen.

We use **yet** in questions and negative sentences:

- ☐ **Has it stopped** raining **yet**?
- ☐ I've written the email, but I **haven't sent** it **yet**.

**D** You can also use the past simple (**did, went, had** etc.) in the examples on this page. So you can say:

- ☐ Ben isn't here. He's **gone** out. or He **went** out.
- ☐ 'Are you hungry?' 'No, I've **just had** lunch.' or 'No, I **just had** lunch.'

>> Present perfect → Units 8, 11    **been to** → Units 8A, 126A    Present perfect continuous → Units 9–10  
Present perfect and past → Units 12–14    **yet** and **already** → Unit 111    American English → Appendix 7

Read the situations and complete the sentences using the present perfect. Choose from these verbs:

break disappear go up grow improve ~~lose~~ shrink stop

- 1 Tom is looking for his key. He can't find it. Tom **has lost** his key.
- 2 Maria's English wasn't very good. Now it is better. Her English
- 3 My bag was here, but it isn't here any more. My bag
- 4 Lisa can't walk and her leg is in plaster. Lisa
- 5 Last week the bus fare was £1.80. Now it is £2. The bus fare
- 6 Dan didn't have a beard before. Now he has a beard. Dan
- 7 It was raining ten minutes ago. It isn't raining now. It
- 8 I washed my sweater, and now it's too small for me. My sweater

7.2

Put in **been** or **gone**.

- 1 My parents are on holiday. They've **gone** to Italy.
- 2 Hello! I've just to the shops. I've bought lots of things.
- 3 Tom **has just** out. He'll be back in about an hour.
- 4 Alice isn't here at the moment. I don't know where she's . 5  
You're very late. Where have you ?

Complete the sentences using the present perfect.

- 1 Sally is still here. **She hasn't gone** (she / not / go) out.
- 2 I can't find my bag. (you / see / it) anywhere?
- 3 I can't log on to the website. (I / forget) my password.
- 4 I sent Joe an email this morning, but (he / not / reply).