

# 6

## Present perfect 1

Over the last 18 years, the Erasmus program **has allowed** 1.2 million young people to study abroad within Europe.

International Herald Tribune website

### A Form

- We form the present perfect with the auxiliary *has/have* + the past participle.

| Affirmative                      | Negative                                 | Question                     |
|----------------------------------|--|------------------------------|
| <i>I have ('ve) worked</i>       | <i>I have not (haven't) worked</i>       | <i>Have I worked?</i>        |
| <i>You have ('ve) worked</i>     | <i>You have not (haven't) worked</i>     | <i>Have you worked?</i>      |
| <i>He/she/it has ('s) worked</i> | <i>He/she/it has not (hasn't) worked</i> | <i>Has he/she/it worked?</i> |
| <i>We have ('ve) worked</i>      | <i>We have not (haven't) worked</i>      | <i>Have we worked?</i>       |
| <i>They have ('ve) worked</i>    | <i>They have not (haven't) worked</i>    | <i>Have they worked?</i>     |

- Regular verbs like *work* form the past participle with *-d* or *-ed*. In verb tables, the second column (past simple) and third column (past participle) are the same: *work – worked – worked*.
- Irregular verbs often have a different past simple and past participle: *do – did – done*, *go – went – gone*. For a list of irregular verbs see pages 150-1.
- The contractions (in brackets) are used in speech and informal writing.

### B Uses

- We use the present perfect for a situation that started in the past and continues to the present.  
*I've worked in marketing all my life.*  
*I've known Kumiko since we were at university together.*
- We use the present perfect to talk about a series of actions up to the present.  
*I've visited Spain several times.*  
*We have made many improvements to this software in the new version.*
- We use the present perfect for a past event that has a present result.  
*I've lost their invoice – I can't find it anywhere.*  
*Your taxi has arrived. See you again soon – have a safe journey!*
- In general, the present perfect connects the past with the present. The first two cases are 'life up to now' and the third is 'present result of a past action'.
- Notice that with the present perfect the time period is not finished or not definite.  
*I've worked in marketing all my life.* (not finished – I continue to work in marketing)  
*I've visited Spain many times.* (not definite – no time given)  
*I've lost their invoice.* (not definite – no time given)  
Compare with the past simple (unit 4) where the time is finished and definite.

### C Been and gone

- Notice the difference between *has been to* and *has gone to*.  
*She's been to Paris* means she went there and has now returned.  
*She's gone to Paris* means she went there but has not yet returned. She is still there.

Toyota **has set** a goal to capture 15 percent of the global car market in the next decade, and **has spent** heavily on new factories in the United States, China and elsewhere.

New York Times website



"This is goodbye, gentlemen. I have met another board of directors, and we have fallen in love."

## Exercises

6.1 Complete this verb table of irregular verbs. The last letter has been given to help you.

Check on pages 150-1.

|   | Infinitive | Past simple | Past participle   |    | Infinitive | Past simple | Past participle |
|---|------------|-------------|-------------------|----|------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 1 | be         | was         | _____ <i>been</i> | 9  | have       | had         | _____d          |
| 2 | begin      | began       | _____n            | 10 | know       | knew        | _____n          |
| 3 | buy        | bought      | _____t            | 11 | make       | made        | _____e          |
| 4 | come       | came        | _____e            | 12 | meet       | met         | _____t          |
| 5 | do         | did         | _____e            | 13 | see        | saw         | _____n          |
| 6 | get        | got         | _____t            | 14 | think      | thought     | _____t          |
| 7 | give       | gave        | _____n            | 15 | take       | took        | _____n          |
| 8 | go         | went        | _____e            | 16 | write      | wrote       | _____n          |



6.2 Complete this extract from an Annual Report using these verbs in the present perfect: *be, begin, buy, have, make*.

### Annual Report

I am pleased to report that we (1) have had an excellent year. Our financial services division (2) \_\_\_\_\_ a profit of over eight million dollars, and for the first time we (3) \_\_\_\_\_ activities in the area of life insurance. Our expansion plans in Central Europe are also going well: senior managers (4) \_\_\_\_\_ there many times over the year to look at the possibilities of setting up subsidiaries, and in Slovakia we (5) \_\_\_\_\_ a controlling share in an existing local company.

6.3 Complete this email by putting the verbs into the present perfect. There are affirmative, negative and question forms.

**Subject** construction of new line for Bucharest metro

Jim – (1) have you heard (you/hear) about the plans to extend the Bucharest metro? The European Union (2) \_\_\_\_\_ (announce) that they will provide funding for another line. All construction companies are invited to make a bid. Several points occur to me:

- Our big competitors like Alstom and Bechtel (3) \_\_\_\_\_ (not/make) any public statements yet, but I'm sure they will be interested.
- What about us? Should we put in our own bid? I (4) \_\_\_\_\_ (prepare) a short report with my own ideas. It's attached to this email. Let me know what you think.
- It would be good to talk to Dimitrie about this, but he (5) \_\_\_\_\_ (not/reply) to my last few emails. (6) \_\_\_\_\_ (you/see) him recently?

Anyway, my secretary will schedule a meeting on this issue at the end of March. Please discuss the matter with your team members before then.