



ΠΑΝΕΠΙΣΤΗΜΙΟ ΑΙΓΑΙΟΥ

English I

Course Unit 7: Reading and Grammar 4

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Grammar 4: Present Perfect Simple and Continuous

1. Look at the sentences a-e below and decide if the verbs are in the Past Simple, Present Perfect, or Present Perfect Continuous.

- a. Web 2.0 possibilities **were** one of the original concepts of the internet.
- b. It **has been** possible to upload your own materials to the net since the internet was invented.
- c. The internet **has been growing** very much lately.
- d. Why **has** Web 2.0 really **emerged** over the last few years?
- e. A few years ago bloggers **were** only people who **kept** online diaries.

2. Now match the sentences of exercise 1 to the sentences below.

1. Actions that started in the past and continue or are important in the present. Often with time words like *since* or *for*, and time words that refer to the recent past (*recently, lately*, etc.)
2. Actions that finished in the past. Often with time expressions like *yesterday, last night, ago*, etc.

3. Complete the sentences with *for, since, or ago*. Explain the difference.

1. We have lived in the USA ten years.
2. We've lived here 1998.
3. We moved here 10 years

Grammar reference: [p. 4](#)

Exercises

A. Correct the mistakes in the sentences.

1. Maria lives in London since three years.
2. Since when do you have your Facebook account?
3. I have started my blog three years ago.
4. When have you arrived? Last night?
5. How long do you have been downloading music from the internet?

B. Complete the sentences with the *Past Simple, Present Perfect Simple, or Present Perfect Continuous* form of the verb given.

1. The use of social networking sites (increase) a lot during the last few years.

2. Dial-up modems (be) used a lot some years ago, but now they have been replaced by broadband modems.
3. The music company's profits (fall) by 0.5% last month, because of online piracy.
4. He (write) in his blog since morning.
5. In July, the film studio (sue) a website that distributed its movies illegally.
6. Traditional advertising media, like TV or newspapers, (lose) money the last few years, because many companies prefer online advertising.
7. They (have) a MySpace account since last year.
8. I (never/download) music from the internet; I don't know how to do it!
9. Last week we (attend) a workshop about Wikipedia.
10. You'll never guess who I (just/find) on Facebook! Our Italian teacher!

C. Read a text about Jimmy Wales, the co-founder of Wikipedia. Complete the text with the correct form of the verb in brackets: *Past Simple* or *Present Perfect Simple*.

Jimmy Donal "Jimbo" Wales is an American Internet entrepreneur and a co-founder of the online encyclopedia Wikipedia.

Wales **1** (be) born in Huntsville, Alabama in the U.S. He **2** (earn) a bachelor's and master's degrees in finance. While he was in graduate school, he **3** (teach) at two universities. He later **4** (work) as the research director of a Chicago firm.

In 2001, with Larry Sanger and others, Wales **5** (launch) Wikipedia, a free, open content encyclopedia that enjoyed a lot of popularity. Wales **6** (also/establish) the Wikimedia Foundation, a non-profit charitable organization to operate Wikipedia.

Wales **7** (be married) twice and has a daughter with his second wife Christine, from whom he is separated. He **8** (describe) himself as an Objectivist and a libertarian. His role in creating Wikipedia, which **9** (become) the world's largest encyclopedia, **10** (put) him, in 2006, in Time magazine's list of the world's most influential people.

D. Complete the questions for the text in exercise C.

1. Where? Huntsville, Alabama.
2. What degrees? A bachelor's and a master's in finance.
3. In how many universities? In two.
4. When Wikipedia? In 2001.

5. What organization? The Wikimedia Foundation.
6. How himself? As an Objectivist and a libertarian.
7. What? The world's largest encyclopedia.

E. Write some sentences about your life / work / studies up until now.

For example:

- I went to school in Athens.
- I've been studying Italian for 2 years.
- I've just got my driving license / I got my driving license a month ago.

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Grammar reference

Present Perfect

Form: Present Perfect Simple (*Have / Has + Past Participle* – see [list of Irregular Verbs](#))

Positive	Negative
I / you / we / they have played (also see: irregular verbs) She / he / it has played	I have not (haven't) played He / she / it has not (hasn't) played
Questions	Short answers
Have I / you / we / they played ? Has she / he / it played ?	Yes, I have – No, I haven't Yes, she has – No, she hasn't

Form: Present Perfect Continuous (*Have / Has + been + verb-ing*)

Positive	Negative
I / you / we / they have been playing (also see: irregular verbs) She / he / it has been playing	I have not (haven't) been playing He / she / it has not (hasn't) been playing
Questions	Short answers
Have I / you / we / they been playing ? Has she / he / it been playing ?	Yes, I have – No, I haven't Yes, she has – No, she hasn't

Use

We use the present perfect tense:

- for something that started in the **past** and **continues** in the **present**:

*They've **been married** for nearly fifty years.*

*She **has lived** in Liverpool all her life.*

Note: We normally use the present perfect continuous for this:

*She **has been living** in Liverpool all her life.*

*It's **been raining** for hours.*

We often use the time word **since** to show **when** something **started** in the past:

They've been staying with us since last week.

I have worked here since I left school.

I've been watching that programme every week since it started.

- when we are talking about an **experience** we had (usually without saying when):

Note: We often use the time words **ever** or **never** to talk about experiences:

I've used Wikipedia before.

*My last birthday was the worst day I **have ever had**.*

Have you ever met George?

Yes, but I've never met his wife.

- for something that happened in the past but is important at the time of speaking:

*I can't get in the house. I've **lost** my keys.*

*Teresa isn't at home. I think **she has gone** shopping.*

*I'm tired out. I've **been working** all day.*

- We often use the Present Perfect with these time words:
since, for, just, recently, yet (in questions and negatives), *ever* (in questions), *never, already, up to now, so far*

*Scientists **have recently discovered** a new breed of monkey.*

*We **have just got** back from our holidays.*

Have you ever seen a ghost?

*Where **have you been** up to now?*

*Have you **finished** your homework yet?*

*No, so far I've only **done** my history.*

REMEMBER:

- We do **not** use the present perfect with a time word which refers to **past time** which is **finished**:

I have seen that film ~~yesterday~~.

We have just bought a new car ~~last week~~.

~~When we were children~~ we have been to California.

- But we can use it to refer to a time which is **not yet finished**:

Have you seen Helen today?

We have bought a new car this week.

Irregular verbs

Verb	Past	Past participle	Present participle	Verb	Past	Past participle	Present participle
be	was	been	being	fall	fell	fallen	falling
beat	beat	beat	beating	feed	fed	fed	feeding
become	became	become	becoming	feel	felt	felt	feeling
begin	began	begun	beginning	find	found	found	finding
bend	bent	bent	bending	fly	flew	flown	flying
bet	bet	bet	betting	forbid	forbade	forbade	forbidding
bite	bit	bitten	biting	forget	forgot	forgotten	forgetting
blow	blew	blown	blowing	forgive	forgave	forgiven	forgiving
break	broke	broken	breaking	freeze	froze	frozen	freezing
bring	brought	brought	bringing	get	got	got	getting
broadcast	broadcast	broadcast	broadcasting	give	gave	given	giving
build	built	built	building	go	went	gone	going
burst	burst	burst	bursting	grow	grew	grown	growing
buy	bought	bought	buying	hang	hung	hung	hanging
catch	caught	caught	catching	have	had	had	having
choose	chose	chosen	choosing	hear	heard	heard	hearing
come	came	come	coming	hide	hid	hidden	hiding
cost	cost	cost	costing	hit	hit	hit	hitting
creep	crept	crept	creeping	hurt	hurt	hurt	hurting
cut	cut	cut	cutting	hold	held	held	holding
deal	dealt	dealt	dealing	keep	kept	kept	keeping
dig	dug	dug	digging	kneel	knelt	knelt	kneeling
do	did	done	doing	know	knew	known	knowing
draw	drew	drawn	drawing	lay	laid	laid	laying
drink	drank	drunk	drinking	lead	led	led	leading
drive	drove	driven	driving	leave	left	left	leaving
eat	ate	eaten	eating	lend	lent	lent	lending

Verb	Past	Past participle	Present participle	Verb	Past	Past participle	Present participle
let	let	let	letting	sleep	slept	slept	sleeping
lie	lay	lain	lying	slide	slid	slid	sliding
light	lit	lit	lighting	speak	spoke	spoken	speaking
lose	lost	lost	losing	spend	spent	spent	spending
make	made	made	making	split	split	split	splitting

mean	meant	meant	meaning	spit	spat	spat	spitting
meet	met	met	meeting	spread	spread	spread	spreading
pay	paid	paid	paying	spring	sprang	sprung	springing
put	put	put	putting	stand	stood	stood	standing
read/ri:d /	read /red/	read /red/	reading	steal	stole	stolen	stealing
ride	rode	ridden	riding	stick	stuck	stuck	sticking
ring	rang	rung	ringing	sting	stung	stung	stinging
rise	rose	risen	rising	stink	stank	stunk	stinking
run	ran	run	running	strike	struck	struck	striking
say	said	said	saying	swear	swore	sworn	swearing
see	saw	seen	seeing	sweep	swept	swept	sweeping
seek	sought	sought	seeking	swim	swam	swum	swimming
sell	sold	sold	selling	swing	swung	swung	swinging
send	sent	sent	sending	take	took	taken	taking
set	set	set	setting	teach	taught	taught	teaching
sew	sewed	sewn	sewing	tear	tore	torn	tearing
shake	shook	shook	shaking	tell	told	told	telling
shine	shone	shone	shining	think	thought	thought	thinking
shoot	shot	shot	shooting	throw-	threw	thrown	throwing
show	showed	shown/showed	showing	understand	understood	understood	understanding
shrink	shrank	shrunk	shrinking	wake	woke	woken	waking
shut	shut	shut	shutting	wear	wore	worn	wearing
sing	sang	sung	singing	weep	wept	wept	weeping
sink	sank	sunk	sinking	win	won	won	winning
sit	sat	sat	sitting	write	wrote	written	writing

Answers to the exercises

Exercise 1

- Past Simple
- Present Perfect Simple
- Present Perfect Continuous
- Present Perfect Simple
- Past Simple

Exercise 2

English 1

1. b, c, d
2. a, e

Exercise 3

1. for (it shows an amount of time: how many days, years, months, etc.)
2. since (it means, 'from a particular time in the past')
3. ago (it means, 'back in time from the present')

Exercise A

1. Maria has lived in London...
2. Since when have you had...
3. I started my blog...
4. When did you arrive?...
5. How long have you been downloading...

Exercise B

1. has increased
2. were
3. fell
4. 's (has) been writing
5. sued
6. have lost / have been losing
7. 've (have) had
8. 've (have) never downloaded
9. attended
10. 've (have) just found

Exercise C

1. was
2. 's (has) earned
3. taught
4. worked
5. launched
6. has also established
7. has been married
8. 's (has) described
9. has become
10. put

Exercise D (suggested questions)

English 1

1. was Wales born
2. has he earned
3. did he teach
4. did he launch
5. has he (also) established
6. has he described
7. has Wikipedia become