



UNIVERSIDAD AUTÓNOMA  
DEL ESTADO DE HIDALGO

**SISTEMA DE  
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VIRTUAL**

# TALK ABOUT SPECIFIC MOMENTS ALONG PERIOD OF TIME

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<http://www.uaeh.edu.mx/virtual>

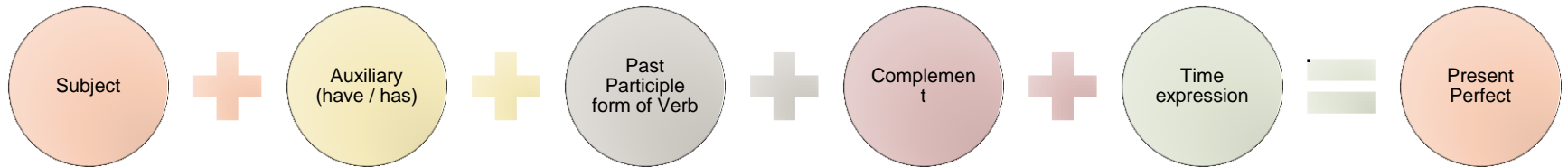
# COMPETENCE:

To talk about specific moments along a period of time

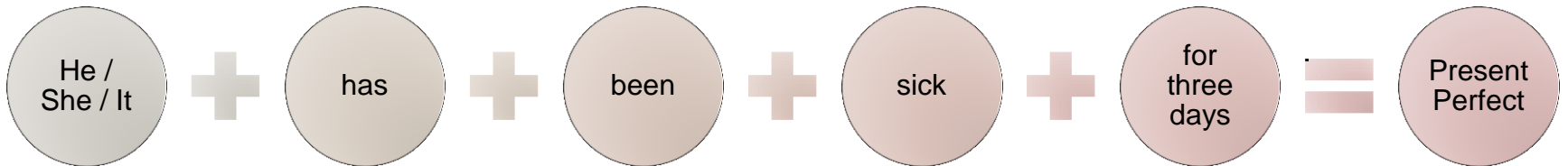
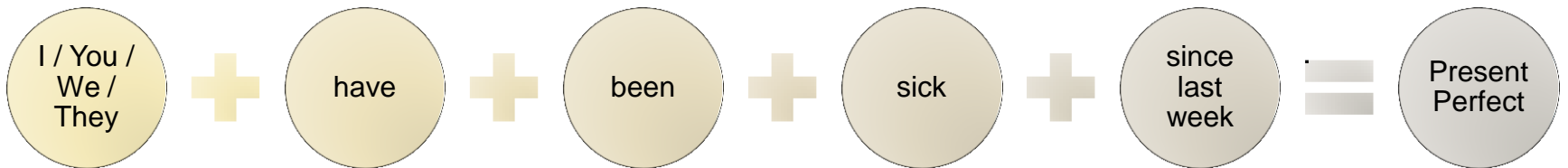
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PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE

# Present Perfect



## EXAMPLE:



# Present Perfect + ever

Use the present perfect + ever to *ask questions* about experiences in someone's life.

- “**Have** you **ever taken** dance classes?”  
“Yes, I have. I took 6 weeks of lessons before my wedding!”
- “**Has** your brother **ever been** to India?”  
“No, he hasn't.”
- “**Have** your friends **ever helped** you move to a new apartment?”  
“Yes – twice!”

# but....

**Don't use "ever" in the answer.** Only use it in questions.

If you want, you can use **before** in the answer:

- ~~Yes, I've **ever** taken dance classes.~~
- Yes, I've taken dance classes **before.**  
(or simply "Yes, I have.")

# Present Perfect + never

Use the present perfect + never to talk about things you have NOT done at any time in your life.

- I've **never** failed a test. I've always gotten 80% or more.
- He's **never** heard of Michael Jackson. I can't believe he doesn't know the King of Pop!
- Samantha has **never** been surfing. She's afraid of the ocean.
- We've **never** studied Italian. We studied French and Spanish in school, but Italian wasn't available.
- They've **never** told a lie. I know we can trust them.

# Present Perfect + yet / already / just

The words *already*, *yet*, *recently*, *lately*, and *just* all refer to **a recent and non-specific time**. (A specific time would be “yesterday” or “three hours ago” or “last Friday,” and in these cases we would use the simple past).

# Present Perfect + already

**Already** can be used in positive statements and questions.

- "I've **already** read today's newspaper."
- "Have you **already** paid the electric bill?"
- "She's finished the test **already**."

**Note:** *Already* can go in between "have/has" and the past participle (as in the first two examples) or at the end of the sentence.



# Present Perfect + yet

**Yet** can be used in negative statements and questions.

- "We haven't cleaned the house **yet**."
- "Has he told you the good news **yet**?"
- "Have they booked their tickets **yet**?"

**Note:** *Yet usually goes at the end of the sentence or phrase.*

# Present Perfect + recently / lately

Recently and lately can be used in positive statements, negative statements, or questions:

## Recently

- "He's **recently** lost some weight."
- "I haven't seen her **recently.**"
- "Have you spoken to Beth **recently?**"

## Lately

- "I've gotten a lot of spam e-mails **lately.**"
- "Adam and Jessica haven't been to church **lately.**"
- "Have you seen any good movies **lately?**"

# Present Perfect + just

**Just** (usually means *very* recent) is typically only used in positive statements and questions:

- "Don't touch the walls. I've **just** painted them; they're still wet."
- "What book have you **just** finished reading?"

# Present Perfect + since / for

The present perfect is also used with **for** and **since** to talk about actions that **began in the past and continue to the present.**

- "I've lived here **since** 2004."
- "I've lived here **for** 8 years."

# Present Perfect + since

**Since** is used with a **point in time**, and means “from that point in time until the present.” Use **since** with dates (2011, January, Tuesday, etc.), times (6:15, noon, this morning, etc.), and past events (I was a child, he graduated from college, etc).

**Since** is always used with the present perfect, and not the simple past:

- “**I’ve gone** to the beach every year **since** I was a child.”  
(repeated action that continues until today)
- “**I went** to the beach when I was a child.”  
(finished action at a specific time in the past;  
I don’t go to the beach nowadays)

# Present Perfect + for

**For** is used with a **time period**, and means “for that period of time until the present.” Use **for** with times of any length (five seconds, eight hours, two days, six weeks, nine months, ten years, a decade, centuries, etc.)

Be careful with **for**, because using the present perfect or the simple past can change the meaning:

- “**We’ve lived** in Berlin for 6 months.” (and we live in Berlin now)
- “**We lived** in Berlin for 6 months.” (and we don’t live in Berlin now)

## REFERENCE:

Espresso English. (2013). Present Perfect. In *Free English Grammar E-book Level 2* (pp. 23-27). Taken from: <http://www.espressoenglish.net/wp-content/uploads/2014/06/Free-English-Grammar-Book-Level-2.pdf>

# *Lectura*



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**Programa educativo: Bachillerato Virtual**