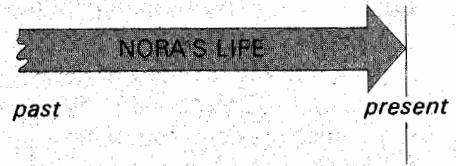


UNIT 14 Present perfect (I have done) (2)

a) Study this example conversation:

Dave: **Have you travelled** a lot, Nora?
Nora: Yes, I've **been to** 47 different countries.
Dave: Really? **Have you ever been to** China?
Nora: Yes, I've **visited** China twice.
Dave: What about India?
Nora: No, I've never **been to** India.



When we talk about a period of time that continues up to the present, we use the present perfect. Nora and Dave are talking about the places Nora has visited in her life (which is a period continuing up to the present).

Here are some more examples:

- 'Have you read *Hamlet*?' 'No, I haven't read any of Shakespeare's plays.'
- How many times have you been to the United States?
- Susan really loves that film. She's seen it eight times.
- Sam has lived in Belfast all his life. (or Sam has always lived in Belfast.)

We often use **ever** and **never** with the present perfect:

- Have you ever eaten caviar?
- We have never had a car.

We often use the present perfect after a *superlative* (see Unit 104d):

- What a boring film! It's **the most boring** film I've ever seen.

b) You have to use the present perfect with **This is the first time ...**, **It's the first time ...** etc. Study this example situation:

- Ron is driving a car. He is very nervous and unsure because it's his first time behind the wheel of a car. You can say:
This is the first time he has driven a car. (not 'drives')

or: He **has never driven** a car before.

Here are some more examples:

- Tom has lost his passport again. **It's the second time he has lost it.**
- **Is this the first time you've been** in hospital?

c) Use the present perfect to say that you have never done something or that you haven't done something during a period of time which continues up to the present:

- I **have never smoked**.
- I **haven't smoked for three years**. (not 'I don't smoke for ...')
- I **haven't smoked since September**. (not 'I don't smoke since ...')
- Jill **hasn't written to me for nearly a month**.
- Jill **has never driven** a car.

For the difference between **for** and **since** see Unit 19b.

UNIT 14 Exercises

14.1 You are asking someone about things he has done in his life. Use the words in brackets to make your questions.

Example: (you ever / be / to Italy?) Have you ever been to Italy?

- 1 (you ever / be / to South America?)
- 2 (you / read / any English books?)
- 3 (you / live / in this town all your life?)
- 4 (how many times / you / be / in love?)
- 5 (what's the most beautiful country you / ever / visit?)
- 6 (you ever / speak / to a famous person?)

14.2 Complete the answers to these questions. Use the verb in brackets.

Example: Is it a beautiful painting? (see) Yes, it's the most beautiful painting I've ever seen.

- 1 Is it a good film? (see) Yes, it's the best
- 2 Is it a long book? (read) Yes, it's the
- 3 Is she an interesting person? (meet) Yes, she's the most

14.3 Now you have to write questions and answers as shown in the example.

Example: Jack is driving a car but he's very nervous and not sure what to do.

You ask: Is this the first time you've driven a car?

Jack: Yes, I've never driven a car before.

- 1 Len is playing tennis. He's not very good and doesn't know the rules.
You ask: Is this the first time
- Len: Yes, I've
- 2 Sue is riding a horse. She doesn't look very confident or comfortable.
You ask:
- Sue:
- 3 Maria is in England. She's just arrived and it's very new for her.
You ask:
- Maria:

14.4 Answer these questions using the words in brackets.

Example: When did you last smoke? (for two years) I haven't smoked for two years.

- 1 When did it last rain? (for ages) It for ages.
- 2 When did they last visit you? (since June) They
- 3 When did you last play tennis? (for a long time)
- 4 When did you last eat caviar? (never)
- 5 When did you last drive? (for six months)
- 6 When did you last go to Spain? (never)
- 7 When did she last write to you? (since last summer)