

Early Intermediate

Podcast number 1

PRESENT PERFECT

The Present Perfect looks like this in English:

I have eaten, You have come, He hasn't studied, Has she woken up?

(Yo) he comido, (Tú) has venido, (Él) no ha estudiado, ¿(Ella) se ha levantado?

- We use this tense the same way in English and Spanish: it's a general or recent past that still continues to be true.
- It is frequently used with time references like:

Today → **Hoy**, This week → **Esta semana**, This month → **Este mes**

This year → **Este año**, Lately → **Últimamente**, Recently → **Recientemente**

There are three main rules about when you can use this past tense.

1. Today. This is a very recent past. Something that's just happened. You cannot use it for yesterday.

e.g. Ayer, he comido pescado. **INCORRECT!!**

La semana pasada, he bebido una cerveza. **INCORRECT!!**

2. You can use it to talk about blocks of time.

e.g. This week, This month, This year, This life, This century.

(In this, it can be used to talk about a long time ago.)

3. You can use it to give people information about yourself and others.

e.g. I've lived in Spain before. He's had a house in France.

As you can see, to create this tense we need two verbs in English:

- To have + Another verb in the Past Participle.

We need these two same verbs to make the Present perfect in Spanish too:

- Haber Past Participle:
(Yo) he
(Tú) has -AR → -ADO
(Él/ Ella) ha -ER, -IR → -IDO

+

(Nosotros) hemos
(Vosotros) habéis
(Ellos) han

- **Haber vs Tener.**

Please, notice that ‘haber’ and ‘tener’ are both translated as ‘to have’ in English, however they are very distinct in meaning:

‘Tener’ is to have “got”, to have possession of or “to have ownership” of something.

‘Haber’ is an auxiliary or helper verb which means “to have done” something but is normally used with another verb to give it meaning.

- **The verb HABER:**

The first thing we need to do is choose the appropriate person.

e.g. **He= I have has= you have** etc.

Once that's done we can move onto the next verb.

- Please, notice that 'h' is silent in Spanish. Just like the *h* in 'hour' in English. After a little fight with the English part of your brain (which wants you to pronounce the *h*), it will finally give up and will let you drop it.

- **The Past Participle:**

To make a regular verb a Past Participle we need to remove the conjugation –AR, –ER or –IR.

If the conjugation is –AR we add –**ADO**.

If the conjugations are –ER or –IR we add- **IDO**.

AR → ADO
ER, IR → IDO

Examples:

Gan**ar** (to win) → Gan**ado** (won)

Com**er** (to eat) → Com**ido** (eaten)

Viv**ir** (to live) → Viv**ido** (lived)

· Some irregular verbs don't follow this pattern. We'll give you some examples below. Thankfully, most verbs do follow it!

OK, are we ready to make some sentences? Answers below. ¡Buena suerte!

1. I have lived in Spain. (vivir) →
 2. Have you won the lottery? (ganar) →
 3. He hasn't eaten anything. (comer) →
 4. We have spoken with Ana. (hablar) →
 5. I haven't studied today. (estudiar) →
 6. Has she washed the dishes up? (lavar) →
 7. They have prepared pasta. (preparar) →
 8. I have drunk two glasses of wine. (beber) →
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ANSWERS.

1. (Yo) he vivido en España.
2. ¿(Tú) has ganado la lotería?
3. (Él) **no** ha comido nada.
4. (Nosotros) hemos hablado con Ana.
5. (Yo) **no** he estudiado hoy.
6. ¿(Ella) ha lavado los platos?
7. (Ellos) han preparado pasta.
8. (Yo) he bebido dos copas de vino.

How did it go? 😊

Well done!!



Come on! We're nearly done. And you're doing brilliantly!

- **Some handy irregular verbs and their Past Participle:**

Hacer (to do, to make)	→	Hecho (done, made)
Deshacer (to undo)	→	Deshecho (undone)
Decir (to say, to tell)	→	Dicho (said)
Escribir (to write)	→	Escrito (written)
Describir (to describe)	→	Descrito (described)
Ver (to see)	→	Visto (seen)
Poner (to put, to place)	→	Puesto (put)
Oponer (to oppose)	→	Opuesto (opposed)
Cubrir (to cover)	→	Cubierto (covered)
Descubrir (to uncover, to discover)	→	Descubierto (uncovered, discovered)
Volver (to return)	→	Vuelto (returned)
Devolver (to return an item)	→	Devuelto (returned)
Envolver (to wrap up)	→	Envuelto (wrapped up)
Abrir (to open)	→	Abierto (opened)
Disolver (to dissolve)	→	Disuelto (dissolved)
Resolver (to resolve)	→	Resuelto (resolved)
Morir (to die)	→	Muerto (dead)
Freír (to fry)	→	Frito (fried)
Proveer (To provide)	→	Provisto (Provided)

Pudrir (to rot, to languish) → Podrido (rotten)

Romper (to break) → Roto (broken)

How about some exercises with those?

1. Have you broken my window? →
2. She has written a novel in six months. →
3. Sadly, Peter has died. →
4. I have discovered a new recipe! →
5. Why haven't you opened the door? →
6. He has done all his homework lately. →
7. I haven't told a lie this week. →
8. Where have you put my keys? →

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Answers below.

1. ¿(Tú) has roto mi ventana?
2. (Ella) ha escrito una novela en seis meses.
3. Lamentablemente, Peter ha muerto.
4. ¡(Yo) he descubierto una nueva receta!
5. ¿Por qué **no** has abierto la puerta?
6. (Él) ha hecho todos sus deberes últimamente.
7. (Yo) **no** he dicho una mentira esta semana.
8. ¿Dónde has puesto mis llaves?

How was this round? 😊

- **We recommend that you leave it here and come back after you've completed Podcast 6 on reflexive verbs.**

PRESENT PERFECT + REFLEXIVE VERBS.

Reflexive verbs are explained in detail in Podcast number 6.

Reflexive verbs are those in which the person who does the action and the person receiving it is the same. (I wash myself, You dress yourself...) You can spot them in English because they have words like: myself, yourself, their selves, ourselves etc.

As explained in Podcast number 6, to make a sentence with a reflexive we need:

Reflexive Pronoun + Conjugated verb.

The Pronouns are: Me, Te, Se, Nos, Os, Se.

- This is how we say:

I have washed myself → (Yo) **me** he lavado.

The reflexive pronoun word goes before the He, Has, Ha part of the sentence.

Examples:

- She's gone to London → (Ella) **Se** ha ido a Londres.

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- I have woken up at 5. → (Yo) **Me** he despertado a las cinco.
- He has shaved. → (Él) **Se** ha afeitado.

Some homework?

1. Have you shaved today, Gustavo?
2. They have brushed their teeth four times this week!
3. I haven't looked at myself in the mirror today.
4. You have sat on my chair.
5. She has gone to Paris five times this year
6. Lucía has never worn that dress. (*ponerse*)
7. Hugo and Tamara have loved each other for fifty years.
8. Haven't they woken up yet?

ANSWERS

1. ¿**Te** has afeitado hoy, Gustavo?
2. ¡(Ellos) **se** han cepillado/lavado los dientes cuatro veces esta semana!
3. (Yo) **no me** he mirado al espejo hoy.

4. (Tú) **te** has sentado en mi silla.
5. (Ella) **se** ha ido a París cinco veces este año.
6. Lucía nunca **se** ha puesto ese vestido.
7. Hugo y Tamara **se** han amado/querido por/durante cincuenta años.
8. ¿**No se** han levantado todavía/aún? / ¿Aún/Todavía **no se** han levantado?



That's it for now. We hope that was valuable for you. Like all concepts, the present perfect takes a little getting used to, however, by running through it a few times, you'll have it cracked before you know it!

Why not keep a diary of what you've done each day? It's great practice.

¡¡BUEN TRABAJO, CHIC@S!!



Gordon y Cynthia.

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