

Present Perfect

| | | |
|---------|------------------------------------|--|
| Gordon | ¡Hola, buenas! | Hello, good (day, afternoon, evening)! |
| Cynthia | ¡Hola, Gordon! ¿Cómo estás? | Hello, Gordon! How are you? |
| Gordon | Yo muy bien, ¿y tú? | I am very well, and you? |
| Cynthia | ¡Fenomenal! | Fantastic! |
| Gordon | ¡Me alegro! | That makes me happy! |

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The *Present Perfect* looks like this in English:

| | |
|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| I have eaten | (Yo) he comido |
| You have come | (Tú) has venido |
| He hasn't studied | (Él) no ha estudiado |
| Has she woken up? | ¿(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:

Rule 1

Use it to talk about *today*. This is a very recent past; something that has *just* happened. You cannot use it for yesterday!

e.g. **Ayer, he comido pescado**
Yesterday, I have eaten fish



La semana pasada, he bebido una cerveza
Last week, I have drank a beer



Rule 2

You can use it to talk about blocks of time, such as this week, this month, this year, this life, or this century. In this way, it can be used to talk about a long time ago.

e.g. This week, I have finished a lot of work
Esta semana, he terminado mucho trabajo



Rule 3

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

e.g. I've lived in Spain before
He vivido en España antes



He's had a house in France
Él ha tenido una casa en Francia



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

- “To Have” + another verb in the *Past Participle*

We need the same two verbs to make the Present Perfect in Spanish, too:

| Haber | | Past Participle | |
|-----------|--------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Yo | he | + | -AR -ADO |
| Tú | has | | |
| Él / Ella | ha | | -ER, -IR -IDO |
| Nosotros | hemos | | |
| Vosotros | habéis | | |
| Ellos | han | | |

A Note On HABER vs TENER

Notice that HABER and TENER are both translated as ‘To Have’ in English, although they are very distinct in meaning:

TENER is to have “got” : “to have ownership” of something.

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

Step 1: 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 Note: The 'h' is silent in Spanish, just like the 'h' in 'hour' in English. After a little fight with the English part of your brain (that wants you to pronounce the 'h'), it will finally give up and let you drop it.

Step 2: 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**

e.g.

| | | |
|------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| GANAR (to win) | | Ganado (won) |
| COMER (to eat) | → | Comido (eaten) |
| VIVIR (to live) | | Vivido (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!

Exercise 1

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)

Answers 1

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 |
| 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 |
| DESCUBRIR | To Uncover, To Discover | descubierto | uncovered, discovered |

Exercise 2

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?

Answers 2

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, themselves, ourselves, etc.

As explained in Podcast #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.

e.g.

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

I have woken up at 5 (Yo) **Me** he despertado a las cinco

He has shaved (Él) **Se** ha afeitado

Exercise 3

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 3

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 despertado todavía/aún? / ¿Aún/Todavía no **se** han despertado?

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

[Lesson Link](http://www.lightspeedspanish.com)