



Module: English  
Branch: International Trade  
Level: Third year Bachelor

## Lecture 11: The present perfect

### 1- Introduction

The present perfect tells us about the past and the present.

*The aircraft has landed* means that the aircraft is on the ground now.

### 2 Form

The present perfect is the present tense of **have** + a past participle.

*I/you/we/they have washed* OR *I/you/we/they've washed*

*he/she/it has washed* OR *he/she/it's washed*

NEGATIVE QUESTION

<i>I/you/we/they haven't washed</i>	<i>have I/you/we/they washed?</i>
<i>he/she/it hasn't washed</i>	<i>has he/she/it washed?</i>

Regular past participles end in **ed**, e.g. **washed, landed, finished**. *We've washed the dishes. Have you opened your letter? The aircraft has landed safely. How many points has Matthew scored? The students haven't finished their exams.*

### 3 Irregular forms

Some participles are irregular.

*I've made a shopping list. We've sold our car. I've thought about it a lot.*

*Have you written the letter? She hasn't drunk her coffee.* For There is a present perfect of **be** and of **have**.

*The weather has been awful I've had a lovely time, thank you.*

### 4 Use

When we use the present perfect, we see things as happening in the past but having a result in the present.

*We've washed the dishes.* (They're clean now.) *The aircraft has landed.* (It's on the ground now.)

*We've eaten all the eggs.* (There aren't any left.) *They've learnt the words.* (They

know the words.)

*You've **broken** this watch.* (It isn't working.)

### 5- **Just, already and yet**

We can use the present perfect with **just, already** and **yet**.

**Just** means 'a short time ago'. Vicky heard about the concert not long ago. **Already** means 'sooner than expected'. They sold the tickets very quickly. We use **yet** when we are expecting something to happen. Vicky expects that Rachel will buy a ticket.

**Just** and **already** come before the past participle (**heard, sold**). **Yet** comes at the end of a question or a negative sentence.

Here are some more examples.

*We've **just come** back from our holiday.*

*I've **just had** an idea.*

*It isn't a very good party. Most people **have already gone** home.*

*My brother **has already crashed** his new car.*

*It's eleven o'clock and you **haven't finished** breakfast **yet**.*

***Has** your course **started yet**?*

### 6- **For and since**

We can use the present perfect with **for** and **since**.

*Vicky **has only had** that camera **for** three days. Those people **have been** at the hotel **since** Friday.*

*I've **felt** really tired **for** a whole week now.*

*We've **lived** in Oxford **since** 1992. NOT *We live-here-sinee-1992*. Here something began in the past and has lasted up to the present time.*

We use **for** to say how long this period is (***for** three days*). We use **since** to say when the period began (***since** Friday*).

We use **how long** in questions.

***How long has** Vicky **had** that camera? ~ *Since Thursday, I think.**

***How long have** Trevor and Laura **been** married? ~ *Oh, for about three years.**

We can also use the present perfect with **for** and **since** when something has stopped happening. / ***haven't seen** Rachel **for** ages. She **hasn't visited** us **since** July.*