The Present Perfect &  
Present Perfect Progressive Tenses

Student Name:

Instructor:

Date:

Course:

# About This DLA

## Important Note

All the activities (3) in the DLA must be completed in their entirety before receiving credit for completion. Students are welcome to meet with a tutor if they need help, but please be aware that students might need a second appointment for review and signature in that case. If your instructor wants evidence of this completed DLA, return this form to him or her with the tutor’s signature included.

## Learning Outcomes

Through computer and other independent work, this activity will familiarize you and help you create sentences with accurate use of the present perfect and present perfect progressive tenses.

## Activities (approximately 1 hour)

Read the information, complete the activities that follow, and be prepared to discuss your answers when you meet with a tutor.

# The Present Perfect Tense

Use the present perfect tense to express:

## An action that happened at an unspecified time in the past

The present perfect expresses actions that happened at some point in the past, but the exact date is either **unknown or unimportant**.

* Someone **has stolen** my car!
* He **has** already **finished** his homework.

## An action that you still have the possibility to do (or do again)

We use the present perfect to talk about 1.) things that we have not done in the past, but we still have the possibility to do, or 2.) things that we have already done and have the possibility to do again.

* She **hasn’t finished** her degree yet.
* I **have visited** Ecuador before.

## When you say how many of something you have done (quantity)

We can use the present perfect to talk about quantities of things you have done.

* I **have watched** two movies this week.  
  (The week isn’t finished; I could watch more movies.)
* She **has read** 105 pages of the book so far.  
  (She still hasn’t finished the book; she could read more pages.)

## Non-action verbs that started in the past and continue until now

Use the present perfect for non-action verbs that started in the past and continue until now.

* I **have owned** this house for 11 years.
* I**’ve hated** broccoli since I was a child.

# How to Form the Present Perfect { have/has + past participle }

* I **have** already **returned** the books.
* Her plane **has** just **landed**.
* We’**ve** never **gotten** a ticket.

\*Notice that adverbs like *already, never, just, always, ever* come after **have/has**.

Do not use the past form of the verb. You need to use the past participle, which sometimes looks like the past form, but other times it does not. Here are some verbs and their past participles:

| **Simple Form** | **Past Participle** | **Simple Form** | **Past Participle** | **Simple Form** | **Past Participle** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| awake | awoken | get | gotten | see | seen |
| be | been | give | given | sell | sold |
| become | become | go | gone | send | sent |
| begin | begun | grow | grown | sing | sung |
| blow | blown | have | had | sit | sat |
| break | broken | hear | heard | sleep | slept |
| buy | bought | keep | kept | speak | spoken |
| catch | caught | know | known | stand | stood |
| choose | chosen | lay | laid | steal | stolen |
| come | come | leave | left | sweep | swept |
| do | done | lie | lain | swim | swum |
| draw | drawn | lose | lost | take | taken |
| drink | drunk | make | made | teach | taught |
| drive | driven | mean | meant | tell | told |
| eat | eaten | meet | met | think | thought |
| fall | fallen | pay | paid | throw | thrown |
| feel | felt | ride | ridden | understand | understood |
| find | found | rise | risen | wear | worn |
| fly | flown | run | run | win | won |
| forget | forgotten | say | said | write | written |

# The Present Perfect Progressive Tense

We use the present perfect progressive (also called present perfect continuous) tense to express:

## An action that started in the past and continues until now

The present progressive expresses actions that started in the past and continue until the present (and possibly to the future).

* I **have been studying** English for nine years.
* She **has been cooking** all morning long.

\*Some verbs like *live* and *work* can be used in either present perfect or present perfect progressive without a difference in meaning.

* I **have been working** at Mt. SAC for 6 years. -**OR**- I **have worked** at Mt. SAC for 6 years.

## To talk about how long something has been going on (duration)

We use present perfect progressive to express how long something has been happening.

* We **have been waiting** for you for twenty-five minutes. (*for* = how long?) **OR**
* We **have been waiting** for you since four o’clock. (*since* = when?)

# How to Form the Present Perfect Progressive { have/has + been + verb-ing }

* We **have been tak*ing*** salsa lessons lately.
* He’**s been talk*ing*** on the phone for ages!

\*Non-action verbs (mental states, emotional states, possession, *be*) are usually not in a progressive form.

# How to Make Questions and Negative Statements

**Negative statements**: Start with the subject , then have(*I, you, we, they,* plural subjects) or *has(he, she, it,* singular subjects*)*, followed by***not***, and then the rest of the verb .

I have gone to China.

I havenotgone to China.

He has paid his fees.

He has not paid his fees.

She has been sleeping well.

She has not been sleeping well.

**Questions:** Start with the helper (*have/has*), then the subject , and then the rest of the verb . You can add a **wh-** word at the beginning if you need it.

She has finished the project.

Has she finished the project?

What has she finished so far? I have already seen it.

Have you seen it?

What have you seen ? They have been studying all day.

Have they been studying ?

How long have they been studying ?

# Activities

Check off each box once you have completed the activity.

## 1. Present Perfect and Present Perfect Progressive Tenses Review

Review the information on this sheet. Then, answer the following questions.

| Write the answer. |
| --- |
| In what situations do we use the present perfect tense? |
|  |
|  |
| In what situations do we use the present perfect progressive tense? |
|  |
|  |

## 2. Online Quiz

Go to **http://tinyurl.com/PresentPerfectDLAQuiz** and take the [Present Perfect DLA Quiz](http://tinyurl.com/PresentPerfectDLAQuiz). You must score at least 80% on the exercises before seeing a tutor. After you complete the task, **PLEASE ASK A LAB TUTOR OR FRONT DESK ATTENDANT TO PRINT THE PAGE THAT HAS YOUR SCORE. DO NOT EXIT THE PROGRAM UNTIL THIS PAGE HAS BEEN PRINTED (FREE OF CHARGE).** If you have any other questions, do not hesitate to ask a lab tutor.

## Choose 3a or 3b below.

## 3a. Review Your Own Writing

Collect some of your graded work. Find examples of sentences that contain the following:

| Write the answer. |
| --- |
| An action completed at an unspecified time in the past: |
| A sentence that tells how many of something you have done: |
| A non-action verb that started in the past and continues until now: |
| An action that started in the past and continues until now: |

**If you do not have your own essay to work with, please complete the supplemental activity below (3b).**

## 3b. Sentence Writing Practice

Get the envelope that reads “The Present Perfect Tenses—Activity 3b Word Cards” in the DLA file. In it, you will find word cards. Form the following statements or questions. Try to use a **different** subject and verb every time. Make a sentence using the word cards, write it down below, and then form another sentence. You will do this four times.

| Write the sentence. |
| --- |
| A negative statement in the present perfect tense: |
| A question in the present perfect tense: |
| An affirmative statement in the present perfect progressive tense: |
| A question in the present perfect progressive tense: |

## 4. Review the DLA

Go to https://mtsac2.mywconline.com and use the [Mt. SAC Writing Center Appointment System](https://mtsac2.mywconline.com/) to make a DLA appointment, or sign-up to see a tutor on the “**Walk-in**” list in the Writing Center. During your session with a tutor, explain your work to demonstrate your understanding of the present perfect tenses. Refer to your own graded writing (or the completed activity) and explain to the tutor strategies that you used to create sentences with the present perfect and present perfect progressive.

Student’s Signature:

Tutor’s Signature

Date:

Date:

If you are an individual with a disability and need a greater level of accessibility for any document in The Writing Center or on The Writing Center’s website, please contact the Mt. SAC Accessible Resource Centers for Students, [access@mtsac.edu](mailto:access@mtsac.edu), (909) 274-4290.

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