

## Present perfect and past simple

*Oxford Grammar for Schools* is a 7-level series that helps students understand and practise grammar, supporting and extending what they learn in their coursebooks. This lesson introduces or reviews the present perfect tense for events and experiences which are connected to the present. It will enable students to ask and talk about their personal experiences and understand how to use the present perfect with some time expressions and the past simple tense.

**Lesson length** 30-45 mins

- Aims**
- 1 To introduce/revise how to use the present perfect tense to ask and talk about past events, situations and experiences.
  - 2 To practise using the present perfect tense with time expressions such as *never / recently / once / lots of times*.
  - 3 To contrast the use of the present perfect with the past simple tense.

**Preparation** You will need:

- 1 copies of the Activity worksheet *Present perfect* from *Oxford Grammar for Schools* taken from Student's Book 3 page 62.
- 2 a set of 10 cards (or more if you have more than 10 students in the class) with a verb and noun phrase written on each one: *borrow money/hear a really funny joke/forget to do your homework/eat Japanese food/play netball or rugby/ride a horse/go skiing/go ice-skating outside/break your leg/get 100 % for a test/travel by plane/catch a fish* etc.

### 1 PRESENTATION/LEAD-IN

- Write some past experiences you have had (some unusual ones if possible) on the board, for example:

ride a horse    hold a snake    go rock-climbing    run a 5K race    break my finger

- Ask the students to guess which of these things you (the teacher) has done and put their hand up if they think you have. Say one sentence for each of your experiences, for example:

*I have ridden a horse.*

*I have held a snake.*

*I have been rock-climbing.*

- Ask the students if they know when you did these things. Tell them it's not important the first time you tell someone about an experience – it was at some time in the past. We use the present perfect tense to talk about a past event when the exact time it happened is not important to mention.
- Point out the past participle form 'ridden' in an example experience. Write the form on the board:

Subject + *have* or *has* + past participle of the verb + noun  
*I have ridden a horse*

- Elicit the question form as used to ask about someone's experience: *Have you (ever) ... ?* Ask a couple of students more questions using the names of countries, for example: *Have you ever been to Spain?* and explain how to reply using the short answer '*Yes, I have/No, I haven't.*' and write the question and answer on the board. Explain or remind students about the irregular past participle 'been' when you are asking using the verb 'to go'.
- Ask students to practise asking and answering questions in pairs, using your examples on the board.

## 2 REVIEW

- Hand out the worksheet and go through the presentation box at the top to review the question form, use and meaning of the present perfect tense.
- Explain that the past simple is used to give extra information when we want to say the exact time that something happened. You can go back to your example experience and give students a bit more information about when and where it was, using the past simple. Write this on the board to show the past tense and time reference:

*I rode a horse **a long time ago**, when I **was** twelve years old.*

## 3 PRACTICE

**Exercise 8** (Note that there will be audio included with the Level 3 Teacher's book)

- Review the use of 'recently' from the presentation box. Ask students to work together to complete exercise 8 and check the answers as a class.

**ANSWERS** 1 Have you taken a photo of them recently? 2 She's never had a dog.  
3 We've talked a lot recently. 4 I've broken my arm once. 5 It hasn't rained recently.  
6 You've told that story lots of times.

## Exercise 9

- Tell the students to look at exercise 9 on the worksheet and write true sentences with the present perfect and *recently*. Then ask them to compare their recent experiences with their partner.

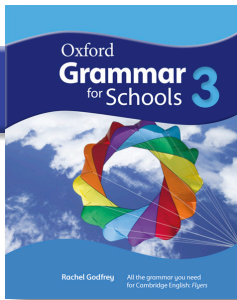
## 4 CLASS ACTIVITY

- Distribute the cards you prepared, one to each student in the class, and ask them to work out the present perfect question they should ask using the verb and noun phrase on the card. Ask one student to read their question out as an example. Answer them and then give an example of another question they could ask in the past simple.
- Ask the students to move around the class, or alternatively sit in groups of three or four, and ask their questions to each other. Encourage them to use the present perfect in their answers, and to give more information about experiences they have had using the past simple.

## HOMEWORK

- Ask students to choose three experiences that they've had and write a few sentences about it at home. Encourage them to use the time expressions from the presentation on the worksheet in their answers
- Write an example for them on the board:

*I've travelled by plane recently. We visited our grandparents in Italy. We had a great holiday. We've been there twice and we want to go next year too.*



### Activity worksheet: Present perfect and past simple

We use the present perfect to talk about past events when the exact time of the event is either obvious or not important.

*I've finished this book.*

*Have you ever ridden a horse?*

*I've never eaten sushi.*

When the past time is important, we use the past simple and an exact time expression. We also use the past simple when we give extra information about an event.

*I finished this book yesterday.*

*Did you ride a horse at the weekend?*

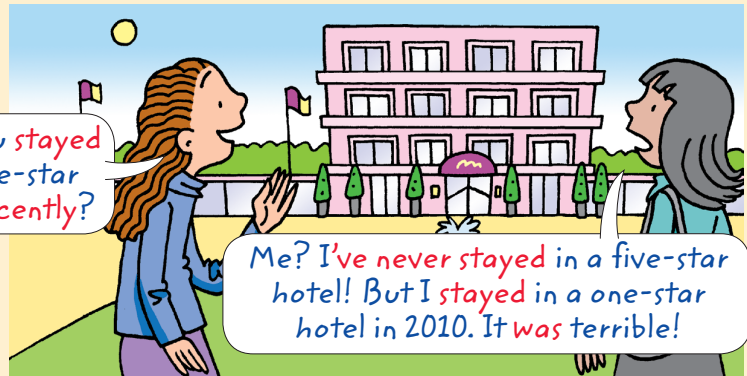
*I didn't do that when I was a child.*

We use **recently** with the present perfect to talk about events in the near past.

*Have you spoken to Frank recently?*

*I haven't played much basketball recently.*

*Have you stayed in a five-star hotel recently?*



We often use **ever** and **never** with the present perfect when we ask and talk about experiences.

*Have you ever spoken to Frank?*

*I've never played basketball.*

We can also use these expressions:


**once, twice** (= two times), **lots of times**

*I've eaten Japanese food once.*

*He's climbed that mountain lots of times.*

**\*8** **11.1** Add the words in brackets to the correct place in the sentence. Then listen, check and repeat.

- ▶ Has he <sup>ever</sup> won a prize? (ever)
- 1 Have you taken a photo of them? (recently)
- 2 She's had a dog. (never)
- 3 We've talked a lot. (recently)
- 4 I've broken my arm. (once)
- 5 It hasn't rained. (recently)
- 6 You've told that story. (lots of times)

**\*9**  What have you or haven't you done recently? Write true sentences with **have** or **haven't** + **recently**.

- ▶ play a computer game  
*I've played a computer game recently.*
- 1 travel to another town or city  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 2 tidy my bedroom  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 3 use a dictionary  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 4 do my homework  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 5 visit my aunts and uncles  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 6 help with the housework  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 7 watch a film on TV  
\_\_\_\_\_
- 8 make a lot of grammar mistakes  
\_\_\_\_\_