



Learn English Through Stories

T Series

Upper - Intermediate

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Perfect Tenses 1 by K S Sandhu

Mandy's Big Day

Sarah had always dreamed of a perfect wedding, but now that the day was getting closer, she felt nervous. She realised that she procrastinated too much. Many important things still needed to be done, and time was running out.

One sunny afternoon, her best friend Mandy came to visit. Mandy was excited and asked, "How are the wedding plans going, Sarah?"

Sarah sighed. "They're OK, but there are lots of things I haven't done yet. I haven't chosen my dress, and I haven't decided on the cake."

Mandy smiled. "But you have already booked the venue, haven't you? And you have sent the invitations to most guests."

"Yes," Sarah replied, "but I still haven't found a dress I like. I have been to several shops, but nothing feels right. I have never worn anything so important before!"

"Have you been to Baxter's recently?" Mandy asked. "They have improved their selection a lot. Their clothes used to look old-fashioned, but they have changed completely."

Sarah shook her head. "I haven't been there for years. I thought their designs were too traditional. However, I have heard good things about the Nuptia catalogue. Still, I have never bought clothes from a catalogue before. What if the dress doesn't fit?"

Mandy laughed kindly. "Don't worry! They have just released a new edition with beautiful modern designs. I can bring it round later. You should at least have a look."

Sarah felt a little better. Then Mandy continued, "What about the cake? Have you ever tried the bakery on Randall Street? They make quintessential wedding cakes – elegant, delicious, and beautifully decorated."

"I know the place," Sarah said, "but the prices seemed quite high when I have checked their website. Of course, I have never ordered a big wedding cake before, so I don't really know how much one should cost. I haven't asked anyone for advice yet."

Mandy nodded understandingly. “Many brides feel the same. But remember, this is your special day. You have worked hard to organise everything. You have already chosen the flowers, the photographer, and the music. Those are big decisions!”

Sarah thought about everything she had accomplished. She had spoken to the caterers, she had confirmed the guest list, and she had even practised her vows several times. Although she still hadn’t solved all the problems, she had made good progress.

“Thanks, Mandy,” Sarah said with a smile. “Talking to you has helped me feel more confident. I haven’t felt this positive for weeks!”

Mandy hugged her friend. “You have already achieved so much. The dress and the cake will come together soon. Just don’t procrastinate any longer – let’s look at that catalogue now!”

That evening, as Sarah looked through the beautiful pictures in the Nuptia catalogue, she finally understood something important. Planning a wedding had taught her patience and had shown her the value of good friends. Even though she hadn’t finished every task yet, the results of her hard work were already visible. She felt happy and ready for the next steps.

Questions:

Question 1: What has Sarah realised about her wedding plans?

Question 2: What has Sarah already done for the wedding?

Question 3: Why hasn’t Sarah chosen her dress yet?

Question 4: Has Sarah been to Baxter’s recently?

Question 5: What has Mandy offered to bring to Sarah?

Question 6: What does Mandy say about the bakery on Randall Street?

Question 7: Why is Sarah worried about the cake?

Question 8: What has Sarah accomplished so far according to Mandy?

Question 9: How has talking to Mandy helped Sarah?

Question 10: What important lesson has Sarah learned while planning the wedding?

Answers:

Answer 1: She has realised that she has procrastinated too much.

Answer 2: She has already booked the venue, sent most of the invitations, chosen the flowers, the photographer, and the music.

Answer 3: She still hasn't found a dress she likes.

Answer 4: No, she hasn't been there for years.

Answer 5: She has offered to bring the new Nuptia catalogue.

Answer 6: They make quintessential wedding cakes that are elegant, delicious, and beautifully decorated.

Answer 7: The prices seem quite high and she has never ordered a big wedding cake before.

Answer 8: She has already chosen the flowers, the photographer, and the music. She has worked hard to organise many things.

Answer 9: It has helped her feel more confident and positive.

Answer 10: She has learned the value of patience and good friends. Planning the wedding has taught her that even though she hasn't finished everything, she has already made good progress.

36 Present perfect for past experiences and present results

1 Form

We form the present perfect with *have* + past participle. The regular past participle ends in *-ed* (e.g. *finished*):

POSITIVE	<i>I have ('ve) finished. She has ('s) gone. They have ('ve) broken it.</i>
NEGATIVE	<i>I have not (haven't) finished. He has not (hasn't) gone. We have not (haven't) broken it.</i>
QUESTIONS	<i>Have you finished? (Yes, I have.) Has he gone? (No, he hasn't.) Where have you been?</i>



NATURAL ENGLISH In speech and informal writing, we usually use short forms of *has/have* in positive and negative statements:
I've finished. She hasn't gone.

🔊 Pronunciation > 1.17

Many common past participles are irregular.
Irregular verbs > page 348

	INFINITIVE	PAST PARTICIPLE
regular	<i>play use visit want</i>	<i>played used visited wanted</i>
irregular	<i>be break come drive eat go have</i>	<i>been broken come driven eaten gone had</i>

⚠️ There is a difference in meaning between *been* and *gone*:
My parents have gone to New York on holiday. (= They are there now.)
My parents have been to New York. (= They have visited it in the past, and have returned home.)

2 Past experiences

We use the present perfect to talk about actions and experiences that have happened in our lives up to now:

*Have you driven an automatic car before? I've travelled a lot.
My father has worked for several different companies.*

We can use expressions like *often*, *once*, *twice* or *several times* to say 'how often':
I've eaten in that restaurant several times. My parents have visited Canada twice.

3 ever, never, before

We often use *ever* to ask questions about past experiences. It means 'in your life':
Have you ever driven a truck? Has Kemal ever been to an opera?

We use *never* in negative sentences. It means 'not in your life':
I've never swum with dolphins. Caroline's never eaten Chinese food.

⚠️ We put *ever* and *never* before the past participle:
~~*Have you been ever to California?*~~
✓ *'Have you ever been to California?' 'No, I've never been there.'*

4 Past actions with present results

We can use the present perfect to talk about a past action that has a result in the present:

*My car's **broken down**.* (= It broke down earlier, and it isn't working now.)

*They've **gone out**.* (= They went out earlier, and they aren't here now.)

Compare this with the past simple, where the action and the result are both in the past:

*My car **broke down** last year and I **couldn't** drive it for three weeks.*



5 just, already, recently

We use *just* to talk about actions that happened a very short time ago:

*The plane has **just** landed. The passengers are getting off now.*

*The shop has **just** closed – you can't go in now.*

Already means 'before the expected time'. We use it in positive sentences:

*You've missed the match. It's **already** finished.*

⚠ We usually put *just* and *already* before the past participle:

*✗ My car has ~~broken down~~ just. ✓ My car has **just broken down**.*

*Graham's train has **already** arrived.*

*You don't need to lock the car. I've **already** done it.*

We use *recently* to talk about actions that happened in the last few days or months:

*Have you seen them **recently**?*

*What's the place like now? I haven't been there **recently**.*

⚠ We don't use *already* in negative sentences:

✗ The parcel ~~hasn't arrived~~ already. ✓ The parcel hasn't arrived yet.

6 still, yet

We use *yet* in questions to ask about something we expect to happen around now, but which hasn't happened at the time of speaking:

*Has the six o'clock train **arrived** yet? It's five past six and I haven't seen it.*

We use *still* or *yet* in negative sentences when we expected something to happen before now:

*Our pizzas **haven't come** yet. We ordered them nearly half an hour ago!*

*I gave my teacher that essay last week but she **still hasn't** marked it.*

We usually put *yet* at the end of a question or negative statement; we put *still* before *hasn't/haven't*:

*Has your car **been repaired** yet? We **still haven't** had our exam results.*

We can also use *still* in positive sentences to say that an earlier situation has not changed.

We use the present simple or continuous, not the present perfect:

*Carlos is thirty, but he **still** lives with his parents. The bridge is closed; they're **still** repairing it.*

⚠ We don't use *yet* in positive sentences:

✗ I've ~~paid for the meal~~ yet. ✓ I've already paid for the meal.

American English *just/already/yet* ► page 353

Practice

1 Write sentences and questions in the present perfect, using the words below.

🔊 3.07 Listen and check.

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 0 I / not finish / the report | <i>I haven't finished the report.</i> |
| 00 you / see / my keys ? | <i>Have you seen my keys?</i> |
| 1 we / play / five games this season | |
| 2 you / eat / anything today ? | |
| 3 our friends / not had / a pet before | |
| 4 Sally / break / her mobile phone | |
| 5 Clive / use / this computer ? | |
| 6 I / never drive / an American car | |
| 7 the children / see / all the Harry Potter films ? | |
| 8 Mr Lopez / not come / to work today | |

2 Match the sentences 1–7 with the explanations A–H.

- | | |
|---------------------------------|--|
| 0 My computer broke down. | A So I have to water the garden. |
| 1 My computer has broken down. | B This is our first visit. |
| 2 We've been here before. | C He isn't here at the moment. |
| 3 We haven't been here before. | D I couldn't send any emails. |
| 4 He's gone to the post office. | E So I don't have to water the garden. |
| 5 He's been to the post office. | F This isn't our first visit. |
| 6 It hasn't rained yet. | G I can't send any emails. |
| 7 It's just stopped raining. | H He brought back some stamps. |

3 GRAMMAR IN USE Complete the conversation with the words from the box.

🔊 3.08 Listen and check.

already been before ever just never recently still yet

- MANDY How are the wedding plans going?
- SARAH OK. But there are lots of things I haven't done (0) *yet*.....
- MANDY But you've (1) chosen your dress, haven't you?
- SARAH No, I (2) haven't seen anything I like.
- MANDY Have you (3) to Baxter's? They've got a good selection.
- SARAH Really? Their clothes used to be very old-fashioned. But I haven't been there (4)
- MANDY It's better now. Actually, there are lots of nice designs in the Nuptia catalogue. Perhaps you should get a dress from them.
- SARAH I'm not sure. I've (5) bought a dress from a catalogue.
- MANDY Well, at least have a look at it. They've (6) sent me the new edition. I can bring it around later.
- SARAH All right.
- MANDY What about the cake? Have you (7) tried that place on Randall Street? They do fantastic cakes.
- SARAH I know. But they seemed a bit expensive to me. Of course, I don't really know how much a big wedding cake should cost. I've never bought one (8)

4 Match the sentences with the pictures. Then write a suitable word in each gap.



- 0 We're really nervous about the flight. We've never been on a plane before. C.....
- 1 I can't come out. I haven't finished my homework
- 2 I ordered this spare part three weeks ago and it hasn't arrived!
- 3 How is your brother? I haven't seen him
- 4 I don't want to rent that film. I've seen it.

5 **GRAMMAR IN USE** Find eight more mistakes in the conversation and correct them.

DAVE: Have ^{you brought} ~~brought you~~ the new car?
 ALICE: Yes. I've park it outside. Come and have a look ...
 DAVE: It's lovely. How fast does it go?
 ALICE: I don't know. I yet haven't driven it on the motorway.
 DAVE: I bet it's really fast. Pete's got one of these and he says he's did over 125 mph in it!
 ALICE: Oh, that's too fast for me. I've driven never over 80 or 90.
 DAVE: I haven't driven a car like this already. Could I have a go?
 ALICE: I'm afraid not. Just I've arranged the insurance and I'm the only person that's allowed to drive it.
 DAVE: That's a pity. How do you turn on the CD player?
 ALICE: Mmm, I'm not sure. I've looked at the manual yet.
 DAVE: Has it got air-conditioning?
 ALICE: Yes. I'm really looking forward to the hot weather so I can try it out. I've never had before a car with air-conditioning!

6 Write true sentences about yourself, using the words below.

- 0 have / shower / today I haven't had a shower today.
- 1 have / cups of coffee / today
- 2 visit / my grandparents / this month
- 3 see / the latest James Bond movie
- 4 pass / the driving test
- 5 go / to the doctor / recently
- 6 have / a holiday / this year
- 7 drive / an electric car
- 8 send / text messages / this week
- 9 phone / my best friend / today
- 10 go / to the dentist / this year

Answers

UNIT 36

- 1** 1 We've played five games this season.
2 Have you eaten anything today?
3 Our friends haven't had a pet before.
4 Sally's broken her mobile phone.
5 Has Clive used this computer?
6 I've never driven an American car.
7 Have the children seen all the Harry Potter films?
8 Mr Lopez hasn't come to work today.
- 2** 1 G 2 F 3 B 4 C 5 H 6 A 7 E
- 3** 1 already 2 still 3 been 4 recently
5 never 6 just 7 ever 8 before
- 4** 1 yet (E) 2 still (A) 3 recently (B) 4 already (D)
- 5** DAVE Have ~~brought you~~ ^{you brought} the new car?
ALISON Yes. I've ~~park~~ parked it outside. Come and have a look...
DAVE It's lovely. How fast does it go?
ALISON I don't know. I ~~yet~~ haven't driven it on the motorway yet.
DAVE I bet it's really fast. Pete's got one of these and he says he's ~~did~~ done over 125 mph in it!
ALISON Oh, that's too fast for me. I've ~~never~~ driven ~~never~~ over 80 or 90.
DAVE I haven't driven a car like this ~~already~~ before. Could I have a go?
ALISON I'm afraid not. ~~Just~~ I've just arranged the insurance and I'm the only person that's allowed to drive it.
DAVE That's a pity. How do you turn on the CD player?
ALISON Mmm, I'm not sure. ~~I've~~ I haven't looked at the manual yet.
DAVE Has it got air-conditioning?
ALISON Yes. I'm really looking forward to the hot weather so I can try it out. I've never had ~~before~~ a car with air-conditioning before!

6 Model answers

- 1 *I've had two cups of coffee today.*
- 2 *I haven't visited my grandparents this month.*
- 3 *I've seen the latest James Bond movie.*
- 4 *I haven't passed the driving test.*
- 5 *I haven't been to the doctor recently.*
- 6 *I've had a holiday this year.*
- 7 *I've never driven an electric car.*
- 8 *I've sent five text messages this week.*
- 9 *I haven't phoned my best friend today.*
- 10 *I haven't been to the dentist this year.*