



Learn English Through Stories

T Series

Upper - Intermediate

Adapted and modified by

Kulwant Singh Sandhu

<https://learn-by-reading.co.uk>

Perfect Tenses 2 by K S Sandhu

A New Start Behind the Wheel

Jane has lived in the same small town all her life. She has always wanted to drive, but she has failed her driving test twice before. Every time she tried, she felt nervous and made mistakes. "I haven't had proper lessons," she often said to herself.

Three months ago, on March 12th, everything changed. Jane has known Caroline since that day. Caroline has been her driving instructor. "How long have you known Caroline?" her friend Lucy asked one afternoon.

"I've known her for about three months," Jane replied with a big smile. "She has taught me so much already!"

Since March, Jane has had ten driving lessons. She has practised parking, changing gears, and driving on busy roads. Caroline has been patient and kind. "You have improved a lot," she has often told Jane. Jane has never felt so confident before.

Lucy was curious. "How many lessons have you had since then?"

"Ten so far," Jane answered. "I think I'll pass the test this time. I've failed it twice before, but this is the first time I have had proper lessons."

Lucy laughed. "Good luck! I haven't been shopping for several days and my fridge is empty, so I must go now. But call me after the test!"

The next day was the big test. Jane has woken up early. She has checked her mirrors carefully, just like Caroline has taught her. As she drove, she remembered all the advice. "You have prepared well," she told herself.

After the test, the examiner smiled. "Congratulations! You have passed!"

Jane has never been happier. She has phoned Caroline immediately. "I have passed! Thank you so much. You have changed my life!"

Caroline replied, "I'm so proud. You have worked hard since March."

That evening, Jane met Lucy for coffee. "It's been a wonderful day," she said. "I haven't felt this excited for years!"

Lucy hugged her. "This is the best news I've heard all week. You have achieved something important."

Jane has lived in the same house since she was born, but now she feels different. She has gained new freedom. She has already driven to the supermarket, to the park, and even to the beach. "I haven't driven so far before," she told her family.

Her mother said, "We have waited for this moment for a long time. You have made us all proud."

Jane has learned an important lesson: with the right help and practice, anyone can succeed. She has not smoked since she was a teenager, she has not worn short trousers for years, but driving is her new passion.

Now, every time Jane gets in the car, she thinks about how far she has come. She has known Caroline for only three months, but their friendship has grown strong. "I've been to the test centre two times before," Jane often jokes, "but this is the third time – and I passed!"

Life has become more exciting since she passed her test. Jane has already planned many trips. She has never eaten such good food at new restaurants she can now reach easily. Everything feels possible confident – feeling sure about yourself.

Questions:

Question 1: How long has Jane known Caroline?

Question 2: How many driving lessons has Jane had since March?

Question 3: How many times has Jane failed her driving test before this one?

Question 4: How many times has Jane been to the test centre before her successful test?

Question 5: What has Jane already done since she passed her test?

Question 6: Has Jane lived in the same house all her life?

Question 7: How does Jane feel now compared to before? (Use "never" in your answer)

Question 8: What important lesson has Jane learned?

Question 9: What two things has Jane not done for a long time?

Question 10: What has become Jane's new passion?

Answers:

Answer 1: She has known Caroline for about three months.

Answer 2: She has had ten driving lessons since March.

Answer 3: She has failed her driving test twice before.

Answer 4: She has been to the test centre twice before.

Answer 5: She has already driven to the supermarket, to the park, and to the beach.

Answer 6: Yes, she has lived in the same house all her life / since she was born.

Answer 7: She has never been happier.

Answer 8: She has learned that with perseverance and good teaching, anyone can succeed.

Answer 9: She has not smoked since she was a teenager and she has not worn short trousers for years.

Answer 10: Driving has become her new passion.

37 Present perfect for situations up to the present



1 Unfinished time period + (so far), this morning, today, etc.

We use the present perfect to talk about actions in a time period that is still continuing

- with time expressions (e.g. *today, this morning, this week, this year*):

I've driven 500 kilometres this week. (The week has not finished.)

Have you spoken to Ahmed this morning? (It is still morning.)

- with *so far* to mean 'up to now':

We've had four holidays so far this year, and it's only September!

Compare:

PRESENT PERFECT *I've made several phone calls this morning.* (It is still morning.)

PAST SIMPLE *I made several phone calls this morning.* (It is now afternoon.)

2 Repeated actions

We use the present perfect to talk about repeated actions (that may happen again):

I've been there many times. (I might go there again one day.)

She's phoned five times already. (She may phone again.)

How many times have you played Grand Theft Auto? How often has she been here?

3 Situations up to the present + for/since, how long

We use *for* (and not *since*) with a period of time (e.g. *for an hour, for years*):

David has worked in Mexico for many years. I haven't seen Janice for a long time.

- ⚠ We don't use *for* before expressions beginning with *all* (e.g. *all day, all my life*):

~~*X I've worked there for all my life.*~~ ✓ *I've worked there all my life.*

We use *since* with a particular time, day or date, or with a past event:

David has worked in Mexico since January 2000. I haven't seen Janice since Tuesday.

I haven't been to the beach since we got here.

- We can use *it's* (present simple) or *it's been* (present perfect) + time expression + *since*:

It's two years since our wedding. It's been two years since our last meeting.

- The verb after *since* is usually in the past simple, not the present perfect:

John has worked here since he left school. It's ages since I saw you.

We use *How long?* in questions, usually with state verbs: **How long** have you known Alan?

- ⚠ We use the present perfect (NOT the present simple or continuous) to talk about present situations that started in the past:

~~*X I am married for ten years.*~~ ✓ *I've been married for ten years.*

~~*X We are living here since 2005.*~~ ✓ *We've lived here since 2005.*

4 Superlatives, the first time

We often use the present perfect (+ *ever*) with superlative adjectives (► Unit 21.3):

That was the worst film I've ever seen! This is the best holiday we've ever had!

We also use the present perfect with *the first, the second*, etc:

This is the third time I've visited China, but it's the first time I've travelled in business class.

Practice

1 Match sentences 1 and 2 with A and B in each pair.

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|-----|--|-----|---------------------------------|
| 0 1 | How far did you travel? | → A | I'm asking about today. |
| 2 | How far have you travelled? | → B | I'm asking about yesterday. |
| 1 1 | The doctor called this morning. | A | It is still morning. |
| 2 | We've been to the bank this morning. | B | It is now the afternoon. |
| 2 1 | How many criminals have you arrested, Sally? | A | Sally used to be a detective. |
| 2 | How many criminals did you arrest, Sally? | B | Sally is a detective. |
| 3 1 | Mike did the reports. | A | He finished them and went home. |
| 2 | Mike has done the reports. | B | He is doing the accounts now. |
| 4 1 | Sylvia has worn glasses for many years. | A | She wears contact lenses now. |
| 2 | Samantha wore glasses for many years. | B | She's just bought a new pair. |
| 5 1 | We went there twice in the summer. | A | It is still the summer. |
| 2 | We've been there several times this summer. | B | Now it is winter. |

2 **GRAMMAR IN USE** Find six more mistakes in the conversation and correct them.

3.09 Listen and check.

- LUCY So, how ~~much time~~ ^{long} have you known Caroline?
- JANE I know her for about three months.
- LUCY I see, for March then?
- JANE Yes. March 12th. Caroline was my driving instructor for my first lesson!
- LUCY How many lessons have you since then?
- JANE I've had ten lessons far so. I think I'll pass the test this time.
- LUCY What do you mean?
- JANE Well, I've failed it twice before. But this is the first time I have proper lessons.
- LUCY Good luck, then! Look, I'd better go – I haven't been shopping since several days and the fridge is empty!

3 Complete the second sentence so it means the same as the first, using the word in brackets. Use two to five words in your answer. 3.10 Listen and check.

- 0 It's Friday. We arrived here on Tuesday. (been)
We have been here for four days.
- 1 I haven't seen her for six months. (since)
It's I saw her.
- 2 I've lived in the same house since I was born. (life)
I've lived in the same house
- 3 It's three o'clock. The shop closed at one. (two)
The shop has been closed
- 4 It's years since I wore short trousers. (worn)
..... short trousers for years.
- 5 The last time I smoked was in January. (since)
I January.
- 6 Jane's been to the spa three times before. (time)
This is the fourth to the spa.
- 7 I've never eaten such a bad meal. (ever)
This is the worst meal
- 8 We got to the airport six hours ago. (it)
..... since we got to the airport.

Answers

UNIT 37

- 1** 1 1B 2A 2 1B 2A 3 1A 2B 4 1B 2A 5 1B 2A
- 2** LUCY So, how ~~much time~~^{long} have you known Caroline?
PETE ~~I know~~ I've known her for about three months.
LUCY I see, ~~for~~ since March then?
PETE Yes. March 12th. Caroline was my driving instructor for my first lesson!
LUCY How many lessons have you had since then?
PETE I've had ten lessons ~~far so~~ so far. I think I'll pass the test this time
LUCY What do you mean?
PETE Well, I've failed it twice before. But this is the first time I ~~have~~ I've had proper lessons.
LUCY Good luck, then! Look, I'd better go – I haven't been shopping ~~since~~ for several days and the fridge is empty!
- 3** 1 (been) six months since 2 all my life 3 for two hours 4 I haven't worn 5 haven't smoked since 6 time Jane's been 7 I've ever eaten 8 It's (been) six hours