



Tikrit University

College of Education for Women

English Department

Subject : Grammar

{First and Third Year}

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**Present Perfect Tense**

The Present Perfect tense is a rather important tense in English, but it gives speakers of some languages a difficult time. That is because it uses concepts or ideas that do not exist in those languages. In fact, the structure of the Present Perfect is very simple. The problems come with the use of the tense. In addition, there are some differences in usage between British and American English.

In this lesson we look at the structure and use of the Present Perfect tense, as well as the use of for and since, followed by a quiz to check your understanding.

The Present Perfect tense is really a very interesting tense, and a very useful one. Try not to translate the Present Perfect into your language. Just try to accept the concepts of this tense and learn to "think" Present Perfect! You will soon learn to like the Present Perfect tense!

### How do we make the Present Perfect tense?

The structure of the Present Perfect is:

subject	+	auxiliary <i>have</i>	+	main verb
		conjugated in Present Simple		
		<b>have, has</b>		<b>past participle</b>

The auxiliary verb (have) is conjugated in the Present Simple: *have, has*

The main verb is invariable in past participle form: *-ed (or irregular)*

For negative sentences we insert **not** between the auxiliary verb and the main verb.

For question sentences, we **exchange** the subject and the auxiliary verb.

Look at these example sentences with the Present Perfect tense:

	subject	auxiliary verb		main verb	
+	I	have		seen	ET.
+	You	have		eaten	mine.
-	She	has	not	been	to Rome.
-	We	have	not	played	football.
?	Have	you		finished?	
?	Have	they		done	it?

### Contraction with Present Perfect

When we use the Present Perfect in speaking, we often contract the subject and auxiliary verb. We also sometimes do this in informal writing.

I have	I've
You have	You've

He has She has It has John has The car has	He's She's It's John's The car's
We have	We've
They have	They've

- You've told me that before.
- John's seen *Harry Potter*.

In negative sentences, we may contract the auxiliary verb and "not":

- You haven't won the contest.
- She hasn't heard from him.

**He's** or **he's**??? Be careful! The 's contraction is used for the auxiliary verbs *have* **and** *be*. For example, "It's eaten" can mean:

- It **has** eaten. (Present Perfect tense, active voice)
- It **is** eaten. (Present Simple tense, passive voice)

It is usually clear from the context.

for	since
<b>a period of time</b>	<b>a point in past time</b>

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20 minutes	6.15pm
three days	Monday
6 months	January
4 years	1994
2 centuries	1800
a long time	I left school
ever	the beginning of time
etc	etc