Chapter 4

Present Perfect Tense (p. 79)

We use the present perfect tense for actions which occurred at an indefinite time in the past. The past actions may be related to or have an influence on the present. To form the present perfect tense, use have/has + past participle.

We can also use adverbs such as ever, always, never, occasionally, often, recently, or many times with the present perfect referring to an indefinite past time.

Examples
I’ve lost my wallet.
They’ve bought a house.
I’ve tried Tibetan food.

Note: We cannot use the present perfect with a specific past time reference.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present Perfect</th>
<th>Simple Past</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I’ve visited Italy.</td>
<td>I visited Italy last year.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>They’ve bought a house.</td>
<td>They bought a house three months ago.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have you ever been to British Columbia?</td>
<td>Were you in British Columbia five years ago?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Have you eaten dinner yet?</td>
<td>What time did you eat dinner?</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Affirmative</th>
<th>Negative</th>
<th>Interrogative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I have eaten.</td>
<td>I haven’t eaten.</td>
<td>Have I eaten?</td>
</tr>
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<td>You haven’t eaten.</td>
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Exercise 1
Read the following and underline the present perfect tense. Then answer the questions.

The Iron Nun
Have you heard that there is an 80-year-old woman running 42 kilometre marathons? If that’s not shocking enough, you should know that this woman runs the marathons after she has completed a 3.86 km swim and 180 km bike ride.

Believe it or not, Sister Madonna Buder has just turned 80 and still competes in Ironman triathlons. The Ironman triathlon takes even the most skilled of athletes over 8 hours and a person must finish it within 17 hours to be called an Ironman.

Sister Madonna started running at 48 years of age because a priest encouraged her to do it for her health. Later she began entering races. She ran her first marathon in her 50s. She completed her first triathlon at 52 and her first Ironman at age 55. Her best Ironman time was at age 62 when she finished in 13 hours and 16 minutes.

Sister Madonna ran the 2005 Hawaii Ironman at age 75. She finished the race in 16 hours. In 2009, she ran at 79 and became the oldest female to finish an Ironman triathlon. In fact they have created a special 80+ age category for her to compete this year. She has already signed up for more triathlons this year and will be back in BC for the 2011 Ironman Canada competition. Altogether, Sister Madonna has competed in more than 340 triathlons, including over 40 Ironman triathlons, and countless races earning her the title “Iron Nun.” Sister Madonna has written a book about these experiences called The Grace to Race.

At first people didn’t approve of a nun being a competitive athlete. But Sister Madonna has used her racing to raise money for various causes and she dedicates each race to a specific person. In addition to her work in her church she has found time to earn two masters degrees. Nothing has stopped Sister Madonna from being the best that she can be and her advice to the rest of us is: You don’t know if you can do it or not, if you haven’t tried.

1. How many Ironman triathlons has Sister Madonna competed in?
___________________________________________________________________________

2. When did she start running?
___________________________________________________________________________

3. What other two things aside from athletics has she accomplished?
___________________________________________________________________________

4. How has she stopped people from criticizing her competing in races?
___________________________________________________________________________
5. What did they have to do for Sister Madonna to compete this year?

6. What advice has Sister Madonna given to people?

Exercise 2
You are making up interview questions. Use the phrases below to write correct sentences.

1. You / ever / be / New Zealand

   **Have you ever been to New Zealand?**

2. You / ever / win / a prize

3. You / ever / break / arm or leg

4. You / ever / fall / in love

5. You / ever / invent / anything

6. You / ever / drink / champagne

7. You / ever / eat / raw meat

8. You / ever / have / a dangerous job

9. You / ever / run / in a marathon

Exercise 3
Make complete sentences using the phrases below. Use either the present perfect or the past, whichever is correct.

1. When / it / stop / raining?

   **When did it stop raining?**

2. You / read / any good books / recently?

3. How many times / she / be / late / so far this week?

4. How much / coffee / you / drink so far today?

5. It / be / warmer than usual / recently?
6. When / you / see / that movie?

7. She / already / do / that assignment

8. You / pay / the rent / yet?

9. We / just / meet / our new neighbour

10. I / not speak / to my parents / yet

11. Why / you / go / to the library / last night?

12. How long / they / know / each other?

13. When / they / first / meet?

14. I / not have / any colds / recently

**Exercise 4**
Decide if the following sentences are correct. If a sentence is incorrect, rewrite it correctly.

1. Christopher Columbus has discovered North America.

2. George Washington has been the first president of the USA.

3. They have lived in Chicago for three years.

4. She has seen that movie yesterday.

5. Edison has invented the light bulb.

6. I’ve lost my key and I can’t open the door now.

7. Mozart has composed a great deal of beautiful music in his short life.

8. Russia has sold Alaska to the USA.

9. Have you done a lot of shopping when you were in New York?
10. Have you had anything to eat today?

11. When has Avril Lavigne begun her singing career?

12. Has Daniel visited his parents in Mexico City last month?

Exercise 5
Make good English sentences. Use the present perfect or the simple past.

1. Bell / invent / the telephone /over 100 years ago
   Bell invented the telephone over 100 years ago.

2. So far / no-one / discover / a cure for cancer

3. We / eat / in this restaurant / many times

4. How many / traffic tickets / you / get / last year?

5. We / not spend / a lot of money / on our last vacation

6. The children / never / like / playing computer games

7. Shakespeare / write / a great many / plays and poems

8. We / not go / anywhere interesting / lately

9. They / not see / each other / recently

10. Our teacher / always / encourage / us / to practice speaking
Verbs That Require Gerunds (p. 82)

In English certain verbs need to be followed by a gerund (verb + ing) or a noun/pronoun.

**Some Common Verbs That Require Gerunds**

avoid  enjoy  finish  miss  practice  mind  keep  
discuss  consider  admit  advise  appreciate  delay  postpone  
risk  recommend  quit  stop  put off  feel like  can’t help

We also need to use a gerund or noun/pronoun after a preposition.

**Some Common Adjective + Preposition Collocations**

fond of  afraid of  good at  interested in  tired of  
proud of  worried about  famous for  accustomed to  excited about  
sorry for

**Some Common Verb + Preposition Collocations**

dream about/of  talk about  look forward to  believe in  plan on  
complain about  think about  forget about  object to  depend on  
apologize for

**Exercise 6**

Read this article and underline all the gerunds. Then complete the sentences.

**An Early Riser and a Night Owl**

My wife and I are complete opposites when it comes to our daily habits. You could say we live in two different time zones. I am an early-to-bed and early-to-rise kind of person. My wife, though, is fond of burning the midnight oil. She enjoys staying up very late.

When we were first married we were both on the same schedule. We took turns making breakfast, driving to work, cooking supper. We appreciated doing things together. Over time our routines began changing.

I am fond of getting up bright and early in the morning. I like getting up, having breakfast, and getting ready for my day. I am good at planning my schedule for the day. I believe in trying to do as much as possible every single day. By about 7 AM, I am considering taking on the world. But by the end of a long workday, at around 5 PM, my body and my brain are complaining about
doing all the things I have asked them to do. After supper on most nights, I look forward to relaxing and going to bed. I start becoming a zombie in the evenings.

My wife is completely different. She puts off getting up until the last possible moment. She avoids doing very much, even talking until after breakfast. She complains about my chattering too much in the mornings. However, she keeps building up steam as the day progresses. By 9:00 PM, she is at her most energetic. She talks about finding new projects for us to do. She thinks about improving our lives, and is just generally excited about everything. My wife avoids going to bed until well after midnight.

My wife and I have discussed finding a solution to our different life styles. We try to avoid arguing, but sometimes we can’t help having disagreements. We once saw a counsellor who recommended changing our routines. I didn’t mind trying, but my wife couldn’t stand changing her habits. I became worried about getting into an even worse situation, such as separation or divorce. We finally decided to forget about changing ourselves and to keep doing what we were doing since we were happier this way.

Finish these sentences:
1. The writer’s wife is fond of__________________________________________________________
2. They avoid ________________________________________________ as much as they can.
3. The writer enjoys____________________________________________ in the morning.
4. He is good at ________________________________________________ in the morning.
5. When they were younger they took turns _________________________________.
6. His wife keeps ________________________________________________ as the day progresses.
7. At 9 PM his wife is at her most energetic, talking about _______________________________________.
8. His wife couldn’t stand_________________________________________________________________.
9. After supper the writer looks forward to_______________________________________________.
10. In the morning his wife puts off_______________________________________________.
11. What did they finally decide to do? _________________________________________________.

**Exercise 7**
Write complete sentences using gerunds.

1. The students can use dictionaries. The teacher doesn’t mind this.
   **The teacher doesn’t mind the students using dictionaries.**
2. We speak a lot in class. Our teacher encourages us to practice.
   ____________________________________________________________
3. I don’t do my homework every day. Sometimes I put it off.
   _____________________________________________________________
4. My friend and I are happy when we go to the computer lab. We enjoy this.

5. We like to eat fast food in the cafeteria. We are fond of this.

6. My friend and I don’t want to fail the English exam. We are afraid of this.

7. Our teacher answers all our questions. She doesn’t mind.

8. We don’t see our friends very much these days. We miss this.

9. I would like to speak perfect English. I have often dreamed about this.

10. My teacher says my English is improving. She says this will keep happening.

11. Sometimes I make a lot of mistakes. I have always worried about this.

12. We need to find conversation partners. My friend and I have discussed this.

13. Sometimes I don’t want to speak English. I don’t feel like it.

**Exercise 8**
Combine the sentences to form one sentence.

1. Let’s go to the movies. Do you feel like doing that?

   **Do you feel like going to the movies?**

2. I want to go on vacation. I’m looking forward to this.

3. Bill played the saxophone. He was fond of doing this.

4. Everyone wanted to go out for supper. They felt like doing this.

5. Hilary eats only vegetarian food. She believes in doing this.

6. He’s going to take his trip. He can’t put it off any longer.

7. I came late. I’m sorry for this.

8. She doesn’t like to be alone in the dark. She’s afraid of this.

9. They want to be wealthy someday. They dream of this.
10. My friend learned to fly a plane. She was interested in this.

11. I’ll clean up after the party. I don’t mind.

12. I couldn’t remember her name. I apologized for this.

Verbs That Require Infinitives (p. 82)

Some verbs require infinitives and not gerunds. We form the infinitive by using to + the base form of the verb.

Some Common Verbs That Require Infinitives

- decide
- need
- offer
- learn
- refuse
- would like
- manage
- want
- expect
- plan
- promise
- try
- hope
- prepare
- afford
- intend
- agree
- offer
- seem
- appear
- wait
- hesitate
- pretend
- manage
- fail
- threaten
- struggle
- attempt

Examples

The teacher agreed to go over the explanation.
He promised not to hurt her feelings.
Have you managed to save any money?
Would you like to go out for lunch?
I don’t expect to get my grades soon.

Exercise 9

Choose a suitable verb which makes sense in the context and use the infinitive to complete these sentences.

1. Marilyn would like ________________ Mandarin before she goes to Beijing.
2. Marilyn wants ________________ to China for a month, but she can’t afford ________________ until she saves some money.
4. They are going to Beijing and Shanghai, but they also plan ________________ Japan and Thailand.
5. They have chosen ________________ this part of the world because it seemed ________________ a great many things to see, do, and learn.
6. They each decided ___________ information about different things they will need ___________ before their trip.
7. Marilyn agreed ___________ about the language. She is planning ___________ a course as soon as possible.
8. Louise is attempting ___________ the itinerary. She hopes ___________ as much as possible.
9. Lynn offered ___________ the finances. She wants ___________ their budget.
10. They appear ___________ everything under control, but they don’t expect their plans ___________ perfectly.
11. Sometimes when it becomes too difficult to satisfy everyone, one of them threatens ___________ the trip, but the others pretend not ___________.
12. They hesitate ___________ the trip because they will all be disappointed.
13. They are struggling ___________ ready to leave in six months’ time. They can’t wait ___________.
14. They have promised each other ___________ the trip a success.

**Verbs That Take either Gerunds or Infinitives (p. 82)**

Some verbs can take either infinitives or gerunds with no change in meaning.

**Examples**
I like to swim. I like swimming
John hates to study. John hates studying.
They will continue to make mistakes. They will continue making mistakes.

**Some Common Verbs That Take Gerunds or Infinitives**
love hate prefer can’t stand like dislike begin start continue

**Exercise 10**
Rewrite these sentences. If the original sentence has a gerund, rewrite it with an infinitive. If the sentence has an infinitive, rewrite it with a gerund.

1. When did they begin to study English? **When did they begin studying English?**
2. I really love cooking but I hate cleaning up afterwards.

3. Do you prefer to see movies or plays?
4. He’s very shy. He hates meeting new people.
5. What kinds of activities do you like doing in your spare time?
___________________________________________________________________________

6. When did she start biting her nails?
___________________________________________________________________________

7. Please continue to do your work.
___________________________________________________________________________

8. He wants everyone to listen when he begins speaking.
___________________________________________________________________________

9. He doesn’t like to speak in public very much.
___________________________________________________________________________

10. We prefer to use computers in the writing class.
___________________________________________________________________________

11. She can’t stand to make mistakes in English.
___________________________________________________________________________

12. We love to go out after school on Fridays.
___________________________________________________________________________