

UNIT 13

Present Perfect: Indefinite Past

What's new on "Feldstein"?

*Tune in Channel 4 tonight
at 8:00 and find out!*



CHECK POINT

Check the correct answer.

The "Feldstein" cast is talking about things of importance to them

☐ now.

☐ in the past.

CHART CHECK 1

Circle T (True) or F (False).

T F You can use the present perfect without mentioning a specific time.

STATEMENTS

SUBJECT	HAVE	(NOT)	PAST PARTICIPLE	
They	have	(not)	appeared been	on TV.
It	has			

For a complete presentation of present perfect forms, see Unit 11, pages 46-47.

CHART CHECK 2

Check the correct answer.

Never and **just** come:

☐ before the past participle

☐ at the end of the statement

STATEMENTS WITH ADVERBS

SUBJECT	HAVE (NOT)	ADVERB	PAST PARTICIPLE		ADVERB
They	have	<i>never</i> <i>just</i> <i>recently</i>	appeared been	on TV.	
It	has				
They	have (not)		appeared been	on TV	<i>lately.</i> <i>recently.</i>
It	has (not)				

CHART CHECK 3

Circle T (True) or F (False).

T F **Ever** has to be used in *yes/no* questions.

YES/NO QUESTIONS

HAVE	SUBJECT	(EVER)	PAST PARTICIPLE
Have	they	(ever)	acted?
Has	she		won?

SHORT ANSWERS

AFFIRMATIVE			NEGATIVE		
Yes,	they	have.	No,	they	haven't.
	she	has.		she	hasn't.

WH- QUESTIONS

WH- WORD	HAVE	SUBJECT	PAST PARTICIPLE	
How often	have	they	acted	on this show?
Why	has	it	won	an award?

EXPRESS CHECK

Unscramble these words to form a question. Answer the question.

you • watched • Have • "The Simpsons" • ever

?

Grammar Explanations

Examples

1. Use the **present perfect** to talk about things that happened at an indefinite time in the past. You can use the present perfect when you don't know when something happened or when the specific time is not important.

- They've **won** several awards.
- I've **interviewed** the whole cast.
- She's **been** in a Hollywood movie.
- I've **seen** his show many times.

2. You can use **ever** with the **present perfect** to ask questions. It means at any time up until now.

Use **never** to answer negatively.

A: Have you **won** an award?

OR

Have you **ever won** an award?

B: No, I've **never won** one.

OR

No, **never**.

3. Use the **present perfect** with **just**, **recently**, or **lately** to talk about events in the very recent past.

USAGE NOTE: In spoken American English people often use **just** and **recently** with the simple past tense to talk about indefinite time.

- **BE CAREFUL!** Do not use **just**, **recently**, or **lately** with the present perfect and a specific past time expression.

- We've **just gotten** back from Los Angeles.
- I've **recently signed** a contract to write a book.
- He **hasn't had** time **lately**.
- We **just got** back from Los Angeles.

- I've **recently gotten** back from Los Angeles.
NOT I've recently gotten back from Los Angeles last Monday.

1

TRUE OR FALSE • Read each numbered sentence. Write T (True) or F (False) for the statement that follows.

1. I've recently joined the show.
☐ T I am a new cast member.
2. I have never been to Los Angeles.
☐ I went to Los Angeles a long time ago.
3. I've just finished Jimmy's book.
☐ I finished it a little while ago.
4. Have you ever seen this movie?
☐ I want to know when you saw the movie.
5. Arlene asks you, "Have you read any good books lately?"
☐ Arlene wants to know about a book you read last year.
6. She's visited New York several times.
☐ This is her first visit to New York.
7. She has become very popular.
☐ She is popular now.

2

CHOOSE & COMPLETE • Read this script from a scene from "Feldstein." Complete it with the present perfect form of the verbs in the box. Some verbs are used more than once.

have make stop talk travel want

- URSULA:** This is a nice restaurant. Have you had ^{1.} the steak?
- JIMMY:** No, but I 2. the spaghetti. I always have that. Actually I 3. eating meat. It's not that I love animals. I just hate plants. 4. you ever really 4. to a plant? They have absolutely nothing to say.
- URSULA:** Right. So, 5. you ever 5. to live outside of New York?
- JIMMY:** Outside of New York? Where's that? But seriously, I 6. never 6. to try another place. I love it here.
- URSULA:** But 7. you ever 7. to a different city?
- JIMMY:** No. Why should I do that? You like it here too, right?
- URSULA:** It's OK, but I 8. to other places too. It's a big world!
- JIMMY:** I like it right here. Say, 9. you 9. plans for tomorrow night? How about dinner? Same time, same place . . .

3

ASK & ANSWER • Complete the XYZ Network online interview with Jake Stewart, the actor who plays the part of Gizmo on Jimmy's show. Use the words in parentheses and the present perfect form of the verb.

XYZ: Welcome to Live Studio, Jake. You've become very famous.

How many online interviews have you done?

1. (How many / online interviews / do?)

JAKE: None! Very exciting!

2. (never even / be / in a chat room)

XYZ:

3. (How / change / as an actor?)

JAKE: I work with a group, so

4. (become / a better team player lately)

XYZ: As a comic actor,

5. (who / be / your role model?)

JAKE: Hard to say.

6. (Charlie Chaplin / have / great influence on me)

XYZ:

7. (What / be / your best moment on this show?)

JAKE: Well, you know, That was fantastic.

8. (Jimmy / just / win / the Emmy)

XYZ: All in all,

9. (what / find / most rewarding about this experience?)

JAKE: Free coffee! No, really,

10. (meet / some fantastic people on this show)

4

EDIT • Read this message from an online message board. Find and correct seven mistakes in the use of the present perfect. The first mistake is already corrected.

Feldstein Fan Chat

Subj.: Re: Jimmy's Blind Date
 From: Yikes123

I've just ^{watched} ~~watch~~ the Blind Date episode on Feldstein! Have you never seen anything so funny? I LOVE this show! It's the best show I have ever saw in my life. I really enjoyed it lately. By the way, have you notice that Jimmy and Arlene are beginning to get along? I think Jimmy have started to really like her. Last night Arlene has moved right next door to Jimmy, but he doesn't know it yet! I can't wait to see what happens on the next episode. Does anyone know when Jimmy's book is coming out?