CHAPTER 6
The Present Perfect

FORM

Examining Form

Read this newspaper article and complete the tasks below.

Some Will Go the Extra Mile

Unlike most people, Marty O’Brien loves long car trips. In fact, he often tries to make them longer.

Marty is a member of the Extra Miler Club. His goal is to visit every one of the 3,145 counties in the United States. So far, he has visited 1,441. “On every trip,” he says, “I look for new places to go.”

That’s the philosophy of the people in the Extra Miler Club. The club began in 1973, and it now has 207 members. Twelve of these members have visited every county. They have even traveled by seaplane to get to counties in Alaska that are hard to reach. Some others have been to every state.

Roy Carson is one of the people who started the club. In 1985 he traveled to his last county. But he didn’t take any photographs on his trips. So now he is trying again. This time he is taking photographs of himself in front of each county sign. So far, he has covered 538,427 miles. “It’s just as much fun the second time around, but it’s a lot more expensive,” he says. Gas cost just 39 cents a gallon when he first started—in 1949.

county: a geographical and political division within a state in the U.S.

1. There are five examples of the present perfect in the article. The first one is underlined. Underline four more.

2. How is the present perfect formed? _________________
Working on Yes/No Questions with Irregular Past Participles

Complete these questions with the past participles of the verbs in the box. Then answer the questions.

be  eat  find  fly  meet  ride

Have you ever . . .

1. ______been________ on television?  No, I haven’t.
2. ______a horse? ______
3. ______Indian food? ______
4. ______a famous person? ______
5. ______in a helicopter? ______
6. ______money in the street? ______

Asking Information Questions

Use the words and phrases to write information questions in the present perfect.

1. How long / you / be / out of college?
   _How long have you been out of college?

2. Where / you / travel / to?
   __________________________________________

3. How many people / she / invite?
   __________________________________________

4. Who / be / to China?
   __________________________________________

5. Why / you / choose / that book?
   __________________________________________

6. How long / Larry / live / there?
   __________________________________________

7. What / you / prepare / for lunch?
   __________________________________________

8. How much money / you / spend / this week?
   __________________________________________
MEANING AND USE

Understanding the Present Perfect

Choose the best answer to complete each sentence.

1. She’s been a teacher all her life, _____________.
   a. and she loved her job
   b. and she loves her job

2. I’ve traveled in Europe a lot, and in 2001 _____________.
   a. I’ve gone to Africa
   b. I went to Africa

3. I’ve had that car for five years, _____________.
   a. and it never breaks down
   b. and I sold it

4. We haven’t eaten at the Greek restaurant yet, _____________.
   a. so we tried it last night
   b. so we want to try it soon

5. We haven’t solved the problem yet, _____________.
   a. so we gave up
   b. but we aren’t giving up

6. Pedro is one of my best friends; _____________.
   a. I’ve known him for a long time
   b. I knew him for a long time

Using For and Since

Complete these time expressions and time clauses with for or since.

1. for ____________ three days
2. ____________ 3 o’clock
3. ____________ a long time
4. ____________ a moment
5. ____________ last month
6. ____________ a month
7. ____________ he was a boy
8. ____________ 1988
Contrasting the Present Perfect and the Simple Past

Complete this conversation with the present perfect or simple past forms of the verbs in parentheses. Use contractions when possible.

A: Why do you want to work here?

B: Well, I've loved love children all my life. I want wanted to work work with kids since I left left high school.

A: Your resume says that you worked work in the childcare center at the university from 1999 to 2001. Can you tell me about that?

B: Yes. It was be a part-time job. We played play with the children and gave gave them lunch. I worked work with a Head Teacher.

A: Tell me about the jobs you have have since then. You / ever have you / ever have full responsibility for children in your care?

B: Yes. For the last year I look after look after one-year-old twins.

Using Adverbs with the Present Perfect

Use the words below to rewrite each sentence in two ways. Do not change the meaning of the sentence. More than one answer may be possible.

1. I haven't seen a volcano in my whole life.

   already never still so far yet

   a. I've never seen a volcano.
   b. I haven't seen a volcano yet.

2. Up to now, we've raised $5,700.

   a. ______________________________________
   b. ______________________________________

3. He hasn't been to Europe.

   a. ______________________________________
   b. ______________________________________

4. They've interviewed five people.

   a. ______________________________________
   b. ______________________________________
COMBINING FORM, MEANING, AND USE

Editing

There are nine errors in these paragraphs. The first one has been corrected. Find and correct eight more.

My wife and I have traveled as much as possible since we retired. We’ve visited cousins in Australia, and we been to New Zealand twice. We’ve also went on safari in Africa. We’ve been to Europe a lot. Gina and I has spent time in Paris, in Madrid, and in several cities in Italy. We haven’t to Eastern Europe yet, though. We hope to visit Prague and Budapest next year.

My sister Betty was born in the United States, and she has never traveled outside the country—except once when she was very young. But she have been to a lot of places in the U.S. She has visit most of the national parks: the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, Yosemite, and so on. She has been to all of the big cities, too. In fact, she is lived in four different cities in the U.S.: New York, Boston, Los Angeles, and San Francisco. I think she seen more of her own country than most people.

Writing

On a separate sheet of paper, write a paragraph about your travel experiences. Use the present perfect or the simple past as needed.

1. In your first few sentences, describe your travel experience in general.

2. In the rest of the paragraph, describe one or more trips in particular.

Use the questions below to help you write your paragraph:

• How many countries or cities have you visited?
• Have you visited any places more than once?
• Where did you go on a recent trip?
• Think of places you haven’t visited. Which ones would you like to visit?

I haven’t traveled very much outside my country, but I have visited different areas in my country. For example, I’ve been to Chiang Mai in northern Thailand several times. My last visit to Chiang Mai was last year. . . .