

Review: Present perfect tense

To talk about things that we have experienced in life, we use the present perfect tense. Note that this usage is possible only when there is no definite time reference. For example, we cannot use the present perfect tense to say that something happened to us on a particular day.

Form: Subject + has / have + past participle form of the verb

Exercise

Make sentences in the present perfect tense.

1. He to all the continents in the world.

was
has been

2. I have never a ghost.

saw
seen
see

3. I experienced despair.

has

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have

was

4. I that movie.

has seen

saw

have seen

5. I all the novels
written by Mark Twain.

am read

have read

had read

6. He faced many
setbacks in life.

has

have

7. She written a
novel.

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has
have

8. Raju played
cricket at the national level.

has
have

9. You seen her
before.

has
have

10. I that movie.

watched
have watched
has watched

Answers

He has been to all the continents in the world.

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2. I have never seen a ghost.
3. I have experienced despair.
4. I have seen that movie.
5. I have read all the novels written by Mark Twain.
6. He has faced many setbacks in life.
7. She has written a novel.
8. Raju has played cricket at the national level.
9. You have seen her before.
10. I have watched that movie.

Notes

If we say when something happened, we use the simple past tense.

I wrote a novel last year. (NOT I have written a novel last year.)

I watched that movie yesterday.

I faced many setbacks in 2012. (NOT I have faced many setbacks in 2012.)

Now think about a life experience that started in the past and has continued up to the present. For example, consider this situation. You married your girlfriend ten years ago and you are still married to her. To express this idea, you can say:

I have been married to Alice for ten years.

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How long have you been married to Alice?