

THEME 5 TRAVEL GRAMMAR

1. QUESTION TAGS

*** We use question tags at the end of a statement.

*** We form them with an auxiliary verb (is, are, was, were, do, did, have, etc.) or a modal (can, should, must, etc.) and a personal pronoun (you, he, they, etc.).

*** We use question tags when we are not sure about something or when we are asking for confirmation.

*** If the statement is positive, the question tag is negative.

Your parents have been to Portugal before, haven't they?

Mr. Cheng talked to our manager about the problem, didn't he?

There is a terrible traffic jam here between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m., isn't there?

*** If the statement is negative, the question tag is positive.

You aren't going to Wendy's party this evening, are you?

Your mother hasn't seen the holiday brochures, has she?

Veronica can't play a musical instrument, can she?

◆ Note the following question tags. It's a good idea to learn how to use them.

- I am right, aren't I?
- Your father never watches horror movies, does he?
- Let's eat pizza after school today, shall we?
- Turn the music down, will/can/could you?
- Don't forget to post the letter, will you?
- Somebody was watching us through the window, weren't they?
- Nobody knows Mel's address, do they?
- This is a difficult situation, isn't it?
- These aren't your keys, are they?
- You have to speak politely here, don't you?

2. THE PRESENT PERFECT TENSE

We use Present Perfect Tense

• **to talk about life experiences.**

My uncle has travelled all over the world.

Have you ever seen a snake?

Mr. Green has never tried Chinese food.

• **for an action that happened in the past, but we do not say exactly when it happened.**

I have seen this film before. (before = at any time before now)

I have been to Germany

Note: We do not mention any specific time as the experience is important here, not the time. When we want to say exactly when something happened, we use the past simple tense.

A: Have you ever been to Spain?

B: Yes, I have. I went there last summer.

• **when a single action in the past has a connection with the present.**

I have cut my finger. It's still bleeding.

Emma has had an accident.

- for an action that started in the past and continues up to now.

My mother has had this car for six years.

- to talk about multiple actions repeated at different times.

Our school team has won six matches this season.

- for something that happened in the past but is important at the time of speaking.

We can't get in the house. My mother has lost the key.

Affirmative

Subject + have / has + Verb3 (past participle)

I / You / We / They + have + ridden a bike before.

He / She / It + has + ridden a bike before.

Negative

Subject + haven't / hasn't + Verb3 (past participle)

I / You / We / They + haven't + ridden a bike before.

He / She / It / hasn't + ridden a bike before.

Interrogative

Have / Has + Subject + Verb3 (past participle)

Have + I / you / we / they + ridden a bike before?

Has + he / she / it + ridden a bike before?

Common time expressions with the Present Perfect Tense

since / for / yet / just / already / ever / never / recently / lately / up to now / so far / until now / It's the first time.../this morning, this evening, this month, this year (if these periods of time are not completed)

- * **This is + superlative form of adjectives + I have ever seen, watched, tasted, visited, etc.**

This is the best play I have ever seen

You are the most beautiful girl I have ever seen

- * **Ever**

Have you ever tried sushi?

- * **Never**

We use "never" in affirmative sentences, but the meaning is negative.

I have never tried sushi before.

- * **Just**

We usually use "just" only with the present perfect tense and it means 'a short time ago'.

In the present perfect, 'just' comes between the auxiliary verb 'have' and the past participle.

Do you hear the announcement? The plane has just landed.

- * **Already**

We use "already" to express that something has happened sooner than expected.

A: Don't forget to post the letters. B: I have already posted them.

- * **Yet**

We use "yet" to talk about something which is expected to happen. It means 'at any time up to now'. It is used in questions and negatives.

'Yet' usually comes at the end of the sentence.

A: Have you read the e-mail?

B: I have read the e-mail, but I haven't replied it yet.

For

We use “for” to talk about a period of time.

*Brenda has been on a diet **for** three months.*

Since

We use “since” to talk about a specific point in time, or the time when the action started.

*She hasn't seen her golden ring **since** yesterday. I think she has lost it.*