

Getting started

- 1 Read the newspaper interview with Andrew and Esther and answer the questions.
- a) What animals have Andrew and Esther worked with?
- b) Would they like to change jobs with each other?

Andrew Hayton, 26, has worked at Longleat Safari Park* for more than eight years. He is currently an elephant keeper and has also looked after rhinos.

Why did you choose this job?

I had been doing various jobs here. I heard about the rhino vacancy and I thought, 'This is the job for me' – I've always liked animals.

Have you ever thought of working in a zoo?

Zoos are very good and have a place, but not for larger animals.

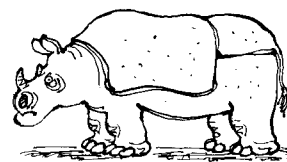
Esther Wenman, 30, has worked at London Zoo for nearly seven years. She is head keeper of reptiles, and before that was a bird keeper.

What made you choose this job?

I've always been interested in conservation and ecology.

Have you ever thought of working in a safari park?

You don't get such good collections of birds and reptiles in safari parks.



a rhino



a reptile

*a safari park is a park where wild animals are kept and in which they can move freely

- 2 Underline seven examples of the present perfect simple in the text (*have / has + past participle*).
- 3 Look at these sentences:
Esther has worked at London Zoo for seven years.
Elaine worked at London Zoo for seven years.
 Who still works at London Zoo now: Esther or Elaine?

Looking at language

The present perfect simple

Use

We use the present perfect simple when we want to link the past with the present in some way. Compare it with the past simple:

<i>The past simple:</i>	<i>The present perfect simple:</i>
talks about the past only: <i>I knew her when I was a child.</i>	links the past with the present: <i>I've known her for ten years. (I met her ten years ago, and I still know her now)</i>
is concerned with a specific past time, either mentioned or understood. <i>I went to London.</i>	does not generally refer to a specific past time. <i>I've been to London.</i>
is used with time expressions to talk about finished periods of time: <i>I saw Jeremy yesterday.</i>	is used with time expressions to talk about periods of time that are not finished: <i>Clare's been a teacher for five years.</i>

The chart below shows three ways in which the present perfect links the past and present. Note the time expressions that often occur with these three uses.

Use	Time expressions	Examples
1 We use the present perfect simple to talk about something that started in the past and is still continuing now.	<i>for</i> + period of time <i>since</i> + a moment in time <i>always</i>	<i>Andrew has worked here for eight years / since 2001. (he still works here)</i> <i>I've always liked animals. (I still like animals)</i>
2 We use the present perfect simple to talk about something that happened in the past and is part of our experience.	<i>before</i> <i>ever</i> in questions = at any time before now <i>never</i> to form negatives	<i>He has looked after rhinos before.</i> <i>Have you ever thought of working in a zoo?</i> <i>I've never thought of working in a zoo.</i>
3 We use the present perfect simple to talk about something that happened in the past but the result is important now. It is often used to give news.	<i>recently</i> = not long ago <i>just</i> = a short time before now <i>already</i> = before now <i>yet</i> = not before now but going to happen	<i>I've hurt my arm. (and it's painful now)</i> <i>A rhino has escaped from the zoo. (it's not in the zoo now)</i> <i>I've seen her recently.</i> <i>He's just returned from abroad.</i> <i>I've already seen that film.</i> <i>Have you finished yet?</i>

Note that the meaning of the present perfect simple changes if there is no time expression.

Compare:

She's lived in Mexico City for six years. (she still lives there now – Use 1)

She's lived in Mexico City. (at some time before now, but she doesn't live there now – Use 2)

1 Fill in the gaps in the phrases with *for* or *since*.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 1 a long time | 7 Wednesday | 13 years |
| 2 my last birthday | 8 5 March 1999 | 14 December |
| 3 ages | 9 a few hours | 15 a fortnight |
| 4 I last saw her | 10 yesterday | 16 two o'clock |
| 5 New Year's Eve | 11 we were children | |
| 6 half an hour | 12 six weeks | |

Form

The present perfect is formed with *have / has* and the the past participle. There are many irregular past participles: *go – gone, see – seen, become – become*. See Appendix 1 for a list.

Positive statements	Negative statements	Wh- questions
I / you / we / they have eaten	I / you / we / they have not (haven't) eaten	Where have you eaten?
she / he / it has eaten	she hasn't eaten	Where has she eaten?
Yes / No questions	Positive short answers	Negative short answers
Have you eaten? Has she eaten?	Yes, we have . Yes, she has .	No, we haven't . No, she hasn't .

Other points

- *He's been to Mozambique* means 'he isn't there now'; it's past experience (Use 2). *He's gone to Mozambique* means 'he's there now'; it's news (Use 3).
- Changes are often described using the present perfect (Use 3).
Inflation has risen again in the past few months.
- News often starts with the present perfect (Use 3) but changes to the past simple for details:
Have you heard about Sally? She's lost her job. She found out two days ago.
This tense change is also true for talking about past experience (Use 2):
A: *Have you ever been to Japan?*
B: *Yes, twice actually. I first went in 1996, and then I returned last year.*

2 Match each present perfect sentence to a use (1–3) from the boxes on page 36.

- a) Quick! Get a cloth! I've *spilt* my coffee.
- b) I love this watch. I've *had* it for years.
- c) I've *been* in a helicopter, but I've *never been* in a balloon.

Getting it right

► Exercise 1 Thinking about meaning

In situations 1–10 below, tick (✓) the best sentence, a) or b), for the speaker to use.

- Example:* The baby's a day old and is doing well.
- | |
|---------------------------------|
| a) My sister's had a baby. ...✓ |
| b) My sister had a baby. |
-
- | | |
|--|--|
| 1 It's 7.30 a.m. The postman usually comes between 7.15 a.m. and 7.45 a.m. | a) The postman hasn't come yet. |
| | b) The postman didn't come this morning. |
| 2 I'm talking about my trip around Eastern Europe last year. | a) I haven't been to Prague. |
| | b) I didn't go to Prague. |
| 3 Alice is a good friend of mine. | a) She's known me since we were children. |
| | b) She knew me when we were children. |
| 4 I'm telling you this just after I heard the news. | a) A large shark has attacked a swimmer on Australia's western coast. |
| | b) A large shark attacked a swimmer on Australia's western coast. |
| 5 He is back with his family now. | a) No one has seen him for ten days. |
| | b) No one saw him for ten days. |
| 6 My knee is much better now. | a) I've hurt my knee. |
| | b) I hurt my knee. |
| 7 I'm giving a friend recent news about Alexander. | a) Alexander has given up smoking. |
| | b) Alexander gave up smoking. |
| 8 Mike didn't get the job. | a) Mike's applied for a new job. |
| | b) Mike applied for a new job. |
| 9 I'm still studying maths with the same teacher. | a) I've learnt a lot from my maths teacher. |
| | b) I learnt a lot from my maths teacher. |
| 10 The drug was never used because it was dangerous. | a) Scientists have found a new drug. |
| | b) Scientists found a new drug. |

► Exercise 2 Learning from learners

A learner completed a present perfect / past simple gap-fill exercise which is a conversation between two old friends. Check the answers, and write *right* or correct them.

- | | |
|---|------------------------|
| A: Have you seen (see) William recently? He grew (grow) a beard! | <i>right</i> |
| B: Yes, actually. I 1've seen (see) him last week in the supermarket.
I think the beard suits him. | <i>has grown</i> |
| A: Yes, it's OK. He 2's lost (lose) a lot of hair in the past few years though. | 1 |
| B: Oh, poor William! All of us 3 changed (change) quite a lot. Look at Marsha. She 4 lost (lose) so much weight since she was a teenager. | 2 |
| | 3 |
| | 4 |

A: Yes. I 5 ~~have~~ never ~~been able to~~ (*be able to*) lose weight. Anyway, the reason I 6 ~~'ve asked~~ (*ask*) you about William was that he 7 ~~'s decided~~ (*decide*) to have a college reunion next month and we're all invited. He's only inviting people he 8 ~~'s met~~ (*meet*) at college. 5
 6
 7
 B: That sounds fun. I 9 ~~met~~ (*meet*) William on my first day of college. 8
 We were only 17 and he seemed really shy. He 10 ~~changed~~ (*change*) a lot since then, that's for sure. 9
 10
 A: Look, I'd better go. I'm going to a friend's house, but I 11 ~~haven't been~~ (*not be*) there before and I don't want to get lost and be late. She 11
 12 ~~just moved~~ (*just move*) house and is having a party to celebrate. 12

▷ Exercise 3 Getting the form right

Read the letter to a newspaper travel advice column and fill in the gaps with a verb from the box in the present perfect tense.

be be give go up have have hear like read return visit

Dear Susie

I ~~have not had~~ a holiday for a very long time, but this summer my company
 1 me four weeks' holiday, so I want to go somewhere really exciting.
 I 2 always travelling and 3 lots of
 exciting trips in the past. This year I'm not sure where I want to go.
 I 4 already to Africa and Asia but I 5
 never South America so maybe that's where I should go.
 A friend of mine 6 recently from Brazil and she has some
 wonderful photographs of the carnival in Rio. However, I 7
 that a trip to Brazil is quite expensive and the cost of airfares 8
 just
 Can you give me any advice about a good place to go? I 9 your travel
 page every week for the past year, and really respect your advice. 10 you
 ever to Brazil yourself?

► Exercise 4 Writing a text from notes

Complete the profile of Sarah Murray, international chef, using the notes in *italics* and the present perfect. What is the one factual mistake?

Sarah Murray was born in 1962 in Canada and got her first job as a hotel chef in 1989.
..... *successful ever since* (*Career very successful 1989 to the present*).

She 1
(*has the experience of specialising in many different kinds of cuisine*), but she always says her favourite dishes are Indian and Italian. She 2
..... (*has the experience of travelling all over the world*), but she is unusual amongst top chefs because she doesn't like staying in big hotels. She 3
..... (*has the experience of staying in small hotels*) in places such as Calcutta because she likes trying the local food.

She 4
(*married to Michael Whiteley 1992 to the present*), and they have two sons. They 5
..... (*moved to Florida in 1993 and still live there now*), but they also have a home in Toronto.

6 (*In the past she talked about stopping cooking and she still talks about it now*) when she stopped finding food interesting but it hasn't happened yet. Recently she 7
..... (*an offer from Bull Hotels to become their food director*). 8
..... (*She has the experience of working in Bull Hotels in the past*) and she always stays at a Bull Hotel whenever she travels, so she is expected to accept. This is good news for food lovers worldwide.

Classwork

1 Work in pairs to complete **one** of the unfinished questions below.

Example: Have you *been abroad* recently?

Have you recently? Have you already ?

Have you just? Have you yet?

Have you ever?

2 Write your question on the board. Copy all the questions.

3 Go around the class and ask people the questions. Find someone who answers *Yes* to each question. Write their name next to the question. The person who gets a name for all the questions first is the winner.

Example:

Have you *been abroad* recently? Yes, I have.

Where did you go? The States.