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Present perfect passive

- They **have repaired** the road.
- The road **has been repaired**.



via <https://www.slideserve.com/hadassah/passive-present-perfect-developed-by-4v3l1n0>

The Present Perfect is one of the most challenging verb tenses for English learners. It is used in certain situations and often with quite different meanings. But with some good reference at hand and regular practice, you can easily get into using it! Let's review when we should use the Present Perfect in the Active voice and then see how it can be used in the Passive.

What does Present Perfect mean?

The Present Perfect tense denotes an action or state that occurred at an indefinite time in the past (e.g., *we have met before*) or began in the past and continue to the present time (e.g., *I've worked here for five years*). These actions have started in the past but continue up to the present moment.

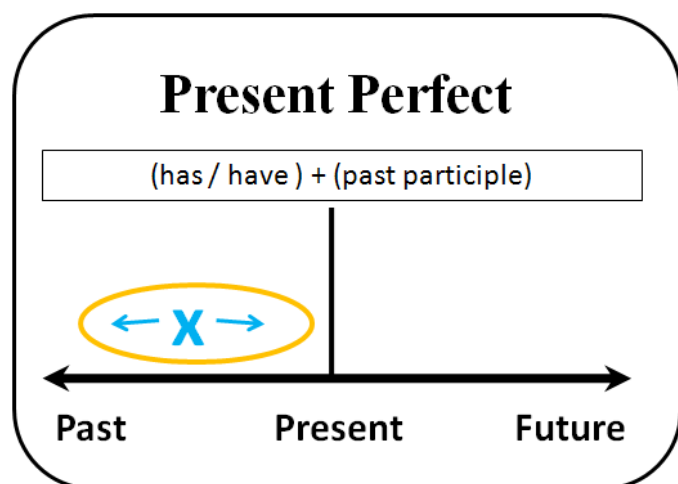


image via <https://parentingpatch.com/past-perfect-passive-english-verbs/>

See? It's always related **to the past** and irrespective of its name 'Present Perfect' expresses a past event.

But why is it called "**Present** Perfect"?

Present Perfect is called like that because it combines the present grammatical tense (she *has*) and the perfect grammatical aspect (*done*). The Present Perfect is used to denote a link between the present and the past. It expresses actions in the past that **still have an effect** on the **present moment**.

- My new bicycle **has been delivered** already, so now I can ride it all day long.
- Your dog looks sad, **has it been fed** today?
- Old chairs in the hall **have been replaced** with the new ones.

The time of the action is **before now but not specified**, and we are often more interested in the **result** than in the action itself.

- Why is she sad?
- She **has read** your letter.

- Why are you going outside?
- My boyfriend **has arrived**.

Use of time expressions

The Present Perfect uses time adjuncts referring **to the present** and does not allow the use of time adjuncts referring to the past.

- We have completed our project **by now**.
- We have finished our work **last week**. (incorrect)
- We finished our work **last week**. (Past Simple should be used instead)

How do you form Present Perfect?

The construction of the Present Perfect is simple. The first element is the auxiliary (helping) verb 'have' or 'has', depending on the subject the verb is connected with. The second element is the **past participle** of the verb.

Present Perfect Tense

Subject	Helping Verb	Main Verb (Past Participle)
I You They We	have	decided finished lost
She He It	has	chosen gone

via <https://www.onlinemathlearning.com/present-perfect-tense.html>

In most cases (for regular verbs), to form the Past Participle we add '**-ed**' to the base form of the verb:

- to listen → **listened**
- to like → **liked**
- to drop → **dropped**

See spelling rules for verbs when adding '-ed' [here](#).

Some common verbs in English have **irregular** Past Participle forms:

- go - went - gone
- be - was/were - been
- feel - felt - felt, etc.

You should remember them or consult a dictionary or irregular verb list.

Read the examples with Present Perfect:

- We **have worked** here since 2008.
- We **have seen** this movie already.
- I **have made** you a cup of tea.
- He **has cut** his finger.

How do you use Present Perfect?

Present Perfect is typically used to describe:

- **Unfinished past**
- **Past actions or events that have an effect in the present**
- **Experience**
- **Other actions when the emphasis is on the result, not the process**

Present Perfect Tense for Unfinished Past

We may use the **Present Perfect** to talk about actions or events that **started in the past** but **continue to the present** or to describe something we have done several times in the past and continue to do:

- *I'm a teacher.*
- *I started teaching five year ago.*
- *I've **been** a teacher for five years.*
- *I have a bike.*
- *My Dad gave it to me a long time ago.*
- *I've **had** it for ages.*

Present Perfect Tense with 'Just'/'Already' and 'Yet'

We use the Present Perfect to talk about actions or events in the past that **still have an effect** on the present moment. These actions have started in the past but **continue up to the present** moment.

We can use '**just**' or '**already**' to talk about something that happened *a short time ago*:

- *I **have just came** from school.*
- *They **have just cooked** dinner.*

We often use '**yet**' with negative and question forms of the Present Perfect. It means something like '*until now*'. It usually comes at the end of the sentence.

- ***Has** he **arrived yet**?*
- *I **haven't seen** Susan **yet**.*

Present Perfect Tense for Experience

We use the Present Perfect to ask about **life experiences**. We often use the adverb '**ever**' to talk about experience up to the present:

- *I've **been** to India **twice**.*
- *She **hasn't eaten** sushi.*

This tense expresses actions of duration that occurred in the past (before now) but are of unspecified time:

- *Tom **has been** to London.*
- ***Have you ever met** George?*
- *Yes, but I've **never met** his wife.*

Other common usages of Present Perfect are:

1. To put emphasis on the result: – *She **has broken** a cup.*
2. To express an action that started in the past and continues up to the present: – *I **have worked** for this company for 10 years.*
3. To talk about life experiences: – *I've never **traveled** alone.*
4. To say about an action repeated in an unspecified period between the past and now:
– *I **have visited** them many times.*

5. When the precise time of action is not important or unknown: – *Someone **has stolen** my bike!*

Remember: the focus of the Present Perfect is mainly **the result we have in present**.

We've revised the Present Perfect tense in the Active voice. Let's see what's the difference between Present Perfect Active and Present Perfect Passive.

Common signal words

Present Perfect is often used with the words like '*just*', '*already*', '*recently*', '*lately*', '*still*', '*this week/month/year*', '*today*', etc. to denote a recent activity or event.

In statements showing an event or situation which began in the past and continues now, we often use time expressions with *since* and *for*, e.g. *for a week*, *since yesterday*, *for a long time*, *since 2010*:

We use:

for +	ages / ten years / six months / two weeks / fifteen minutes
a period of time	

since +	2015 / March / last summer / yesterday / this morning / 10.00
a point in time	

- *I love my new office, I've **worked** there for five months already.*
- *Today we celebrate our anniversary, we've **been** married since 2007.*

Present Perfect Passive: meaning

The **Present Perfect Passive** is an English verb form that has the present tense, perfect aspect, and **passive voice**. In the Passive, a subject of the sentence is not the doer – it is **acted upon**. We focus attention on what or who receives an action (the object).

Compare:

- Lise **has recorded** a song. – A song **has been recorded** by Lisa.
- Everybody **has approved** Joana's suggestion. – Joana's suggestion **has been approved** by everybody.

We use Present Perfect Passive with the same meaning as Present Perfect in the active voice except for the fact that Present Perfect Passive makes focus **on the effect** (or the object) rather than the doer (the subject) of an action. Read more about the uses of Present Perfect in our articles [Present Perfect Tense for Unfinished Past](#), [Present Perfect Tense with 'Just' and 'Yet'](#) and [Present Perfect Tense for Experience](#).

In the picture below, you can see the word order changes in the Passive voice – the subject and the object of the sentence **change places**.

■ The Present Perfect Tense

Active: S + Has/Have + V³_{ed} + O

Passive: S + *has/have* + **been** + v₃ + by + O

EX: He has just finished a novel.

→ A novel *has just been finished* (by him).

image via

<http://passivevoicebydanilo.blogspot.com/2015/11/present-perfect-passive-exercises-pdf.html>

Thus, the main difference between the Present Perfect Active and the Present Perfect Passive in terms of grammar and semantics is that the Present Perfect Passive allows for an object of

an active sentence to move into the subject position of a passive sentence.

Present Perfect Passive: usage

We use the Present Perfect in the passive form for all the same reasons we use it in the active form — to talk about (1) experiences and achievements, (2) changes over time, (3) incomplete actions with expected ends, (4) continuous actions started in the past, (5) past actions with results in present, and (6) multiple actions at different times. For example:

- *All the sandwiches **have been eaten**.*
- *Maths **has been studied** for many years.*
- *The light **has been turned on** already.*
- *All the patients **have been treated** by Dr Philips.*

In general, we use Passive voice instead of Active voice when:

1. The subject is unknown. We don't know who or what is the subject.

- *An amazing surprise **has been prepared** for you.*

2. We want to emphasize the subject.

- *Only 'she' **has been known** to be always in time.*

3. We are unclear or vague about the subject or the subject is irrelevant.

- *The results of the degree examination **have been announced**.*

4. To talk about general truths.

- *These lands **have been cultivated** for as long as we know it.*

5. In formal writing (such as scientific reports) when the emphasis is on process and results, rather than on who did the action.

- Water **has been poured** into the flask in order to acquire the desired mixture.

Present Perfect Passive: structure

The structure of the Present Perfect in the passive voice is very similar to the Present Perfect in the active voice. The only difference is adding '**been**' after the helping verb 'have'/'has'.

Thus, in Present Perfect Passive, we always use '**has/have been**' + the **past participle** form.

Here are some examples:

- This house **has been sold** to some foreigners.
- The children **have been given** their medicine.

Statements

To make statements with the **Present Perfect Passive**, use:

have/has been + the **Past Participle** form of the verb

Singular	Plural
I have been seen You have been seen He/she/it have been seen	We have been seen You have been seen They have been seen

Negative forms of Present Perfect Passive

To make a negative form of Present Perfect Passive, insert '**not**' between 'have/has' and 'been' (you can also use 'hasn't' or 'haven't').

- This long test **has n't been translated** yet.
- This old violin **hasn't been played** for ages.

Questions in Present Perfect Passive

The structure for asking questions in Present Perfect Passive is:

have/has + [subject] + been + Past Participle

- **Haven't** the documents **been submitted** yet?
- **Has** the patient's temperature **been taken**?

Look this video from Smrt English explaining how to use passive voice with present perfect:

See also:

[Present Perfect: Statements](#)

[Present Perfect Tense with 'Just' and 'Yet'](#)

[Present Perfect for Unfinished Past](#)

[Present Perfect for Experience](#)

[Passive Voice: Overview](#)