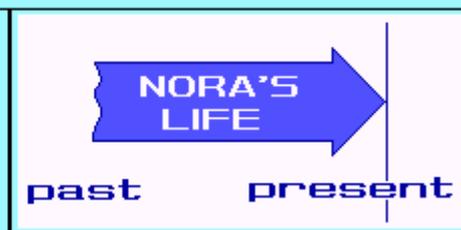


## Unit 14

## Present perfect (I have done) (2)

**a** Study this example conversation:

Dave: **Have you travelled** a lot, Nora?  
Nora: **Yes, I've been** to 47 different countries.  
Dave: **Really? Have you ever been** to China?  
Nora: **Yes, I've visited** China twice.  
Dave: **What about India?**  
Nora: **No, I've never been** to India.



When we talk about a period of time that continues up to the present, we use the present perfect. Nora and Dave are talking about the places Nora has visited in her life (which is a period continuing up to the present).

Here are some more examples:

- **'Have you read Hamlet?'** 'No, I **haven't read** any of Shakespeare's plays.'
- How many times **have you been** to the United States?
- Susan really loves that film. She's **seen** it eight times.
- Sam **has lived** in Belfast all his life. (*or* Sam **has always lived** in Belfast.)

We often use **ever** and **never** with the present perfect:

- **Have you ever eaten** caviar?
- We **have never had** a car.

We often use the present perfect after a *superlative* (see **Unit 104d**):

- **What a boring film!** It's **the most boring film I've ever seen**.

**b** You have to use the present perfect with **This is the first time ...**, **It's the first time ...** etc.

Study this example situation:

- Ron is driving a car. He is very nervous and unsure because it's his first time behind the wheel of a car. You can say:  
**This is the first time he has driven** a car. (*not* 'drives')
- or*: He **has never driven** a car **before**.

Here are some more examples:

- Tom **has lost** his passport again. **It's the second time he has lost** it.
- **Is this the first time you've been** in hospital?

**c** Use the present perfect to say that you have never done something or that you haven't done something during a period of time which continues up to the present:

- I **have never smoked**.
- I **haven't smoked for three years**. (*not* 'I don't smoke for ...')
- I **haven't smoked since September**. (*not* 'I don't smoke since ...')
- Jill **hasn't written to me for nearly a month**.
- Jill **has never driven** a car.

For the difference between **for** and **since** see **Unit 19b**.