

Unit 13

Present perfect (I have done) (1)

a Study this example situation:



Tom is looking for his key. He can't find it.

He **has lost** his key.

'He **has lost** his key' means that he lost it a short time ago and he still hasn't got it.

This is the *present perfect (simple) tense*:

I/we/they/you **have** (= I've etc.) || **lost**
he/she **has** (= he's etc.)

We form the present perfect with **have/has** + the *past participle*. The past participle often ends in **-ed** (opened, decided) but many important verbs are *irregular* (lost, written, done etc.). See **Appendix 2**.

b When we use the present perfect there is a connection with the present:

- I've **lost** my key. (= I haven't got it *now*).
- Jim **has gone** to Canada. (= He is in Canada or on his way there *now*.)
- Oh dear, I've **forgotten** her name. (= I can't remember it *now*.)
- **Have** you **washed** your hair? (= Is it clean *now*?)

c We often use the present perfect to give new information or to announce a recent happening:

- I've **lost** my key. Can you help me look for it?
- Do you know about Jim? He's **gone** to Canada.
- Ow! I've **burnt** myself.

You can use the present perfect with **just** (= a short time ago):

- 'Would you like something to eat?' 'No, thanks. I've **just had** lunch.'
- Hello, **have** you **just arrived**?

You can use the present perfect with **already** to say that something has happened sooner than expected:

- 'Don't forget to post the letter, will you?' 'I've **already posted** it.'
- 'When is Tom going to start his new job?' 'He **has already started**.'

d Study the difference between **gone to** and **been to**:

- Ann is on holiday. She **has gone to** Italy. (= She is there now or she is on her way there.)
- Tom is back in England now. He **has been to** Italy. (= He was there but now he has come back.)

(See also **Unit 119**.)

For the present perfect see also **Units 14 - 19**.

For the present perfect and past simple see **Units 20 - 21**.