

Speakout Advanced p 47. Perfect Aspect. Extra Grammar

Please note some interesting facts

Present Perfect

The Present Perfect can be used

1. to refer to something that will happen at some time **in the future**. E.g. *As soon as I have settled in, come and stay!*
2. after the expressions *this/ that/ it is the first/ second/ third etc time*. E.g. *This is the fourth time I've seen United play this season.*
3. after the expression *it's (two/ three etc) years/ a long time since...* The past simple is also possible. E.g. *It's years since I've had/ I had bacon for breakfast.*

Present Perfect Continuous

The Present Perfect Continuous can be used

1. with verbs which describe actions (e.g. give, play, take), but not with stative verbs (e.g. be, know, like).
2. with verbs that suggest **extended or repeated activity**. It often focuses on the fact that it is **ongoing** and on the **duration** E.g. *He's been playing football all afternoon and needs a shower*. On the other hand, the Present Perfect **Simple** is used when we say the **number of times**. E.g. *He has played for the national team in 65 matches so far*.
3. when we **draw a conclusion** from what we can see or hear often **to complain**. E.g. *Who's been messing around with my papers? They're all over the place*.

The **simple** form of the Present Perfect can emphasise **completion**. E.g. *I have read the book you gave me*. Whereas with the Present Perfect **Continuous** the action is still **continuing**. E.g. *I have been reading the book you gave me- I think I know how it is going to end*.

The Present Perfect **Simple** emphasizes the **result**. E.g. *I've phoned all my friends and they're coming to the party*. Whereas The Present Perfect **Continuous** emphasises the **activity**. E.g. *I've been phoning my friends that's why I haven't done my homework*.

The Present Perfect **Simple** may give the idea that something is more **permanent**. E.g. *He's worked in this shop all his life. I've always lived here*. While The Present Perfect **Continuous** may give the idea that something is **temporary** /'tempərəri/ (limited duration, temporariness /'tempərərɪnəs/). E.g. *I've been working in a supermarket before going to university*.

Past Perfect

To talk about **how many times** something happened in a period up to a particular past time, we use the past perfect, not the past perfect continuous. E.g. *How many times*

had you met him before yesterday?

After *that/it was the first/ second/ third etc time...* E.g. ***We went to Switzerland last summer; it was only the second time we'd been abroad.***

After *it was (two/ three etc) years/ a long time since...* E.g. ***It was a long time since she had last seen her old schoolfriend***

After certain time linkers e.g. *after, before, by the time, as soon as, once, when, until.* E.g. ***It was dark by the time I had finished repairing the roof.*** The past simple can be used if the order of events is clear: e.g. ***I had a relaxing bath after I got home from work last night.***

Participle clauses can sometimes be used in place of clauses with *when* or *after* and the past perfect. E.g. ***Having eaten his sandwich, he put his coat on and left*** (*After he had eaten his sandwich...*)

Past Perfect Continuous

The Past Perfect Continuous can be used to describe an **ongoing** action that went on before another past action and was **completed or continued**. We use this tense when we want to focus on **duration**. E.g. ***He had been driving all day, so he was very tired. He had been trying to telephone the breakdown service for two hours.***

Future Perfect Simple

The Future Perfect Simple can be used

1. to express an action which **will have taken place** by a certain time in the future. E.g. ***The show will have finished by six o'clock.***

2. when something is **taken for granted**. E.g. ***He will undoubtedly have made 100 runs before the end of the game.***

Future Perfect Continuous

The Future Perfect Continuous can be used for an action which began before a certain future time and **will not have finished** by that time. E.g. ***Next year I will have been working in the company for 30 years.***

Exercise: fill in the gaps with a perfect tense.

1. By the time you get home I _____ (clean) the house from top to bottom
2. Joseph _____ (kick) a football against the wall all day
3. On Saturday, we _____ (living) in this house for a year
4. I _____ (stay) in the hotel twice in the 1980s
5. When you _____ (finish), you can go home
6. He _____ (driving) for about half an hour when the engine suddenly stopped.
7. I think someone _____ (tamper) with my mail (**Tamper with** interfere with)
8. She felt terrible during the interview because she _____ (suffer) from flu since the previous day.
9. He _____ (learn) how to play chess and he can play well now. However, he

_____ (learn) how to play baseball for quite some time but he is still meeting his trainer once a week.

10. I _____ (never/kissed) anyone until I _____ (meet) you.

11. That's the third time I _____ (have) to tell you to stop shouting!

12. It looks as if he _____ (cry) again. His eyes are all red and puffy (looking swollen).

13. It was 2 months since we _____ (meet).

14. It's the first time they _____ (be) abroad.

15. By the time you reach the coast, you _____ (drive) for two hours.

KEY

1. By the time you get home I **will have cleaned** the house from top to bottom (ended by a particular point in the future)

2. Joseph **has been kicking** a football against the wall all day (repeated action)

3. On Saturday, we **will have been living** in this house for a year (in progress at a particular point in the future)

4. I **had stayed** in the hotel twice in the 1980s (talking about how many times)

5. When **you have finished** , you can go home (it will happen at some time **in the future**)

6. He **had been driving** for about half an hour when the engine suddenly stopped. (completed action before the past)

7. I think someone **has been tampering with** my mail (drawing a conclusion and complaining)

8. She felt terrible during the interview because she **had been suffering** from flu since the previous day (action before the past that continued beyond it)

9. He **has learnt** how to play chess and he can play well now. However, he **has been learning** how to play baseball for quite some time but he is still meeting his trainer once a week. (present perfect for a completed action and present perfect continuous if the action is still ongoing)

10. (had) never kissed/ met

The past perfect of "kiss" is optional since the sequence of events is made clear by "until".

11. have had

12. has been crying

13. had met

14. have been

15. will have been driving