

Lesson Plan: Present perfect (talking about experiences)

Level: Intermediate (B1)

Time: 60–75 minutes

Objectives

By the end of the lesson, students will be able to:

- Use the **present perfect** to talk about **life experiences**
- Distinguish present perfect (experience) from **past simple**
- Use common time expressions: *ever, never, already, yet, once, twice*

1. Warm-up & Lead-in (8 minutes)

Aim: Activate schema and elicit target tense

Activity: Quick Survey

Write on the board:

- *travel abroad*
- *eat something unusual*
- *meet a famous person*

Ask students:

"Which of these have you done?"

Students respond freely:

"Yes, I did."

"I have done."

(Do not correct yet.)

2. Guided Discovery: Meaning & Use (12 minutes)

Context Text (board or handout)

I've traveled to five countries, but I've never visited Japan. I've eaten sushi many times, and I've met a famous athlete once.

Task

Students underline:

- verbs in **present perfect**
- words about **experience**

Concept Check Questions (CCQs)

Ask:

- Do we know **when** these things happened? (No)
- Are these things part of the speaker's life experience? (Yes)
- Is the person alive now? (Yes)

Highlight:

➡ Present perfect = **experience up to now**, not a finished time in the past.

3. Language Focus: Form & Time Expressions (10 minutes)

Form

have / has + past participle

Examples:

- I have visited Paris.
- She has tried scuba diving.
- They have never seen snow.

Common Expressions

- **ever / never**

- **once / twice / three times**
- **already / yet** (briefly, not main focus)

Board Comparison

Present Perfect	Past Simple
Life experience	Specific past event
No time stated	Time stated
<i>I've been to Rome</i>	<i>I went to Rome in 2019</i>

4. Controlled Practice (10 minutes)

Activity 1: Choose the Correct Tense

Students choose present perfect or past simple.

1. I ____ (be) to Spain, but I ____ (not visit) Madrid.
2. She ____ (try) sushi once.
3. We ____ (meet) him last year.

Answers:

1. have been / haven't visited
2. has tried
3. met

Discuss **why**.

5. Semi-Controlled Practice: Personalization (10 minutes)

Activity 2: Finish the Sentences

Students complete:

- I've never _____.
- I've _____ twice.

- I've already _____.
- I've always wanted to _____.

Students compare answers in pairs.

Encourage follow-up questions:

"Really? When did you do it?"

(Answer must be in **past simple**.)

6. Communicative Practice: Experience Interviews (15 minutes)

Activity 3: Find Someone Who...

Give students prompts:

- has traveled to another continent
- has done an extreme sport
- has learned another language
- has cooked a traditional dish

Rules:

- Questions must use present perfect:

"Have you ever...?"

- Follow-up questions in past simple:

"When did you do it?"

Students report back:

"Maria has been to South America."

7. Error Analysis & Feedback (8 minutes)

Write common errors:

- *I have been in Paris last year.*

- *Did you ever try sushi?*

Students correct:

- *I was in Paris last year.*
- *Have you ever tried sushi?*

Explain the **time reference problem**.

8. Review & Reflection (5 minutes)

Ask:

- When do we use present perfect for experience?
- What happens if we add a **finished time**?

Students explain in their own words.

Homework (Optional)

- Write **8–10 sentences** about your life experiences using:
 - **present perfect** for experience
 - **past simple** for details

Example:

I've visited London. I went there in 2018.