

## 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

<b>Present Perfect</b>	<b>Past Simple</b>
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.*