

Get in on the Act I: Life Experiences

<http://dianafuntanaesl.com/act-i-beginner-grammar/>

Grammar Point: Present Perfect

I		watched		I	watched ...?
You	have / 've	played	Have	you	played
We	haven't	been		we	been
They		had		they	had
He	has / 's	listened		she	listened ...?
She	hasn't	seen	Has	he	seen
It		gone		it	gone

The Present Perfect consists of:

- the present of the verb *to have* + the *past participle*

For regular verbs the past participle is the *root verb* + *ed*:

- watched, played, listened, typed, finished, started

For irregular verbs the past participle is the third form of verb as found in tables listing the principal parts of verbs.

Examples:

be—been have—had see—seen go—gone speak—spoken

The Present Perfect is very useful when we talk about our life experiences using **never**, **ever**, **before** and superlative adjectives (the best / biggest / most expensive).

I **have been** to Mexico before / twice / several times.

I've never **climbed** a mountain / I **haven't ever climbed** a mountain.

Have you **ever eaten** pumpkin pie? No, I **haven't**.

How many times **has** Adie **ridden** an elephant? She's **ridden** an elephant three times.

This is the best sushi we've ever **eaten**.

What's the most exciting place you've ever **visited**?

Who's the most interesting person they've ever **met**?

Use the simple past to indicate when, what time **or** how long ago **you did something**.

I **saw** *The World is Not Enough* on television a few weeks ago.

When was the first / last time Adie **went** to Paris? She **went** there last summer.

These worksheets are photocopiable.

Part 1—Pre-listening exercise

A. Fill in the table with the past participle of the following verbs.

verb	past participle	verb	past participle
take		finish	
get		find	
cook		understand	
write		talk	
make		sit	
follow		look	
bring		put	
read		buy	
work		sing	
come		start	
give		hang	
leave		think	
call		eat	
do		ask	
meet		forget	

B. Make questions with the present perfect. Find someone in your class who answers "Yes".

1. see a famous person on the street

2. eat popcorn

3. lose your wallet or passport

4. ride on a ferris wheel

5. break an arm or leg

6. swallow a fly

7. win money in the lottery

8. drive a racecar

9. be to New York

10. work in a factory

These worksheets are photocopiable.

Part 2—Listening exercises

Exercise A: Indicate which statements about Adie's life experiences are true (T) and which are false (F).

- _____ 1. She has travelled by train.
- _____ 2. She has flown over the Rockies in a hot air balloon.
- _____ 3. She has been to Mars.
- _____ 4. She has ridden a camel.
- _____ 5. She has eaten alligator burgers.
- _____ 6. She has never been to Japan.
- _____ 7. She has climbed Mount Everest.
- _____ 8. She has been to the Sahara Desert twice.
- _____ 9. She has jumped from the Eiffel Tower.
- _____ 10. She has tried baby mice wine.

Exercise B: Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

- 1. How many times has Adie traveled around the world?

- 2. Which animals has she ridden?

- 3. What's the most interesting place she's ever been to?

- 4. Which mountain has she climbed twice?

5. Which famous cities has she visited?
6. Where did a drunk tourist ask her to marry him?
7. What's the strangest food she has ever tried?
8. What unusual food has she eaten?
9. What's one place she has never been to?
10. How many different ways has she travelled?

Part 3—Script

Diana: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Diana Funtana, and welcome to Life Experiences. Tonight's my special guest is television news reporter and world traveler, Adie Ventura.

Adie: Hello, Diana.

Diana: Welcome to the show, Adie.

Adie: Thanks, Diana, for inviting me.

Diana: So Adie, you've traveled around the world many times and many different ways.

Adie: Yes, that's right. I've traveled by car, plane, bus, and train. I've sailed on ships. I've ridden motorcycles, horses, donkeys, and even an elephant. I've also flown over the Alps in a hot air balloon.

Diana: A hot air balloon! Really! What was that like?

Adie: It was awesome!

Diana: I bet! Tell us what's the most interesting place you've been to?

Adie: Well, I'd say the most fascinating place I've ever been is the Himalayas.

Diana: The Himalayas! Have you ever climbed Mount Everest?

Adie: Oh, of course. I've climbed Mount Everest twice.

Diana: Wow! What was it like?

Adie: Well, it was very cold, and very high!

Diana: I can imagine. What famous cities have you visited?

Adie: Oh, well, I've visited Venice, Vienna, London, Los Angeles, Madrid, Beijing, Moscow, Sydney ...

Diana: Sorry, Adie, but we don't have time for all of them, but can you tell us what was your most memorable experience in a famous city?

Adie: Well, I went to the top of the Eiffel Tower with a group of tourists, and one of them asked me to marry him.

Diana: How romantic! Did you say yes?

Adie: No, he was drunk and I then said no, and then he tried to jump over the edge. But that's definitely the last time I ever go to the top of the Eiffel Tower with a group of drunken tourists!

Diana: I see. I bet you've eaten lots of interesting food on your travels. What's the most unusual food you've ever eaten?

Adie: Well, I've eaten snakes, frog's legs, live fish, alligator burgers but I have to say that the strangest thing I've ever had was baby mice wine.

Diana: Baby mice what?

Adie: Yes, it's wine made from baby mice—

Diana: Adie, oh sorry but we're almost out of time, and I have one last question. It sounds to me like you've done and seen everything. What's next?

Adie: Well, Diana, I've never been to another planet.

Diana: You mean, you want to travel into outer space?

Adie: You bet, I want to go to Mars and I can't wait.

Diana: Well, all I can say is happy travels, Adie.

Adie: Well, thank you, Diana!

Diana: So, this is Diana Funtana and that was Life Experiences. Good night and good experiences. See you again tomorrow.

Part 4—Role play: Life Experiences

Talk Show Host's Worksheet

Make a list of different types of questions you can ask your guest about his or her life experiences.

Have you ever _____?

Have you ever _____?

How many _____ have you _____?

How many times have you _____?

Which interesting _____ have you _____?

What's the _____ you've ever _____?

Part 4—Role play: Life Experiences

Guest's Worksheet

Make a list of the most interesting things you've done and places you've been to in your life. Use your imagination and make your life fascinating.

Cities / countries you've been to:

Food you've eaten:

Famous people you've met:

Dangerous or exciting things you've done:

Jobs you've had:

Famous sights or places you've visited or seen:

Answer key

Part 1 – Pre-listening exercises

Exercise A:

take / taken	give / given	look / looked
get / got (gotten)	leave / left	put / put
cook / cooked	call / called	buy / bought
write / written	do / done	sing / sung
make / made	meet / met	start / started
follow / followed	finish / finished	hang / hung
bring / brought	find / found	think / thought
read / read	understand / understood	eat / eaten
work / worked	talk / talked	ask / asked
come / come	sit / sat	forget / forgotten

Exercise B:

1. Have you ever seen a famous person on the street?
2. Have you ever eaten popcorn?
3. Have you ever lost your wallet or passport?
4. Have you ever ridden on a ferris wheel?
5. Have you ever broken an arm or a leg?
6. Have you ever swallowed a fly?
7. Have you ever won money in a lottery?
8. Have you ever driven a racecar?
9. Have you ever been to New York?
10. Have you ever worked in a factory?

Part 2 – Listening exercises

Exercise A:

1. T 2. F 3. F 4. T 5. T 6. F 7. T 8. F 9. F 10. T

Exercise B:

1. She's been around the world many times.
2. She's ridden horses, donkeys, camels and an elephant.
3. The Himalayas is the most interesting place she's ever been to.
4. She's climbed Mount Everest twice.
5. She's visited Venice, Vienna, London, Los Angeles, Beijing, Madrid, Moscow and Sydney.
6. He asked her to marry him in Paris.
7. The strangest thing she's ever tried was baby mice wine.
8. She's eaten snakes, frog's legs, live fish, and alligator burgers.
9. She's never been to Mars.
10. She's travelled 10 different ways.