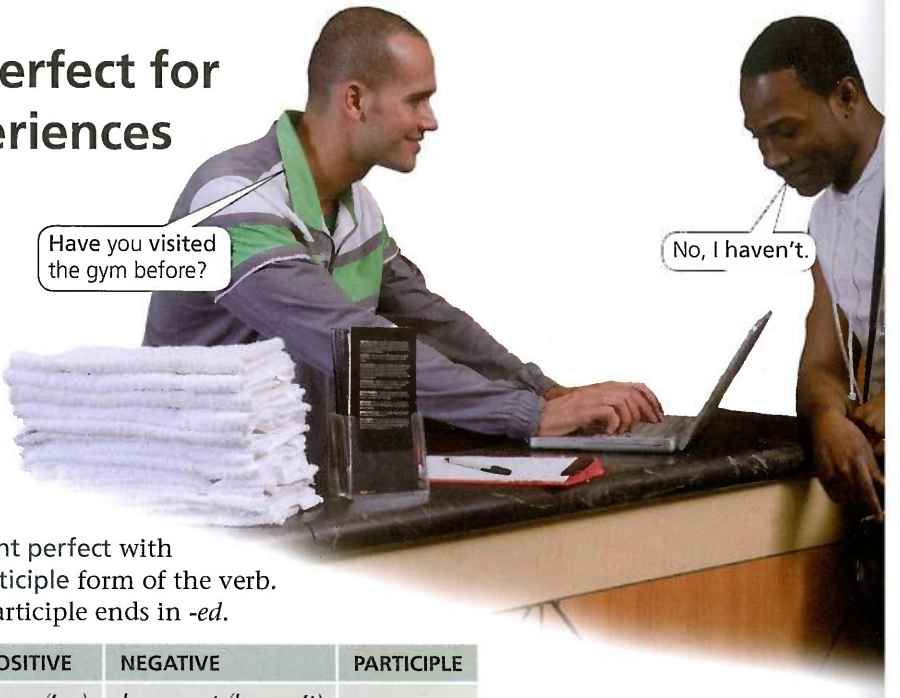
50 Present perfect for past experiences



1 Form

We form the present perfect with *have* + the past participle form of the verb.
The regular past participle ends in *-ed*.

SUBJECT	POSITIVE	NEGATIVE	PARTICIPLE
I/We/You/They	*have ('ve)*	*have not (haven't)*	*finished.*
He/She/It	*has ('s)*	*has not (hasn't)*	

Yes/No QUESTIONS			SHORT ANSWERS
Have	*I/we/you/they*	*finished?*	*Yes, I/we/you/they* **have.** *No, I/we/you/they* **haven't.**
Has	*he/she/it*		*Yes, he/she/it* **has.** *No, he/she/it* **hasn't.**

Wh- QUESTIONS			
What	*have*	*you*	*finished?*
Where	*has*	*she*	*worked?*

Irregular past participles (e.g. *gone*, *stolen*) ➤ page 314

2 Use

We use the present perfect to talk about past experiences in our lives. It is not important when they happened:
John ***has worked*** *in several gyms.* ***I've travelled*** *a lot.*

We can use *before*, *once*, *twice*, *several times*, etc. to say how often:
I haven't visited *the gym* ***before*** *but* ***I've stayed*** *at this hotel* ***several times.***
My parents ***have visited*** *the United States* ***once.***

We often use *ever* to ask about past experiences. It means 'in your life':
'Have you ***ever*** *played golf?' 'Yes, several times.'*
'Has she ***ever*** *tasted Japanese food?' 'Only once.'*

We use *never* in negative sentences. It means 'not in your life':
I've ***never*** *played golf. She's* ***never*** *cooked Italian food.*

⚠ We put *ever* and *never* BEFORE the past participle:
✗ ~~*'Have you stayed ever in a Hilton Hotel?'*~~
✓ *'**Have** you **ever stayed** in a Hilton hotel?'*
✗ ~~*'I've stayed never in any hotels!'*~~
✓ *'**I've never stayed** in any hotels!'*

3 Superlatives

We often use the present perfect with superlative adjectives (➤ Unit 31):
That was ***the best food I've ever tasted!***