

➔ 5.6 Making requests: *can*, *could*, *will*, and *would*

1 There are many ways of making requests in English.

Can I speak to you, please? **Will** you help me, please?
Could I ask you a question? **Would** you pass me the salt?
Would you mind passing me the water?
Do you mind if I open the window?
Would you mind if I closed the window?

2 *Could* is a little more formal; *can* is a little more familiar. *Could I ... ?* and *Could you ... ?* are very useful because they can be used in many different situations.

Could I try on this jumper? **Could** you tell me the time?

To be very formal, or polite, it's only necessary to add *possibly* to a request with *could*.

Could I possibly use your phone to make an important call?

3 Here are some ways of responding to requests:

A Excuse me! Could you help me?
B Sure./Of course./Well, I'm afraid I'm a little busy right now.
A Would you mind if I opened the window?
B No, not at all./No, that's fine./Well, I'm a little cold, actually.

➔ 5.7 Making offers: *will* and *shall*

1 The contracted form of *will* is used to express an intention, decision, or offer.

Come over after work. **I'll** cook dinner.
 'It's Jane's birthday today.' 'Is it? **I'll** buy her some flowers.'

2 *Shall ... I/we ... ?* is used in questions with the first person, *I* and *we*. It expresses an offer, a suggestion, or a request for advice.

Shall I carry your bag for you?
Shall we go out for a meal tonight?
 Where **shall we** go?

Unit 6

➔ 6.1 Present Perfect

1 The same form (*have* + past participle) exists in many languages, but the uses in English are different. In English, the Present Perfect expresses the effect of the past on the present.

PAST PRESENT PERFECT PRESENT

2 Present Perfect means 'completed before now'. The Present Perfect does not express when an action happened. If we say the exact time, we use the Past simple.

In my life, I **have travelled** to all the continents.
 I **travelled** around Africa in 1998.

➔ 6.2 Present Perfect

Form

has/have + past participle

I've lived in Rome. They **haven't bought** their flat.
She's lived in London. How long **have** they **known** Peter?
He hasn't lived here long. How long **has** she **been married**?

Short answer

Have you always lived in Budapest? **Yes, I have./No, I haven't.**

Use

There are three main uses of the Present Perfect.

1 Unfinished past

The Present Perfect expresses an action that began in the past and still continues.

We've lived in the same house for 25 years.
They've been married for 20 years.

Be careful! Many languages express this idea with a present tense, but in English this is wrong.

Jan **has been** a nurse for ten years.
 NOT ~~Jan is a nurse for ten years.~~

Time expressions

Notice the time expressions that are common with this use.

	two years		1970
	a month		August
for	a few minutes	since	8.00
	half an hour		I was a child
	ages		Christmas

We use *for* with a period of time and *since* with a point in time.

2 Experience

The Present Perfect expresses an experience that happened at some time in one's life. The action is finished, but the effects of the action are still felt in some way.

I've been to the United States. (I know now what it's like there.)
Have you ever had an operation? (at any time in your life, so you know now what it's like to have one)

Exactly *when* the action happened is not important. Questions and statements about definite times are expressed in the Past Simple.

When **did** you **go** to the United States? I **broke** my leg once.

Time expressions

The adverbs *ever*, *never*, and *before* are common with this use.

Have you **ever** been to Australia? I **haven't** tried sushi **before**.
 I've **never** tried bungee jumping.

3 Present result

The Present Perfect expresses a past action that has a clear present result. The action is usually in the recent past.

The taxi **hasn't arrived** yet. (We're still waiting for it.)
 What **have** you **done** to your lip? (It's bleeding.)

We often announce news in the Present Perfect.

Have you heard? The Prime Minister **has resigned**.
 Susan's **had** her baby!

More details will be in the Past Simple.

She **resigned** because she **lost** a vote of no confidence.
 It's a boy. It **was** a very easy birth.

Time expressions

The adverbs *yet*, *already*, and *just* are common with this use.

I **haven't** done my homework **yet**. (negative)
 Has the postman been **yet**? (question)
 I've **already** done my homework.
 She's **just** had some good news.

Be careful with *been* and *gone*.

He's **been** to the United States. (experience – he isn't there now)
 She's **gone** to the United States. (present result – she's there now)