

We often use *before* to say whether it's the first time we've done something:

*We've been here **before**. We came for my birthday.*

(= We are here now and we've been here in the past as well.)

*I haven't stayed in a five-star hotel **before**.* (= I am going to stay in one soon – for the first time.)

We usually put *before* at the end of the statement or question: *Have you been here **before**?*

4 Past actions with present results

We can use the present perfect to talk about a past action that has a result in the present:

*My car's **broken down**.* (= It broke down earlier, and it isn't working now.)

*They've **gone out**.* (= They went out earlier, and they aren't here now.)

Compare this with the past simple, where the action and the result are both in the past:

*My car **broke down** last year and I **couldn't** drive it for three weeks.*



5 *just, already, recently*

We use *just* to talk about actions that happened a very short time ago:

*The plane has **just** landed. The passengers are getting off now.*

*The shop has **just** closed – you can't go in now.*

Already means 'before the expected time'. We use it in positive sentences:

*You've missed the match. It's **already** finished.*

! We usually put *just* and *already* before the past participle:

*X My car has ~~broken down~~ **just**. ✓ My car has **just** broken down.*

*Graham's train has **already** arrived.*

*You don't need to lock the car. I've **already** done it.*

We use *recently* to talk about actions that happened in the last few days or months:

*Have you seen them **recently**?*

*What's the place like now? I haven't been there **recently**.*

! We don't use *already* in negative sentences:

*X The parcel ~~hasn't~~ **arrived** ~~already~~. ✓ The parcel hasn't arrived yet.*

6 *still, yet*

We use *yet* in questions to ask about something we expect to happen around now, but which hasn't happened at the time of speaking:

*Has the six o'clock train **arrived** **yet**? It's five past six and I haven't seen it.*

We use *still* or *yet* in negative sentences when we expected something to happen before now:

*Our pizzas **haven't** **come** **yet**. We ordered them nearly half an hour ago!*

*I gave my teacher that essay last week but she **still** **hasn't** **marked** it.*

We usually put *yet* at the end of a question or negative statement; we put *still* before *hasn't/haven't*:

*Has your car **been** **repaired** **yet**? We **still** **haven't** **had** our exam results.*

We can also use *still* in positive sentences to say that an earlier situation has not changed.

We use the present simple or continuous, not the present perfect:

*Carlos is thirty, but he **still** **lives** with his parents. The bridge is closed; they're **still** **repairing** it.*

! We don't use *yet* in positive sentences:

*X I've ~~paid~~ for the meal **yet**. ✓ I've **already** paid for the meal.*

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