

Have You Ever...? (Past & Present Perfect)

Pre-intermediate (A2-B1)



Part 1. Read the questions. For each one, make a quick note: Yes or No. Compare your answers with a partner. Which experiences do you share?

Have you ever...

1. Missed a train or bus?
2. Cooked something that went completely wrong?
3. Forgotten someone's name five seconds after hearing it?
4. Tried to start a new habit and stopped after a week?
5. Sent a message to the wrong person?
6. Changed your opinion about something important?

Part 2. Read the text and answer the questions.

"Last month, I decided to cook dinner for some friends. I had watched a few cooking videos, so I felt confident. Everything started well, but then I got distracted and burnt the main dish. Before my friends arrived, I had already made a mess in the kitchen. I felt embarrassed, but in the end we laughed and ordered pizza instead. Since then, I've learnt two things: don't try new recipes when you're tired, and always have a backup plan."

1. Why did the situation go wrong?
2. Why does the writer still see this as a positive experience?
3. Which sentence is connected to the present?

Part 3. Look at the sentences from the text and discuss the questions.

- **I had watched a few cooking videos.**
- **I had already made a mess in the kitchen.**
- **Since then, I've learnt two things.**

Discuss:

- Why does the writer use "had + past participle"?
- Which action happened first: watching the videos or burning the food?
- Why does the writer use present perfect in the last sentence?

Part 4. Work with a partner. Take turns asking and answering the questions below.

Have you ever...

1. Done something embarrassing in public?
2. Changed your daily routine?
3. Learnt something difficult?
4. Broken something expensive?
5. Travelled somewhere unexpected?
6. Made a decision and then regretted it?

If your partner answers "Yes, I have," ask:

- When did it happen?
- What happened next?

If your partner answers "No, I haven't," ask:

- Would you like to? Why or why not?

Part 5. Write or say three sentences about your life and explain your answers.

1. Something you've already done today.
2. Something you haven't finished yet.
3. Something you've started recently.

Part 6. Read each situation. Imagine what happened before it. Complete the sentence using the past perfect (had + past participle).

Situation 1: It was Monday morning at work.

I was tired in this situation because I had...

Situation 2: Guests were arriving at my house in ten minutes.

I felt stressed in this situation because I had...

Situation 3: I finally sat down after a long day.

I was relieved in this situation because I had...

Situation 4: Everyone suddenly looked at me in the meeting.

I was embarrassed in this situation because I had...

Part 7. Read the situations and choose been or gone. Then explain why.

1. I've _____ to Italy three times.

2. Where's Tom? He's _____ to the shop.

3. She's _____ to Spain before, but she isn't there now.

4. They've _____ to France for two weeks. They'll be back on Sunday.

After checking your answers, discuss:

- What is the difference between "been" and "gone"?

REFLECTION

Complete the sentences with your own ideas.

1. Today I've practised talking about _____.

2. I feel more confident using _____.

3. I haven't practised _____ enough yet.