



ELITE ENGLISH

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Unit 2 – Simple Past & Present Perfect (*I had coffee today.. I've had coffee today..*)

A) Present Time Expressions -> Normally, time expressions such as *today, this afternoon, this year*, etc. are used to express the present or more specifically, the present continuous. However, these time expressions can also be used to express the simple past and present perfect tense. Let's compare the following:



This is Ashley. She's a high school student. Let's review Ashley's morning:

- She **ate** breakfast this morning.
- She **has eaten** breakfast this morning.
- She **went** to school by bus today.
- She **has gone** to school by bus today.

What is the difference between them? It depends on how the present moment compares to these events. Is it a completed event (*ate/went*), or can we think of them as **including** the present (*eaten/gone*)? For example:

- 'She **ate** breakfast this morning' indicates that the morning is over (*it's now after lunch*), while:
- 'She's **eaten** breakfast this morning' indicates that the morning is still ongoing (*it's before lunch*).

B) Using 'Since' -> Sentences are made up of clauses. If the time clause of a sentence includes '**since**,' a **simple past tense** verb is generally used while the **present perfect tense** is used in the main clause. For example:

- Eric **has been studying** very hard since he **started** college. *or:*
- Since Eric started college, he **has been studying** very hard.
- Since Eric **started** college, he **has been dedicated** to his studies.

Note: -> the present perfect clause can express either a verb (*studying*) or adjective (*dedicated*):

However: -> If the verb in the time clause extends to the present, then the present perfect can also be used:

- Mr. Smith has been promoted several times since **he has worked** here. -> *or: 'since he worked here'*

C) Referring to the future or past -> When a time clause is expressed with **after, as soon as, by the time, once, until & when** (or time expressions such as **the second/minute/moment**, etc.), if the verb in the time clause is in the past tense then the main clause will refer to past, completed events. However, if the verb in the time clause is in the present perfect tense then the main clause will refer to future events:

- After Lisa **graduated** (*past*) college, she **started** (*past*) her career at a law firm.
- After Lisa **has graduated** (*present perfect*) college, she **will start** (*future*) her career at a law firm.

Note: -> In the above example, '**graduated**' can be replaced with '**had graduated**' (*past perfect tense*), and '**has graduated**' can be replaced with '**graduates**.'

D) News Reports -> It is common to hear the present perfect & simple past tenses combined in news reporting. Often, the **present perfect** is used to introduce a report while the **simple past** is used to provide further details:



The Mars rover, *Perseverance*, **has successfully touched down** on the red planet. It safely **landed** on Feb. 18, 2021 and **began** sending images to earth immediately.

Tom Brady **has won** his seventh Superbowl in a dramatic win over the Kansas City Chiefs. Brady also **won** his fifth Superbowl MVP award in the process.

E) 'It's the first time..' -> The present perfect is often used after **It / This / That was/is/will** (**be the first time**):

- **It's the first time I've seen** a player score 50 goals in a single season in our league.
- **That'll be the first time I've been** to Italy. I've been dreaming of going there since I was young!

Note: -> If '**was**' is used in this pattern, the **past perfect tense** can also be expressed:

- **It was the first time I'd met** our new neighbors. They both seemed really nice!



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Unit 2 – Exercises:

2.1 – Underline the correct form of the verb (**simple past** or **present perfect**) for each sentence. (2-A)

1. Walter Johnson is a successful real estate agent. He **won / has won** several awards.
2. **I've seen / I saw** my first Disney movie when I was just four years old.
3. Sean **lived / has lived** in Japan for nine years, but he's back in Toronto now.
4. We **haven't heard / didn't hear** from Jeff since his family moved to Germany last year.
5. A: How long **has she been / was she** sick? B: She went into the hospital last week.

2.2 – Fill in the blanks with the **simple past** or **present perfect** form of the verbs in brackets. (2-A)

1. A: _____ (you/finish) classes today? B: No, I still have one more at 3pm.
2. (*It's 11am*) A: _____ (you/see) Mary this morning? B: Yes, I _____ (see) her when I first _____ (arrive), but she _____ (go) out soon afterwards.
3. I _____ (not/clean) much of the house yet, and we're expecting guests in an hour!

2.3 – For each sentence, write the verbs in brackets in either the **simple past** or **present perfect** form. (2-B)

1. Steve **has felt** a lot happier since he **quit** his stressful job last month. (feel / quit)
2. Our boss _____ us to work a lot harder since the pandemic _____. (push / start)
3. Since Kara _____ going to the gym, she _____ weight. (start / lose)
4. I _____ a lot of confidence since I _____ a public speaking club. (gain / join)
5. Dad _____ able to exercise more since he _____ smoking last year. (be / stop)
6. Since we _____ Netflix, our family _____ a lot of shows together. (get / watch)
7. Have you _____ to any of your neighbors since you _____ your new house? (talk / move into)

2.4 – Write the verb in brackets in either the **simple past** or the **present perfect tense**. (2-C)

1. After we **arrived** (arrive) at the flower festival, we **took** a stroll around the gardens.
2. After we _____ (arrived) at the festival, **I'll call** you to come and meet us.
3. As soon as Mark _____ (get) home from work, he went straight to bed. He was exhausted.
4. The minute I _____ (hear) any news, I'll contact you. I know how concerned you are about dad.
5. The moment Dan _____ (cross) the finish line of the race, he looked over at us and smiled.
6. We told mom exactly what happened when she _____ (ask) us about the broken mirror.
7. There were dozens of customers standing in line by the time the store _____ (open) today.
8. I'll call you once you _____ (finish) class. What time will that be?

2.5 – For the following news extracts, write the verbs in brackets in the suitable verb tense. (2-D)

1. 'A drone tour of a London bowling alley **has won** (win) a prestigious award for its creative style. The creators **wanted** (want) to highlight a business that **faced** (face) difficult times last year.'
2. 'A French-Norwegian archaeological team _____ (discover) new Christian ruins in Egypt's Western Desert. The team _____ (make) the announcement after weeks of extensive work in the remote area.'
3. 'The Dow Jones Industrial Average _____ (rise) over 200 points on Friday. It's the first time in eight days that the index _____ (rise). This is mainly because of positive news from the business sector.'
4. 'Account holders of the National Pension Fund _____ (prevent) from accessing their online account since the beginning of the week. Despite the concerns, the NPP president _____ (dismiss) concerns Tuesday that the incident was serious, and _____ (request) patience from customers.'

2.6 – For each 'the first time' pattern, complete the sentences in the **present perfect** or **past perfect form**. (2-E)

1. Mike is now in London for the first time. -> **Mike**: "It's the first time _____."
2. Sarah is going to go skydiving today. -> **Sarah**: "It'll be the first time _____."
3. Amy saw a magician live last night. -> **Amy**: "It was the first time _____."
4. Brian saw Chris for the first time in six years. -> **Brian**: "It was the first time _____."



Unit 10 – Verb Tense Review (All 12 tenses..)

-> Verb tenses are used to express an action or event: in the **present, past or future**. These three main (simple) tenses also have a **continuous***, **perfect** and **perfect continuous** part that provides more information about the time, progression or completion of the action or event.

*When learning grammar, sometimes 'continuous' is referred to as 'progressive.'

-> The following verb tense table provides an overview of the 12 different verb tenses (notice that the **simple future** is divided into 'will' & 'going to') with examples in the positive, negative and question form. There is also information on the purpose of each tense and also 'key words' that will help you identify each verb tense in use.

Verb Tense:	Positive/Negative/Question:	Purpose:	Key Words:
Simple Present:	P: He studies. N: He doesn't study. Q: Does he study?	-routine, repeated actions in the present -general facts & truths -confirmed future events/timetables	<i>Frequency Adverbs:</i> <i>always, rarely, often, normally, etc.</i>
Simple Past:	P: He studied. N: He didn't study. Q: Did he study?	-a single, or repeated action in the past -actions/events occurring one after another in the past	<i>a few minutes ago, yesterday, last week, in 2015, etc.</i>
Simple Future: -> will	P: He will study. N: He won't study. Q: Will he study?	-a prediction based on personal opinions -a future fact/schedule -an expression of willingness	<i>now (willingness), in a year, next week, etc.</i>
Simple Future: -> be going to	P: He's going to study. N: He's not going to study. Q: Is he going to study?	-fixed plans or intentions -a prediction based on evidence -an action that is about to happen	<i>in five minutes, tomorrow, in a year, etc.</i>
Present Continuous:	P: He's studying. N: He's not studying. Q: Is he studying?	-an action or event currently taking place -a fixed future plan or schedule -to express characteristic behavior	<i>now, immediately, at the moment, Look!, in five minutes, etc.</i>
Past Continuous:	P: He was studying. N: He wasn't studying. Q: Was he studying?	-an action in process taking place in the past -a long past action interrupted by a short action -two past actions taking place at the same time	<i>as, and, while, when, etc.</i>
Future Continuous:	P: He'll be studying. N: He won't be studying. Q: Will he be studying?	-a future action that is interrupted by another action (or as a time reference) -two future actions taking place at the same time	<i>as, and, while, when, etc.</i>
Present Perfect:	P: He has studied. N: He hasn't studied. Q: Has he studied?	-emphasis is on the result -a recent action that has been completed -an action that may or may not be completed	<i>for, since, just, ever, never, not yet, so far, until now, etc.</i>
Past Perfect:	P: He had studied. N: He hadn't studied. Q: Had he studied?	-an action takes place before another action/event in the past	<i>already, just, never, not yet, when, after, by the time, etc.</i>
Future Perfect:	P: He will have studied. N: He will not have studied. Q: Will he have studied?	-a future action that is completed before another future action/event	<i>by 3pm, by tonight, when, by the time, already, before, etc.</i>
Present Perfect Continuous:	P: He has been studying. N: He hasn't been studying. Q: Has he been studying?	-emphasis is on the process & timeframe -a completed action with a focus on the present -a completed action that may still continue	<i>for, since, just, ever, never, not yet, so far, until now, etc.</i>
Past Perfect Continuous:	P: He had been studying. N: He hadn't been studying. Q: Had he been studying?	-an action takes place until, or after another action/event in the past	<i>for, since, when, after, by, etc.</i>
Future Perfect Continuous:	P: He will have been studying. N: He will not have been studying. Q: Will he have been studying?	-a future action that will <u>not</u> be completed before another future action/event	<i>by the time / when / before / next / at, etc.</i>



Unit 10 – Exercises:

10.1 – For each sentence, choose the correct form of the verb in brackets.

1. I _____ (brush) my teeth after every meal.
2. My fiancé and I _____ (be, engaged) for nearly six months.
3. The teacher looked across the room to see if everyone _____ (listen).
4. Mr. Johnston _____ (not, be) in the office but he will return soon.
5. Kelly _____ (study) for two hours at the library when I _____ (go) to see her.
6. I _____ (meet) some of my high school friends for dinner tomorrow after work.
7. About a year ago, Mark _____ (leave) the company and I _____ (not, hear) from him since.
8. Last Saturday Jenn _____ (have) dinner with a colleague who _____ (work) on the finance team.
9. I have an old friend who _____ (live) in South Korea and _____ (teach) English to elementary students.
10. By this time next year, Melissa _____ (graduate) from university after four years of hard work.
11. Andrew _____ (throw) down the book he _____ (hold).

10.2 – Fill in the blanks with the correct form of the verb in brackets; the **i) simple present, ii) simple past, iii) present continuous, iv) past continuous, v) present perfect or vi) present perfect continuous** verb tense.

1. Dad generally _____ (go) fishing on the weekends or just _____ (stay) home to relax.
2. We _____ (walk) along the beach and suddenly _____ (see) an eagle overhead.
3. The boys are getting tired. They _____ (play) soccer for over two hours.
4. We _____ (meet) Mr. Thompson at 4pm to discuss the project.
5. Yesterday, I _____ (spend) the day _____ (teach) myself how to play the guitar.
6. _____ (read) the Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown?

10.3 – Fill in the blanks with the **simple past, past continuous, past perfect** or the **past perfect continuous**.

1. By the time we _____ (get) to the theatre, the play _____ (start) already.
2. When Angela _____ (see) me at the mall, I _____ (walk) out of a bookstore.
3. I _____ (paint) the kitchen for two hours before Peter _____ (come) to help.
4. When we _____ (buy) the house, we _____ (look) for an affordable one for a year.
5. My sister _____ (not, be) to an ice hockey game before last night.
6. We _____ (study) for the history exam when the lights suddenly _____ (go) off.
7. My alarm _____ (not, ring) this morning and I _____ (be) almost late for work.
8. When we _____ (go) out this morning, the sun _____ (shine) and it _____ (be) warm.

10.4 – All 12 verb tenses are represented in the 13 sentences below (the Simple Future = i) will & ii) going to).

1. Ted _____ (buy) a suit yesterday and _____ (pay) for it with his credit card.
2. They were just _____ (sit down) for dinner when their neighbor _____ (knock) on the door.
3. By the end of the month, Jay _____ (complete) the first module of his graphic design class.
4. Lucky me! At this time next week, I _____ (lie) on a beach in California.
5. Every morning Gabi _____ (turn on) her computer and _____ (check) her social media.
6. Could I ask for an extension? I'm afraid that I _____ (not, finish) my presentation yet.
7. This summer I _____ (read) some of the books that are on my bucket list.
8. Nathan _____ (wait) for 20 minutes when the bus finally _____ (arrive).
9. The Smiths _____ (see) the house five times before they finally _____ (decide) to purchase.
10. Evan _____ (meet) Ashley for dinner at 7pm tonight.
11. My parents _____ (paint) the garage all morning. I hope they finish by lunchtime.
12. **Manager:** Could you start the budget soon? **You:** I _____ (start) working on it right now.
13. Let's hurry up. Tammy _____ (wait) for an hour by the time we _____ (arrive).



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Unit 49 – Gradable Adjectives (*it was absolutely incredible.. he ran very fast today..*)

A) Most common adjectives can express various degrees of conditions, properties, qualities, relations, states, etc. using grading adverbs such as **rather** or **very**. These are called gradable adjectives. For example:

-> It's **extremely cold** outside. This assignment is **a bit difficult**. He was **rather quiet** in class.

Grading adverbs: **a bit, a little, extremely, fairly, hugely, immensely, intensely, rather, reasonably, slightly, unusually, very**
 Gradable adjectives: **angry, big, busy, cheap, common, different, expensive, fast, friendly, happy, important, low, popular, quiet, rich, strong, tasty, young**

Non-gradable: absolute adjectives – these adjectives describe absolute qualities. For example, something can't be **a bit** finished or **very** finished. To make them stronger, we use modifiers like **absolutely, totally** or **completely**.

-> Thank you! The report is **absolutely perfect**. -> Their house was **totally destroyed** by a fire.

Non-Gradable adverbs: **absolutely, completely, entirely, perfectly, practically, simply, totally, utterly, virtually**
 Non-Gradable adjectives: **alive, dead, certain, correct, finished, huge, impossible, perfect, unique, unknown, wrong**

Non-gradable: extreme adjectives – Adjectives like **amazing and exceptional** are also non-gradable. They already convey the idea of 'very' in their definitions. To make them even stronger, we must use **absolutely, really, etc.**:

Modifiers: **absolutely, really, simply, totally, utterly**
 Adjectives: **amazing, delicious, enormous, excellent, exhausted, fascinating, freezing, gorgeous, terrifying, tiny, etc.**

Note: -> 'classifying' adjectives are also non-gradable and are combined with adverbs such as **almost, mainly, etc.**

Modifiers: **almost, essentially, exclusively, fully, largely, mainly, nearly, primarily**
 Adjectives: **chemical, complete, digital, domestic, environmental, medical, maximum, minimum, scientific, underlying**

B) Adverbs used with both gradable and non-gradable adjectives – the adverbs **really** (*very much*), **fairly** and **pretty** (both meaning 'to a certain extent, but less than very') can be used with gradable and non-gradable adjectives:

Gradable	Non-gradable
That's a high-end brand. It's really expensive .	Put on a coat! It's really freezing out there!
You'd better attend the meeting. It's fairly important .	Mary seemed to be fairly certain that she's correct.
We had a great time! Everyone was pretty friendly .	I'll never bungee jump again. It was pretty terrifying!

Quite – the sense of the adverb *quite* changes with the 'gradability' of the adjective that it modifies. Compare:

Example:	Adjective	Sense
Let's take the subway. The roads are quite busy today.	Gradable	<i>fairly, rather</i>
Thanks for dinner, mom. It was quite delicious!	Non-gradable	<i>absolutely, really</i>

C) Some adjectives convey a similar meaning when they are gradable or non-gradable. Compare the differences:

i) Gradable – we focus on the quality ('qualitative adjectives') and therefore they can be used with an adverb:

-> The advertisement for the jacket sounded **quite genuine**. (*genuine = sincere, trustworthy*)

ii) Non-gradable – we focus on the category or type ('classifying adjectives') that the adjective belongs to:

-> This jacket is made of **genuine leather**. (*genuine = authentic, real, actual*)

Also: *academic, adult, average, diplomatic, guilty, human, individual, innocent, mobile, private, professional, scientific, technical, true, wild*

D) Colloquial Adjectives – In casual, spoken, English we can use a general gradable adjective such as **good, lovely, nice**, etc. with another gradable adjective in order to better emphasize the second adjective:

-> **Good + ready, stable, strong**, etc.: When you're **good and ready**, you can begin your test.

-> **Lovely + comfortable, kind, smart**, etc.: The bread from this bakery is always **lovely and fresh!**

-> **Nice + bright, early, fresh, warm**, etc.: We got up **nice and early** today and went to the market.

Tip: -> In a very colloquial sense, we can also use **more and more, louder and louder**, etc. to emphasize *emotion*.



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Unit 49 – Exercises:

49.1 – Fill in the blanks with **very** or **absolutely** + the most appropriate word from the box below. **(49-A)**

pretty / funny / interesting / filthy / exhausted / freezing / cold / beautiful / fascinating / hilarious / small / tired

1. She is always **very pretty**, but when she dresses up and puts makeup on, she's _____!
2. You'd better put that shirt in the washing machine right away. It's _____!
3. Sue thought the museum was _____ but I thought it was _____. I didn't want to leave!
4. The apartments are _____ in this building, which is fine for one person living alone.
5. Jerry is _____ but his brother is _____! He's one of the funniest people I've ever met.
6. I had a long day and I'm _____. If I don't sleep well tonight, I'll be _____ tomorrow.
7. It gets _____ in New York in the winter, but in Toronto it gets _____ for long periods.

49.2 – Complete the three sentences that contain gradable adjectives with **very**. Complete the others with the most suitable of the following adverbs: **essentially, fully, mainly, almost, exclusively**. **(49-A)**

1. The group of voters in this area is mainly black, working-class.
2. From the time that I used to go there, the school appeared to be _____ unchanged.
3. Lisa doesn't have the best relationship with her father, but she's _____ close with her mother.
4. The machines on this factory floor are _____ automatic.
5. We sat down on a tree stump and ate some _____ tasty ham sandwiches.
6. *Augusta National* golf club was once _____ male, but has opened to females in recent years.
7. The project isn't quite done yet but we are _____ complete.
8. As soon as we mentioned the trip to beach, the children got _____ excited!

49.3 – Underline the correct or appropriate adverbs in the following sentences. **(49-B)**

1. Malaria is still pretty / fairly common in many parts of Africa. (*both pretty and fairly are possible*)
2. What an incredible game. The final seconds were fairly / pretty unbelievable!
3. Although my car is really / very old, it still runs very well.
4. The conditions were fairly / really excellent for surfing today.
5. Getting Mr. Johnson's agreement is pretty / very essential to finalize this deal.
6. The students kept very / pretty quiet during their examination.
7. His daughter's performance as Juliet was fairly / really captivating.
8. They never expected to own their own home. The news was pretty / fairly overwhelming!

49.4 – Complete each pair of sentences using the **adverb / adjective** pairs from the box. **(49-C)**

(pretty wild / wild) (completely innocent / innocent) (highly technical / technical) (fairly diplomatic / diplomatic)

1. a) The weather was **pretty wild** again last night with that thunder and lightening storm.
b) We saw a flock of _____ geese fly overhead **this** morning.
2. a) The conversation was getting _____ for me, so I let the engineers continue talking.
b) The job ad mentions that it is a _____ position in a new start-up company.
3. a) The two countries agreed to establish _____ relations.
b) Mark would be well-suited for the position. He's _____ in communicating with others.
4. a) She hadn't done anything and was _____, but how could she prove it?
b) The accused criminal had defrauded his _____ victims of millions of dollars.

49.5 – Answer the following questions using an **adverb + adjective** combination. How would you feel if... **(49-all)**

1. ...you just lost a winning lottery ticket? 1. I'd be _____.
2. ...a total stranger tells you you're beautiful/handsome? 2. _____.
3. ...your favorite team just won a world championship? 3. _____.