Present Perfect Tense

Objectives

In this mini-lesson, students will:

• Identify verbs in the present perfect tense.
• Use present perfect tense verbs correctly in sentences.
• Write sentences using the present perfect tense.

Preparation

Materials Needed

• Chart paper and markers
• Identify and Write Sentences with the Present Perfect Tense (BLM 8)
• Interactive whiteboard resources

Advanced Preparation

If you will not be using the interactive whiteboard resources, copy the Present Perfect Tense chart, the modeling text, and the practice text onto chart paper prior to the mini-lesson.

1. Focus

Explain Present Perfect Tense

Say: Regular present tense verbs tell us about an action that is happening now. Present perfect verbs show when an action started in the past and still continues, when a change has recently occurred, or when someone has knowledge or experience from an indefinite time in the past. Listen to this sentence: “The thieves have just stolen artifacts!” The verb have stolen is in the present perfect tense. This sentence lets me know that a change has occurred. Something has just been discovered. This has a very different meaning than a sentence such as, “The thieves stole artifacts in 1892.” When we use the present perfect tense of a verb, we include have or has in front of the past participle. Past participles of regular verbs such as concern and walk end in -ed, just as their past tense forms do. Past participles of irregular verbs such as steal are irregular and need to be learned.

Copy the following text on chart paper or use the interactive whiteboard resources.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present Tense</th>
<th>Past Tense</th>
<th>Present Perfect Tense</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The thieves steal the artifacts.</td>
<td>The thieves stole the artifacts yesterday.</td>
<td>The thieves have stolen the artifacts again.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>He takes things from my tent.</td>
<td>He took things from my tent.</td>
<td>He has taken things from my tent many times.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>We are concerned about the pharaoh’s tomb.</td>
<td>We were concerned about the pharaoh’s tomb.</td>
<td>We have been concerned about the pharaoh’s tomb for some time.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Present Perfect Tense Chart

Model Using the Present Perfect Tense

Display the modeling text on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources, and read it aloud to students.

1. He has taken a water skin, some lamps, and tools from my tent.
2. We have been concerned about the pharaoh’s tomb for some time.

Modeling Text

Say: The verb has taken is in the present perfect tense. It tells me that at some time in the past, these things were taken from the tent. The present tense form of the verb is take and the past tense form is took. The verb have been concerned is also in the present perfect tense. It tells me that this is an action that has been going on for some time. If I wanted to talk about being
2. Rehearse

Practice Using the Present Perfect Tense

Display the practice text on chart paper or using the interactive whiteboard resources.

Invite students to work with partners to identify what the present perfect tense of the verb in the parentheses is. (Students do not need to copy sentences.)

1. He (know) a girl named Neferet for several years.
2. She (hear) the good news about the temple.
3. They (begin) to move the artifacts out of the tunnel.

Share Sentences with the Present Perfect Tense

Invite pairs to come to the board or to the interactive whiteboard resources and show how they used the present perfect form of the verb. Make note of student pairs who struggle with this activity. Use this information to plan further instruction.

3. Independent Writing and Conferring

Say: We learned that the present perfect tense of a verb is used when an action started in the past and still continues, when a change has recently occurred, or when someone has knowledge or experience from the unspecified past. The present perfect tense uses either has or have before the past participle of the verb. Use present perfect tenses when you write historical narratives to show action that took place at an indefinite time in the past.

If you would like to give students additional practice using present perfect tense in sentences, have them complete BLM 8.

4. Share

Bring students together. Invite volunteers to share their answers and the sentences they wrote on BLM 8. Provide corrective feedback as necessary.

Strategies to Support ELs

Beginning

Beginning ELs are not ready to work on this English grammar skill. While other students collaborate on the practice activity or write independently, meet one on one with students and continue to support developmentally appropriate grammar skills based on students’ language levels. For example, you may want to work on students’ use of the regular past tense with simple verbs such as play/played, ask/asked; brush/brushed.

Intermediate and Advanced

Pair students with fluent English speakers to complete the practice activity and BLM 8. Make sure that students understand the meaning of each verb before beginning the activity.