Present Perfect Tense

Objectives

In this mini-lesson, students will:
- Identify verbs in the present perfect tense.
- Use present perfect tense verbs in sentences.
- Write sentences using the present perfect tense.

Preparation

Materials Needed
- Chart paper and markers
- Using the Present Perfect Verb Tense (BLM 4)
- 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: We know that present tense verbs tell us about an event that is happening now, in the present. We know that past tense verbs tell us something that has already happened. We use present perfect verbs for several reasons. We use present perfect when we want to show that something started in the past but still continues, for example: “I have heard about his work for years.” We also use present perfect verbs when we want to talk about a change or new information, for example: “I have just heard some very good news.” And, we use present perfect tense when we talk about some experience that we have from an unspecified time in the past, for example: “I have been to California many times” or “She has eaten there often.” The present perfect form of the verb includes the words has or have and the past participle of the verb. Past participles of regular verbs end in -ed, just like their past tense form. Past participles of irregular verbs such as hear are also irregular and need to be learned. I’m going to write a few sentences that include verbs in the present perfect tense. I will then show you how the present perfect tense form of each verb was formed and what it tells us.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Present Tense</th>
<th>Past Tense</th>
<th>Present Perfect</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I hear about his work every day. (He/she/it hears)</td>
<td>I heard about his work. (He/she/it heard)</td>
<td>I have heard about his work for years. (He/she/it has heard)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(We/you/they hear)</td>
<td>(We/you/they heard)</td>
<td>(We/you/they have heard)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Present Perfect Tense Chart

Model Using Present Perfect Tense

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

1. You have made a promising beginning with the statue.
2. He has heard about the grand lady’s demands.

Modeling Text

Say: In the first sentence, the present perfect verb phrase is have made. This verb phrase was formed using the words have and the past tense verb made. This verb phrase tells me that this action happened in the past, but that the
action is not finished. In the second sentence, the verb has is used instead of have because of the subject he. This sentences uses the present perfect tense to show that the subject of the sentence has knowledge from the past. Writers use present perfect tenses in historical narratives to help readers understand when events happened.

2. Rehearse

Practice Using Present Perfect Tense

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

Invite students to form pairs and tell what the present perfect tense of the verb in the parentheses is. (Students do not need to copy sentences.)

1. The carpenter (create) an adequate likeness of the princess.
2. I (come) to take my nephew off your hands.

Practice Text

If your class includes English learners or other students who need support, use “Strategies to Support ELs.”

Share Sentences with Present Perfect Tense

Invite pairs to share how they formed the present perfect tense of the verb. Discuss their responses. Ask the following questions:
• What is the present perfect verb in each sentence?
• When did the carpenter create an adequate likeness of the princess?

3. Independent Writing and Conferring

Say: Today we learned about the present perfect tense. We learned that you form the present perfect tense by placing the words have or has in front of the past participle of a verb. We use the present perfect tense to show when an action began in the past and still continues. We also use this tense to show when a change has recently occurred or when someone has knowledge or experience from the past. Remember to use the present perfect tense as you are working on your historical fiction to express different times.

If you would like to give students additional practice using present perfect tense, have them complete BLM 4.

4. Share

Bring students together. Invite volunteers to read aloud the answers and sentences they wrote on BLM 4. Use students’ answers to provide corrective feedback. Ask students to share what they learned about using the present perfect tense.

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 to support developmentally appropriate grammar skills based on their independent writing and language levels. For example, you may want to work on students’ use of the regular past tense with simple verbs such as walk/walked, look/looked; talk/talked.

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