

The kitchen table is strewn with sheets of brightly coloured paper. What has been happening?

You're sitting outside the headteacher's office. What have you been doing?

Your face is all red. What have you been doing?

There are plates all around the room with crumbs on. What has been happening?

You're covered in paint! what have you been doing?

Your little sister is not wearing any shoes. What has she been doing?

Dad has a cowboy hat on. What has he been doing?

You're 5 metres up a tree. What have you been doing?

Your hair is sticking out all over the place! What have you been doing?

The cat has got bits of fluff in its teeth and claws. What has it been doing?

The police are putting five people into the back of a policve van. What has been happening?

There is water all over the floor. What has been happening?

All the cushions and blankets
are piled up in a heap.
What's been happening?

Your teacher has the biggest
smile ever on his/her face.
What has been happening?

Ten big plastic bags full of
rubbish are outside the art
store. What has been
happening?

Your clothes are shredded
and your face/hands are
scratched. What have you
been doing?

Mum's waiting for you on the doorstep and she looks furious! What have you been doing?

The whole class is soaking wet but everybody is grinning. What has been happening?

The kitchen is covered in flour. What has been happening?

Jason has a large graze on his knee and a bump on his head. What has he been doing?

Date _____

Name _____

Using the Past Perfect Verb Form

In each of these sentences, the main verb is missing. Can you re-write each sentence, using the verb in brackets in the PAST PERFECT form? Remember you need the **auxiliary verb** 'have' (in the past tense) plus the **past participle** (third form) of the main verb. Look at the example first.

E.g. When I arrived at the cinema, the film _____. (start)

When I arrived at the cinema, the film had started.

- 1) We had to go out before the programme _____, so we recorded the end.
(finish)
- 2) Carla _____ to be a singer all her life, so she was thrilled to get on the X Factor. (want)
- 3) Because Alexa _____ me about the homework, I didn't forget it!
(remind)
- 4) The billionaire Bill Gates _____ much of his money to charity before he was 50. (donate)
- 5) It _____ raining by 12pm, so we were able to go out for playtime.
(stop)
- 6) The boys _____ to hurry up, but they still missed their bus! (try)
- 7) David _____ very hard before his music exam, so he did extremely well.
(practise)
- 8) If you had _____ carefully, I'm sure you would have been able to answer that question. (listen)
- 9) When I _____ the cake, I iced it carefully for the party. (make)
- 10) School _____ at 8.45am, but Joel didn't come in until nearly 9.15!
(begin)

Challenge: these sentences are all about events that didn't happen. How should the past perfect be different? Try to complete them correctly.

11) We _____ our money, so we couldn't go on the funfair. (not remember)

12) It _____ a good start to the holiday: first we missed the flight, then we lost our passports! (not be)

Answers:

- 1) We had to go out before the programme **had finished**, so we recorded the end. (finish)
- 2) Carla **had wanted** to be a singer all her life, so she was thrilled to get on the X Factor. (want)
- 3) Because Alexa **had reminded** me about the homework, I didn't forget it! (remind)
- 4) The billionaire Bill Gates **had donated** much of his money to charity before he was 50. (donate)
- 5) It **had stopped** raining by 12pm, so we were able to go out for playtime. (stop)
- 6) The boys **had tried** to hurry up, but they still missed their bus! (try)
- 7) David **had practised** very hard before his music exam, so he did extremely well. (practise)
- 8) If you **had listened** carefully, I'm sure you would have been able to answer that question. (listen)
- 9) When I **had made** the cake, I iced it carefully for the party. (make)
- 10) School **had begun** at 8.45am, but Joel didn't come in until nearly 9.15! (begin)

Challenge: these sentences are all about events that didn't happen. How should the past perfect be different? Try to complete them correctly.

- 11) We **had not remembered** our money, so we couldn't go on the funfair. (not remember)
- 12) It **had not been** a good start to the holiday: first we missed the flight, then we lost our passports! (not be)

I have been _____ ing.

You have been _____ ing.

He has been _____ ing.

She has been _____ ing.

It has been _____ ing.

They have been _____ ing.

We have been _____ ing.

You have been running for
twenty minutes.

The police have been chasing
the criminal in a helicopter.

You have been brushing your
extremely fluffy dog.

The Reception class have
been finger painting.

Mum's been washing the car
with a toothbrush.

You have been in a jam
doughnut-eating competition.

Your best friend has been
standing on his/her head for
5 minutes.

You've been playing football
and it's raining.

The headteacher's been speaking to the school about the litter problem.

You've been drinking every few minutes all through the lesson because it's so hot.

Your Grandma has been knitting something in secret all week.

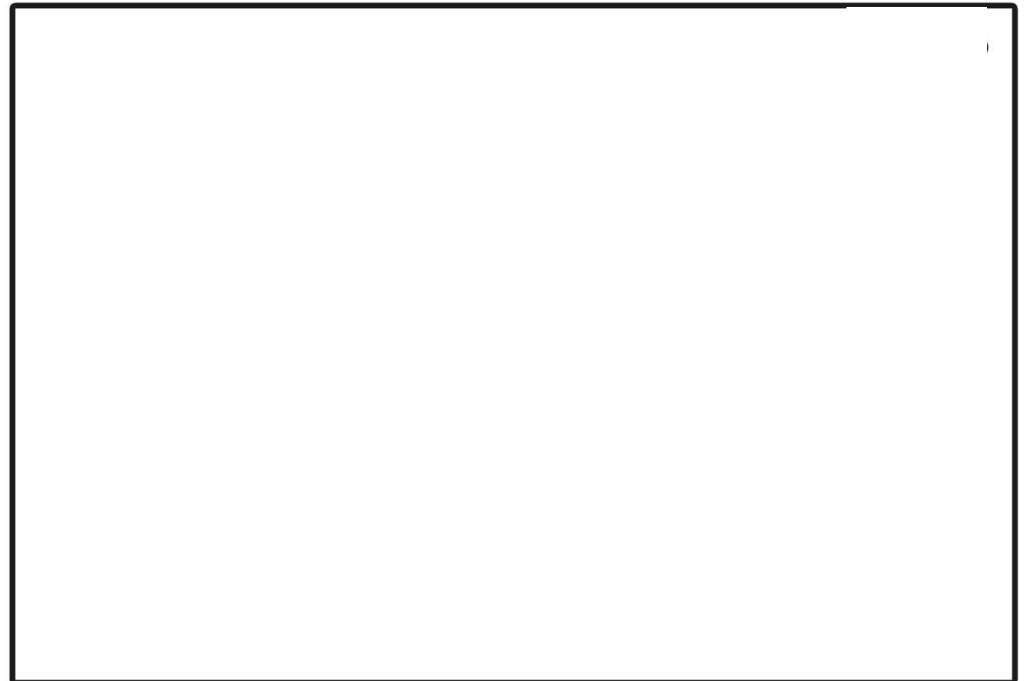
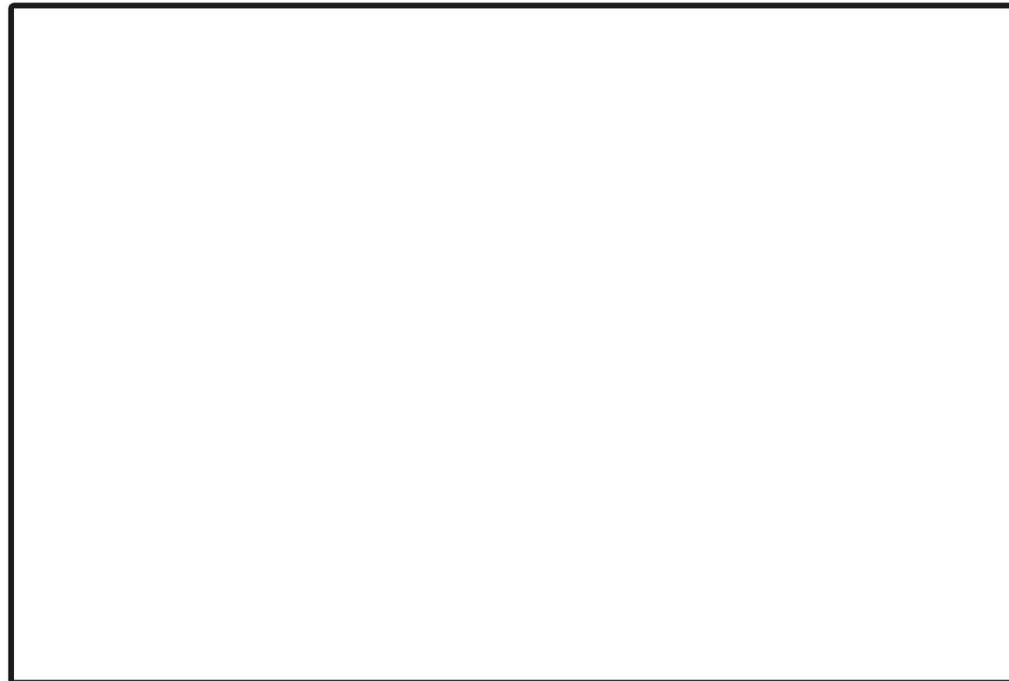
The cat has been playing with a box of ping-pong balls she knocked on the floor.

You've been reading an exciting book under the covers since Dad said it was time for lights-out.

You and your friends have been waiting for a bus for 45 minutes.

You've been sleeping outside the computer shop all week in a queue to buy the latest tablet.

You've been practising really hard for the music exam.



By Wednesday,

By 2017,

By next Christmas,

By Easter,

By home time,

By the summer holidays,

By tomorrow breakfast
time,

By the time I've finished
my homework,

By my birthday,

By the year 2100,

By the time I am twelve,

By the end of the week,

By 12 o'clock,

By the end of this chapter
of my book,

By the time I get to the
sweet shop,

By half-past ten,

It's now Sunday morning, so by
Wednesday, _____

It's lunchtime now, so by home time, _____

I've been really excited about my
birthday sleepover, so by the time it
arrives, _____

My sister got married in 2013, so by
2017, _____

I got my bike for my birthday, so by
next Christmas, _____

I haven't eaten anything all day so by
tomorrow breakfast time, _____

I've been learning the piano since I was
in year 3, so by the time I am twelve, _____

I've given up chocolate for Lent, so by
Easter, _____

We've been working really hard in this class, so by the summer holidays, _____

Scientists are working on robots, so I think by the year 2100, _____

Our class has been practising the play all morning, so by 12 o'clock, _____

It's now 4:55pm, so by the time I get to the sweet shop, _____

Mum's making tea, so by the time I've finished my homework, _____

We've had wet play every day, so by the end of this week, _____

This book is really exciting, so by the end of this chapter, _____

I feel really wide awake now, but by half-past ten, _____

The background is a colorful stained glass pattern with various shades of green, yellow, and orange. A large, central yellow oval contains the text "Perfect Forms" in a bold, orange, serif font. The text is arranged in two lines: "Perfect" on the top line and "Forms" on the bottom line. The font has a slightly distressed or textured appearance.

Perfect Forms



What are perfect verb forms?

Perfect verb forms connect an event or activity in the past to another point in time (past, present or future):

I **had lost** my keys on the way home.

Past perfect

Present perfect

I **have known** my best friend since we met in Year 1.

We **will have finished** our projects by Friday.

Future perfect

Perfect Verb Form Construction

To make the perfect verb forms, use the auxiliary verb **have** plus the **past participle** (third form) of the main verb. The auxiliary verb is the bit which changes tense to make past, present and future perfect.

Past perfect

The film **had** already **begun** when I got to the cinema.

Present perfect

My mum **has** **made** me a beautiful birthday cake.

Future perfect

By next Christmas, we **will have** **lived** here for exactly one year.

Progressive Perfect Verb Forms

When you want to talk about a continuous activity, you use the **progressive verb forms**. These have their own auxiliary verb already: **be**.

E.g: I **am going** to school now.

We **were watching** TV last night.

Sarah **will be swimming** on Saturday.

To make these into the perfect form, add the auxiliary **have** and change the verb **be** into its past participle **been**. Keep the main verb as an **___ing** form.

Past perfect

We **had been watching** TV but the power failed so we went out.

Present perfect

I **have been going** to school now for five years because I'm ten.

Future perfect

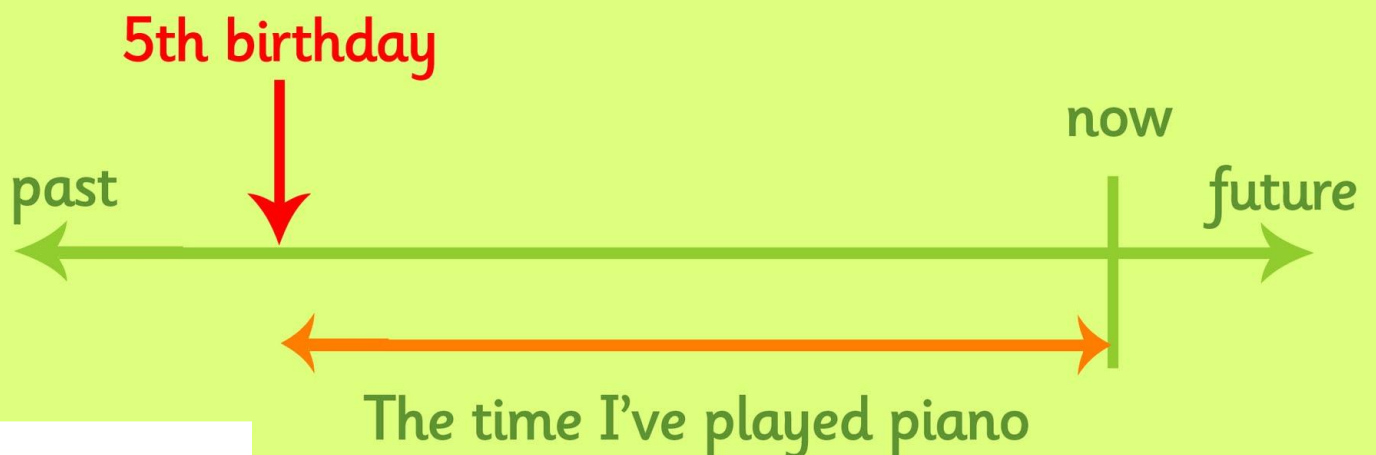
Sarah **will have been swimming** for three hours when it gets to 12 o'clock.

I **have known** Sam since we **met** in Reception Class.

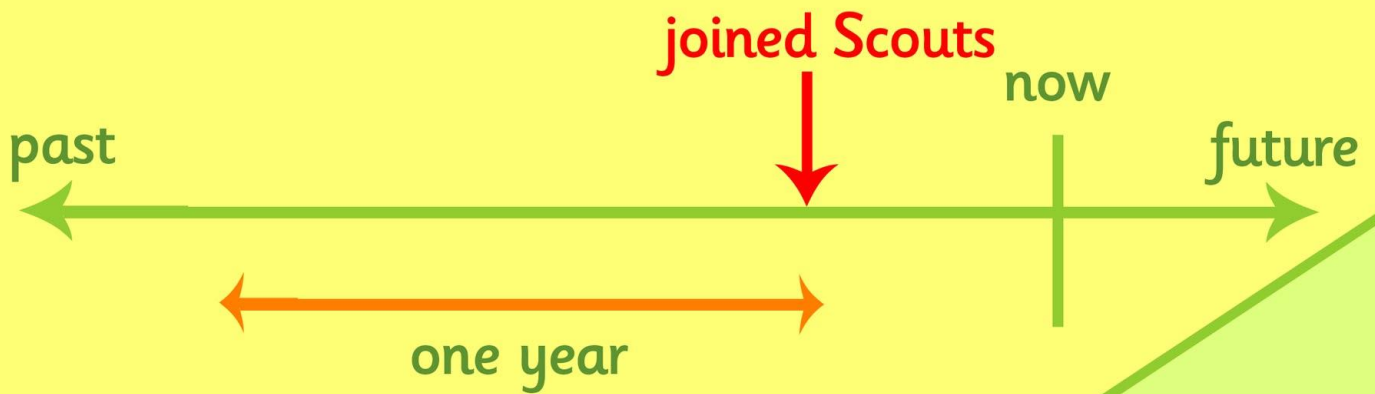


Present Perfect

I **have been playing** piano since I **was five**.

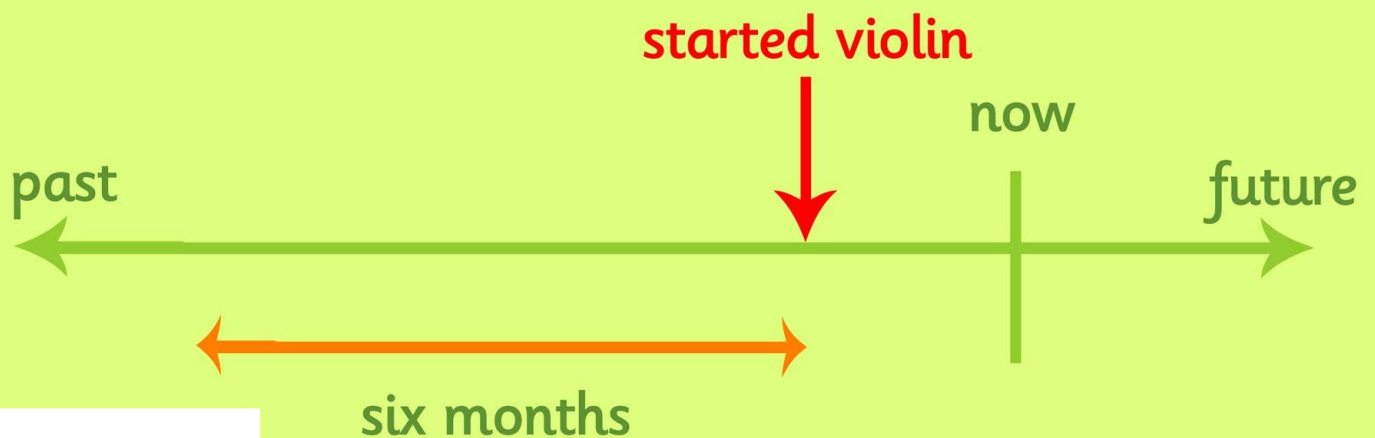


I **had known** Sam for a year already when we **joined** Scouts together.



Past Perfect

I **had been playing** piano for six months when I **started** the violin.

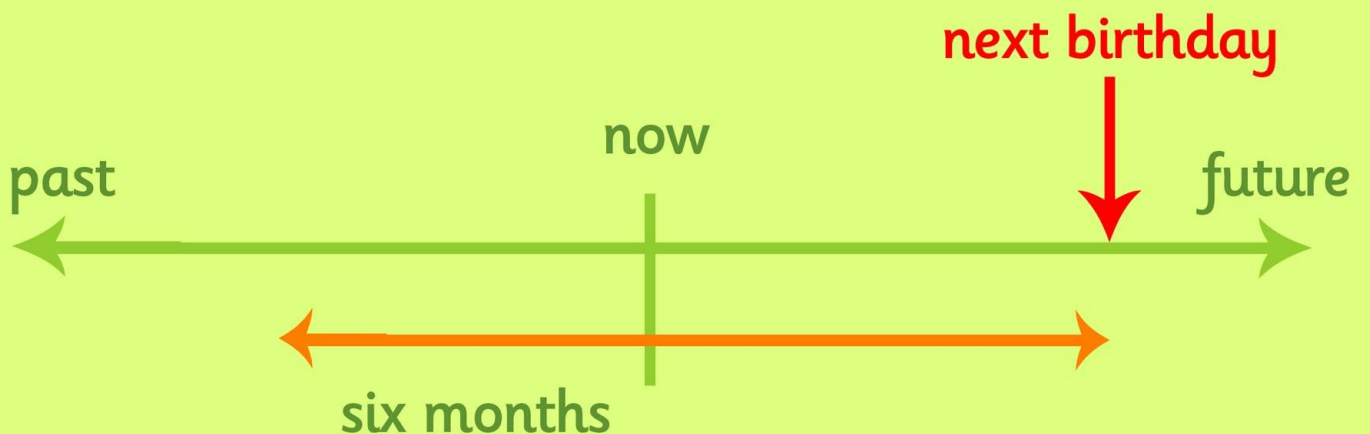


I **will have known** Sam for a year when it gets to **Christmas.**



Future Perfect

I **will have been playing** piano for six months when I start learning violin on my **next birthday.**



I have never _____.

I have always wanted to

_____.

I have been _____
recently.

I have decided to

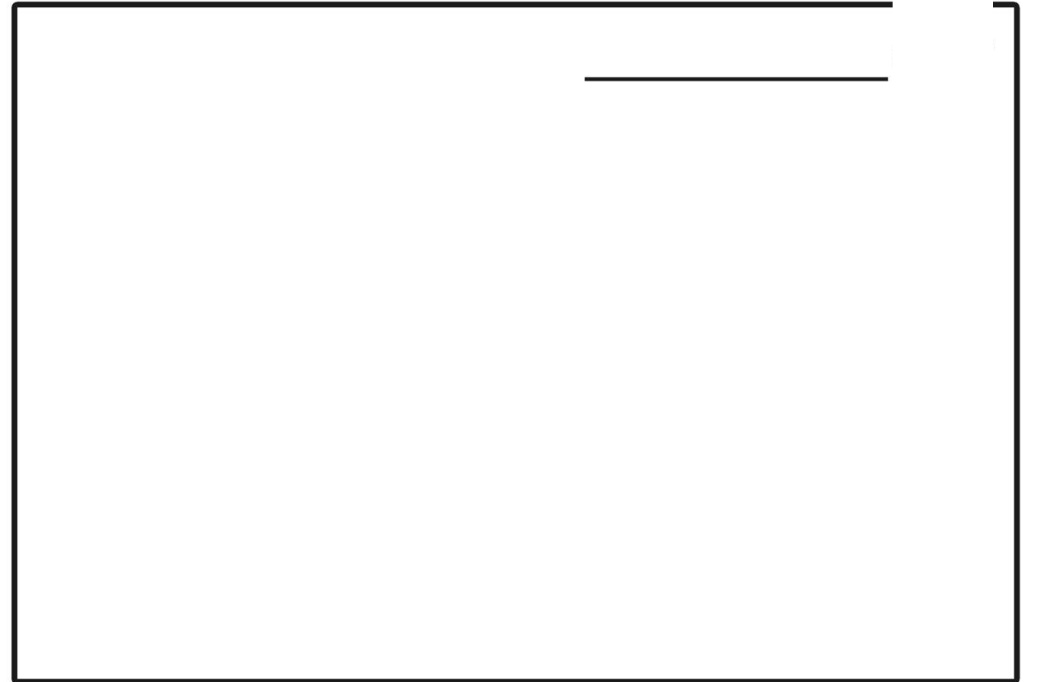
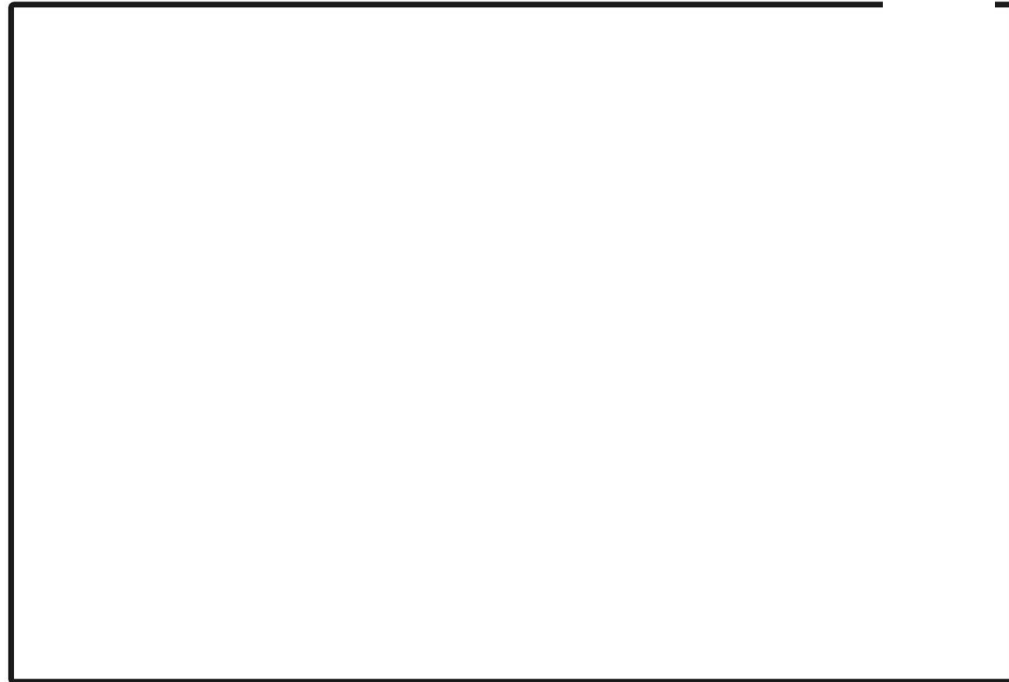
_____.

I have _____ already
today.

I haven't yet _____
today.

I have been _____ing
with my friends this week.

I haven't used a _____
at all today.



Date _____

Name _____

Using the Past Perfect Verb Form

In each of these sentences, the main verb is missing. Can you re-write each sentence, using the verb in brackets in the PAST PERFECT form? Remember you need the **auxiliary verb** 'have' (in the past tense) plus the **past participle** (third form) of the main verb. Look at the example first.

- E.g. When I arrived at the cinema, the film _____. (start)
When I arrived at the cinema, the film had started.
- 1) After they ____ all the chocolate, they began to feel rather sick. (eat)
 - 2) Because dad ____ all the luggage inside, he was dying for a cup of tea. (bring)
 - 3) Carla ____ to be a singer all her life, so she was thrilled to get on the X Factor. (want)
 - 4) My birthday card didn't arrive until after I ____ for school. (leave)
 - 5) If Alexa ____ me about the homework, I might have forgotten it! (not remind)
 - 6) If the driver ____ in time, you could have been run over! (not stop)
 - 7) Roshana ____ until she got to school that she ____ her PE kit. (not realise, forget)
 - 8) The boys ____ to hurry up, but they still missed their bus! (try)
 - 9) David ____ before his music exam, so he didn't do very well. (not practise)
 - 10) If you had ____ about what I ____, you wouldn't be in trouble! (think, say)

Challenge: These sentences are all about past activities, not single events. How should the past perfect be different? Try to complete them correctly.

- 11) We ____ for so long, we got badly burned. (sunbathe)
- 12) If you ____ around on the swings, you wouldn't have broken your arm. (not mess)

Answers:

- 1) After they **had eaten** all the chocolate, they began to feel rather sick. (eat)
- 2) Because dad **had brought** all the luggage inside, he was dying for a cup of tea. (bring)
- 3) Carla **had wanted** to be a singer all her life, so she was thrilled to get on the X Factor. (want)
- 4) My birthday card didn't arrive until after I **had left** for school. (leave)
- 5) If Alexa **hadn't reminded** me about the homework, I might have forgotten it! (not remind)
- 6) If the driver **hadn't stopped** in time, you could have been run over!(not stop)
- 7) Roshana **had not realised** until she got to school that she **had forgotten** her PE kit. (not realise, forget)
- 8) The boys **had tried** to hurry up, but they still missed their bus! (try)
- 9) David **hadn't practised** before his music exam, so he didn't do very well. (not practise)
- 10) If you **had thought** about what I **had said**, you wouldn't be in trouble! (think, say)

Challenge: these sentences are all about past activities, not single events. How should the past perfect be different? Try to complete them correctly.

- 11) We **had been sunbathing** for so long, we got badly burned. (sunbathe)
- 12) If you **hadn't been messing** around on the swings, you wouldn't have broken your arm. (not mess)

Date _____

Name _____

Using the Past Perfect Verb Form

In each of these sentences, the main verb is missing. Can you re-write each sentence, using the verb in brackets in the PAST PERFECT form? Remember you need the **auxiliary verb** 'have' (in the past tense) plus the **past participle** (third form) of the main verb. Look at the example first.

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- 5) If Alexa ____ me about the homework, I wouldn't have forgotten it! (remind)
- 6) The billionaire Bill Gates ____ much of his money away before he was 50. (give)
- 7) It ____ raining by 12pm, so we were able to go out for playtime. (stop)
- 8) The boys ____ to hurry up, but they still missed their bus! (try)
- 9) David ____ very hard before his music exam, so he did extremely well. (practise)
- 10) If you had ____ carefully, I'm sure you would have been able to answer that question. (think)

Challenge: these sentences are all about events that have not happened. How should the past perfect be different? Try to complete them correctly.

- 11) We ____ it would be so cold, so we didn't take our coats. (not realise)
- 12) Because they ____ the warning signs, they went swimming in a dangerous area. (not see)

Answers:

- 1) After they **had eaten** all the chocolate, they began to feel rather sick.
(eat)
- 2) Because dad **had brought** all the luggage inside, he was dying for a cup of tea. (bring)
- 3) Carla **had wanted** to be a singer all her life, so she was thrilled to get on the X Factor. (want)
- 4) My birthday card didn't arrive until after I **had left** for school. (leave)
- 5) If Alexa **had reminded** me about the homework, I wouldn't have for gotten it! (remind)
- 6) The billionaire Bill Gates **had given** much of his money away before he was 50. (give)
- 7) It **had stopped** raining by 12pm, so we were able to go out for playtime. (stop)
- 8) The boys **had tried** to hurry up, but they still missed their bus! (try)
- 9) David **had practised** very hard before his music exam, so he did extremely well. (practise)
- 10) If you **had thought** carefully, I'm sure you would have been able to answer that question. (think)

Challenge: these sentences are all about events that didn't happen. How should the past perfect be different? Try to complete them correctly.

- 11) We **had not realised** it would be so cold, so we didn't take our coats.
(not realise)
- 12) Because they **had not seen** the warning signs, they went swimming in a dangerous area. (not see)

Learning Objective: UKS2 - Use the perfect form of verbs to mark relationships of time and cause

Idea

Differentiation

For a clear starter guide to the difference between present perfect and simple past tense (most commonly used), use our super [powerpoint guide](#).

Present perfect v simple past differentiated activities can also be found in our handy [teaching resource pack](#).

Play a game of “**What have you been doing?**” with your class. Give out [scenario cards \(1\)](#) and children have to come up with a reason why this situation is so. They can be as reasonable or as silly as they like, providing they are grammatically appropriate! e.g. *You’re covered in paint! What have you been doing?* Answers might be... *I’ve been washing up the paint pots for the teacher.* OR *I’ve been used as a canvas for a Jackson Pollock painting competition!*

This game can be played in reverse too: give out [‘What now?’ cards \(3\)](#) and challenge children to come up with the current situation. e.g. *You’ve been running for twenty minutes, so what’s the situation now?* Answers might be... *I’m red in the face and panting.* OR *I’m celebrating my amazing 1500m race win!*

These activities use the **present perfect progressive** (also called **present perfect continuous**) form. This refers to an activity which began in the past and has either just finished or is still going on.

This can be played in teams – who can come up with the best/silliest reason?
Play it with your guided writing group – depending on their ability you may want to give them the structure on a [present perfect sentence prompt card \(2\)](#).
Make it a mime activity to increase the fun! *Why are your teeth black?* [child mimes an activity. Class guesses e.g. *He’s been eating blackjacks!* OR *He’s been dressing up as a toothless pirate!*

To practise **Future perfect tenses**, give out [‘By the time’ prompt cards \(4\)](#). These have a future time point on: children complete the sentence, adding something that they **will have done** by that point, or something they **will have been doing** for X amount of time at that point. e.g. *By Friday afternoon, I will have finished my Egyptians project.* OR *By March, I will have been in this school for six months*

Give more able children the challenge of working out a present perfect continuous sentence, as this will involve them also adding another time clause, as in the example.
For less confident speakers/writers, or those who struggle to imagine situations, use the [more detailed version \(5\)](#) of this activity, which includes information about ‘past’ or ‘now’ so they can link an activity to a point in the future. e.g. *School started at 8.45, so by 12pm we will have*

	<i>been working for over three hours! OR Our plane took off at 5.26am, so by 2pm we will have been in the air for ages!</i>
Have our lovely perfect forms diagrams (6) on your display wall, to remind the class which one to use and why.	
Play sentence stems bluff game (7) – children have cloze cards to complete (e.g. <i>I have never... or I've been ___ing this week.</i>) which they complete with either a true or false statement. They give their sentence cards to their partner/the other group, who ask additional questions to decide which are truth and which lies.	Play this in mixed-ability pairs if you think your pupils might struggle to invent something. Obviously when answering questions, only one person can answer or it'll give the game away!
To practise the past perfect form (simple or progressive), try our cloze activity worksheets . The sentence is missing the correct form of the verb (given as a bare infinitive) and children have to construct the perfect form correctly.	<p>HAP (8) – includes positive/negative simple and progressive forms with regular and irregular verbs</p> <p>AAP (9) – simple past perfect with regular/irregular verbs</p> <p>LAP (10) – simple past perfect with mostly regular verbs.</p>
Present Perfect ' Answer Me ' game. Each child has some slips of paper on which they write a number or period of time, e.g. "About 2 years", "Since January" and "Seven". They can look at their cards but mustn't show their partner(s). They then ask questions to get those answers from their partner, e.g. "How long have you had that coat?" If they get an answer that is on one of their cards, they can discard it. The first person with no cards left is the winner.	Give lower-ability pupils pre-written time cards. They could work in pairs to ask the questions of a higher-ability pupil.