

# THE PRESENT PERFECT TENSE

(I have done)

**L**ook at these sentences :

1. He **has lost** his key. (i.e. He lost it a short time ago and he still hasn't got it).
2. He **has gone** to Syria. (i.e. He is in Syria now.)
3. The graduate student **has just handed in** his term paper.
4. A: Don't forget to post the letter, will you?  
B: I've **already posted** it.

The underlined verb forms are in the Present Perfect Tense. We use this tense to give new information or to announce a recent happening. The following adverbs may therefore be used with this tense: "just," "already," "recently," "lately," "these days," etc.

As you may have noted, the Present Perfect Tense as used in the above examples denotes a **finished** action. We also use this tense to denote an **unfinished** action that started in the past and has continued up to the time of speaking; e.g.

1. I **have lived** in Abha since 1970. (i.e. I started living in Abha in 1970, and am still living in it).
2. He **has studied** English at the University for two years. (i.e. He started studying English at the University two years ago, and is still studying English there).

For this unfinished action, it is important to use **since** (e.g. "since July," "since 1980," "since three o'clock," "since he was a child," etc.) or **for** (e.g. "for two months," "for six years," "for three hours," "for a long time," etc.).

## **Exercise 14**

### **Put the verbs in parentheses into the Present Perfect Tense :**

1. The Chairman of the Department kindly (write) a letter of recommendation for me.
2. The Registrar (receive) your transcripts and application forms before.
3. I just (talk) to the Educational Attaché on the phone.
4. The patient (be) in hospital since last Thursday.
5. My next door neighbour (work) as a librarian for over twelve years now.
6. You (not finished) the clearance document yet?
7. You (read) this book before?
8. The passengers all (get) off the plane. The person I (come) to meet (not show) up!
9. He (be) to Egypt before, so he can tell you about it.
10. Ali (live) in Damascus all his life.
11. My father always (live) in Makkah.
12. The patient (see) the consultant twice.
13. This is the most interesting story I (hear).
14. You ever (be) to the U.K.?
15. Everything is going fine. We (not have) any problem so far.