

ASKING PERSONAL QUESTIONS USING THE PRESENT PERFECT TENSE

This activity has been designed for advanced ESL students. This activity contains detailed teacher's notes, 36 question cards, a handout listing all the questions, and a written quiz.

No matter how advanced the students may be there is always the need for more practice using the present perfect tense.

This activity was designed to

- review the use of the present perfect tense
- provide advanced students with a fun and interesting activity
- let students share personal experiences with classmates
- encourage group interaction and discussion
- increase individual student's speaking time during class



Teacher's Notes

Making the question cards

- Cut the sheets into cards and place them into envelopes. (For large classes, you may want to make several sets.)

Introduction

- Before distributing the worksheet, start the activity with a conversation. Ask questions that elicit sentences using the present perfect tense to determine how well they can use the verb structure. Use some of the sample questions below:

Have you ever visited a museum? If so, how many times? Have you ever played an instrument? If so, how often?
Have you been to the local library? If so, how many times? Have you ever attended a concert? How many times?

Grammar Review

- Students should already be familiar with the use of the present perfect tense before doing this exercise.
- Review the use of the present perfect. Explain that the present perfect is used to express an action that began in the past, continues to the present, and will possibly continue into the future. Explain that "**for**" precedes the quantity of time or duration and "**since**" precedes the starting point. You may want to explain this concept graphically on the board.

Lesson Plan

- 1 Divide the class into groups of three or four.
- 2 Place an envelope in front of each group. Do not let the students open the envelope to see the topics ahead of time.
- 3 Tell the students to take turns selecting one card at a time from the envelope.
- 4 Tell them to read their question aloud and lead their group in discussing the question on the card. (If the students are uncomfortable with a specific topic, encourage them to choose another card.)
- 5 If groups have used up all of their cards, have them exchange cards with another group and continue the activity.
- 6 During the last twenty minutes of the activity, ask volunteers from each group to share what their group discussed. Place important vocabulary and expressions on the board.
- 7 At the end of the activity collect the cards and store them in the envelopes for future use.
- 8 Distribute the handout containing the complete list of questions. See accompanying handout.
- 9 As a follow-up activity, give the students a written quiz. See accompanying handout.



How many
movies have
you seen lately?

How many
times have
you been to a
party this year?

Have you
ever been
married? If so,
for how long?

Have you ever
colored your
hair? If so,
what color?

Have you ever
cooked a meal
for someone?
If so, what and
for whom?

Have you ever
cut your own
hair? If so, how
did it look?

Have you ever
had a bad
haircut? If so,
what did you do
about it?

Have you
ever had a pet?
If so, what kind?

Have you ever
helped a friend?
If so, how?

Have you
ever helped a
stranger?
If so, how?

Have you ever
played a musical
instrument? If
so, which one?

How many
friends have
you made since
you started this
program?

How long have
you attended
this school?

How long have
you been in
this country?

How long have
you cared for
a pet?

How long
have you had
a boyfriend/
girlfriend?

How long have
you had a
driver's license?

How long have
you had your
watch?

How long have
you lived in
your house or
apartment?

How long have
you studied
English?

How long
have you worn
glasses?

How long
have you worn
that ring?

How many
books have you
read in the
past year?

How many
countries have
you visited?

How many
different places
have you lived
in?

How many times
have you used
your cell phone
today?

How many
times have you
checked your
e-mails today?

How many
times have
you walked
to school?

How much
money have
you saved in
the last year?

What is the
longest car trip
you have ever
taken?

What is the
weirdest thing
that has ever
happened to
you?

Where have
you been all
day?

Where is the
farthest you
have ever
traveled?

Who have you
spent most of
your time with
since you
arrived here?

Whom haven't
you seen in
a long time?

Have you ever
had a job?
If so, what kind?

Written Grammar Quiz • Present Perfect Tense

Directions: Read the job interview and shopping survey questions, then answer the questions.



Ella is celebrating her first year in this city. Ella came here last January and started work in April. After beginning her job three months ago, she also got a driver's license. She bought a car last Friday and moved into her own apartment two days ago. She's been very happy ever since!



Example: How long has Ella lived in this country? Ella has lived in this country for one year.

1. How long has Ella worked? _____
2. How long has she been at her present job? _____
3. How long has she had a driver's license? _____
4. How long has she had a car? _____
5. How long has she lived in her own apartment? _____
6. How long has she been happy? _____

Can I ask you a few questions?



Have you ever been in this store before?

Yes.

Have you ever tried our store brands?

Yes.

Have you ever used coupons before?

Yes.

Have you ever tasted our ice cream?

No.

Have you ever purchased our produce?

Yes.

Have you ever answered a survey before?

No.

Who? Me? Sure!



Example: Has Ella ever shopped in this store before? Yes, she has. She has shopped in this store before.

7. Has she ever tried their store brands before? _____
8. Has she ever used coupons before? _____
9. Has she ever tasted this store's ice cream? _____
10. Has she ever purchased their produce? _____
11. Has she ever answered a shopping survey? _____

Fill in the blanks with verbs in the present perfect tense.

Ella Landers has lived in this city and _____ in the same market for a very short time. This is the first time that anybody _____ her and _____ questions about her buying habits. A woman asked her, "Have you ever _____ our chocolate ice cream?" Judy answered, "No, I _____, but I _____ the vanilla flavor. Finally, the woman asked Ella, "Have you _____ in this store before." Ella said that she _____ there a few times.



Answers

1 Ella has worked since April. 2 She has been at her present job for three months. 3 She has had a driver's license for three months (since April). 4 She has had a car since last Friday. 5 She has lived in her own apartment for two days. 6 She has been happy since she moved into her own apartment. 7 Yes, she has. She has tried their store brands before. 8 Yes, she has. She has used coupons before. 9 No, she hasn't. She has never tasted their ice cream. 10 Yes, she has. She has purchased their produce. 11 No, she hasn't. She has never answered a shopping survey. 12 has shopped, 13 has stopped, 14 has asked, 15 tasted, 16 haven't, 17 have tried, 18 visited, 19 has been

PERSONAL QUESTIONS USING THE PRESENT PERFECT TENSE

1. How many movies have you seen lately?
2. How many times have you been to a party this year?
3. Have you ever been married? If so, for how long?
4. Have you ever colored your hair? If so, what color?
5. Have you ever cooked a meal for someone? If so, what and for whom?
6. Have you ever cut your own hair? If so, how did it look?
7. Have you ever had a bad haircut? If so, what did you do about it?
8. Have you ever had a pet? If so, what kind?
9. Have you ever helped a friend? If so, how?
10. Have you ever helped a stranger? If so, how?
11. Have you ever played a musical instrument? If so, which one?
12. How many friends have you made since you started this program?
13. How long have you attended this school?
14. How long have you been in this country?
15. How long have you cared for a pet?
16. How long have you had a boyfriend/girlfriend?
17. How long have you had a driver's license?
18. How long have you had your watch?
19. How long have you lived in your house or apartment?
20. How long have you studied English?
21. How long have you worn glasses?
22. How long have you worn that ring?
23. How many books have you read in the past year?
24. How many countries have you visited?
25. How many different places have you lived in?
26. How many times have you used your cell phone today?
27. How many times have you checked your e-mails today?
28. How many times have you walked to school?
29. How much money have you saved in the last year?
30. What is the longest car trip you have ever taken?
31. What is the weirdest thing that has ever happened to you?
32. Where have you been all day?
33. Where is the farthest you have ever traveled?
34. Who have you spent most of your time with since you arrived here?
35. Whom haven't you seen in a long time?
36. Have you ever had a job? If so, what kind?

HOMOPHONES & HOMONYMS 1

This activity is intended for advanced ESL students and contains detailed teacher's notes and 36 flash cards.

The activity was designed to

- review of the meanings of common homophones and homonyms
- provide visual clues to reinforce the meanings of the words
- present words in the context of humorous comics and photos
- provide advanced ESL students with group activities
- encourage group interaction and discussions
- increase individual student's speaking time during class
- expose students to new vocabulary and expressions



Teacher's Notes

Making the cards

- This activity will require you to make double-sided photocopies and cut them into cards. This may take a little effort, but once you have made the cards, you will have a popular group activity that will last you many years. Printing in color on card stock is recommended, but black and white copies on regular paper are just fine.
- When copying on a photocopier that makes two-sided copies, place the sheets containing the photos/comics followed by the sheets containing the definitions. For example, **Sheet 1A** should be followed by the **Sheet 1B**, etc. There are three different sheets of cards for a total of 36 cards. For large classes you may want to make additional sets of cards or use the cards from **Homophones and Homonyms 2 & 3**. There are 108 cards in total.
- After you have made the two-sided photocopies, cut the sheets along the dotted line to form cards. Place them in a small envelope for easy access and future storage.

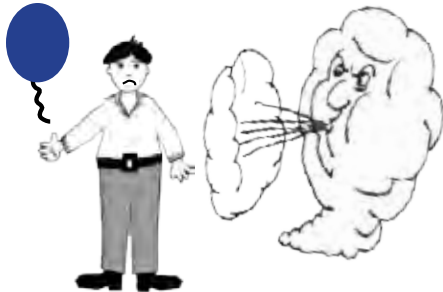
Lesson Plan

Introduction: Explain that homonyms (*also called homophones*) are words that sound like one another but have different meanings. Some homonyms are spelled the same, like **bark** (*the sound a dog makes*) and **bark** (*the outer layer of a tree trunk*). Some homonyms are spelled differently, like **one** (*the number*) and **won** (*having been victorious*). Here are some common homophones and homonyms with their meanings and sample sentences.

1. Divide the class into groups of three or four.
2. Place an envelope in front of each group. Do not let the students open the envelope to see the questions ahead of time.
3. Have each group select a score keeper.
4. Tell the students to take turns selecting one card at a time from the envelope.
5. Direct them to read what is on the card and guess the meanings of the underlined words.
6. The first person to guess the word meanings correctly gets one point.
7. If groups run out of cards, have groups exchange cards and continue the activity.
8. At the end of the activity have the score keepers report their group's winner.
9. Give the winners a round of applause.
10. At the end of the class collect the cards and store them in the envelopes for future use.



The band of protesters were banned for wearing a band.



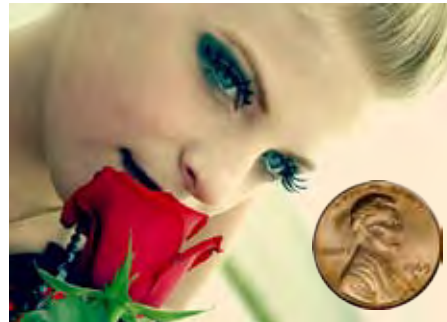
Alex was blue when the wind blew his blue balloon away.



Kitty was bored on the board.



The rabbit does nothing but sit on its butt all day.



The scent of a rose doesn't cost a cent.



The cereal box had a big serial number.



Haven't you ever seen a bare bear?



Tiny always chews the bone that I choose.



Aye, Aye, I think there's something in my eye.

been - past tense
of "be"

bin - a box or
container

be - to exist

bee - an insect

band - a group

banned - forbidden

band - a strap, belt

but - excepting

butt - the back end,
posterior

board - a long
piece of wood

bored - not
interested

blew - past tense
of "blow"

blue - color

blue - sad,
depressed

cereal - grains

serial - numbers
in sequence

cent - a penny

scent - an aroma,
smell

by - near

bye - farewell

buy - purchase

aye - yes,
affirmative

I - me

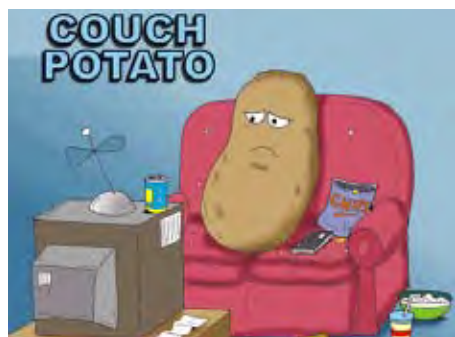
eye - what you
use to see

chews - 3rd person
singular of "chew"

choose - select

bare - naked, nude

bear - an animal



Jim doesn't waste time worrying about his waist.



Don't wait to control your weight.



How do you walk with a wok in your hands?



This is what they wore for the fashion war.



We'd weed more often if we could.

We were there.
Now we're here.



Bill felt so weak that he spent a week in bed.



Jim will go on vacation whether the weather is good or bad.

HALLOWEEN CONTEST

Which witch do you like?



**Whose dog is this?
Who's going to pick it up?**



Would you like some wood?

walk - go on foot

wok - Chinese
cooking pan

wait - remain, stay

weight - heaviness

waist - between
ribs and hips

waste - throw away

we'd - "we would"

weed - to remove
wild plants

wear - attire

where - a place

war - fighting

wore - past tense
of "wear"

weather - climate

whether - if it be
the case

weak - not strong

week - seven days

we're - "we are"

were - past tense
plural of "to be"

wood - what trees
are made of

would - modal verb

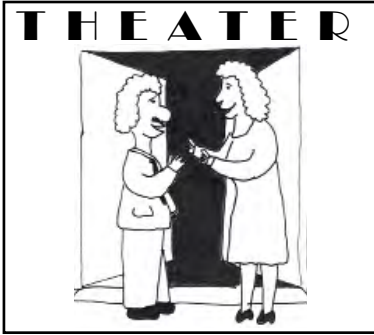
who's - contraction
of "who is"

whose - belonging
to whom

which - selection

witch - sorcerer

*You're late!
Where's your ticket?*



Don't ax acts of kindness.

*She can alter her
decision at the altar.*

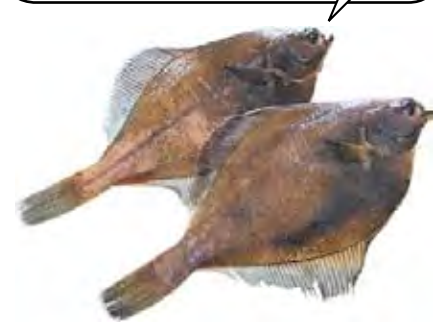
*Mike tried to shoo the fly
away with his shoe.*



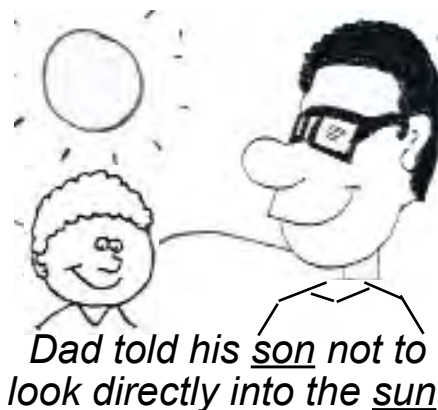
*Do birds ever get sore
wings when they soar?*



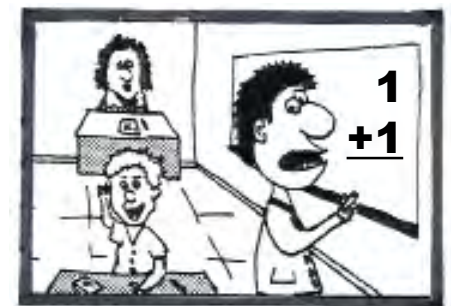
You are my sole soul mate.



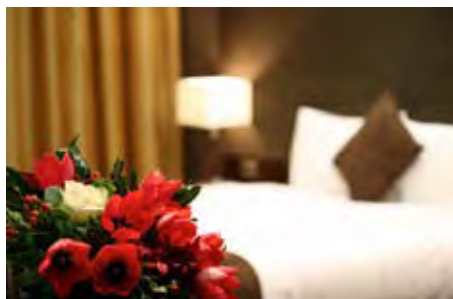
*The robbers
could open
the steel door
to steal the
money.*



*Dad told his son not to
look directly into the sun.*



*Some students didn't
know the sum of 1+1.*



*The hotel suite had the
sweet smell of roses.*



*On Sunday Daddy took
me out for a sundae.*



*Sleeping in tents
makes me tense.*

altar - raised center
of worship

alter - to change

acts - things done

ax(e) - chopping
tool

you're - "you are"

your - belonging to
you

sole - only, one

sole - a type of fish

soul - spirit

soar - fly

sore - hurt

shoe - footwear

shoo - "go away"

steal - rob

steel - metal

son - male child

sun - star

some - a few

sum - result of
addition

tense - nervous

tents - temporary
shelters

sundae - ice cream
and syrup

Sunday - a day

suite -group of
rooms

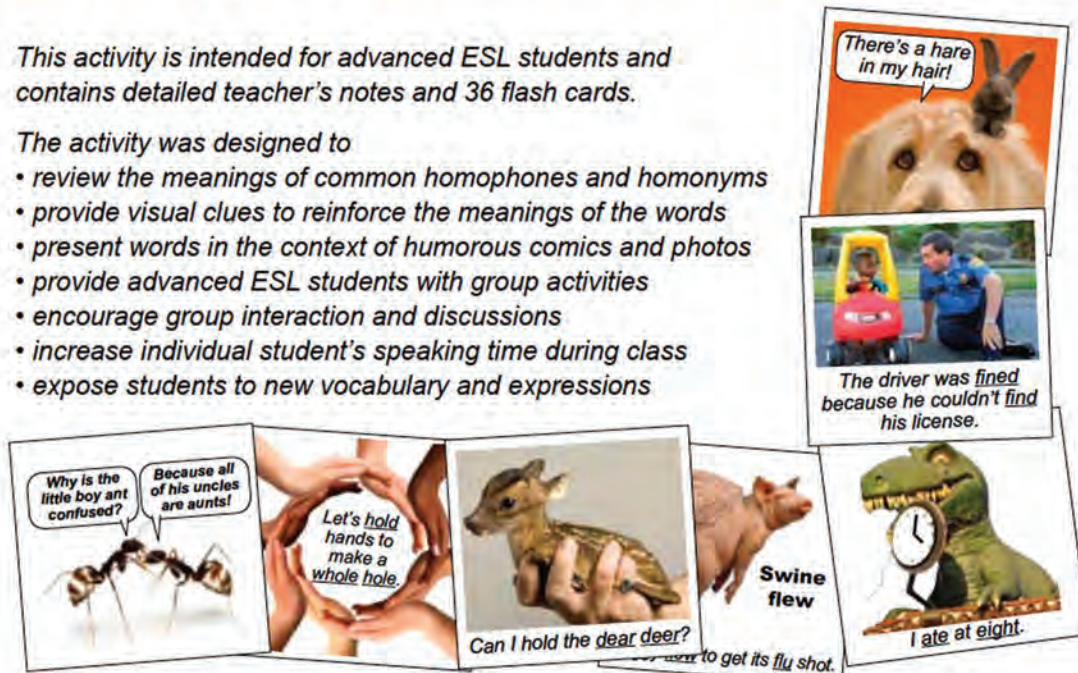
sweet - sugary

HOMOPHONES & HOMONYMS 2

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6. The first person to guess the word meanings correctly gets one point.
7. If groups run out of cards, have groups exchange cards and continue the activity.
8. At the end of the activity have the score keepers report their group's winner.
9. Give the winners a round of applause.
10. At the end of the class collect the cards and store them in the envelopes for future use.



The Czech custom's officer didn't check my passport.



It was a strange sight to see a policeman cite the driver at this site.



She couldn't close the clothes closet door.



The runners ran on a coarse course.



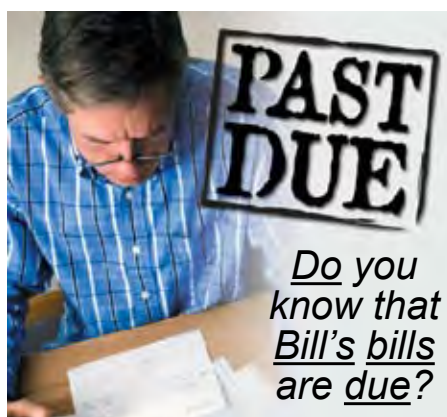
The city council has legal counsel.



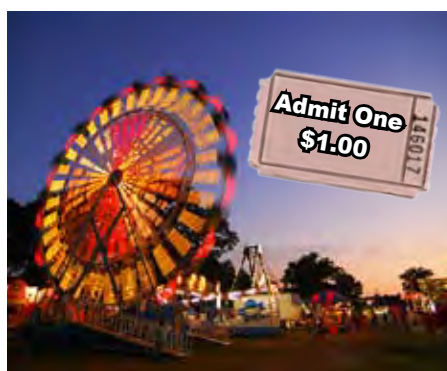
That damn dam broke!



Can I hold the dear deer?



James can earn money by selling this urn.



The fare for the fair was fair.



The driver was fined because he couldn't find his license.

close - to shut

clothes - garments

cite - location

sight - vision

site - a location

check - a ✓ mark;
verify

Czech - from
the Czech Republic

dam - holds back
water

damn - a curse

council - group
of leaders

counsel - advisor,
lawyer

coarse - rough

course - path of
travel

die - to become
dead

dye - coloring
agent

do - to perform

due - payable

Bill's - belonging to Bill

bills - invoices

dear - beloved

deer - an animal

find - to locate

fined - to have to
pay a ticket

fair - even-handed;
reasonable

fair - carnival

fare - payment

earn - to make
money

urn - a jar