

Unit 24: PRESENT PERFECT — FORMATION

We use the present tense of the auxiliary verb **have** (Unit 17) before the past participle form (Unit 14).

In the simple formation, the participle is the lexical verb (Unit 3); in the continuous formation, the participle is **been**, with the **-ing** form of the lexical verb after it.

1 Simple (*have + past participle*)

a STATEMENTS

EXAMPLES: He **has worked** very hard this term.
The meeting **has not started** yet.
I **have rented** a car for two weeks.
They **haven't fixed** the car yet.

b QUESTIONS

EXAMPLES: **Have** you **finished** yet?
What **has** she **decided** to do?
Why **have** they **left**?

NOTICE: For spelling problems with the **-ing** form of the verb, look at Appendix 6.

2 Continuous (*have been -ing form*)

a STATEMENTS

EXAMPLES: I **have been learning** English for four years.
He **has not been feeling** very well lately.
It's **been raining** non-stop for days.

b QUESTIONS

EXAMPLES: **Have** you **been working** hard recently?
What's she **been doing**?
Why **has** it **been raining** so much?

3 Notes on past participles

a Many verbs do not have an **-ed** participle (Appendices 10 and 11).

b **Have** can be an AUXILIARY and a LEXICAL verb (Unit 3).

EXAMPLES: **Have** the girls **had** lunch yet?
We **have been having** a good time.

c Go has two past participles

EXAMPLES: He has **gone** to Rome. [not here now]
He has **been** to Rome. [went and returned]

NOTICE: Unit 25 tells you about the use of present perfect.