

15.1

The present perfect  Tutorial

ANTE TODO

In **Lección 14**, you learned how to form past participles. You will now learn how to form the present perfect indicative (**el pretérito perfecto de indicativo**), a compound tense that uses the past participle. The present perfect is used to talk about what someone *has done*. In Spanish, it is formed with the present tense of the auxiliary verb **haber** and a past participle.

Maru ha estado bajo mucha presión.



He querido regresar desde que leí el *Chilam Balam*.



NOTA CULTURAL

El *Chilam Balam* es un grupo de libros sobre la civilización maya. Hablan sobre historia, rituales, medicina, astronomía y literatura, entre otros temas. Fueron escritos en diferentes épocas (*times*) por autores anónimos y en lengua maya.

Present indicative of haber

Singular forms

yo	he
tú	has
Ud./él/ella	ha

Plural forms

nosotros/as	hemos
vosotros/as	habéis
Uds./ellos/ellas	han

Tú no **has aumentado** de peso.
You haven't gained weight.

Yo ya **he leído** esos libros.
I've already read those books.

¿**Ha asistido** Juan a la clase de yoga?
Has Juan attended the yoga class?

Hemos conocido al entrenador.
We have met the trainer.

CONSULTA

To review what you have learned about past participles, see **Estructura 14.3**, p. 493.

- The past participle does not change in form when it is part of the present perfect tense; it only changes in form when it is used as an adjective.

Clara **ha abierto** las ventanas.
Clara has opened the windows.

Las ventanas están **abiertas**.
The windows are open.

Yo **he cerrado** la puerta del gimnasio.
I've closed the door to the gym.

La puerta del gimnasio está **cerrada**.
The door to the gym is closed.

- In Spanish, the present perfect indicative generally is used just as in English: to talk about what someone has done or what has occurred. It usually refers to the recent past.

He trabajado cuarenta horas esta semana.
I have worked forty hours this week.

¿Cuál es el último libro que **has leído**?
What is the last book that you have read?

CONSULTA

Remember that the Spanish equivalent of the English *to have just (done something)* is **acabar de** + [infinitive]. Do not use the present perfect to express that English structure. **Juan acaba de llegar.** *Juan has just arrived.* See **Estructura 6.3**, p. 207.

- ▶ In English, the auxiliary verb and the past participle are often separated. In Spanish, however, these two elements—**haber** and the past participle—cannot be separated by any word.

Siempre **hemos vivido** en Bolivia.
We have always lived in Bolivia.

Usted nunca **ha venido** a mi oficina.
You have never come to my office.

¿Y Juan Carlos todavía no te ha invitado a salir?



Últimamente hemos sufrido muchas presiones en la universidad.



- ▶ The word **no** and any object or reflexive pronouns are placed immediately before **haber**.

Yo **no he comido** la merienda.
I haven't eaten the snack.

¿Por qué **no la has comido**?
Why haven't you eaten it?

Susana ya **se ha entrenado**.
Susana has already practiced.

Ellos **no lo han terminado**.
They haven't finished it.

- ▶ Note that *to have* can be either a main verb or an auxiliary verb in English. As a main verb, it corresponds to **tener**, while as an auxiliary, it corresponds to **haber**.

Tengo muchos amigos.
I have a lot of friends.

He tenido mucho éxito.
I have had a lot of success.

- ▶ To form the present perfect of **hay**, use the third-person singular of **haber (ha) + habido**.

Ha habido muchos problemas con el nuevo profesor.
There have been a lot of problems with the new professor.

Ha habido un accidente en la calle Central.
There has been an accident on Central Street.

¡INTÉNTALO!

Indica el pretérito perfecto de indicativo de estos verbos.

- (disfrutar, comer, vivir) yo he disfrutado, he comido, he vivido
- (traer, adelgazar, compartir) tú _____
- (venir, estar, correr) usted _____
- (leer, resolver, poner) ella _____
- (decir, romper, hacer) ellos _____
- (mantenerse, dormirse) nosotros _____
- (estar, escribir, ver) yo _____
- (vivir, correr, morir) él _____

recursos

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