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# BBC LEARNING ENGLISH

## 6 Minute Grammar

### The present perfect with 'just', 'already' and 'yet'



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*NB: This is not a word-for-word transcript*

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**Finn**

Hello again. Welcome to 6 Minute Grammar with me, Finn.

**Alice**

And me, Alice. Hello.

**Finn**

Today's programme is all about the present perfect tense...

**Alice**

...and how to use it with the words **just**, **already** and **yet**.

**Finn**

That's right, and there'll be a quiz for you at the end to see how much you remember.

**Alice**

Yes. So let's get started! Now, the present perfect with **just**... [sound of mobile phone ringing] Oh, hold on... Sorry.

**Hamish (on the phone)**

Hey Alice. It's Hamish, yeah, I'm here! I've just arrived at Kings Cross Station.

**Alice**

King's Cross... King's Cross here? In London?

**Hamish (on the phone)**

Yeah, London town. Here I am! My train got in an hour ago. I've already visited Buckingham Palace and Trafalgar Square...

**Alice**

What, already?

**Hamish (on the phone)**

Yeah, but I haven't been on the London Eye yet, no - I want to go there next. Can you meet me in there in 10 minutes?

**Alice**

(To Hamish) Sorry Hamish, we've just started the programme... (To Finn) Sorry about that...

**Finn**

Don't worry, Alice, those were great examples of the present perfect with **just**, **already** and **yet**! And here's Catherine, hello...

**Catherine**

Hello.

**Finn**

...to repeat those examples for us. Catherine.

**Catherine**

I've just arrived at Kings Cross Station.  
I've already visited Buckingham Palace and Trafalgar Square.  
But I haven't been on the London Eye yet.

**Finn**

Now, you may have spotted that the sentences with **just** and **already** are positive, but the sentence with **yet** is negative.

**Alice**

Yes: we use **just** and **already** mainly in positive sentences.

**Finn**

And **yet** in negative sentences, and in questions.

**Alice**

Ok. Now let's look at some other differences between **just**, **already** and **yet**.

**Finn**

First: we use **just** with the present perfect for something that happened only a short time ago – **Hamish has just phoned. He's just arrived** in London.

**Alice**

And **I've just told** him to call back later.

**Finn**

Now we use **already** with the present perfect when an action has happened before now - or before we expected it to happen.

**Alice**

Yes, **Hamish has already been** to Buckingham Palace!

**Finn**

Now let's look at word order. Both **just** and **already** come between the auxiliary and the past participle. Catherine, can we have some examples again, please:

**Catherine**

Hamish has just phoned.

He's already visited Buckingham Palace.

**Alice**

Thanks Catherine.

**Hamish (on the phone)**

Hey Alice, it's me – Hamish – again. So...

**Alice**

I'm sorry, Hamish. I've already told you. I'm doing 6 Minute Grammar. I'll call you in a few minutes.

**Finn**

Great! Another example of **already**, Alice! **I've already told you.**

**Alice**

(talking to Hamish) Have I finished yet? No, sorry, we haven't finished yet. Bye...

**Finn**

Hamish?

**Alice**

Hamish again... Aha! He asked: "**Have you finished yet?**"

**Finn**

And you said: "**We haven't finished yet.**"

**Alice**

Yes, **yet** with present perfect. We use **yet** to ask if something has happened before now – or to say something has not happened up to now.

**Finn**

So: that's **yet** for negative sentences or questions with the present perfect. And **yet** always comes at the end of the sentence. By the way, Alice, **we haven't explained how to form the present perfect yet.**

**Alice**

You're right, Finn. So, we make the present perfect with the **subject** plus **have, has, haven't, hasn't** and **the past participle.**

**Finn**

Remember, we put **just** and **already** between **have** or **has** and the **past participle.**

**Alice**

And we put **yet** at the end of a negative sentence or question.

**IDENT**

You're listening to BBC Learning English.

**Hamish (on the phone)**

(can't hear what he says)

**Finn**

Hamish?

**Alice**

Hamish. He's in reception.

**Finn**

Has he got here **already**? That was quick.

**Alice**

Yes! So: sometimes we can put **already** at the end of a question to show surprise.

**Finn**

I think it's time for a quiz now! Number one. I'm going to say a sentence and you have to fill in the gap. Here goes. I haven't seen Spiderman 2 \_\_\_\_\_.

**Alice**

It's: I haven't seen Spiderman 2 **yet**. Because you haven't seen the film before now.

**Finn**

Correct. Number 2: Hamish has only been in London for one hour and he's \_\_\_\_\_ been to Trafalgar Square.

**Alice**

It's **already**. Because we are stressing the fact that he's done something before we expected it.

**Finn**

Great. Now, question 3. [Phone rings] Your phone has \_\_\_\_\_ rung.

**Alice**

**Just.**

**Finn**

No, really, your phone has just rung. Pass me the phone, Alice... Hamish, Alice has **just** told you that we haven't finished **yet!**.... Oh, oh, sorry...

**Alice**

What's the matter?

**Finn**

It's not Hamish - it's your mum!

**Alice**

Oh Finn! Never mind. There's more about this on our website at [bbclearningenglish.com](http://bbclearningenglish.com). Join us again for more 6 Minute Grammar.

**Both**

Bye.