

Present perfect with just, already and yet

CEFR A2-B1 • 20 questions • A4 / US Letter

Just for a moment ago, already for earlier than expected, yet for the question and the negative.

The rule

Just: a very short time ago

- Pattern: have or has plus just plus the past participle. "I have just finished."
- Just describes something that happened moments ago, and the effect is still present: "He has just woken up, so he is still sleepy."
- In British English, just goes with the present perfect. In American English, just often goes with the past simple: "I just finished."
- Just now usually takes the past simple: "She left just now."

Already: sooner than expected

- Pattern: have or has plus already plus the past participle. "They have already arrived."
- Already says the action happened before now, or earlier than the speaker expected: "The shop has already closed. It is only five."
- It is common in positive sentences. It can appear in questions to show surprise: "Have you already finished?"
- Already can also sit at the end for emphasis: "I have seen it already." The middle position is the standard one.

Yet: until now

- Yet means "up to now" and is used in questions and negatives: "Have you eaten yet?" "I have not eaten yet."
- Yet normally goes at the end of the sentence, after the object: "She has not finished her homework yet."
- In questions, yet asks whether something has happened by now: "Has the post arrived yet?"
- In negatives, yet says the action has not happened, but it may still happen: "He has not called yet."

Position inside the sentence

- Just and already sit between the auxiliary and the main verb: "has just left", "have already eaten".
- They never go before the auxiliary in a statement: "I just have finished" is wrong.
- Yet goes at the end of a question or negative. It is unusual in a positive statement.
- Short answers can drop the verb but keep the word: "Have you finished?" "Already." "Not yet."

The past simple alternative

- American English often uses the past simple with just: "I just ate." British English prefers "I have just eaten."
- With finished time expressions, the past simple is required: "She just left at noon" is not clean; say "She left

at noon."

- Already and yet also appear with other tenses: past perfect ("the film had already started") and future ("the film will have started by then").
- Do not use the present perfect with yesterday, last night or a finished clock time.

Questions

Write your answer on the line under each question. Check your work with the answer key on the last page.

1. The bus has ___ left. It was here a second ago.

2. Have you finished the report ___?

3. We have ___ seen that film twice this month.

4. I have not eaten ___.

5. She has ___ left; you just missed her.

6. Has he called you ___?

7. I have ___ booked the tickets, so we are ready.

8. The film has ___ started; hurry up.

9. She has not sent the email ___.

10. He has ___ woken up, so he is still sleepy.

11. Have they moved into the new house ___?

12. The children have ___ gone to bed, and it is only seven o'clock.

13. I cannot believe it — the shop has ___ closed! It is only five.

14. Wait, I have not finished my coffee ___.

15. The train has ___ arrived at platform three.

16. Have you ever been to Japan? — Not ___.

17. I have ___ seen this episode, so let us watch another one.

18. He has not replied to my message ___.

19. We have ___ arrived home. The journey is over.

20. Which sentence is correct?

Answer key

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1. **just** — The action happened moments ago, so just is correct. Just sits between has and the participle.
2. **yet** — Yet goes at the end of a present perfect question and asks about the time up to now.
3. **already** — Already shows the action happened before now, earlier than expected.
4. **yet** — The negative uses yet at the end: I have not eaten yet.
5. **just** — The leaving happened a moment ago, so just is correct.
6. **yet** — A question about the time up to now takes yet at the end.
7. **already** — Already fits a positive sentence where the action happened before now.
8. **already** — The film started earlier than expected, so already is correct.
9. **yet** — Yet at the end of a negative present perfect shows the action has not happened up to now.
10. **just** — The waking happened a very short time ago, so just fits.
11. **yet** — The question about the period up to now uses yet at the end.
12. **already** — Already shows surprise that the action happened earlier than expected.
13. **already** — The closing happened earlier than expected, so already is correct.
14. **yet** — The negative present perfect takes yet at the end.
15. **just** — A station announcement about a moment ago uses just: has just arrived.
16. **yet** — Not yet is the short negative answer, meaning up to now it has not happened.
17. **already** — Already explains why we should choose a different episode: the seeing happened before.
18. **yet** — The negative sentence uses yet at the end, and the reply may still come.
19. **just** — The arrival happened moments ago, so just is correct.
20. **She has just left.** — Just goes between the auxiliary has and the past participle left: She has just left.