

# 7

## Passions and fashions

Present Perfect – simple, continuous, passive • Making the right noises

### STARTER

Talk about three things you have **NEVER** done.

I've **NEVER** been to a football match.

Me neither. I hate football.

I've **NEVER** had body piercing or a tattoo.

I have. I've got a tattoo of a rose on my ankle.

I've **NEVER** read a Harry Potter book.

Really? I've read them all.

### 300 MILLION BOOKS SOLD!

Present Perfect – simple, continuous, passive

- 1 Look at the book titles. Have you read any of them or seen the films?  
Do you know anything about the author, J.K. Rowling /rəʊlɪŋ/?

**HARRY POTTER and the Philosopher's Stone (1997)**

**HARRY POTTER and the Chamber of Secrets (1998)**

**HARRY POTTER and the Prisoner of Azkaban (1999)**

**HARRY POTTER and the Goblet of Fire (2000)**

**HARRY POTTER and the Order of the Phoenix (2003)**

**HARRY POTTER and the Half-blood Prince (2005)**

**HARRY POTTER and the Deathly Hallows (2007)**

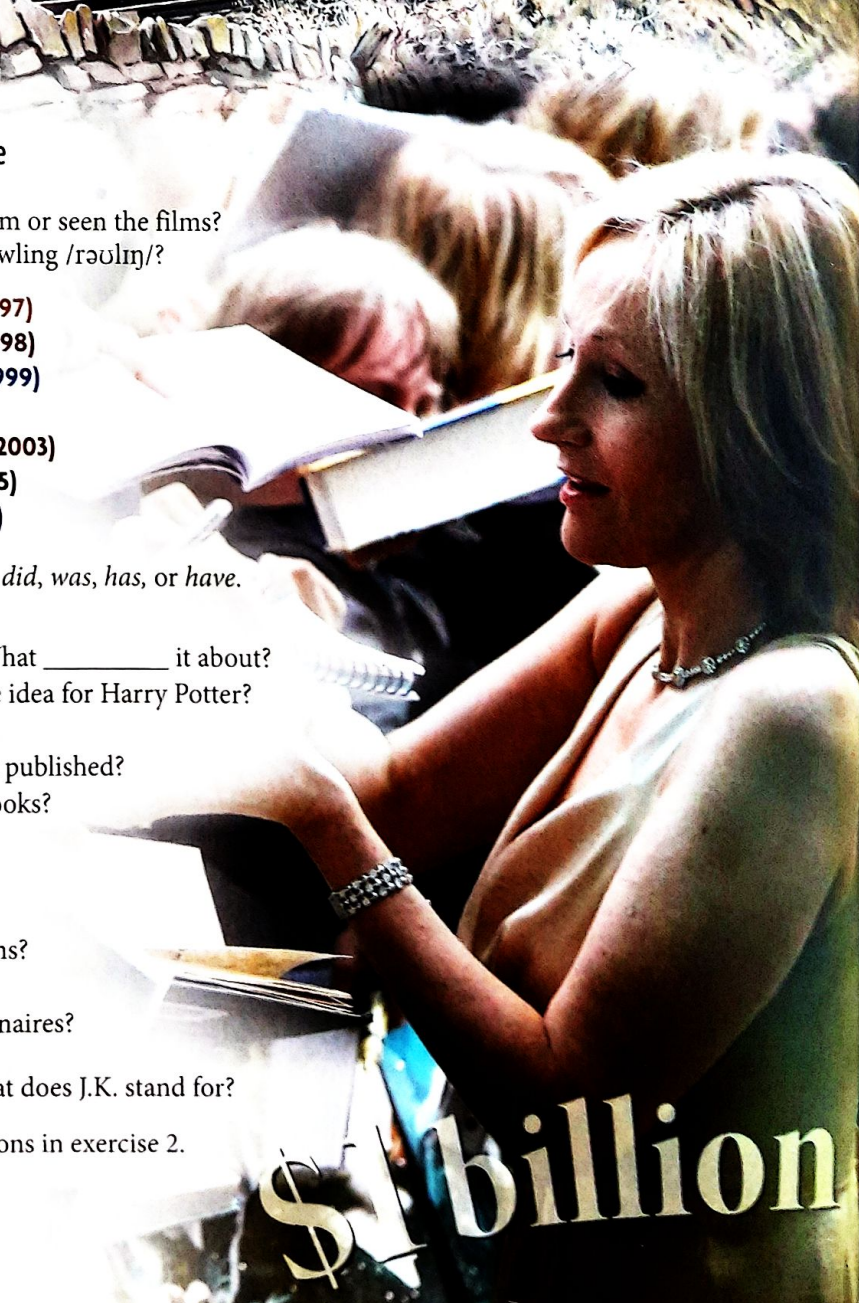
- 2 Complete the questions about J.K. Rowling. Use *did*, *was*, *has*, or *have*.

- 1 Where and when \_\_\_\_\_ she born?
- 2 When \_\_\_\_\_ she write her first story? What \_\_\_\_\_ it about?
- 3 What \_\_\_\_\_ she doing when she had the idea for Harry Potter?
- 4 Where \_\_\_\_\_ she teach English?
- 5 When \_\_\_\_\_ the first Harry Potter book published?
- 6 How long \_\_\_\_\_ she been writing the books?
- 7 How many \_\_\_\_\_ she written?
- 8 How many children \_\_\_\_\_ she had?
- 9 How many books \_\_\_\_\_ been sold?
- 10 Which books \_\_\_\_\_ been made into films?
- 11 How much money \_\_\_\_\_ she made?
- 12 How many authors \_\_\_\_\_ become billionaires?

- 3 **T7.1** Read and listen about J.K. Rowling. What does J.K. stand for?

- 4 Work with a partner. Ask and answer the questions in exercise 2.

**T7.2** Listen and check.



# JK Rowling

## Author and billionaire

### THE EARLY YEARS

Joanne Kathleen Rowling, author of the best-selling Harry Potter series of books, was born in 1965, near Bristol, England. Her birthday, July 31, is the same as her famous hero, Harry Potter.

#### School days

Joanne did well in school. Her favourite subjects were English and foreign languages and she studied French at university. She graduated in 1986 and over the next few years had a variety of jobs. However, her passion was writing. She had written her first story, *Rabbit*, about a rabbit with measles, aged six.

#### Harry Potter is born

She started writing the first Harry Potter book in 1990. The idea for Harry – a lonely, 11-year-old orphan who is actually a wizard – came to Rowling while she was travelling by train between Manchester and London. Although she left England a short time after that to teach English in Portugal, she continued to write Harry's story.

She returned to Britain in 1993, and settled in Scotland. After a brief marriage in Portugal, she was now divorced, with a baby, Jessica. It was a difficult time – she was out of work and depressed – but finally completed her first book, *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*. It was published in Britain in 1997 and quickly became a hit with both children and adults.

### JK ROWLING TODAY

JKR has been writing Harry Potter books for nearly 20 years. She writes in longhand, and each book takes one year to complete. She has now completed the series of seven Harry Potter books. The last book, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*, came out in July, 2007. Her books have won numerous awards including 'Children's Book of the Year'.

She married her second husband, Dr Neil Murray, in 2001 and has since had two more children, a boy, David, born in 2003, and a girl, Mackenzie, born in 2005.

#### Fans all over the world

The books have been translated into over 60 languages, and over 300 million copies have been sold worldwide. The first six books have been made into films. She has become the highest-earning woman in Britain, richer than the Queen! She has made over £600 million, more than one billion dollars. This makes her the first person ever to have become a billionaire from writing books.

### GRAMMAR SPOT

- 1 Name the three tenses. Why are they used?

She **lives** in Scotland.

She **lived** in Portugal for three years.

She's **lived** in Scotland since 1993.

She's **lived** in England, Portugal and Scotland.

- 2 Which question asks about the activity? Which asks about the quantity?

How long **has** she **been writing** Harry Potter books?

How many **has** she **written**?

- 3 These sentences sound unnatural in the active. Make them passive. Find them in the text.

People have translated her books into 60 languages.

People have sold 300 million copies of her books.

People have made six of the books into films.

►► Grammar Reference 7.1–7.6 p140–2

- 5 **T7.3** Jack, aged 10, is a big fan of Harry Potter books. Listen and complete the questions he was asked. What are his answers?

1 How long have you been a fan of the books?

2 How many of the books \_\_\_\_\_?

3 Which \_\_\_\_\_ like best?

4 \_\_\_\_\_ any of the Harry Potter films? \_\_\_\_\_ like them all?

5 Have you any idea how many Harry Potter books \_\_\_\_\_ in the world?

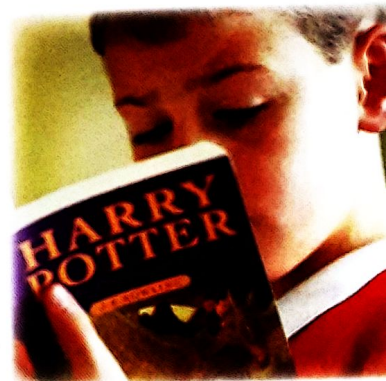
6 What \_\_\_\_\_ about the author?

7 \_\_\_\_\_ a lot of your friends \_\_\_\_\_ the books?

8 I know as well as Harry Potter you have another passion. How long \_\_\_\_\_ football?

9 What would you rather do this afternoon? Read a Harry Potter or play football?

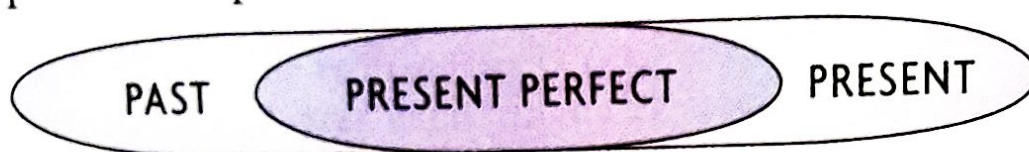
- 6 What books and films are you a fan of? Talk to a partner. Ask and answer similar questions to exercise 5. Tell the class.



# UNIT 7

## 7.1 THE PRESENT PERFECT

- 1 The same form (*have* + past participle) exists in many European languages, but the uses in English are different. In English, the Present Perfect links past and present. It expresses the effect of the past on the present.



- 2 Present Perfect means 'completed before now'. The Present Perfect does not express when an action happened. If we say the exact time, we use the Past Simple.

*In my life, I **have travelled** to all seven continents.  
I **travelled** around Africa in 1998.*

## 7.2 Present Perfect

### Form

#### **has/have + past participle**

*I've lived in Rome.*

*She's lived in London.*

*He **hasn't lived** here long.*

*They **haven't bought** their flat.*

*How long **have** they **known** Peter?*

*How long **has** she **been married**?*

### Short answer

Have you always lived in Budapest?

Yes, I **have**./No, I **haven't**.

**Use**  
there are three main uses of the Present Perfect.

### 1 Unfinished past

The Present Perfect expresses an action that began in the past and still continues.

*We've lived in the same house for 25 years.*  
*How long have you known each other?*  
*They've been married for 20 years.*

⚠ Be careful! Many languages express this idea with a present tense, but in English this is wrong.

*Jan has been a nurse for ten years.* NOT *Jan is a nurse for ten years.*

#### Time expressions

Notice the time expressions that are common with this use.

|     |               |       |               |
|-----|---------------|-------|---------------|
| for | two years     | since | 1970          |
|     | a month       |       | August        |
|     | a few minutes |       | 8.00          |
|     | half an hour  |       | I was a child |
|     | ages          |       | Christmas     |

We use *for* with a period of time and *since* with a point in time.

### 2 Experience

The Present Perfect expresses an experience that happened at some time in one's life. The action is finished, but the effects of the action are still felt.

*I've been to the United States.* (I still remember.)  
*Have you ever had an operation?* (at any time in your life)  
*How many times has he been married?* (in his life)

Exactly *when* the action happened is not important. Questions and answers about definite times are expressed in the Past Simple.

*When did you go to the United States?*  
*I broke my leg once.*

#### Time expressions

The adverbs *ever*, *never*, and *before* are common with this use.

*Have you ever been to Australia?*  
*I've never tried bungee jumping.*  
*I haven't tried sushi before.*

### 3 Present result

The Present Perfect expresses a past action that has a present result. The action is usually in the recent past.

*The taxi hasn't arrived yet.* (We're still waiting for it.)  
*What have you done to your lip?* (It's bleeding.)

We often announce news in the Present Perfect.

*Have you heard? The Prime Minister has resigned.*  
*Susan's had her baby!*

Details will be in the Past Simple.

*She resigned because she lost a vote of no confidence.*  
*It's a boy. He weighed 3.5kg.*

#### Time expressions

The adverbs *yet*, *already*, and *just* are common with this use.

*I haven't done my homework yet.* (negative)  
*Has the postman been yet?* (question)  
*I've already done my homework.*  
*She's just had some good news.*

⚠ Be careful with *been* and *gone*.

*He's been to the United States.* (experience – he isn't there now)  
*She's gone to the United States.* (present result – she's there now)

## 7.3 Present Perfect or Past Simple?

1 The Present Perfect can express unfinished actions. The Past Simple expresses completed actions.

#### Present Perfect

*I've lived in Texas for six years.*  
(I still live there.)  
*I've written several books.*  
(I can still write some more.)

#### Past Simple

*I lived in Texas for six years.*  
(Now I live somewhere else.)  
*Shakespeare wrote 30 plays.*  
(He can't write any more.)

2 The Present Perfect refers to indefinite time. The Past Simple refers to definite time. Notice the time expressions used with the two tenses.

#### Present Perfect – indefinite

*I've done it* for a long time.  
since July.  
before.  
recently.

*I've already done it.*  
*I haven't done it yet.*

#### Past Simple – definite

*I did it* yesterday.  
last week.  
two days ago.  
at eight o'clock.  
in 1987.  
when I was young.  
for a long time.

⚠ Be careful with *this morning/afternoon*, etc.

*Have you seen Amy this morning?* (It's still morning.)  
*Did you see Amy this morning?* (It's the afternoon or evening.)

## 7.4 Present Perfect Simple passive

### Form

*has/have been + past participle*

|      |           |       |
|------|-----------|-------|
| It   | has been  | sold. |
| They | have been |       |

### Use

The uses are the same in the passive as in the active.

*Two million cars have been produced so far this year.* (unfinished past)

*Has she ever been made redundant?* (past experience)

*'Have you heard? Two hundred homes have been washed away by a tidal wave!'* (present importance)

## 7.5 Present Perfect Continuous

### Form

*has/have + been + -ing*

*She's been studying for three years.*  
*They haven't been working here long.*  
*How long have they been living there?*

### Use

The Present Perfect Continuous expresses:

1 an activity that began in the past and is continuing now.

*I've been studying English for three years.*  
*How long have you been working here?*

Sometimes there is no difference between the simple and the continuous.

*I've played the piano since I was a boy.*  
*I've been playing the piano since I was a boy.*

The continuous can express a temporary activity, while the simple expresses a permanent state.

*I've been living in this house for the past few months.* (temporary)  
*I've lived here all my life.* (permanent)

⚠ Remember: State verbs are rarely used in the continuous (see 2.4 p134).

*I've had this book for ages.*  
*I've always loved sunny days.*

- 2 a past activity that has caused a present result.

*I've been working all day.* (I'm tired now.)

*Have you been crying?* (Your eyes are red.)

*Roger's been cutting the grass.* (I can smell it.)

The past activity might be finished or it might not. The context usually makes this clear.

*Look out of the window! It's been snowing!*

(It has stopped snowing now.)

*I've been writing this book for two years.* (It still isn't finished.)

*I'm covered in paint because I've been decorating the bathroom.*

(It might be finished or it might not. We don't know.)



## 7.6 Present Perfect Simple or Continuous?

- 1 The simple expresses a completed action.

*I've painted the kitchen, and now I'm doing the bathroom.*

The continuous expresses an activity over a period of time.

*I've got paint in my hair because I've been decorating.*

We use the simple if the sentence has a number or quantity, because the simple expresses completion. The continuous isn't possible.

*I've been reading all day. I've read ten chapters.*

*She's been eating ever since she arrived. She's eaten ten biscuits already.*

- 2 Some verbs have the idea of a long time, for example, *wait, work, play, try, learn, rain*. These verbs are often found in the continuous.

*I've cut my finger.* (One short action.)

*I've been cutting firewood.* (Perhaps over several hours.)

Some verbs don't have the idea of a long time, for example, *find, start, buy, die, lose, break, stop*. These verbs are more usually found in the simple.

*I've lost my passport.*

*Have you started your Christmas shopping yet?*