

12 ON THE PHONE

JUST, ALREADY, YET, STILL

The words *just*, *already*, *yet* and *still* are often used with the present perfect. They go in different positions in the sentence.

Just shows a recent action. We sometimes add *only* before *just* for emphasis. It goes before the main verb.

We can start the meeting now. Yvonne's just arrived, so everyone's here.

The meeting is starting late because Yvonne's only just arrived.

Already shows something happened before, often sooner than expected. It goes before the main verb or at the end of the sentence / clause.

I don't want to watch that programme. I've already seen it. / I've seen it already.

He's already finished his homework, so he can go out.

Yet shows that something hasn't happened, but we expect it to happen. It usually goes at the end of the sentence.

We haven't decided where to go on holiday yet.

Still can show an action or situation is unchanged. It goes before the auxiliary verb *have*.

We still haven't decided where to go on holiday.

Yet and *still* are very similar, but we often use *yet* in present perfect questions.

A: *Have you finished yet?* (= *Are you still working?*)

B: *No, I'm still working.* (= *No, I haven't finished yet.*)

Complete the conversation with *just*, *already*, *yet* or *still*.

➡ **A:** Have you seen Danny Ayudo's latest film _____ *yet* _____?

➡ **B:** No, I haven't. Is it good?

A: Well, I've heard it's great, but I ¹ _____ haven't seen it. I wanted to ask Chris if he's free tonight. I tried to call him earlier, but he didn't answer. Is he here?

B: No, he isn't. He's ² _____ left, but I'm free tonight.

A: I'm calling his number again. No, he ³ _____ isn't answering.

B: I'm free ...

A: [*starts conversation on phone*] Chris! Finally! Have you seen the Danny Ayudo film

⁴ _____? Oh, you have? No problem. OK, bye. [*ends conversation on phone*]

He's ⁵ _____ seen it. He saw it last week.

B: Look, I've ⁶ _____ finished work for the day and I'm free tonight. I haven't seen the film

⁷ _____, but I'd love to.

A: Oh, brilliant. Let's go, then. Have you been to the new cinema in town ⁸ _____?

B: Yeah, I've ⁹ _____ been a few times. It's really nice. You?

A: No, I ¹⁰ _____ haven't been, but that's going to change tonight!

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B: No, he isn't. He's ² just left, but I'm free tonight.

A: I'm calling his number again. No, he ³ still isn't answering.

B: I'm free ...

A: [*starts conversation on phone*] Chris! Finally! Have you seen the Danny Ayudo film ⁴ yet? Oh, you have? No problem. OK, bye. [*ends conversation on phone*]
He's ⁵ already seen it. He saw it last week.

B: Look, I've ⁶ just finished work for the day and I'm free tonight. I haven't seen the film ⁷ yet, but I'd love to.

A: Oh, brilliant. Let's go, then. Have you been to the new cinema in town ⁸ yet?

B: Yeah, I've ⁹ already been a few times. It's really nice. You?

A: No, I ¹⁰ still haven't been, but that's going to change tonight!

REPORTING SPEECH

Direct speech is the actual words someone says at the time they are speaking. We show this by using inverted commas (also called speech or quotation marks).

Melissa said, 'I'm very happy today.'

Reported speech is when we repeat what someone said. When we report what people said, we often move 'one tense back'. We also change other words such as pronouns and time phrases if necessary.

*Melissa said **she was** very happy **yesterday / that day**.*

present simple → past simple

*'I **play** games on my phone every day.'* → *She said **she played** games on her phone every day.*

present continuous → past continuous

*'I'm **waiting** for a call.'* → *He said **he was waiting** for a call.*

present perfect → past perfect

*'Eva **has bought** you a present.'* → *She said Eva **had bought** him a present.*

past simple → past perfect

*'I **saw** my cousin **yesterday**.'* → *He said **he'd seen** his cousin **the day before**.*

will → would

*'We'll meet **you tomorrow**.'* → *They said **they would** meet us **the next day**.*

can → could

*'I **can** give **you** a lift home.'* → *He said **he could** give **me** a lift home.*

We can use the reporting verbs *say* and *tell* to report another person's words. We don't use an object with *say*.

*Rebecca **said** she had forgotten her book.*

*Tom **said** he would meet Sam at the cinema.*

We always add an object after *tell*. The object is often a pronoun.

*Rebecca **told me** she had forgotten her book.*

*Tom **told Sam** he would meet him at the cinema.*

We sometimes use *that* after the reporting verb, but it isn't necessary.

*I said (**that**) I was disappointed.*

*They told us (**that**) we could get in without paying.*

When we report questions that start with a question word, we don't use a form of the auxiliary verb *do*. The word order becomes subject + verb. We use the reporting verb *ask*.

'Where do you live?' → *She **asked** me where I **lived**.*

'How old are you?' → *He **asked** me how old I **was**.*

For yes / no questions that start with *do*, *can* or *would*, we add *if* or *whether*.

'Can I leave a message?' → *He asked **if he could** leave a message.*

'Have you seen it before?' → *She asked me **whether I'd seen** it before.*

Read the sentences in direct speech. Complete the reported speech.

➔ 'I'll tell you the answer tomorrow, James.'

➔ He said he would tell James / him the answer the next day.

1 'We're redecorating our house.'

She said they _____

2 'Where are you from?'

He asked me _____

3 'We've been to the cinema twice this week.'

Robert said they _____

4 'Who did you see this morning?'

He asked me _____

5 'This email arrived today.'

The woman said the _____

6 'I will call you tomorrow.'

He said he _____

7 'I can drive you there.'

She said _____

8 'We're moving to Australia.'

They told us they _____

9 'I should go.'

He said _____

10 'Can you help me with my homework?'

She asked me _____

Read the sentences in direct speech. Complete the reported speech.

➔ 'I'll tell you the answer tomorrow, James!'

➔ He said he would tell James / him the answer the next day.

- 1 'We're redecorating our house.'
She said they were redecorating their house.
- 2 'Where are you from?'
He asked me where I was from.
- 3 'We've been to the cinema twice this week.'
Robert said they had / 'd been to the cinema twice that week.
- 4 'Who did you see this morning?'
He asked me who I had / 'd seen that morning.
- 5 'This email arrived today.'
The woman said the email had arrived that day.
- 6 'I will call you tomorrow.'
He said he would call me the next day.
- 7 'I can drive you there.'
She said she could drive me there.
- 8 'We're moving to Australia.'
They told us they were moving to Australia.
- 9 'I should go.'
He said he should go.
- 10 'Can you help me with my homework?'
She asked me if / whether I could help her with her homework.