

CHAPTER 3

Perfect and Perfect Progressive Tenses



Have you ever seen a dragon parade?

The Chinese **have been celebrating** the New Year for 5,000 years. The New Year traditions **have included** setting off thousands of firecrackers and painting parts of houses bright red. Also, grown-ups **have** traditionally **given** red envelopes of money to children and unmarried adults for good luck. Families feast on dumplings, chicken, and fish, and watch the dragon and lion dances. In some cities in America, the dances **have evolved** into parades of dancing dragons and lions surrounded by colorful flags, banners, lanterns and drums to drive away the evil spirits. **Have** you ever **seen** a dragon parade? Over the years, I **have seen** several over the years in Chinatown.

Use the present perfect to talk about situations that began in the past and continue up until now.

These traditions have continued for 5,000 years.

Grown-ups have always given red envelopes of money to children.



Use the present perfect to talk about events that have or haven't happened before now.

Has Julia ever seen a dragon parade?

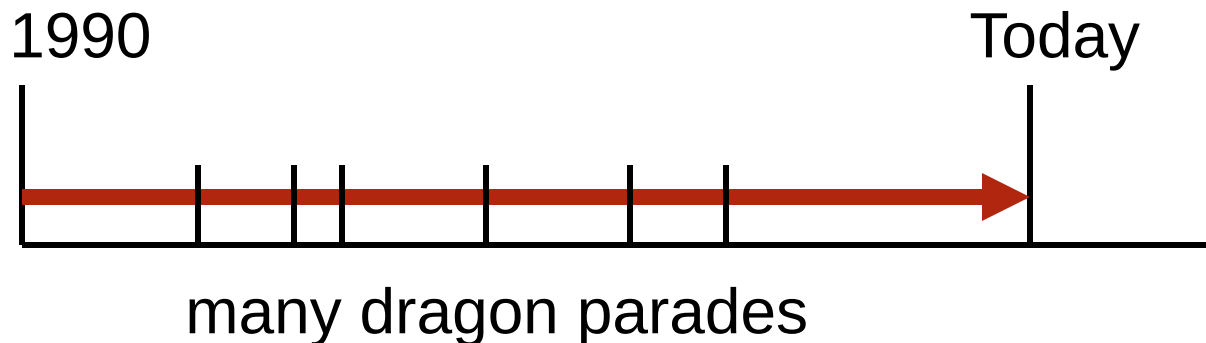
No, Julia has never seen one.



Use the present perfect to talk about an event that has occurred repeatedly from a point in the past to the present time.

Have you ever seen a dragon parade?

Yes, I have. I have seen many dragon parades.



PRACTICE 1 – Ask Your Partner

- 1. Have you ever driven a bus?**
- 2. Have you ever played baseball?**
- 3. Have you ever ridden a camel?**
- 4. Have you ever broken your arm?**
- 5. Have you ever eaten Chinese sweets?**
- 6. Have you ever gone skydiving?**
- 7. Have you ever won a prize?**

Use the present perfect progressive to talk about the *duration* of an activity that began in the past and continues to the present.

We have been celebrating the Chinese New Year for a week now.

My grandmother has been decorating the house for the New Year since this morning.

Use the present perfect progressive to talk about the *duration* of an activity that began in the past and continues to the present.

Meng's grandparents **have been giving** him money for the New Year since he was a little boy.

How long?

My sister **has been waiting** all year to see the dragon parade.

How long?

PRACTICE 2 –

Part I - Identify the correct verb form(s).

Present **Perfect** (P)?

Present **Perfect Progressive** (PP)?

Or **Both** (B)?

1. We (**celebrate**) Chinese New Year all week! **PP**
2. I (**see**) two dragon parades so far this week. **P**
3. My brother (**eat**) a lot of candy during New Year's. **B**
4. He (**feel**) ill all day today. **B**
5. He (**be**) sick since this morning. **P**
6. My mother (**take care of**) my brother today. She hasn't left his side. **PP**

PRACTICE 2 –

Part II – Complete the sentence with the correct verb form(s).

1. We have been celebrating (celebrate) Chinese New Year all week!
2. I have seen (see) two dragon parades so far this week.
3. My brother has eaten
has been eating (eat) a lot of candy during New Year's.
4. He has felt
has been feeling (feel) ill all day today.
5. He has been (be) sick since this morning.
6. My mother has been taking care of (take care of) my brother today. She hasn't left his side.



According to legend, the tradition of the Chinese New Year began long ago with a fight against a man-eating beast called the Nian. It **had been devouring** villagers all over China. The villagers **had asked** for the help of a great lion spirit, which came and attacked the Nian, driving it away. The following year, the lion spirit was protecting the Emperor's palace, so the Nian attacked the people again just as it **had been doing** for centuries. To defend themselves, the people used bamboo and cloth to make huge, brightly colored statues of lions and dragons to scare the Nian away. The people carried the statues and danced around the villages with them. This was the first dragon parade.

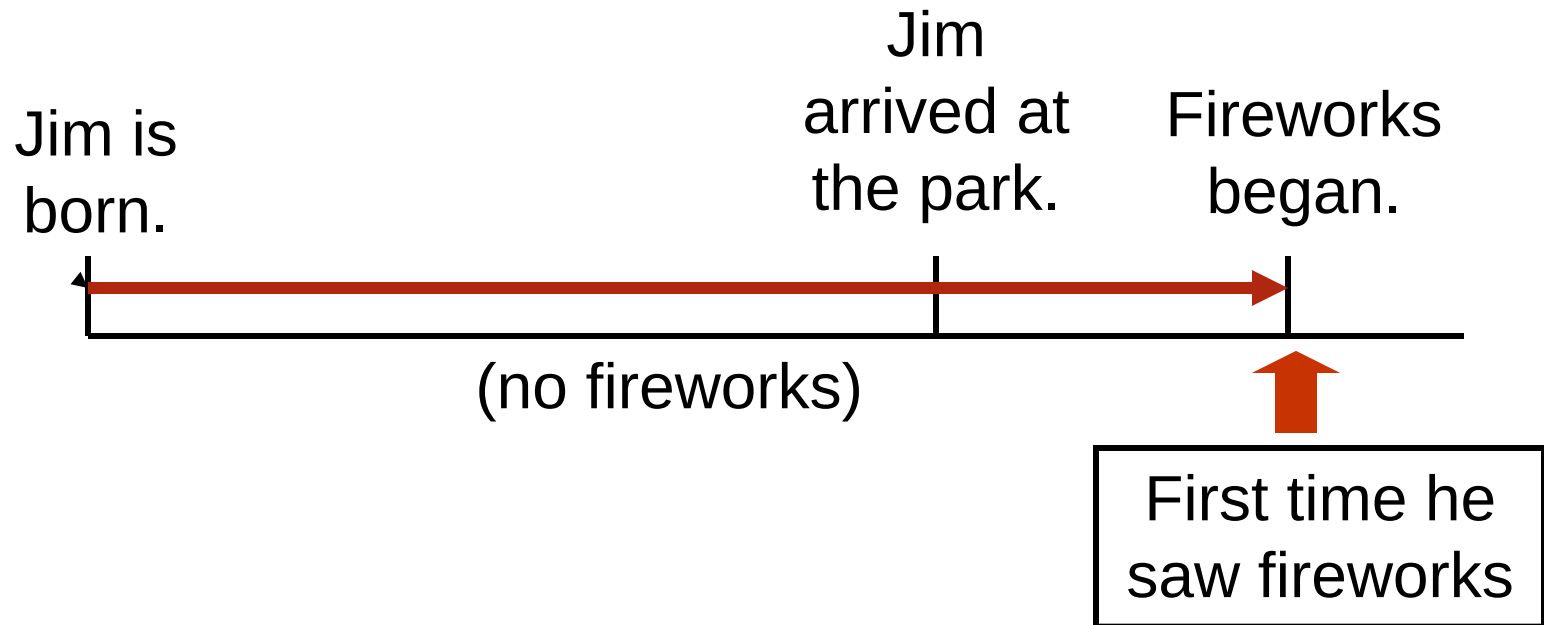
The past perfect expresses an activity that was completed before another activity or time in the past.

By the time we got to the park last night, the fireworks had already finished.



The past perfect expresses an activity that was completed before another activity or time in the past.

Jim said that he had never seen fireworks before in his entire life.



Use the past perfect progressive to emphasize the duration of an activity that was in progress before another activity or time in the past.

Steven **had been watching** the dragon parade for thirty minutes when he remembered he had a lunch date.

Steven's friends **had been waiting** for him since twelve-thirty.

PRACTICE 3

What happened first?

1. The spectators had been watching the dragon parade for awhile when it started to rain.
 - a. It started to rain.
 - ☒ b. The spectators watched the parade.
2. The dragon parade had already ended before the tour bus arrived in Chinatown.
 - a. The tour bus arrived in Chinatown.
 - ☒ b. The dragon parade ended.
3. The Nian had been terrorizing the people for centuries before they asked the great lion spirit for help.
 - a. The people asked the great lion spirit for help.
 - ☒ b. The Nian terrorized the people.
4. After the great lion spirit had driven the Nian away, the villagers reported the good news.
 - ☒ a. Villagers reported the good news.
 - b. The great lion spirit drove the Nian away.

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