

Have You Heard?!

Can you imagine a day when all the news you hear is good news? It might be difficult, but read this conversation between colleagues George and Lisa to get the idea:

-Hey George, I'm so happy! Dave **has asked me** to marry him! We're engaged, look at my ring!

-Congratulations! That's great news Lisa, I'm really happy for you. By the way, **have you heard** that our new boss **has just confirmed** that we will all get a bonus this Christmas?

-Wow, I didn't know that! Maybe I can book that skiing holiday this Winter after all.

-Hey look at the local paper, **it's just been announced** by the mayor that all public transport will be free from now on!

- That's great news, I think I'll sell my car... My goodness! (looking at phone) **Have you seen this?** At the Global Leaders summit **they've agreed to**

When we share news whether it's personal or global, we often use the present perfect, a present tense form which connects a past action to now. In all the examples **in bold** in the conversation above, a recent action in the past has a result now and for the future.

For example: Dave **has asked me** to marry him! We're engaged

We use the *present perfect* here because Dave asked Lisa to marry him in the recent past, this means that now she is engaged to him.

The present perfect is formed with *have/has + past participle* – the contracted form of 'have' is often used

- He has confirmed
- He's asked me
- Have you heard?
- They've agreed
- Have you seen ?
- It's been announced

For more information on the form of the present perfect and its uses see the *Present Perfect Summary*

SPEAKING ACTIVITY

Now it's your turn to use your wishful thinking and imagine what sort of good news you would like to hear. It doesn't have to be true but if you've had some good news recently feel free to share it.

Think of an example for each point below.

- 🎯 Personal – something great **has just happened** to you/your family/your friends
- 🎯 Your work – your boss or the company you work for **has made an announcement**
- 🎯 Your town/city – the mayor **has launched** a new project/development
- 🎯 The world – all the world leaders **have made** a dramatic pledge

When you're ready share your news with your classmates. Remember to react with enthusiasm/surprise to their news.

- How many alternative adjectives can you think of for "That's great!"? or "How fantastic!"

Try to remember what news your classmates report as at the end the teacher will ask the class to recall some news for each student.