

This episode has **two audio** parts but the transcript is on **one webpage** at
<http://www.talkingpeople.net/tp/usefullanguage/elementary/mydaytoday2.htm>

Today! (2): My Day Today. Part 2 (in two different audios: 2.1 and 2.2)

Audio 2.1

A little note on the Present Perfect: form

The **present perfect** (called *pretérito perfecto* when I was little, and nowadays, *pretérito perfecto compuesto* or *antepresente* in Spanish) is a perfect tense, so it needs "have" as the **auxiliary verb, "have" in the present**, not in the past (in the past it would form a past perfect, or pluscuamperfect, called pluscuamperfecto or antepretérito in Spanish)! Then, we use the **main verb** in the **past participle** (-ed ending in regular verbs – yes, like the Past simple! – and 3rd column in list of irregular verbs). By the way, pay attention to the pronunciation of the -ed ending of the regular verbs!

What Have You Done Today? (example 1)

In the afternoon, in the language lesson, you are practicing/practising in pairs.

Your classmate asks you: What have you done today?

You: Well, today I have woken up very early. And you? What have you done today?

Your classmate: I have borrowed two books from the library. (I need them for a project.) What have you done in the afternoon?

You: Well, I have had lunch, I have had a 20-minute nap or siesta! And now I'm here! And what about you? What have YOU done this afternoon?

Your classmate: I have done nothing! / I haven't done anything!

You: But you are here! That's something!

Your classmate: Let's call the teacher! Teacher, we have finished!

Teacher: Good pronunciation of "finished", well done! No, you haven't finished! Drill, come on!

One picks a verb and the other uses it to make a sentence. Come on!

You: OK. I'll start. Buy!

Your classmate: I have bought a cheese and ham sandwich. What about you?

You: I have bought the bread today.

Your classmate: PHONE! with the 3rd person singular!

You: Has your brother phoned Mary?

Your classmate: Well done! I have phoned my friend in Canada.

You: My turn: HEAR!

Your classmate: Have you heard the news?

You: Which?

Your classmate: My brother is going to get married!

You: Really? Is it true? (For real? - US)

Your classmate: Yes, it is! Have you forgotten?!

You: Hahaha... You're good!!! Now in the negative... I haven't seen Carmen. With MEET!

Your classmate: I haven't met Carmen yet.

In this way, they passed many pleasant hours! :D

For examples 2 and 3, listen to the second part of Today! (2): My Day Today. Part 1.

Exam tips: remember that a Speaking test is not a Writing test. At the Elementary / Pre-intermediate level, at Spanish public adult language schools (EOIs), if you are asked to write about your day today, you should not list sentences, you should write sentences in a narrative (in a story, with paragraphs). When you list sentences you can use bullets, but in Compositions you can never use bullets, because it's a narrative, not a list!!

Today! (2): My Day Today. Part 2

Audio 2.2

This is the last part of the previous episode.

What Have you Done Today? (example 2)

It is June, 7.55 PM, and the Oral Examiner has asked you: What have you done today? (About 6-8 correct sentences is usually fine.)

Sorry, can you repeat, please? / Excuse me, can you say that again, please? (The examiner poses the question again.)

OK, thank you.

Well, today I have had a shower.

I have had an orange juice and a coffee for breakfast. (I love natural orange juice!)

I have been to university. (I study Journalism.)

I have revised English and German at home (for my Final Language exams...)

(To yourself) What else...? Oh, today I have taken a bus here (to this language school).

(Sometimes I walk.)

Today I have walked my dog for half an hour.

I haven't picked my copies at the copy shop. (I forgot.)

I have watered the plants in my room.

Today I have had no fruit. (There's no fruit at home! / There isn't any fruit at home today.)

I haven't done the shopping. (I go shopping on Saturdays.)

I have heard the news on the radio. / I have watched the news at lunch time.

Today I have told my mother about my university project, and my project classmates and I have interviewed one more person.

I think that's all. Is it OK?

Verb Analysis: ...

My Day Today (example 3)

You are practicing/practising the Present Perfect with a classmate in a coffee shop or cafeteria, in the evening. You never speak Spanish when you do this -- that's why your English is improving fast!

Classmate: Shall we start? What have you done today?

You: Yes, good idea. OK, well, today I have done a lot of things. I always do a lot of things every day. That's why I'm always busy! Well, ... I have been to work.

I have done some housework.

I haven't had lunch -- I had no time! -- but I've had a merienda -- our tea-time in Spain (UK), an afternoon snack (US). I had an apple... -- An apple a day keeps the doctor away!, you know.

Oh, today I have also studied English with some audios. Listen and repeat! And I have read /red/ a story by Gertrude Stein, "The World Is Round." Nice!

Your classmate: with "answer"...

You: Ah! I have answered the phone three times. / I have answered the door once. / I have answered a lot of questions in my job.

Your classmate: with "ask"!!!

You: You're so cruel! It's hard to pronounce... I have asked a question to my boss. / I have asked my boss a question. / (I have asked Mary to wait for me!)

Your classmate: with "listen"...

You: I have listened to the news. I have also listened to some music. More!: I have watched *The Mentalist*. Oh, I have lost my umbrella!! And I have missed the train, so I was late! :D

Your classmate: with "buy"...

I have bought a ticket to Segovia, for next Sunday.

Your classmate: You're really good at English! Congratulations!! Now with "call" or "phone"...

You: I haven't called my grandmother. (That's bad! Poor granny!) Let me call her now! ...

Verb Analysis: ...