

ENGLISH FOR INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY 1

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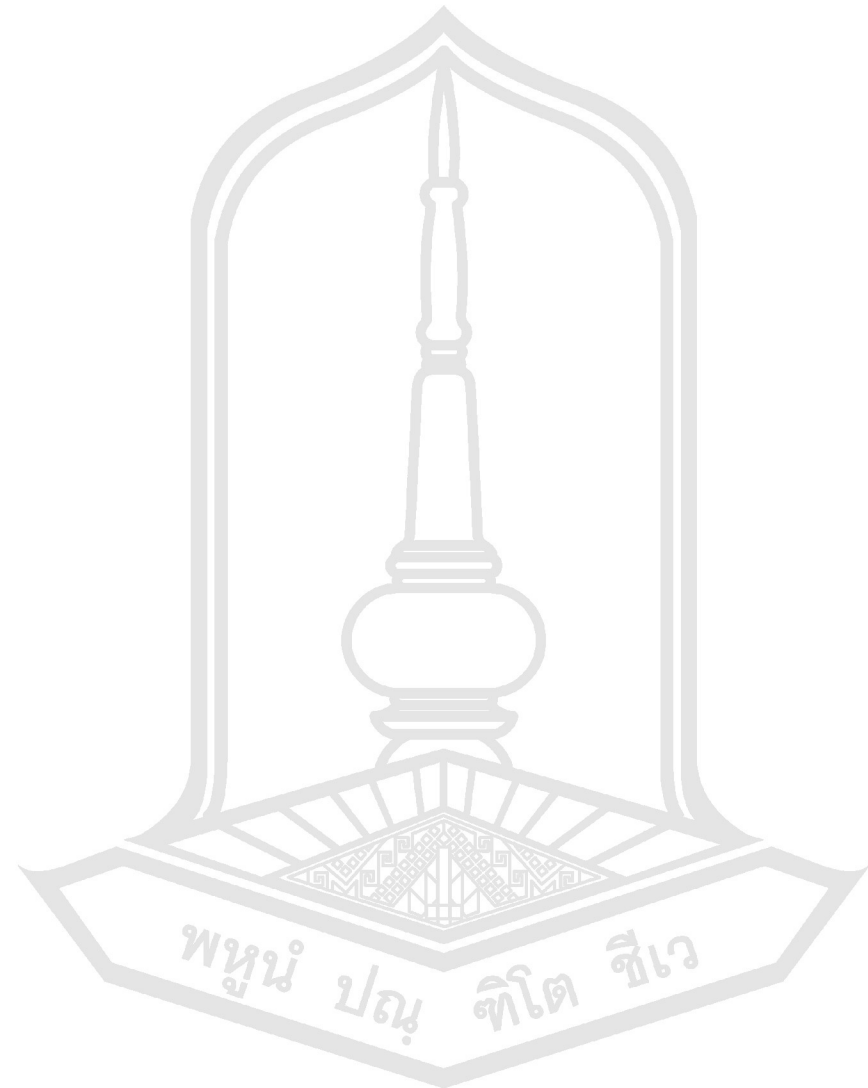


PERFECT TENSE

Present vs Past

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Lecturer

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Present Perfect Tense

- The present perfect tense is oddly named because it is used to describe actions that began in the past. However, it is different from the simple past tense because quite often the actions being described are still continuing into the present.

Definition of the present perfect tense

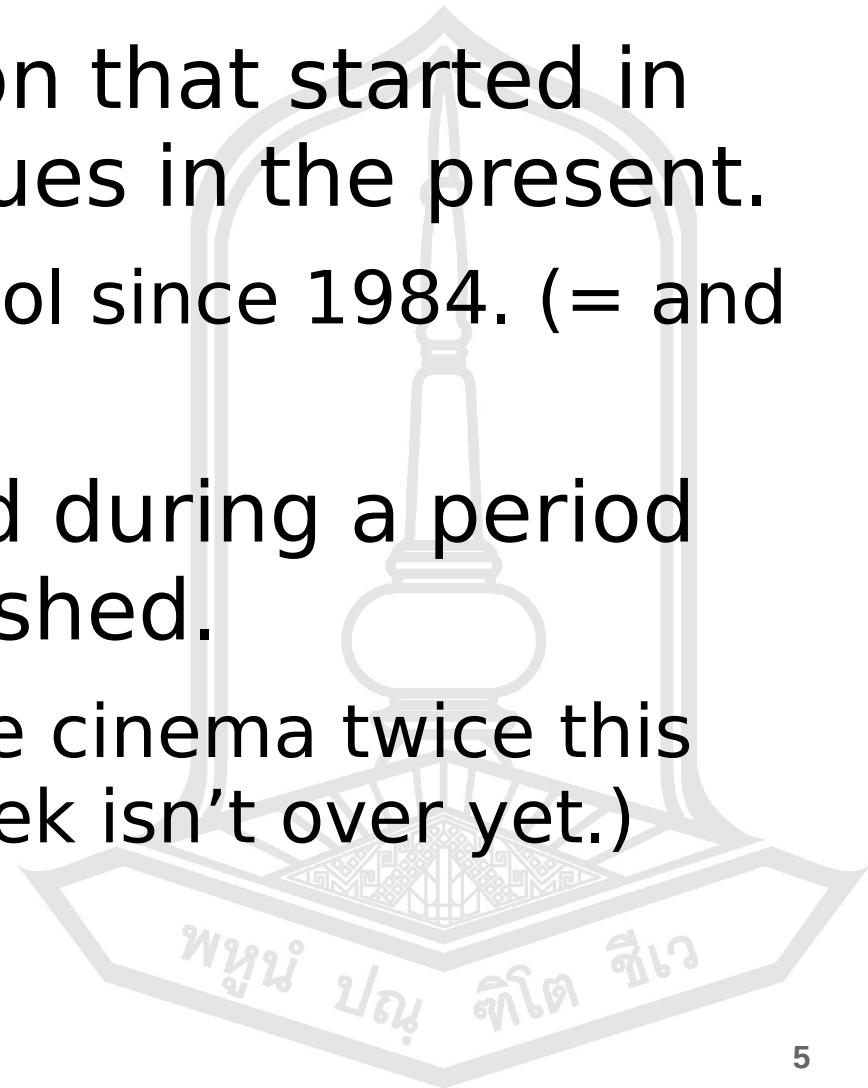
- The present perfect is used to indicate a *link between the present and the past*.
- The time of the action is **before now but not specified**, and we are often more interested in the **result** than in the action itself.

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cr. <http://www.ef.com/english-resources/english-grammar/present-perfect/>

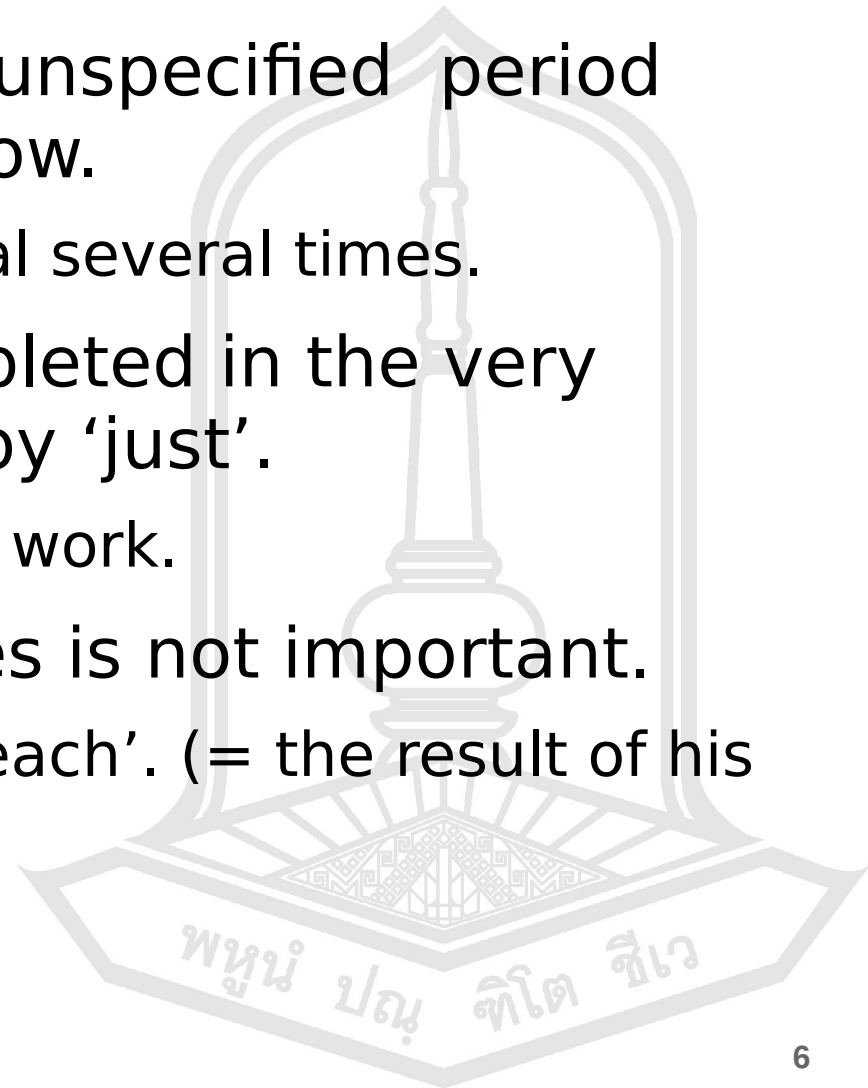
Present perfect is used to describe

- An action or situation that started in the past and continues in the present.
 - I **have lived** in Bristol since 1984. (= and I still do.)
- An action performed during a period that has not yet finished.
 - She **has been** to the cinema twice this week (= and the week isn't over yet.)



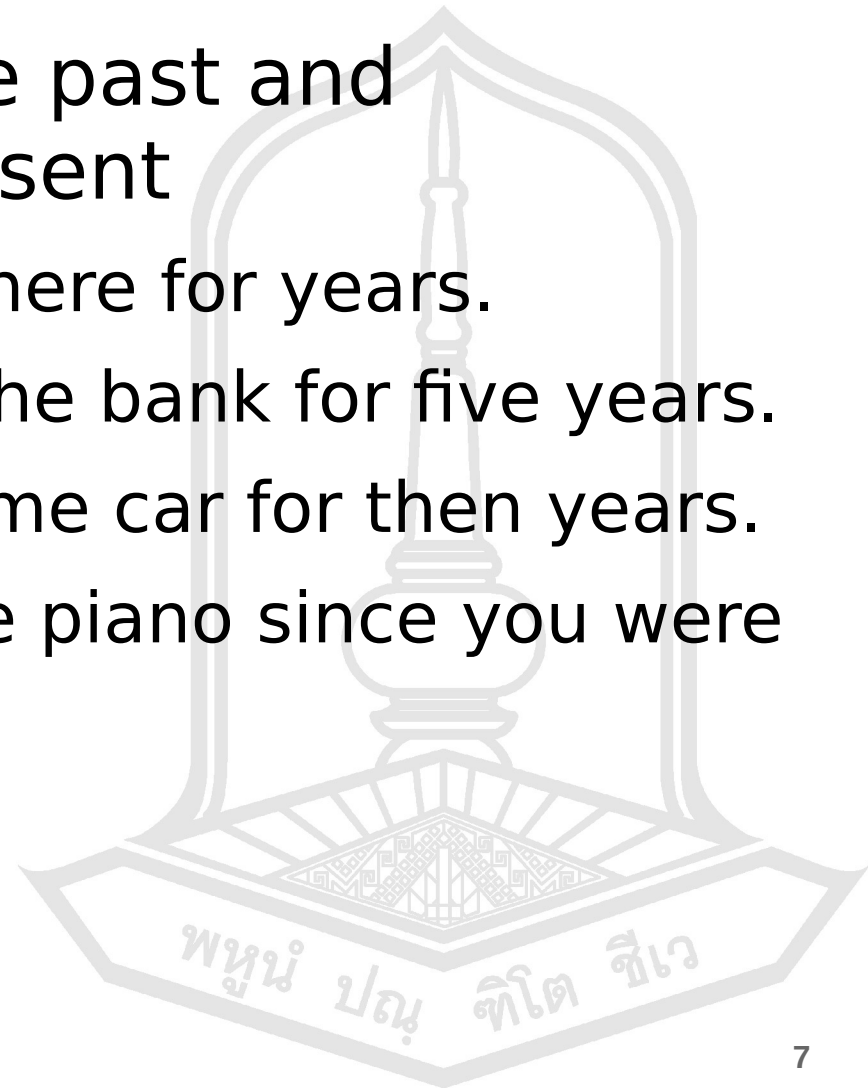
Present perfect is used to describe

- A repeated action in an unspecified period between the past and now.
 - We **have visited** Portugal several times.
- An action that was completed in the very recent past, expressed by 'just'.
 - I **have just finished** my work.
- An action when the times is not important.
 - He **has read** 'War and Peach'. (= the result of his reading is important)



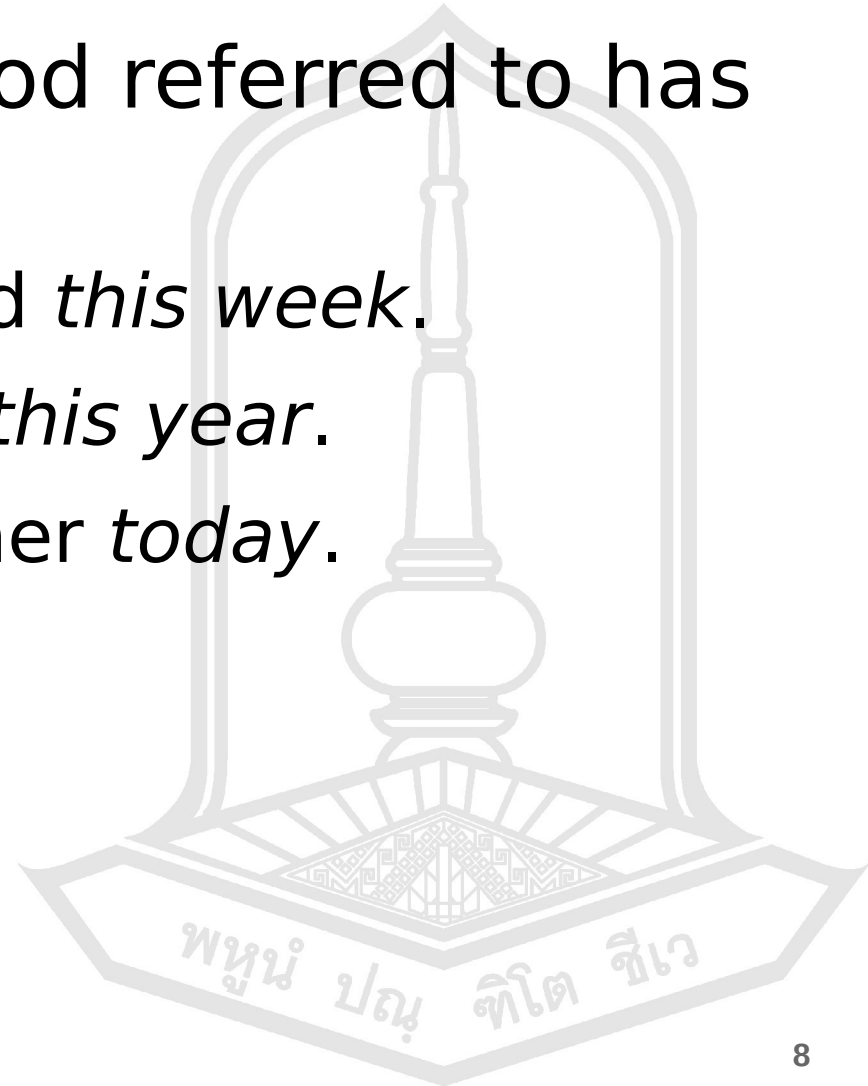
Present perfect is used to describe

- Actions started in the past and continuing in the present
 - They **haven't lived** here for years.
 - She **has worked** in the bank for five years.
 - We **have had** the same car for then years.
 - **Have** you **played** the piano since you were a child?



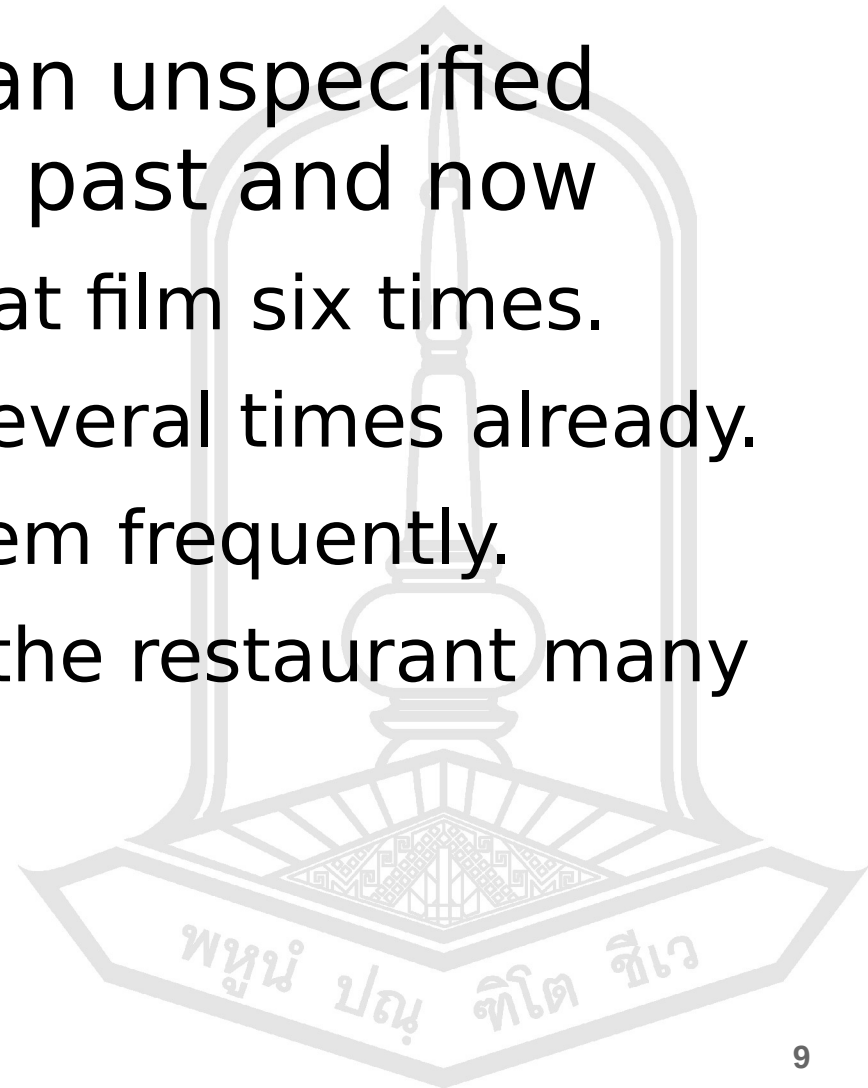
Present perfect is used to describe

- When the time period referred to has not finished
 - I **have worked** hard *this week*.
 - It **has rained** a lot *this year*.
 - We **haven't seen** her *today*.



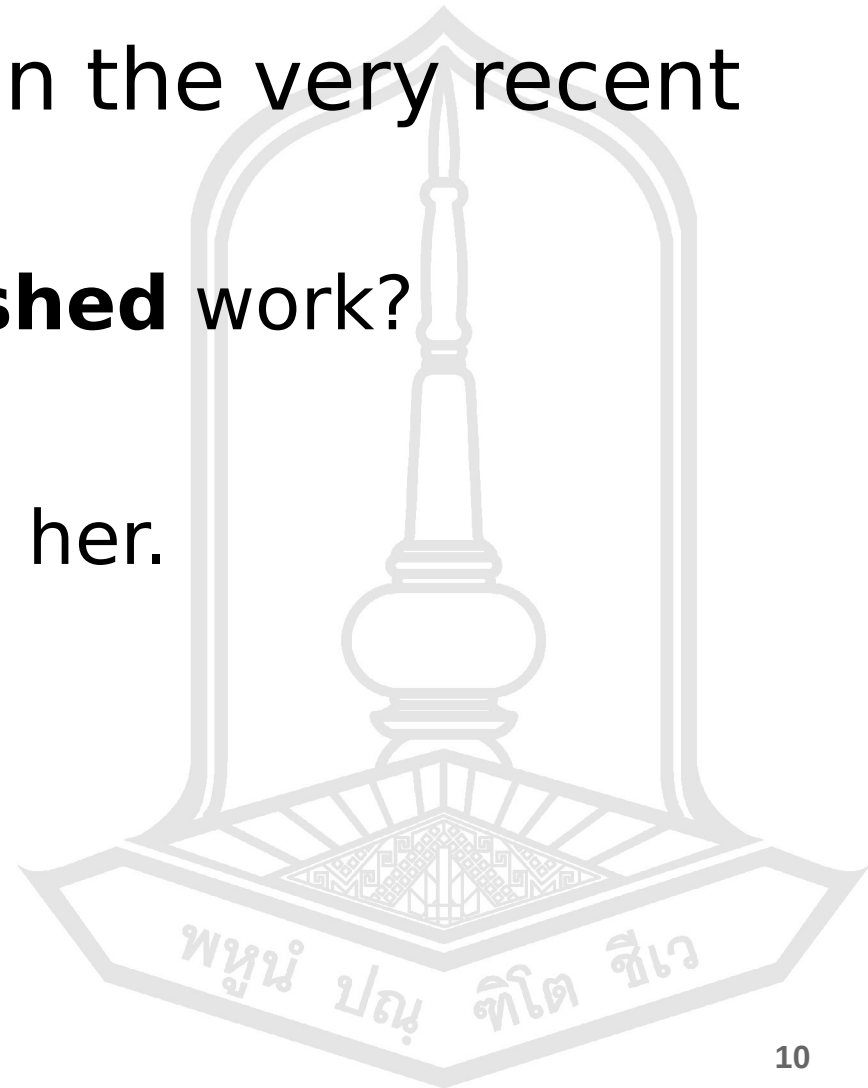
Present perfect is used to describe

- Action repeated in an unspecified period between the past and now
 - They **have seen** that film six times.
 - It **has happened** several times already.
 - She **has visited** them frequently.
 - We **have eaten** at the restaurant many times.



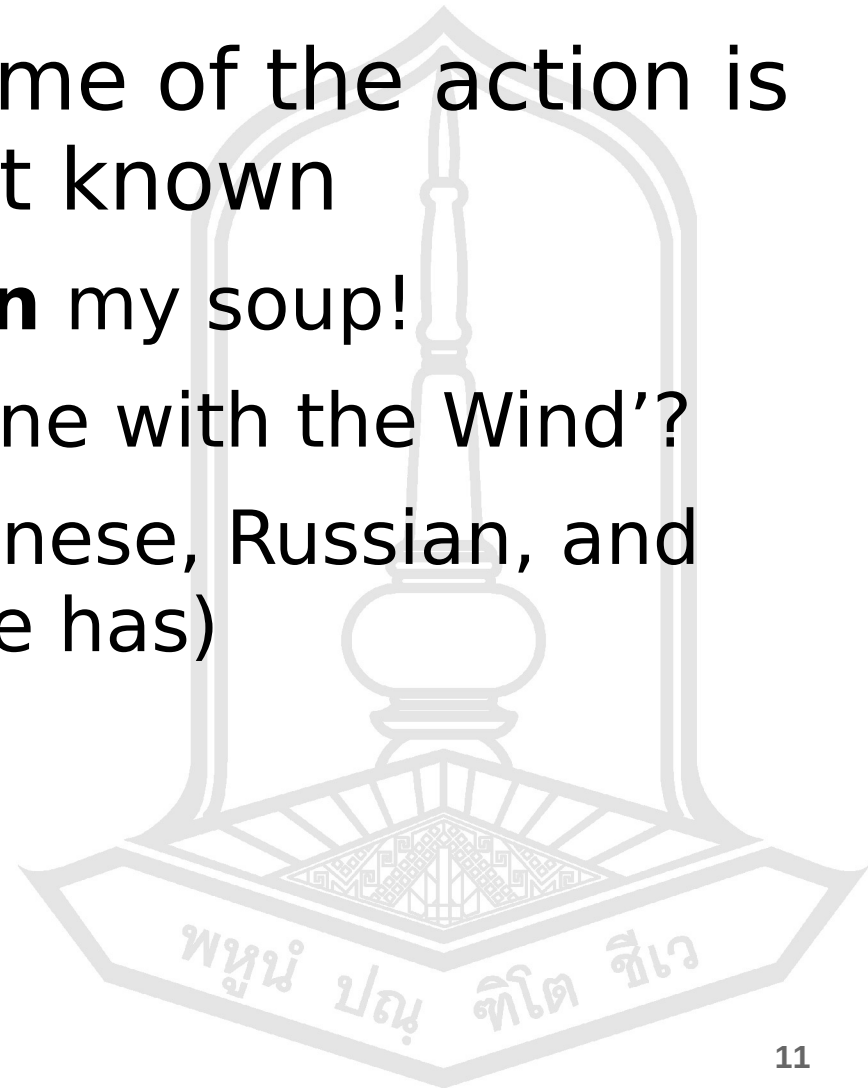
Present perfect is used to describe

- Actions completed in the very recent past (+just)
 - **Have** you **just finished** work?
 - I **have just eaten**.
 - We **have just seen** her.
 - **Has** he **just left**?



Present perfect is used to describe

- When the precise time of the action is not important or not known
 - Someone **has eaten** my soup!
 - Have **you seen** 'Gone with the Wind'?
 - **she's studied** Japanese, Russian, and English. (she's = she has)



Forming the present perfect

Affirmative

Subject

to have

past participle

She has visited.

Negative

Subject

to have + not

past participle

She has not (hasn't) visited.

Interrogative

to have

subject

past participle

Has she visited?

Negative interrogative

to have + not

subject

past participle

Hasn't she visited?

Forming the present perfect



TO WALK, PRESENT PERFECT

Affirmative

I have walked

You have walked

He, she, it has walked

We have walked

You have walked

They have walked

Negative

I haven't walked

You haven't walked.

He, she, hasn't walked

We haven't walked

You haven't walked

They haven't walked

Interrogative

Have I walked?

Have you walked?

Has he, she, it walked?

Have we walked?

Have you walked?

Have they walked?

Verbs

Present perfect tense

Regular verbs

| Present | Past | Present perfect |
|---------|---------|--------------------|
| visit | visited | have / has visited |
| enjoy | enjoyed | have / has enjoyed |
| talk | talked | have / has talked |
| help | helped | have / has helped |

Irregular verbs

| Present | Past | Present perfect |
|---------|------|-------------------|
| do | did | have / has done |
| make | made | have / has made |
| grow | grew | have / has grown |
| fall | fell | have / has fallen |

Form of present perfect

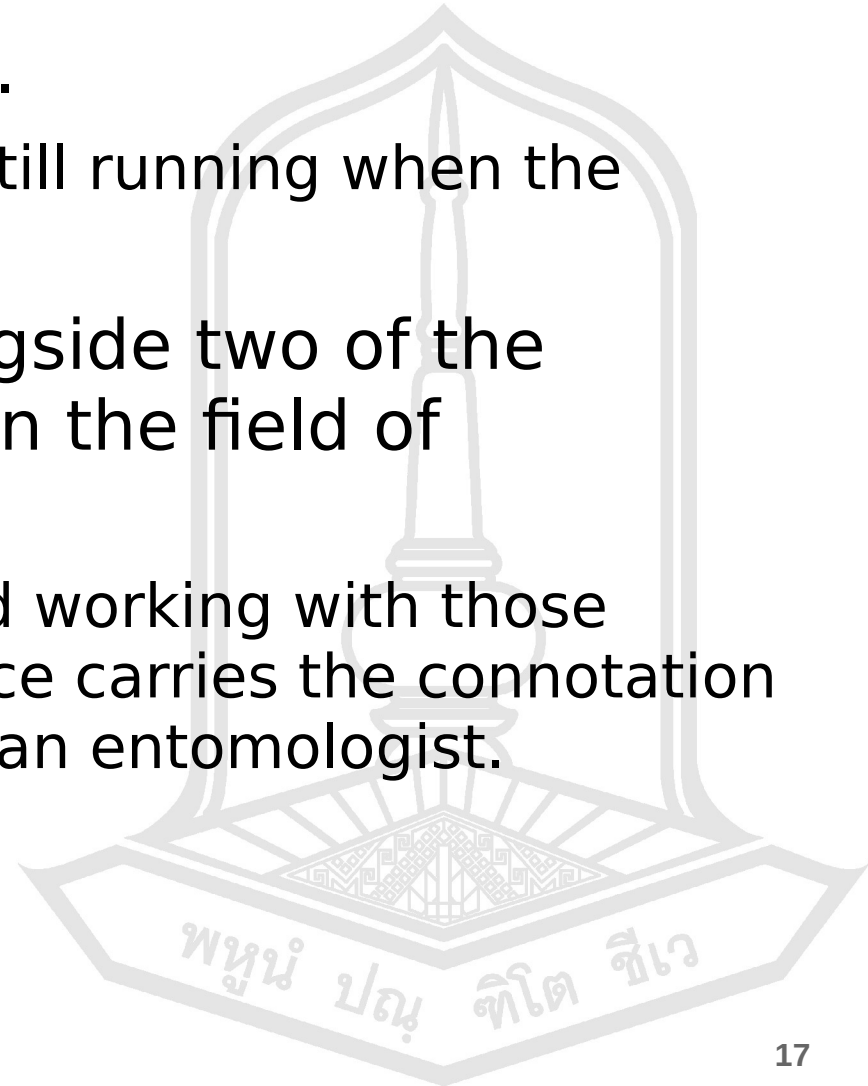
| | Positive | Negative | Question |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-------------------|
| I/you/ we/ they | I have spoken. | I have not spoken. | Have I spoken? |
| He/she/It | He has spoken. | He has not spoken. | Has he spoken? |

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cr. <https://www.slideshare.net/Amalmohammad/teaching-present-perfect-tense>

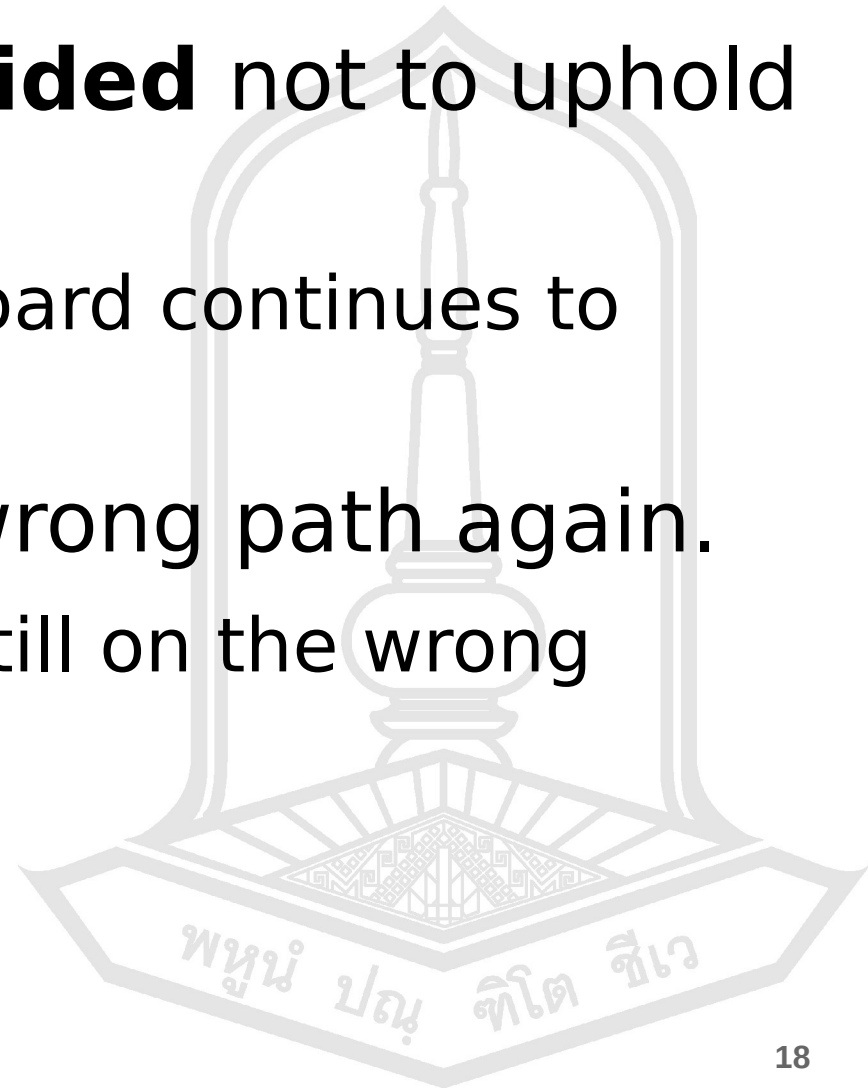
Examples of the present perfect tense

- Janet **has run** two miles.
 - In this example, Janet is still running when the words were said.
- David **has worked** alongside two of the world's finest scientists in the field of entomology.
 - David might have finished working with those scientists, but the sentence carries the connotation that he is still working as an entomologist.



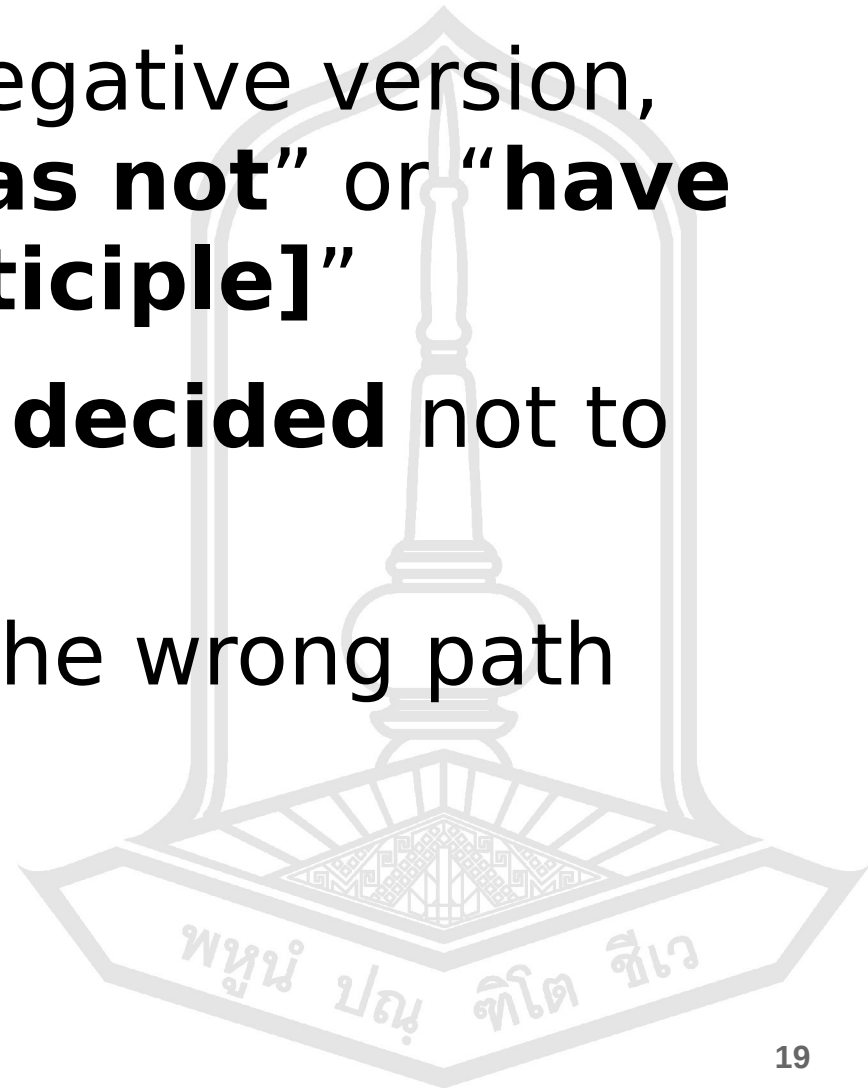
Examples of the present perfect tense

- The board **has decided** not to uphold the appeal.
 - Connotation: The board continues to uphold the appeal.
- I **have taken** the wrong path again.
 - Connotation: I am still on the wrong path.



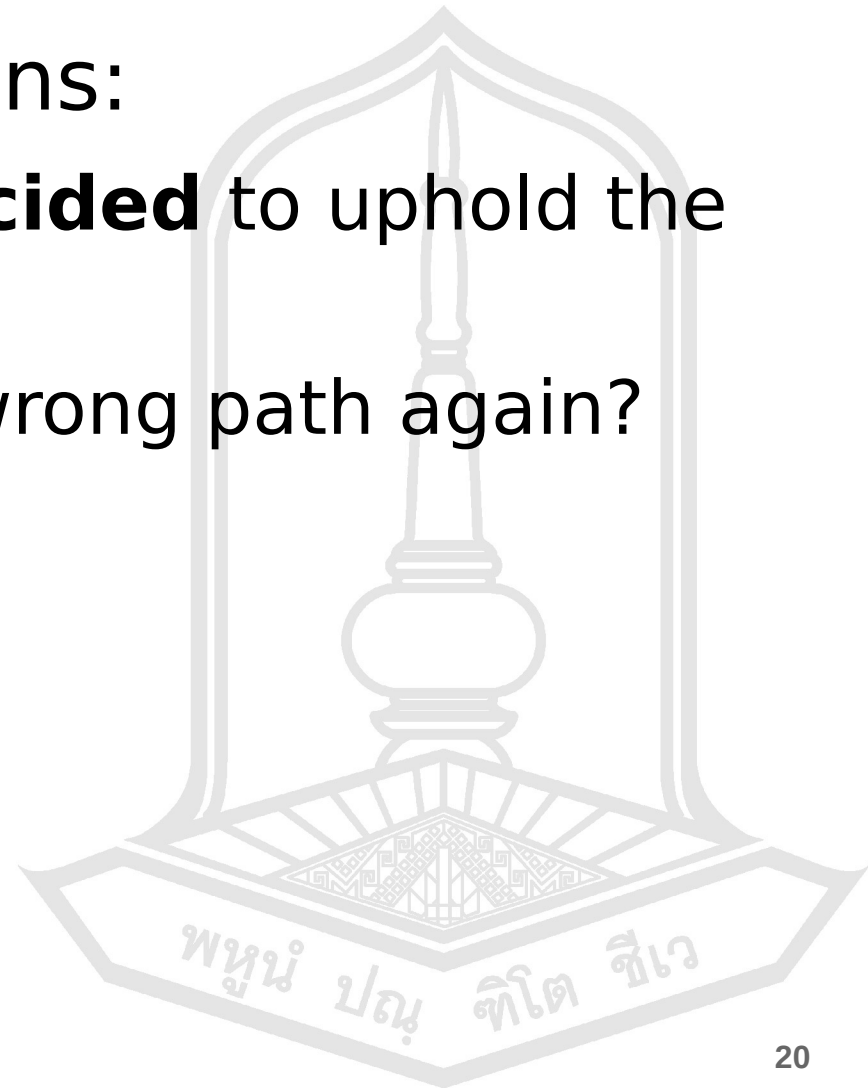
Examples of the present perfect tense

- You can have the negative version, which is formed “**has not**” or “**have not**” + “[**past participle**]”
- The board **has not decided** not to uphold the appeal.
- I **have not taken** the wrong path again.



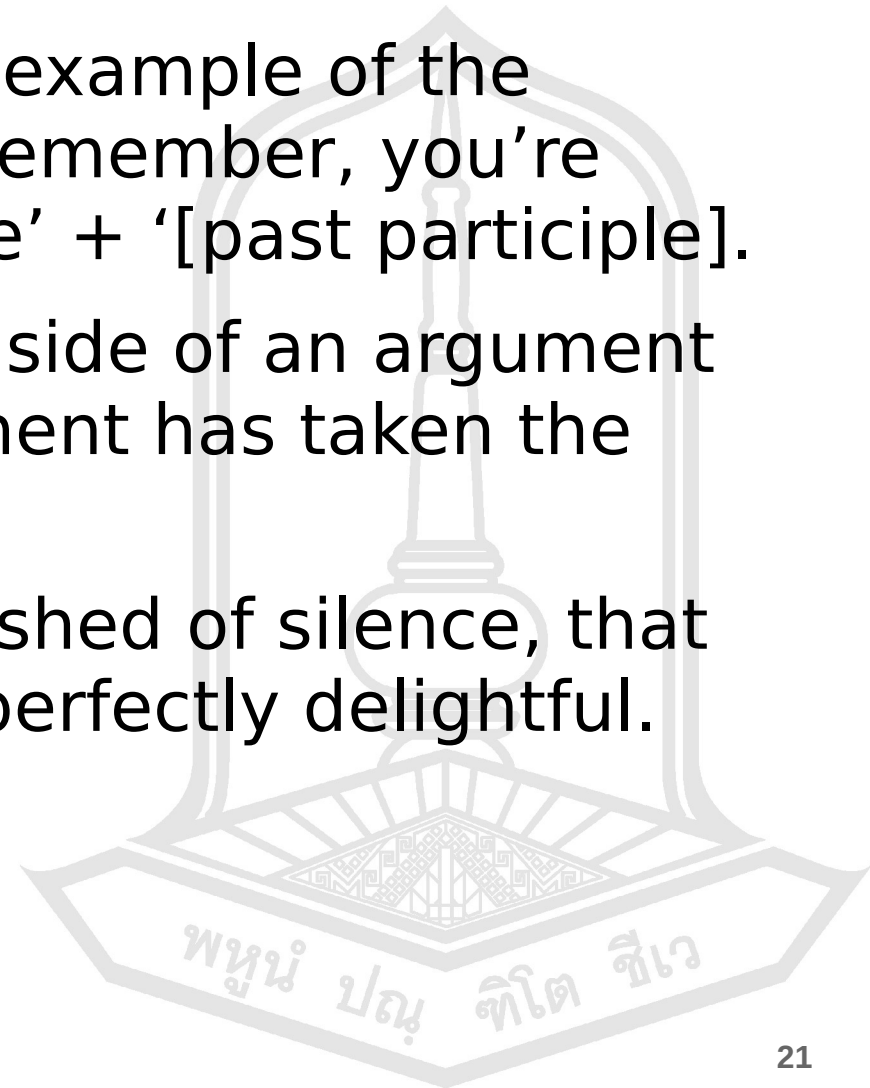
Examples of the present perfect tense

- The question versions:
 - **Has the board decided** to uphold the appeal?
 - **Have I taken** the wrong path again?



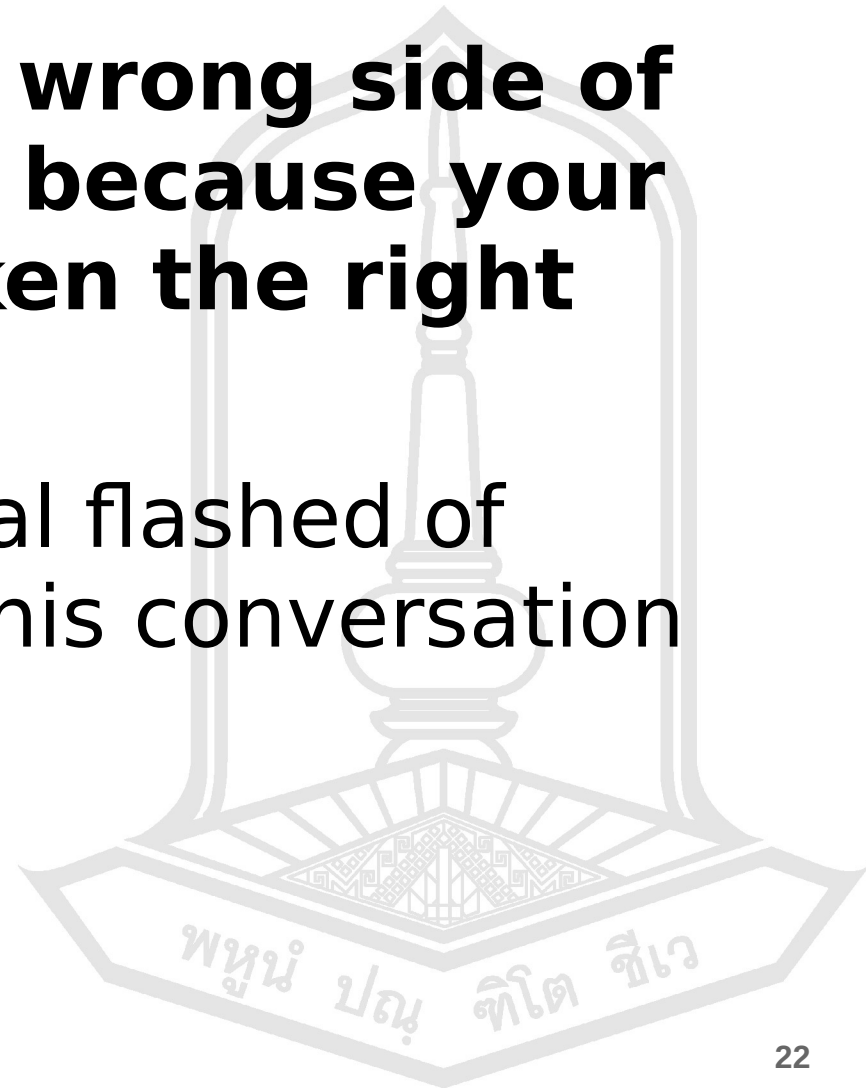
Exercise: present perfect

- Choose the one with an example of the present perfect tense. Remember, you're looking for 'has' or 'have' + '[past participle].
- A: Don't take the wrong side of an argument just because your opponent has taken the right side.
- B: He had occasional flashes of silence, that made his conversation perfectly delightful.



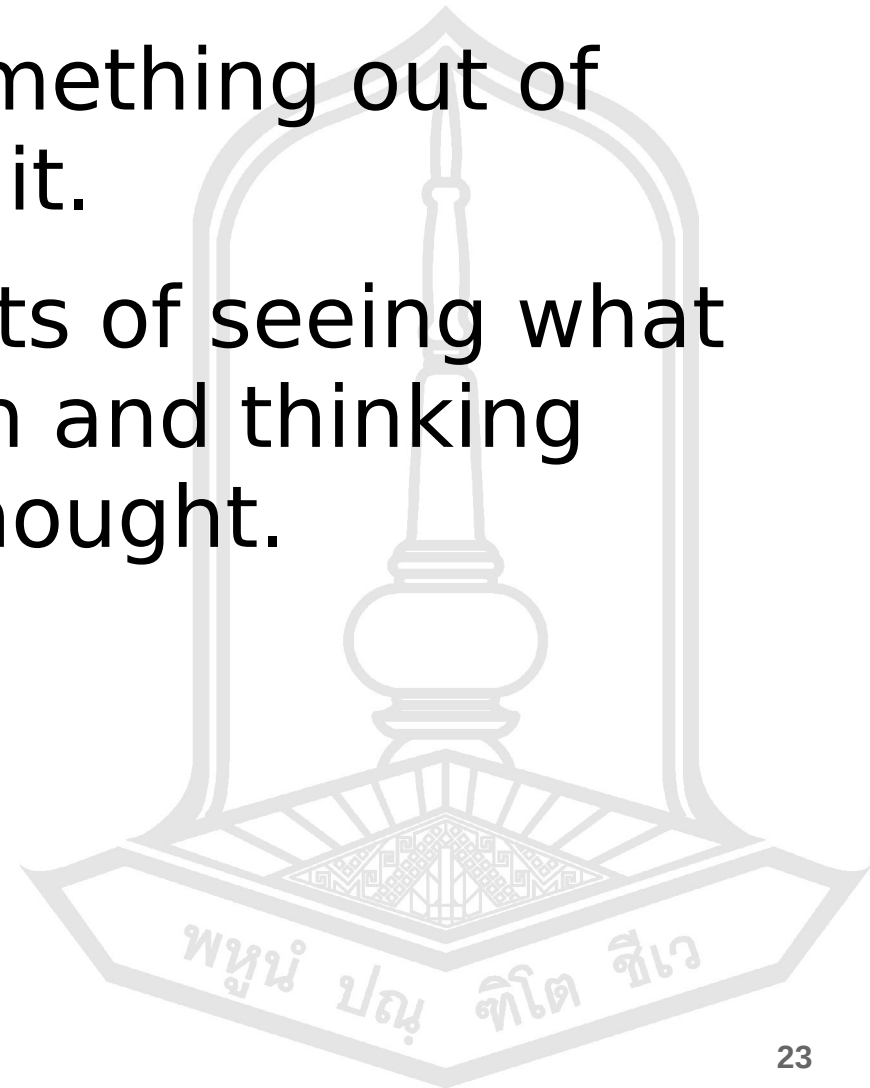
Answer: present perfect

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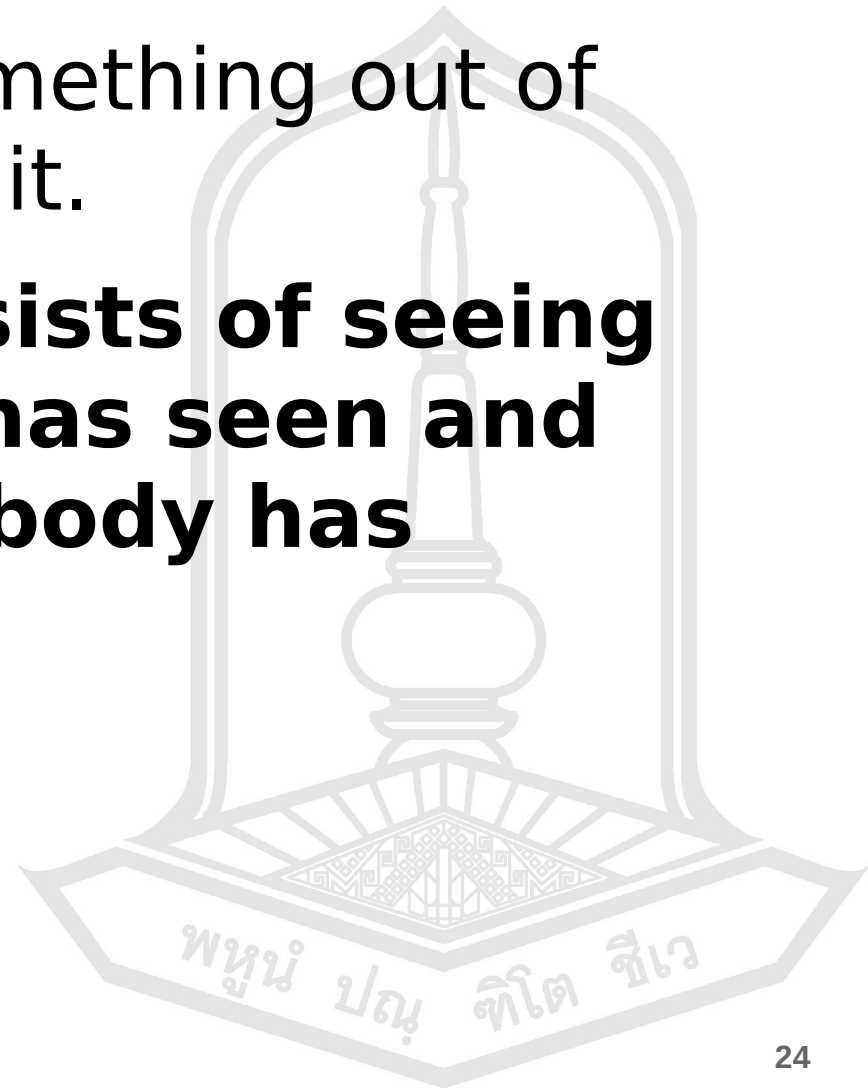
Exercise: present perfect

- A: Art is making something out of nothing and selling it.
- B: Discovery consists of seeing what everybody has seen and thinking what nobody has thought.



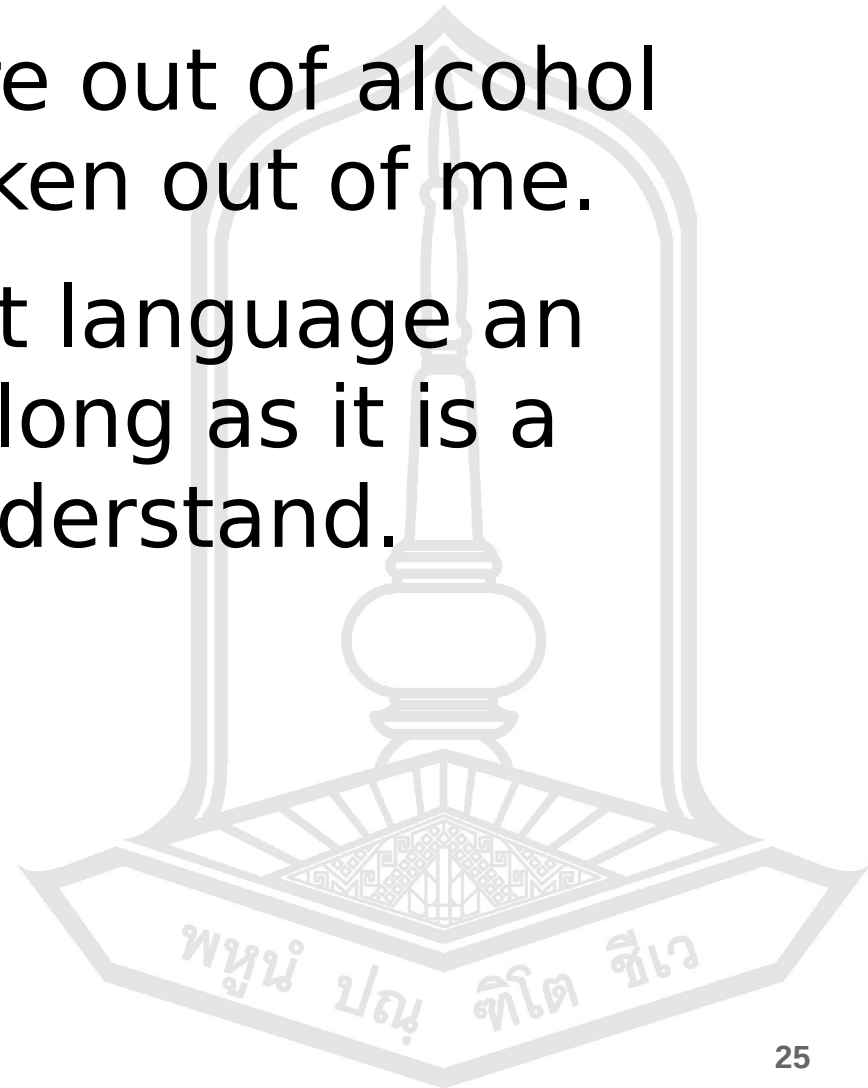
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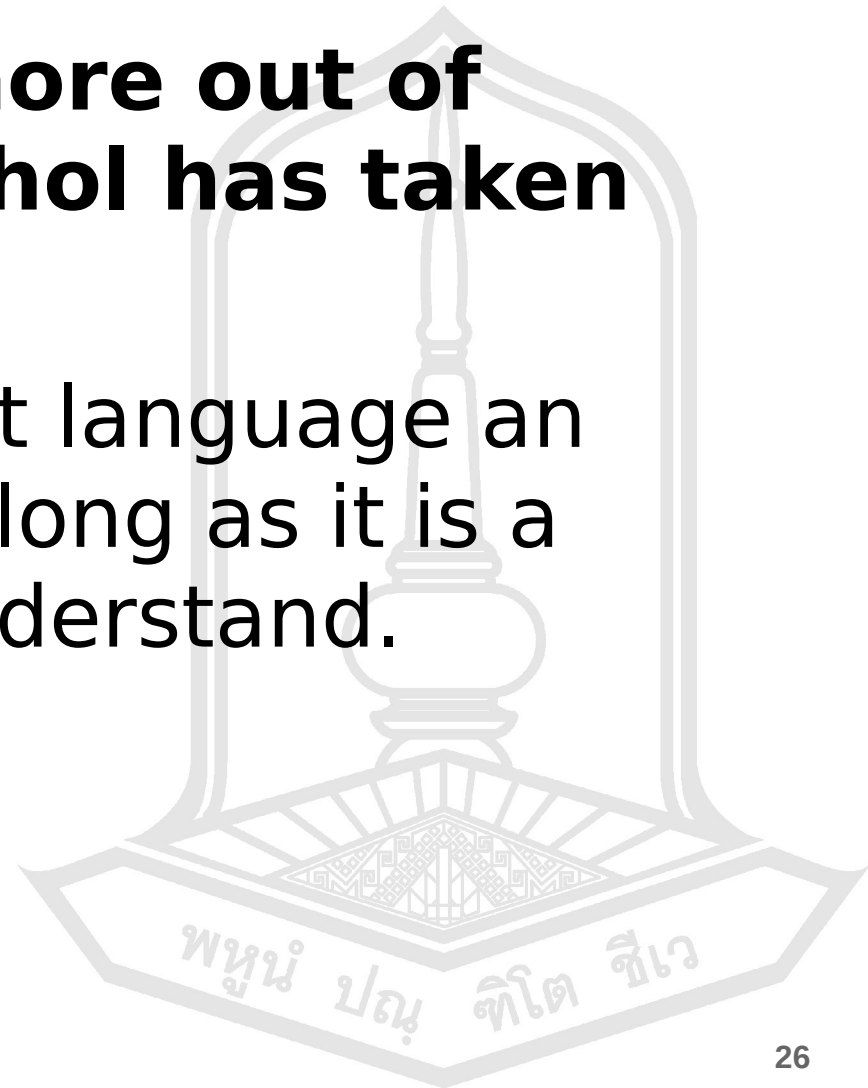
Exercise: present perfect

- A: I have taken more out of alcohol than alcohol has taken out of me.
- B: I don't mind what language an opera is sung in so long as it is a language I don't understand.



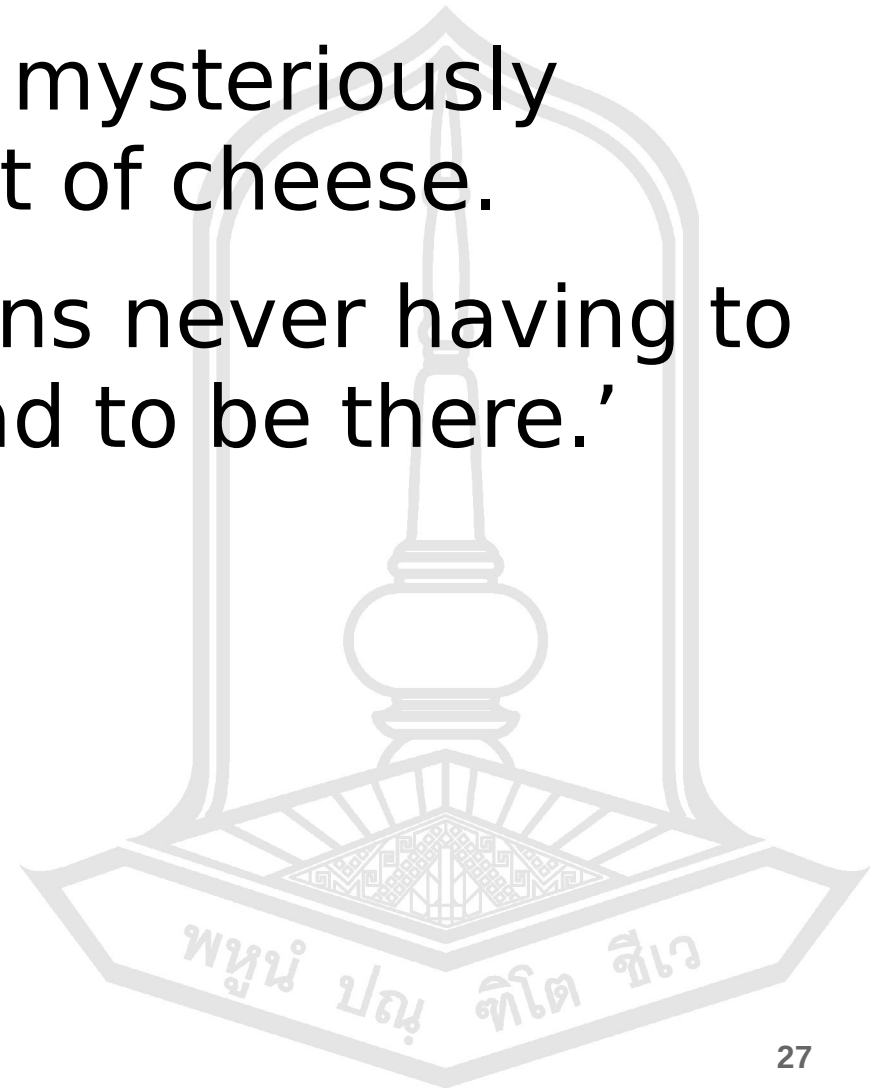
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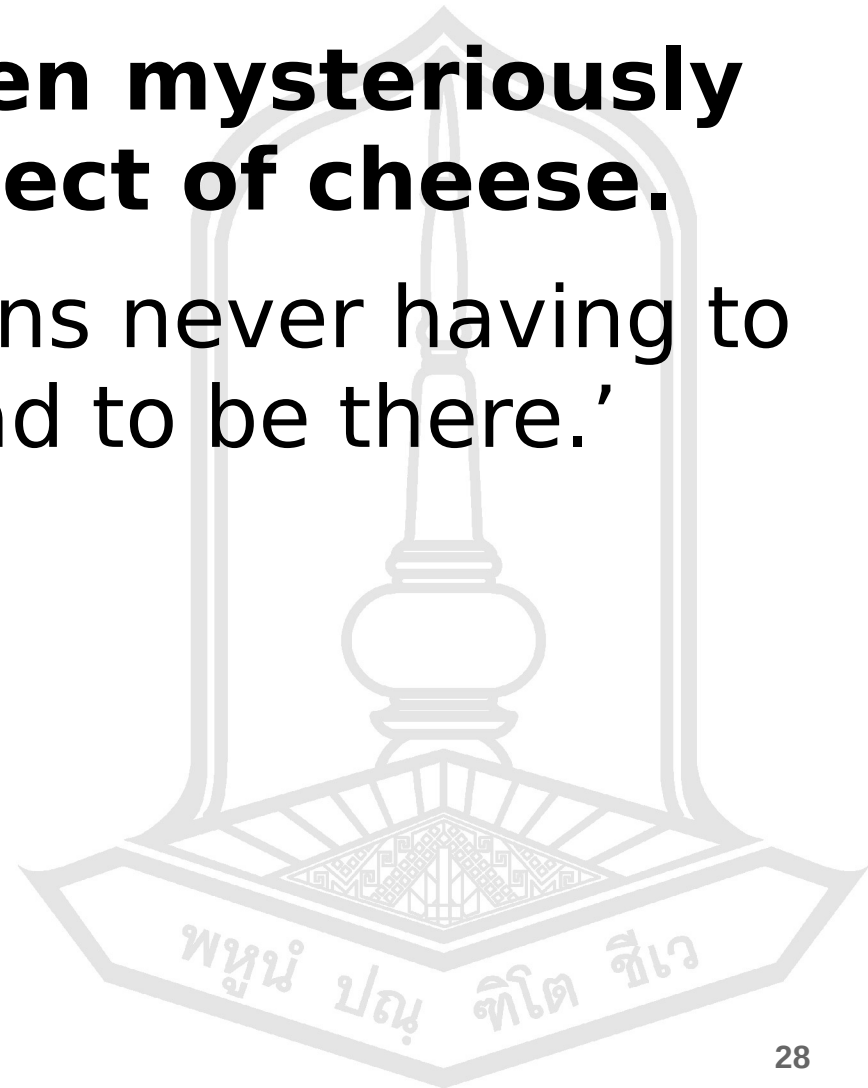
Exercise: present perfect

- A: Poets have been mysteriously silent on the subject of cheese.
- B: Writing well means never having to say, 'I guess you had to be there.'



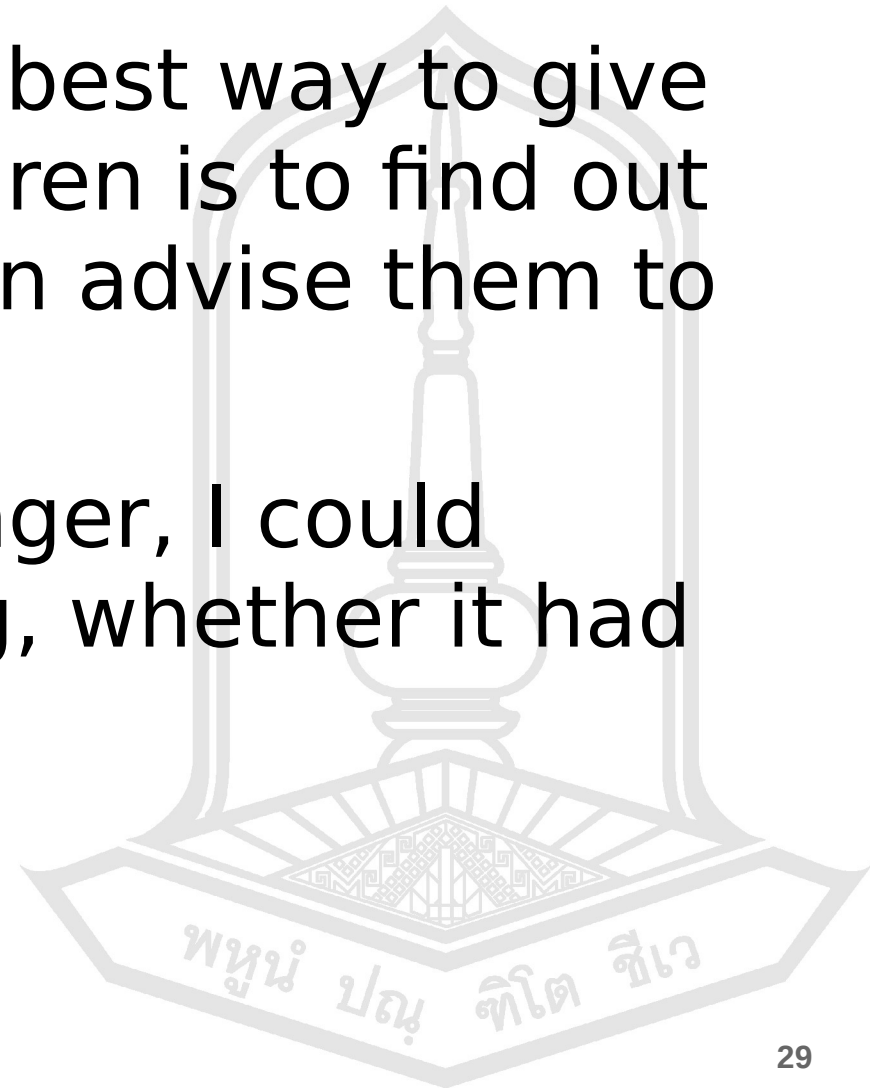
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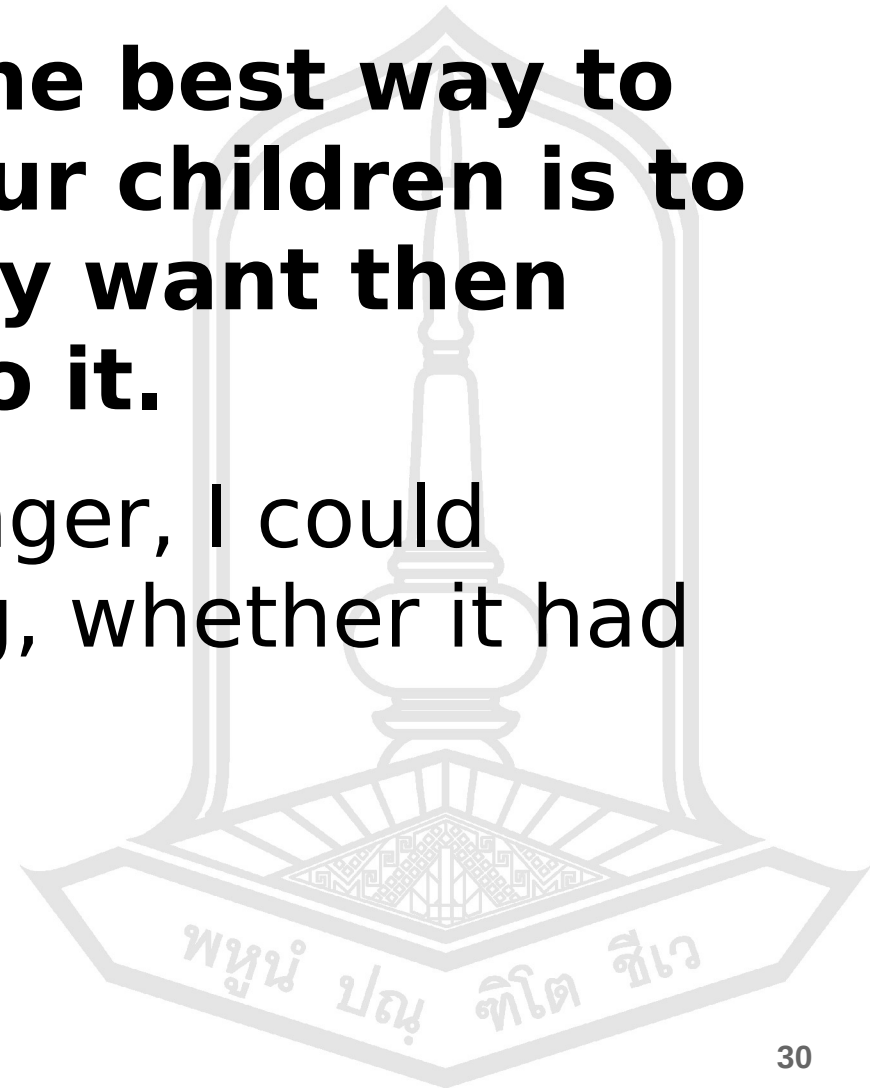
Exercise: present perfect

- A: I have found the best way to give advice to your children is to find out what they want then advise them to do it.
- B: When I was younger, I could remember anything, whether it had happened or not.



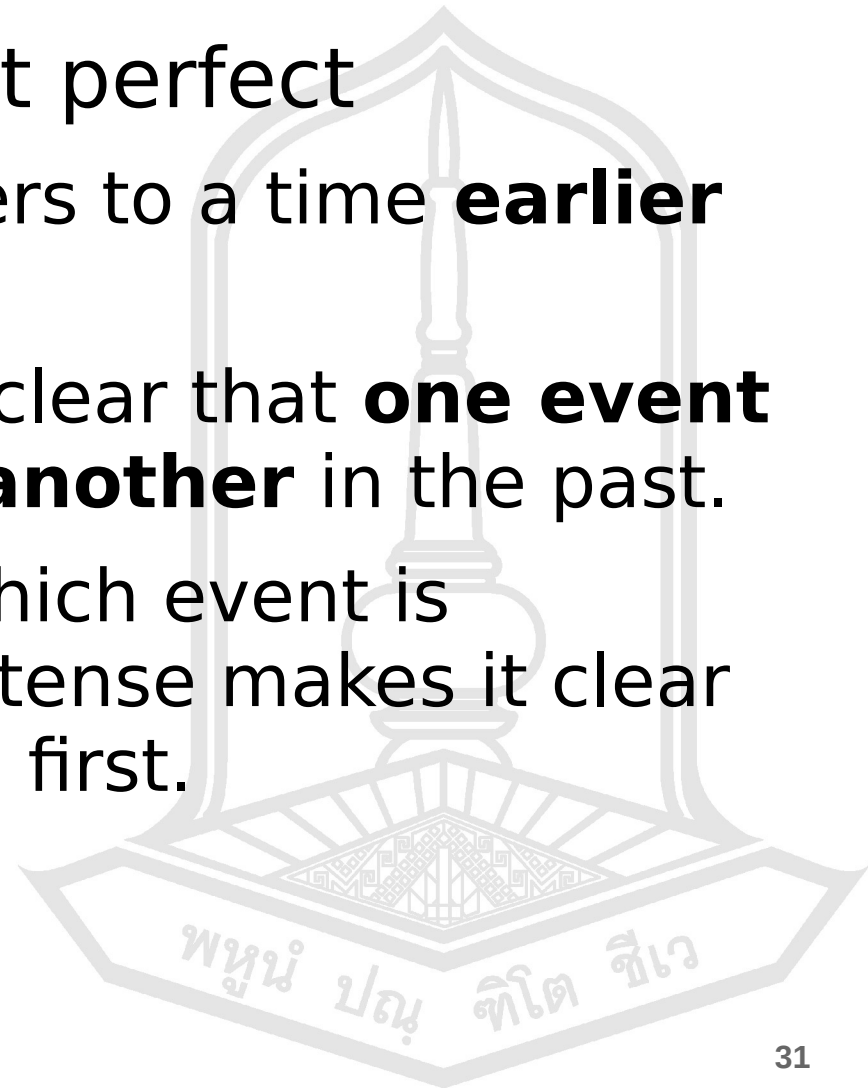
Answer: present perfect

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- B: When I was younger, I could remember anything, whether it had happened or not.



Past perfect tense

- Functions of the past perfect
 - The past perfect refers to a time **earlier than before now**.
 - It is used to make it clear that **one event happened before another** in the past.
 - It does not matter which event is mentioned first- the tense makes it clear which one happened first.



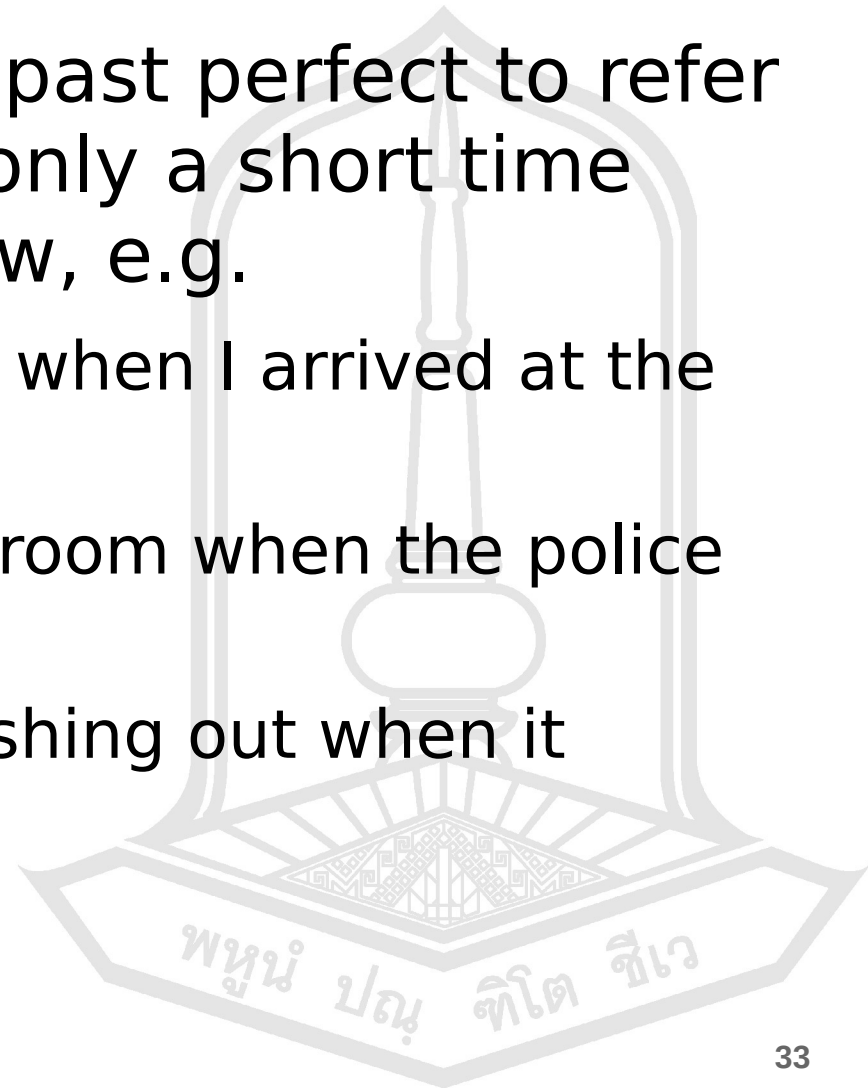
Examples

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| Event A | Event B |
| John had gone out | When I arrived in the office. |
| Event A | Event B |
| I had saved my document | Before the computer crashed. |
| Event B | Event A |
| When they arrived | We had already started cooking. |
| Event B | Event A |
| He was very tired | Because he hadn't slept well |



Past perfect + just

- 'just' is used with the past perfect to refer to an event that was only a short time earlier than before now, e.g.
 - The rain **had just left** when I arrived at the station.
 - She **had just left** the room when the police arrived.
 - I **had just put** the washing out when it started to rain.



Forming the past perfect



TO DECIDE, PAST PERFECT

Affirmative

I had decided

You had decided

She had decided

We had decided

They had decided

Negative

I hadn't decided

You hadn't decided

She hadn't decided

We hadn't decided

They hadn't decided

Interrogative

Had I decided?

Had you decided?

Had she decided?

Had we decided?

Had they decided?

Past Perfect Tense

("had") + (Past Participle)

First, a
completed
activity

...then,
another
activity

Past

Present

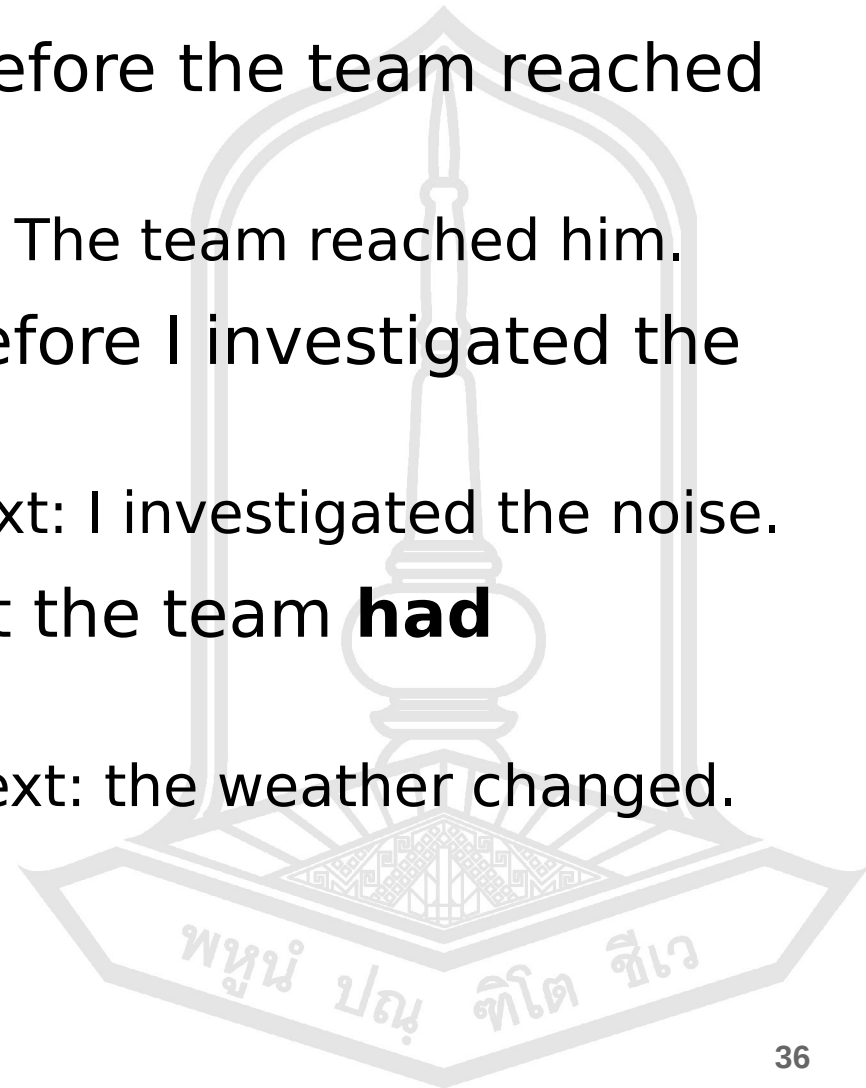
Future

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cr. http://www.grammar-monster.com/glossary/past_perfect_tense.htm

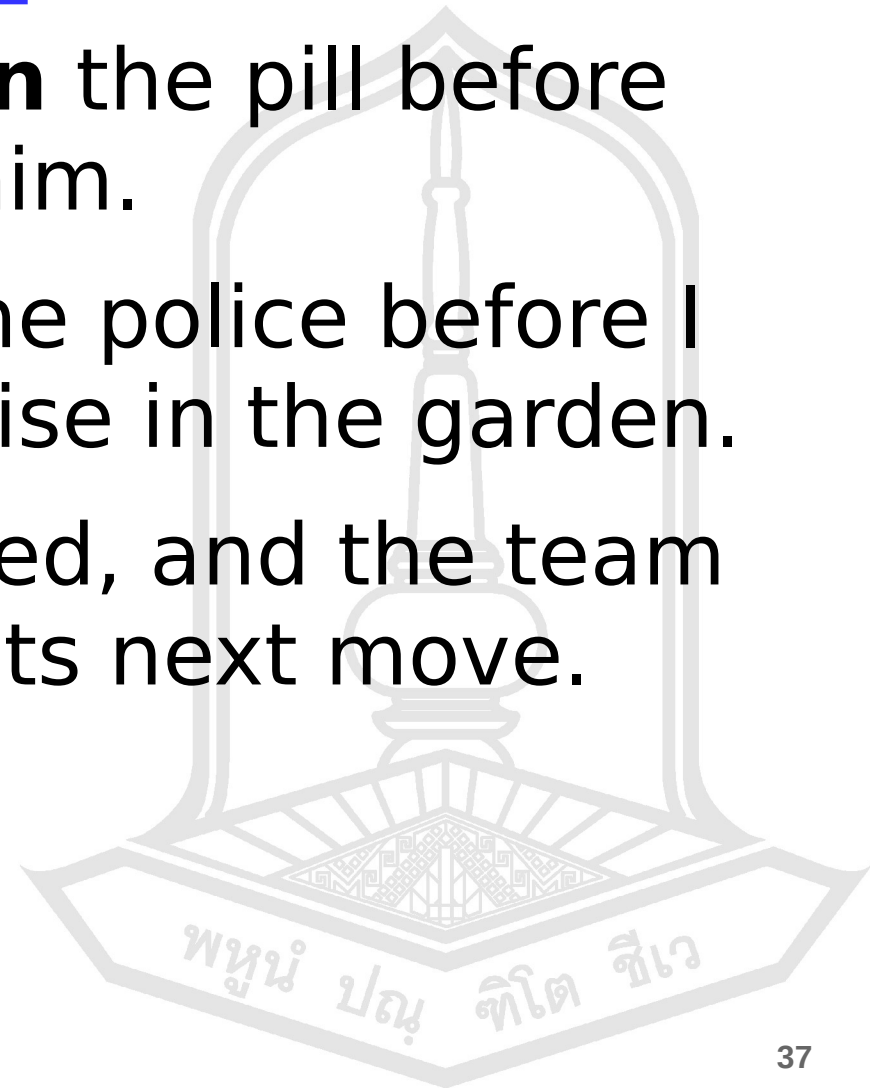
Examples

- John **had taken** the pill before the team reached him.
 - First: He took the pill, Next: The team reached him.
- I **had called** the police before I investigated the noise in the garden.
 - First: I called the police. Next: I investigated the noise.
- The weather changed, but the team **had planned** its next move.
 - First: The team planned. Next: the weather changed.



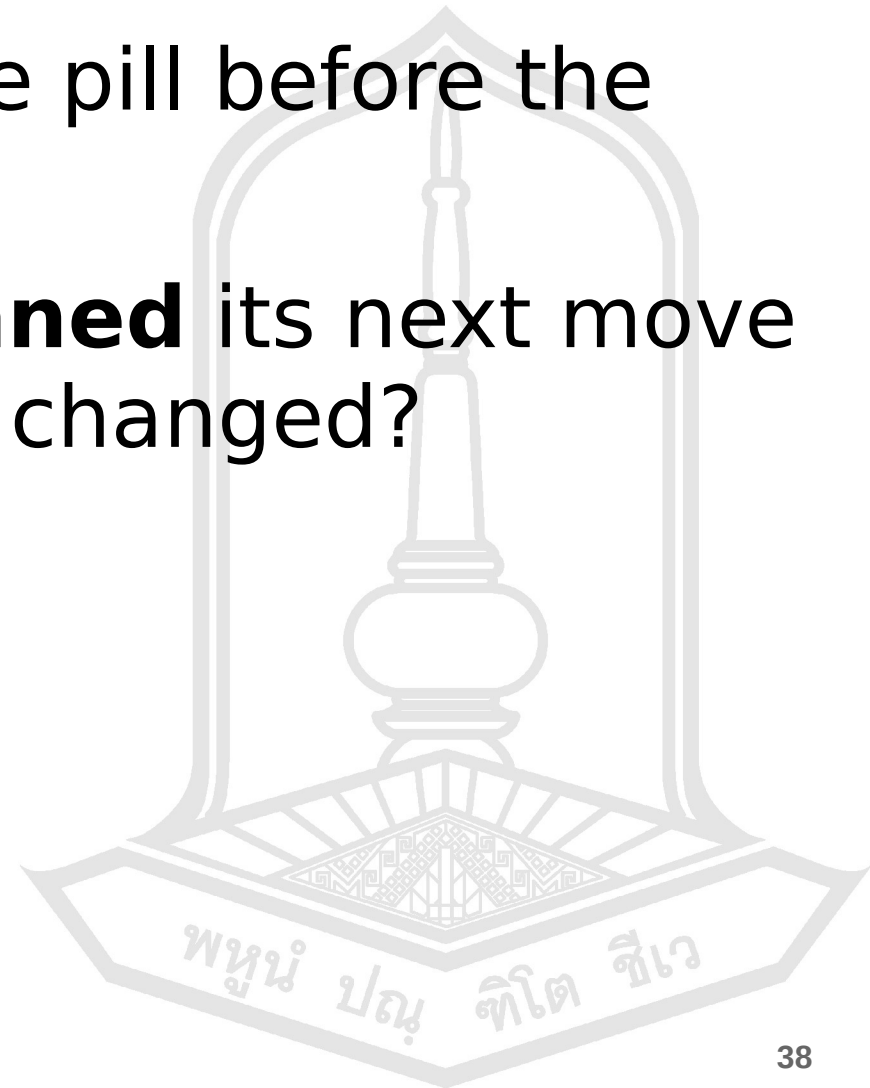
Example: negative “had not” + “[past participle]”

- John **had not taken** the pill before the team reached him.
- I **had not called** the police before I investigated the noise in the garden.
- The weather changed, and the team **had not planned** its next move.



Examples: question

- **Had** John **taken** the pill before the team reached him?
- **Had** the team **planned** its next move before the weather changed?



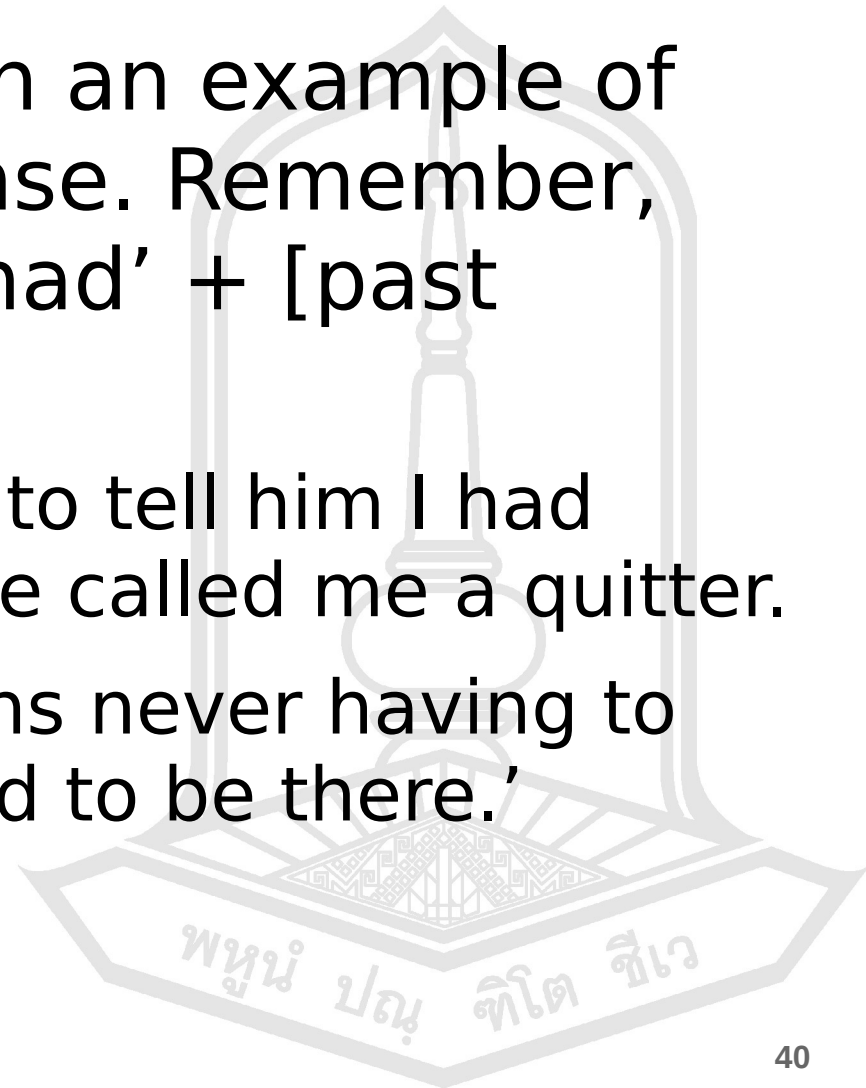
Using Contractions

- Don't forget that in speech and writing (especially informal writing), you will encounter the following contractions:
 - I had > I'd
 - You had > You'd
 - She had > She'd
 - It had > It'd
 - We had > We'd
 - They had > They'd
- Also, for the negative, you will commonly see **hadn't** instead of **had not**.



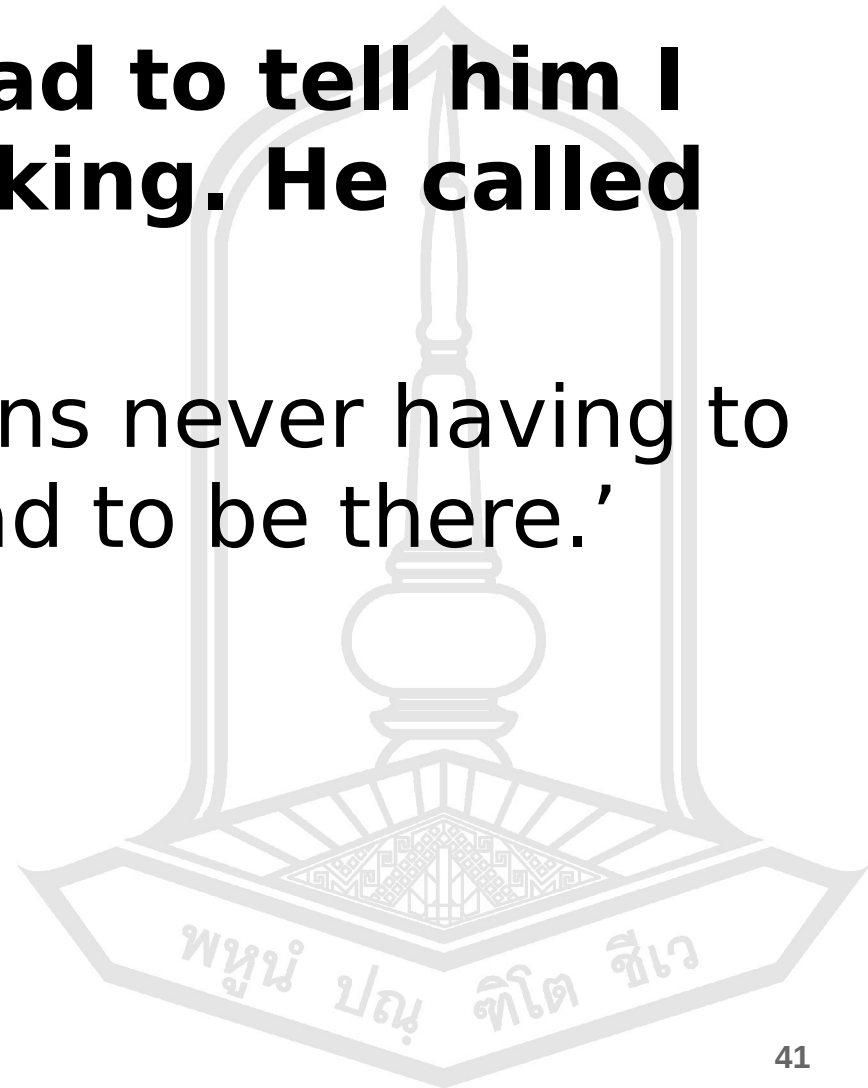
Exercise – past perfect

- Choose the one with an example of the past perfect tense. Remember, you're looking for 'had' + [past participle].
 - A: I phoned my dad to tell him I had stopped smoking. He called me a quitter.
 - B: Writing well means never having to say, 'I guess you had to be there.'



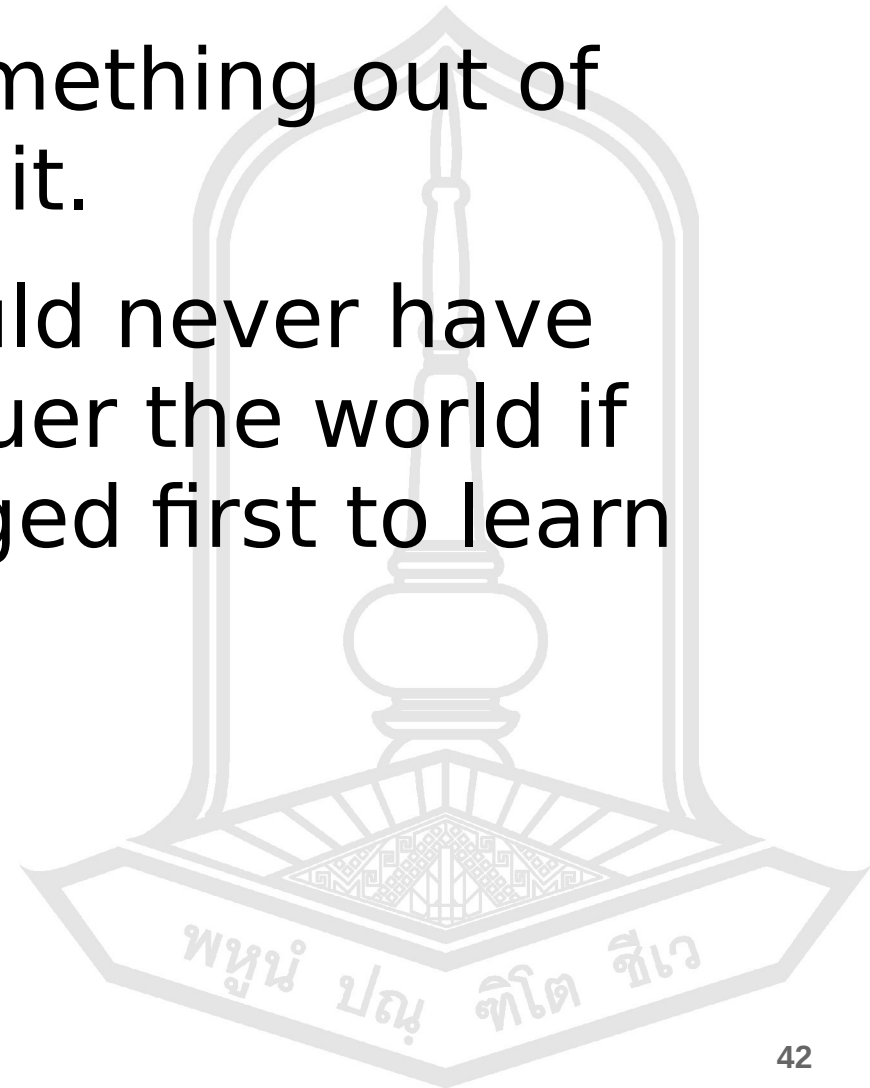
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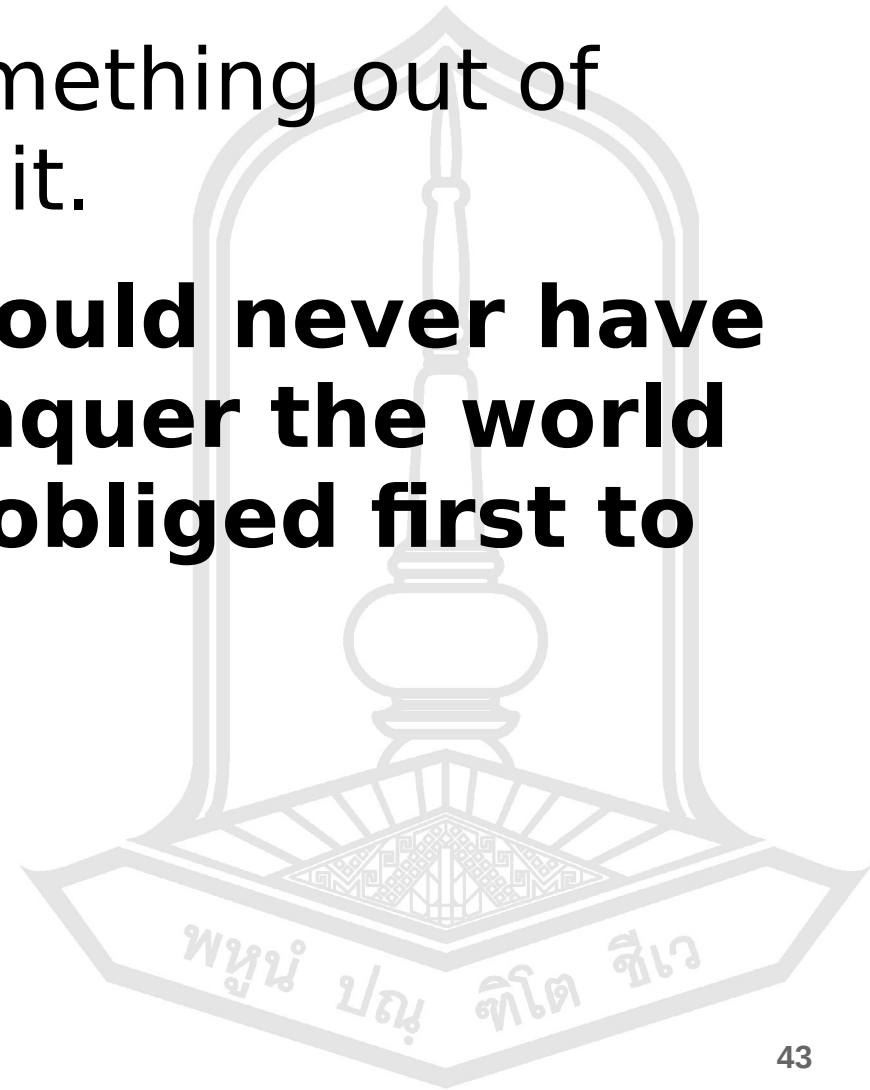
Exercise – past perfect

- A: Art is making something out of nothing and selling it.
- B: The Romans would never have found time to conquer the world if they had been obliged first to learn Latin.



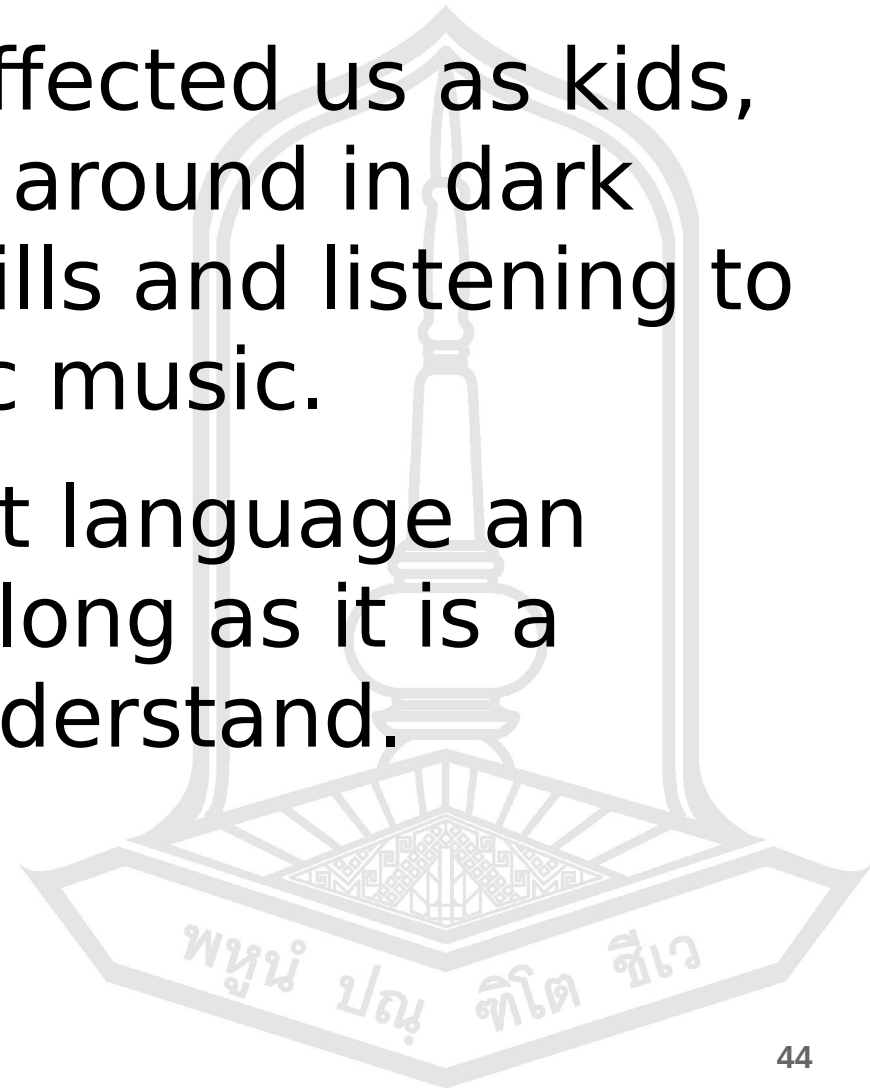
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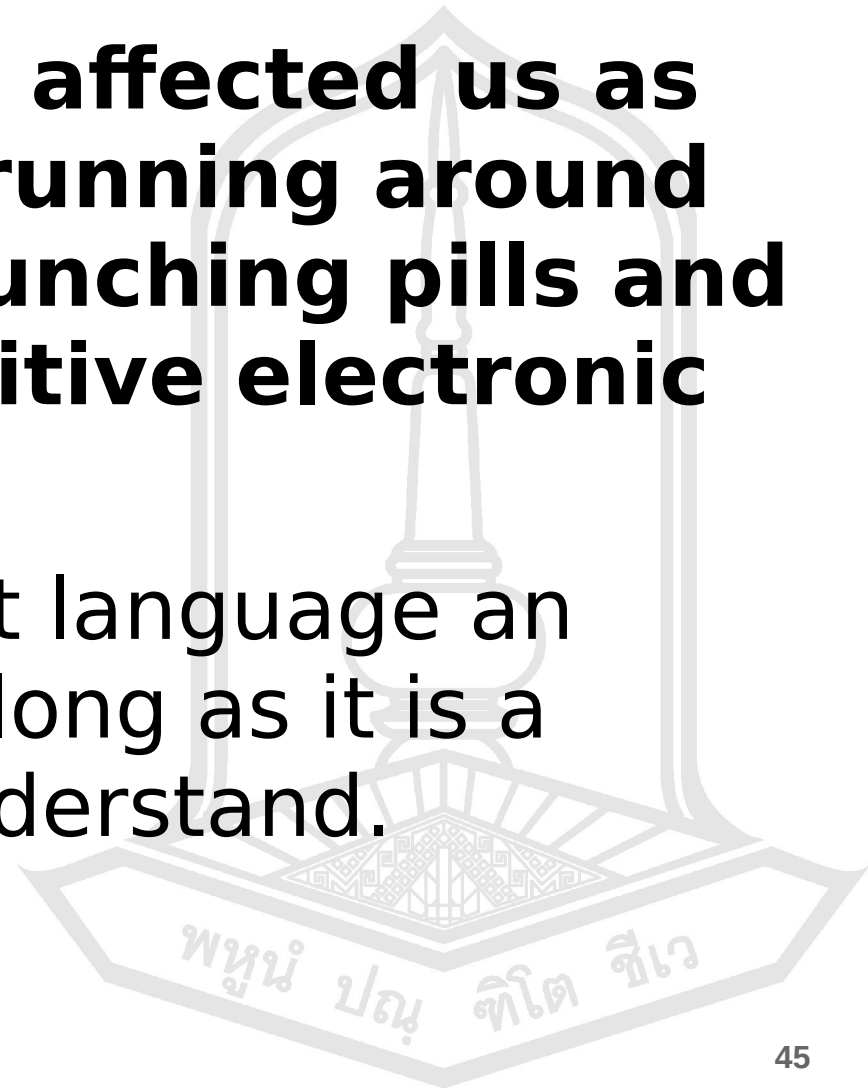
Exercise – past perfect

- A: If Pac-Man had affected us as kids, we'd all be running around in dark rooms, munching pills and listening to repetitive electronic music.
- B: I don't mind what language an opera is sung in so long as it is a language I don't understand.



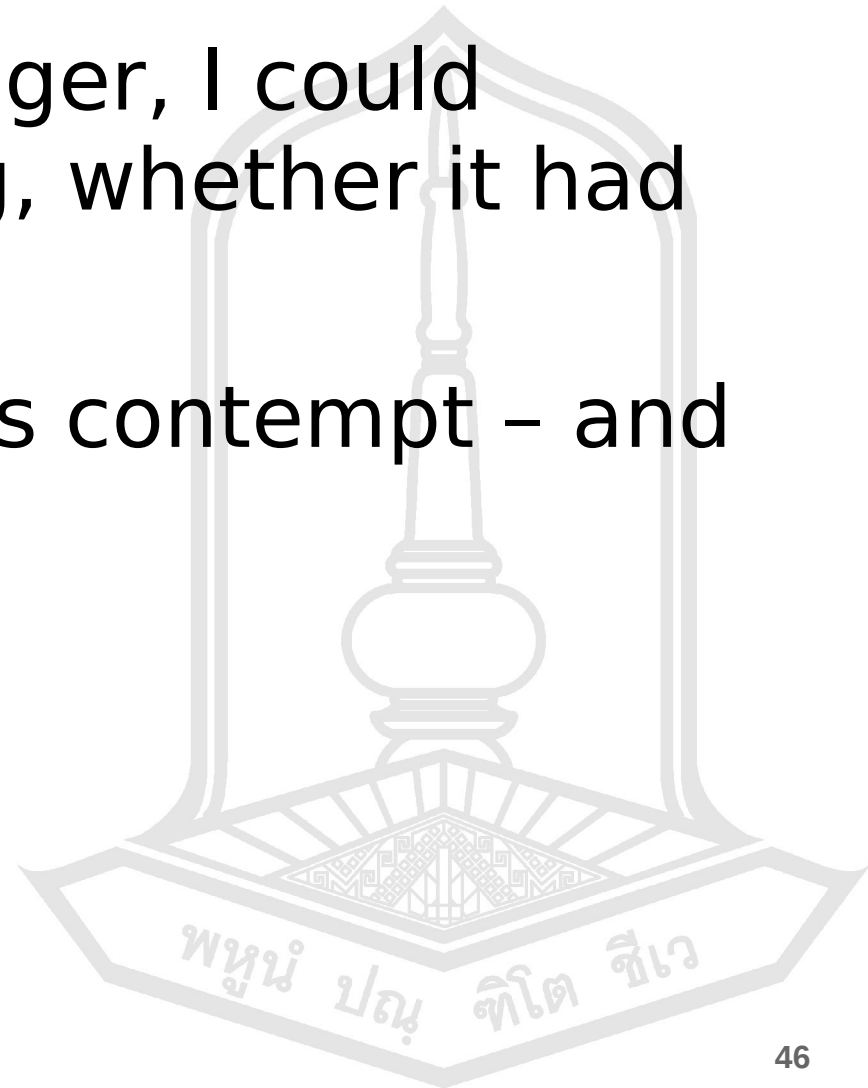
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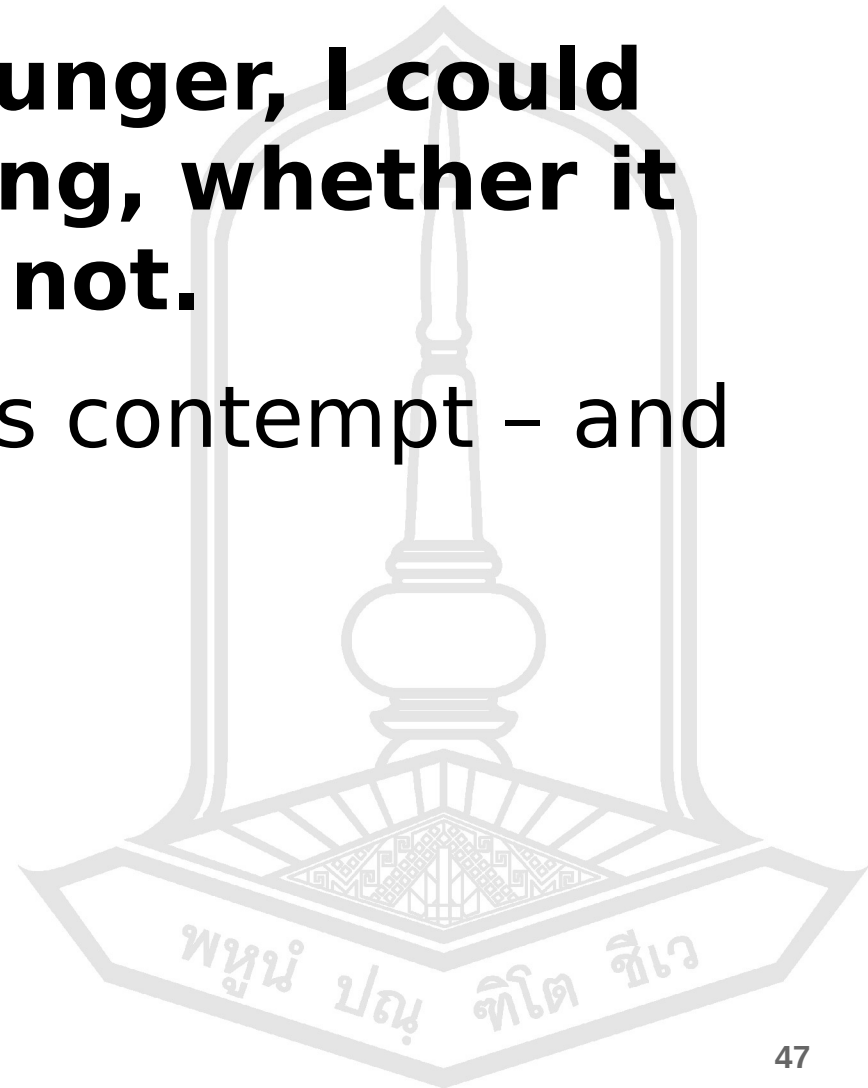
Exercise – past perfect

- A: When I was younger, I could remember anything, whether it had happened or not.
- B: Familiarity breeds contempt – and children.



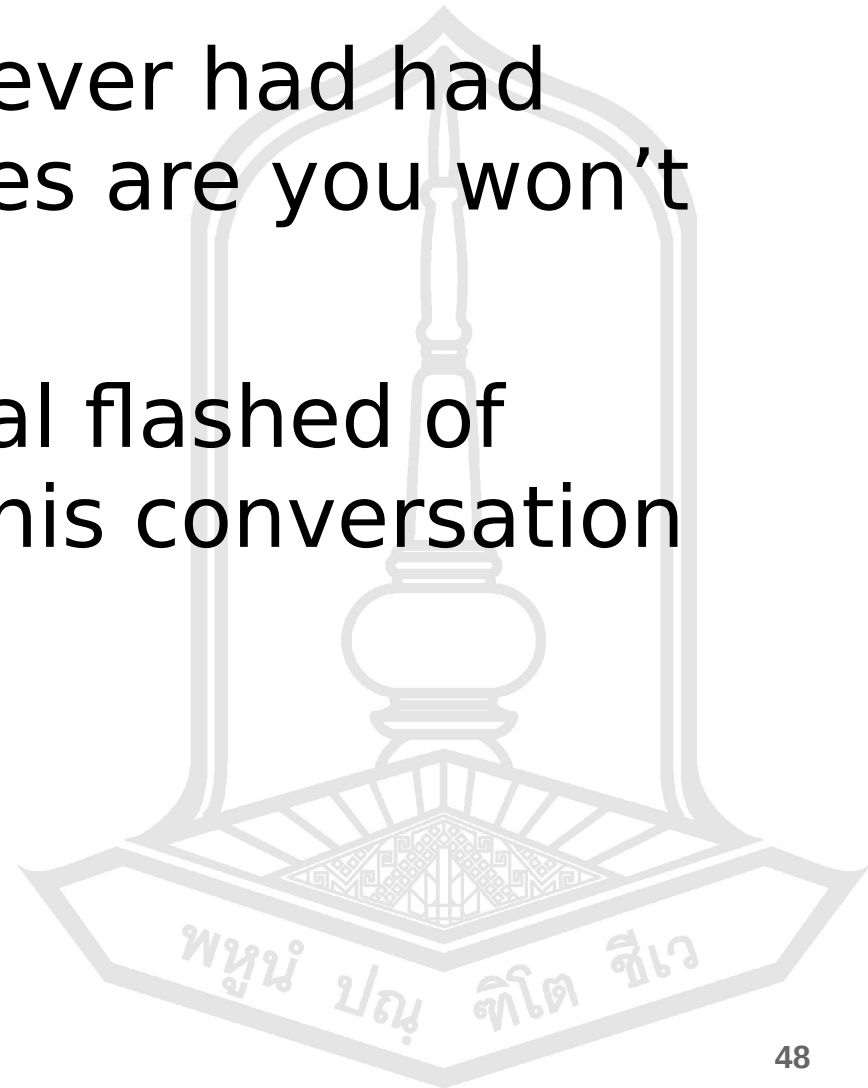
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Exercise – past perfect

- A: If your parents never had had children, the chances are you won't either.
- B: He had occasional flashes of silence, that made his conversation perfectly delightful.



Answer – past perfect

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