

Unit 12



I. Reading:

In your opinion, what has been the most important scientific discovery? Read the article from a science magazine. What are some mysteries that science has not yet solved?

Unsolved Mysteries

Humans have learned many things over the years. For examples, we have discovered DNA, and we have cured many diseases. We have visited the moon and sent robots to Mars. However, scientists **still** have not solved these mysteries.

1. Bird migration¹

How do birds travel thousands of miles over land and sea without getting lost? Scientists have **never** understood this there are some theories. One idea is that birds have magnetic particles² in their brains to help them find their way. However, science has proven this.

2. Earthquake lights

Blue and white lights flash in the sky just before an earthquake occurs. People have reported this for hundreds of years. Photographs from the 1960s prove the lights exist, but researchers **still** have not found the cause. One explanation is that the lights are gas escaping from openings in the earth.

3. Disappearing bees.

Scientists have **recently** said that billions of bees have died since the 1980s. Why? They have not figured out the cause **yet**. However, they have **already** given the problem a name: Colony Collapse disorder.

4. Yawning

Why do we yawn? Scientists still have not solved this mystery. People yawn when they are tired, but they also yawn in other situations, such as during exercise. Another mystery is why yawning is “contagious” – we yawn when other people yawn. In fact, you may have **just** yawned from reading this sentence!

These and other mysteries are a challenge for scientists. Although we have not **yet** solved them, we are making progress every day.

¹**migration**: movement from one place to another.

²**particles**: a technical term for very small pieces.

Comprehension Check – Answer the Questions

1. What is one theory about why birds do not get lost when they migrate?
2. How do we know earth quake lights exist?
3. How many bees have died since the 1980s?

4. What are some situations in which people yawn?
5. The sentence.... "They have not figured out the cause yet." Did scientists figure out the cause?
6. The sentence... "They have already given the problem a name: colony collapse disorder." Did scientists give the problem a name?
7. The sentence... "Why do we yawn? Scientists still have not solved this mystery." Did scientists solve the mystery? Does the writer want them to solve it?

PRESENT PERFECT + EVER, NEVER, ALREADY, YET, STILL, JUST.

EVER

The adverbs **ever** and **never** express the idea of an unidentified time before now (Have you ever visited Berlin?) 'Ever' and 'never' are always placed before the main verb (past participle). Ever is used:

IN QUESTIONS - EXAMPLES

Have you ever been to England?

Has she ever met the Prime Minister?

IN NEGATIVE QUESTIONS - EXAMPLES

Haven't they ever been to Europe?

Haven't you ever eaten Chinese food?

IN NEGATIVE STATEMENTS USING THE PATTERN NOTHING+EVER OR NOBODY+EVER

EXAMPLES

Nobody has ever said that to me before.

Nothing like this has ever happened to us.

WITH 'THE FIRST TIME' - EXAMPLES

It's the first time that I've ever eaten snails.

This is the first time I've ever been to England.

NEVER

Never means at no time before now, and is the same as not ever: (I have never visited Berlin)

BE CAREFUL! You must not use never and not together

I haven't never been to Italy.

I have never been to Italy.

ALREADY - Already refers to an action that has happened at an unspecified time before now. It suggests that there is no need for repetition.

EXAMPLES

I've already drunk three coffees this morning. (= and you're offering me another one!)

Don't write to John, I've already done it.

It is also used in questions:

Have you already written to John?
Has she finished her homework already?

Already can be placed before the main verb (past participle) or at the end of the sentence:

I have already been to Tokyo.
I have been to Tokyo already.

YET

Yet is used in negative statements and questions, to mean (not) in the period of time between before now and now, (not) up to and including the present. Yet is usually placed at the end of the sentence.

EXAMPLES

Have you met Judy yet?
I haven't visited the Tate Gallery yet
Has he arrived yet?
They haven't eaten yet

STILL - Use still with things that have not happened. It often means you want something to happen, but it has not. Use still in negative statements, but avoid it in questions, it usually comes before have/has.

They still haven't left.
She still hasn't forgotten what you did.
You still haven't finished!

Just - In the present perfect tense, just is used to show an action or situation that finished only a short time before now:

EXAMPLE

They've just left.
(They left only a short time ago.)

She's just told me what you did!
(She told me only a short time ago what you did.)

They've just finished.
(They finished only a short time ago.)

Reading Exercise II:

Complete the article about cow behavior. Circle the correct adverb.

Have you ever noticed that groups of cows all face the same way? Scientists have (1) **ever/never** been able to explain this. Satellite photos have (2) **recently/yet** shown that cows around the world all face either north or south. Scientists have (3) **already/still** not learned why cows do this.

One theory involves magnets. The Earth is like a huge magnet, and magnets point to the north. Studies have (4) **already/yet** shown that this helps some small animals, such as bats, find their way. In addition, researchers have (5) **never/already** found that fish and whales have tiny magnetic particles in their brains. Therefore, some researchers have (6) **recently/yet** guessed that cows also have magnetic particles in their brains. However, they have not found any proof (7) **already/yet**. They (8) **still/lately** have not done any tests to see if cows have magnetic particles in the brains.

Reading Exercise III

Complete the interview with Mel Green, who is 85 years old. Use the present perfect form of the verbs in parentheses. Write for or since before each time expression.

Andy Jones: We're at the Corner Café, and I am speaking with the chef and owner, Mel Green. Mel is 85 years old today. He's in excellent health. He has a sharp mind, and he still works! Happy birthday, Mel! So tell us a little about your long life. Have you lived here a long time?

Mel Green: Well, I (1) _____ (live) in California 92) _____ 50 years, and I (3) _____ (be) here in San Miguel (4) _____ 1972.

Andy Jones: How do you spend your days?

Mel Green: I work! I (5) _____ (work) as a chef (6) _____ 1945.

Andy Jones: How long (7) _____ you _____ (own) the Corner Café?

Mel Green: I (8) _____ (own) this restaurant (9) _____ 1980.

Andy Jones: What else do you do?

Mel Green: I love to learn languages. I (10) _____ (learn) Spanish, and I speak a little Chinese, too.

Andy Jones: Wow!

Mel Green: Yeah. Now I can speak Spanish with some of my customers.

Andy Jones: What (11) _____ you _____ (do) to stay healthy (12) _____ so many years?

Mel Green: I (13) _____ (not do) anything special to stay healthy, but I (14) _____ (not eat) sweets (15) _____ I was in my twenties.

Andy Jones: What are some of your other lifestyle habits?

Mel Green: I get up early. I (16) _____ (get) up at 05.00am every morning (17) _____ about 30 years.

Andy Jones: What about exercise?

Mel Green: I (18) _____ (not exercise) (19) _____ a long time, but my work keeps me active. I'm on my feet all day.

Andy Jones: What are your recommendations for a long life?

Mel Green: Keep busy!!