

65 First times

When you talk about the first time something happened, such as visiting a new place, you often use "never" or "ever" with the past perfect or present perfect.

- ⚙️ **New language** “Never” / “ever” with past tenses
- 🔤 **Vocabulary** Travel adjectives
- 🧩 **New skill** Describing new experiences

65.1 KEY LANGUAGE PAST PERFECT WITH "NEVER" / "EVER"

Use the past perfect with “never” or “ever” to talk about events in the past that happened for the first time.



Leo was very excited. He had never visited Rome before.

— “Never” means this had not happened before.
It sits between “had” and the past participle.

PAST SIMPLE

PAST PERFECT WITH "EVER"

Leo was very excited. It was the first time he had ever visited Rome.

"Ever" emphasizes that this is the first time it had happened.



65.2 CROSS OUT THE INCORRECT WORD IN EACH SENTENCE

Tom had **never** / **ever** been on a plane before his trip to Madagascar.

- 1 Last summer was the first time we had **never / ever** gone camping. It rained every day!
- 2 I had **never / ever** eaten risotto until I went to Milan. Now I cook it for myself at home.
- 3 They had **never / ever** been overseas before they went to Paris. They thought the flight was exciting!
- 4 We traveled overnight from Bangkok. It was the first time I had **never / ever** slept on a train.
- 5 I heard you went to Madrid last month. Was that the first time you had **never / ever** been there?
- 6 James had **never / ever** been bungee jumping until he tried it in New Zealand last year.



65.3 KEY LANGUAGE PRESENT PERFECT WITH "NEVER" / "EVER"

Use the present perfect with "never" or "ever" to talk about events that are happening now for the first time.



PRESENT SIMPLE

PRESENT PERFECT WITH "NEVER"

Nat is very excited. She **has never visited** Sydney before.

"Never" means that this has not happened before.
It sits between "has" and the past participle.

PRESENT SIMPLE

PRESENT PERFECT WITH "EVER"

Nat is very excited. It's the first time she **has ever visited** Sydney.

"Ever" emphasizes that this is
the first time it has happened.



65.4 FILL IN THE GAPS USING "HAVE" IN THE CORRECT TENSE



Tamal is very nervous, but also excited. He has never tried skydiving before.



I'm speechless. It's the first time I have ever seen a lion in the wild.



Sam and Ellie don't know what to expect. They have never been on a cruise.



Marisha has never been skiing before she went to the Alps. Now she loves it!



When I went to Berlin, it was the first time I had ever been on vacation alone.



We had never flown for longer than four hours until we went to Cuba.



The children can't wait. It will be the first time they will have ever traveled by train.



Aa

65.5 READ THE PASSAGE AND WRITE THE HIGHLIGHTED WORDS NEXT TO THEIR DEFINITIONS

Lots of space	≡	spacious
1 Completely empty	≡	
2 Extremely old	≡	
3 In poor condition	≡	
4 Very pleasant	≡	
5 Tall buildings	≡	
6 Cozy and relaxing	≡	
7 Well liked	≡	
8 All in one room	≡	

A DAY TOUR OF BERLIN

MORNING

Head to Checkpoint Charlie and see the **derelict** remains of the Berlin Wall. This is a **popular** tourist site, so be prepared for crowds. After this, visit the **charming** Fassbender & Rausch, the world's largest chocolatier. Explore the **open-plan** shop and have lunch in the **comfortable** tearoom.



AFTERNOON

Go to the **spacious** Tiergarten. This park is so large that it can sometimes feel **deserted**. From here, walk to the Brandenburg Gate. While not **ancient** (it dates from 1791), this massive stone arch is nonetheless impressive and is the symbol of Berlin.

There aren't too many **high-rise buildings** in Berlin, but the Berliner Fernsehturm, the tallest building in Germany, has a restaurant at the top with great views of Berlin.

Aa

65.6 FILL IN THE GAPS USING THE WORDS IN THE PANEL

The building was old and **derelict**. It had never been looked after properly.

- 1 We rented an apartment in Egypt. The rooms were very **spacious** and airy; we loved it.
- 2 This bed is so **comfortable**. I don't think I've ever had such a good night's sleep.
- 3 The famous Parthenon in Athens is such an amazing **ancient** temple.
- 4 Newtown is a very trendy place and is **popular** with young people. Lots of students live there.
- 5 When we got to the beach, it was **deserted**. We were the only people there.
- 6 There are a lot of **high-rise** buildings in Chicago. The tallest is 110 storeys high.
- 7 This is such a **charming** village. The houses are attractive and the main square is very pleasant.

ancient charming comfortable **derelict** deserted spacious **high-rise** **popular**



65.7 LISTEN TO THE AUDIO AND ANSWER THE QUESTIONS



Xavi is telling his new friend, Elsa, about sights in his home town of Barcelona.

Elsa has never been to Spain before.

True False Not given

1 Lots of people visit the Sagrada Família.

True False Not given

2 Elsa would like to visit the Picasso Museum.

True False Not given

3 Xavi hasn't shown a visitor around his city before.

True False Not given

4 Elsa knows about the Bunkers del Carmel.

True False Not given

5 There is a great view from the Bunkers del Carmel.

True False Not given

6 The bunkers were always in good condition.

True False Not given



65.8 SAY THE SENTENCES OUT LOUD USING "EVER" OR "NEVER," FILLING IN THE GAPS

I didn't know her before. I met her yesterday.

Yesterday was the first time I had ever met her.

1 Ben is so excited. It's his first time on a plane.

Ben is so excited. He has _____

2 Until last week Don had never been to Iceland.

Last week was _____

3 Before I went to Japan, I hadn't eaten miso soup.

I _____

4 Until now, Jen has never traveled alone.

It's _____

5 I had never gone sailing before last year.

Last year was _____

65 ✓ CHECKLIST

⚙️ "Never" / "ever" with past tenses

Aa Travel adjectives

zzle Describing new experiences