

What's your story?

Student's sheet

Have you ever travelled in a hot air balloon?	Have you ever spent the night at an airport?
Have you ever been to Australia?	Have you ever lost your way in a foreign country?
Have you ever got off a train at the wrong stop?	Have you ever spent a holiday on a boat?
Have you ever ridden an elephant?	Have you ever written a travel story?
Have you ever spent the night in a mountain cabin*? <small>*mountain cabin - Berghütte</small>	Have you ever eaten very exotic food?
Have you ever had problems with your car in a very lonely area?	Have you ever been to the Caribbean?
Have you ever lost a passport or an important document?	Have you ever been to a horrible hotel?
Have you ever been to Africa?	Have you ever brought home seashells* from a beach? <small>*seashells - Muschelschalen</small>
Have you ever done business in a foreign country?	Have you ever been on a safari?

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Preparation:

The aim of this activity is to practise the use of the present perfect and the past simple in the context of travel. Copy and cut up the cards.

In class:

Put the cards with the "Have you ever ...?" questions on a table. Tell students they are now journalists and their job is to find an interesting travel story to be published in the magazine they work for. Their boss has given them some ideas for the story, in the general context of travelling.

With weaker classes you could pre-teach an example, making sure that they use the present perfect for the original question and the past simple for follow-up questions and answers.

Ask them to get up, come to the table and choose a topic they are interested in. One card per student is enough. If you have only a few students, each could choose two cards.

Ask students to walk around and interview each other. The idea is to elicit an interesting story from a classmate and take notes about the story. After ten to fifteen minutes, have a round-up and ask students to report back. Which story would be the best one to publish in your magazine?

Extension activity:

Bring along old magazines, scissors, glue, and felt pens for a cut and paste session. Students produce the front page of their magazine with their story, including pictures and text. You could use some flip chart paper and then hang the "front pages" on the wall.

Hand out two Post-its per student and ask them to read the front pages and fix their Post-it(s) to the magazine(s) they would buy. The person who wrote the story with the most Post-its is the winner. Don't forget to bring a small prize for the winner!