

YET - ALREADY – STILL - JUST

We use yet as an adverb to refer to a time which starts in the past and continues up to the present. We use it mostly in **negative** statements or **questions** in the **present perfect**. It usually comes in end position:

- Kevin hasn't registered for class **yet**.
- I haven't finished my breakfast **yet**.
- Has she emailed you **yet**?

Todavía no, aún no,
 hasta ahora
 ¿Ya?

Warning:

We don't use yet to refer to something that has happened. We use **already**:
 She's booked the flights **already**. Not: ~~She's booked the flights yet.~~

ya

We don't use yet to talk about events that are continuing:
 Elizabeth is still living in Manchester. She's not moving to London till next month.

Not: ~~Elizabeth is living yet ...~~ or ~~Elizabeth is yet living ...~~

todavía

Yet with negative statements

When we use yet in negative statements, it shows that an event is expected to happen in the future:

Jason hasn't phoned yet. (I am expecting him to phone.)

I haven't seen 'Who Framed Roger Rabbit' yet. (I am expecting to see this film.)

Yet with questions

When we use yet in an affirmative question, it shows that the speaker is expecting something to happen:

- Is he home yet? (I expect that he will be home at some point.)
- Has your passport arrived yet? (I expect that your passport will arrive in the post.)

Negative questions with yet can express an even stronger expectation that something will happen. When we ask this type of question, we expect a negative answer:

- Hasn't Richard arrived yet? (I strongly expect that he should have arrived.)

- Haven't you done your driving test yet? (I feel you should have done your driving test by now.)

Yet with affirmative statements

When we use yet in affirmative statements, it shows that a situation is continuing, even when we might expect it not to continue:

- There's plenty of time yet. (even though you don't think so)
- We've got a lot more work to do yet. (even though you think we have finished)

Already, yet or still?

Already refers to things which have happened or which people think may have happened.

Yet refers to things which have not happened or which people think may not have happened.

We use **still** (not yet or already) to refer to the continuation of a situation:

*I **still** meet my friends from my schooldays now and then.* (I continue to meet my friends)

Not: ~~I already meet my friends or I yet meet my friends~~

Compare

<p>A: <i>Is your sister still at university?</i></p> <p>B: <i>Yes. She's got one more year to do.</i></p>	<p>I know she was at university. Does that continue to be true?</p>
<p>A: <i>Is your sister at university yet?</i></p> <p>B: <i>No. She's only 17. She'll go next year.</i></p>	<p>I expect that she will go to university. Is she there now?</p>
<p>A: <i>Is your sister already at university? She's only 17!</i></p> <p>B: <i>Yes. She started this year. She's so clever they let her enter a year early.</i></p>	<p>I'm surprised if your sister is at university. I did not expect it to happen until later.</p>

Negatives with *already*, *still*, *yet*

Negatives with *yet* mean that something has not happened up to now:

- *I haven't spoken to Henry about the car yet.*

Negatives with *still* suggest that the situation should have changed, but it has not:

- *I still haven't found my passport. I know it's here somewhere.* (I've been looking for it for a long time. I should have found it by now)

Warning:

We usually put *yet* after the main verb, whereas we usually put *still* after the subject.

Compare

<i>I haven't finished yet.</i>	<i>I still haven't finished.</i>
<i>You know, it's dark now and she hasn't arrived yet.</i>	<i>You know, it's dark now and she still hasn't arrived.</i>

Negatives with *already* are far less common than negatives with *yet* and *still*. They usually refer to things which should have happened before they did happen:

If you've already registered, the price is 50 pounds. If you haven't already registered, it's 75 pounds for late registration.

I was surprised that they hadn't already told me the news.

Examples:

She hasn't gone **yet** = She's **still** here.

I haven't finished eating **yet** = I'm **still** eating.

What time is Joan coming? He's **already** here.

I'm going to tell you what happened. – That's not necessary, I **already** know.

Tom is not coming to the cinema with us. He has **already** seen the film

just, yet, still and already with the present perfect

We often use **just, yet, still** and **already** with the present perfect because they are related to the present moment. Let's focus on the meaning and use of these words when they are used with the present perfect.

just

Just used with the present perfect means 'a short time before'.

- I've **just** seen Susan coming out of the cinema.
- Mike's **just** called. Can you ring him back, please?
- Have you **just** taken my pen?!

Just comes between the auxiliary verb (have/has) and the past participle.

yet

Yet used with the present perfect means 'at any time up to now'. We use it to emphasise that we expect something to happen soon. Yet (in this context) is only used in negative sentences and questions.

- Have you finished your homework yet?
- I haven't finished it yet. I'll do it after dinner.
- Where's Sam? B: He hasn't arrived yet.

Yet comes at the end of the sentence or question.

still

Still used with the present perfect means that something hasn't happened. We use it to emphasise that we expected the thing to happen earlier. Still (in this context) is only used in negative sentences.

- I've been waiting for an hour and the bus still hasn't come.
- They promised me that report yesterday but they still haven't finished it.
- She still hasn't replied to my email. Maybe she's on holiday.

Still comes between the subject (the bus, they, etc.) and auxiliary verb (haven't/hasn't).

already

Already used with the present perfect means 'before now'. We use it to emphasise that something happened before something else or earlier than expected.

- I've already spent my salary and it's two weeks before payday.
- He wanted to see Sudden Risk but I've already seen it.
- The train's left already!

Already can come between the auxiliary and the main verb or at the end of the clause.

Exercises

1. I called to make an offer on the flat but it's _____ been sold.
 - a) Yet
 - b) still
 - c) already

2. I doubt he wants to sell that phone. He's only _____ bought it.
 - a) just
 - b) still
 - c) already

3. It's her birthday tomorrow and I _____ haven't got her a present.
 - a) just
 - b) yet
 - c) still

4. Oh, what a surprise! I've _____ seen your sister. Is your whole family here too?
 - a) just
 - b) yet
 - c) still

5. I haven't seen the new Marvel film _____. Do you want to go and see it this week?
 - a) just
 - b) yet
 - c) still

6. Have they _____ finished redecorating your house? That was quick!
 - a) yet
 - b) still
 - c) already

7. Have you eaten _____? If not, we can go to that new Italian place.
 - a) yet
 - b) just
 - c) still

8. She told me they sent the exam results last week but mine _____ haven't arrived.
 - a) yet
 - b) still
 - c) already