

**NEVER BEEN TO SPAIN** by Hoyt Axton**A lesson on the present perfect tense (Chapter 4)****Notes to the Teacher****1. The Song**

Do a search on the Internet to find the Song “Never Been to Spain” by Hoyt Axton. When you search, be sure to include the title and the name of the artist

2. Song background

Some people think that Elvis Presley is the most important performer of the twentieth century. Because of his fame and talent, many people call him the King of Rock and Roll, or just the King. His style was very unique, and many people have copied it. Although Elvis Presley died in 1977, some people want to believe that he is still alive.

This song was written by Hoyt Axton, a songwriter who wrote songs for many famous singers.

3. Grammar background

This song uses a lot of present perfect. Review the present perfect tense with the class. It looks like this:

have/has + past participle

Here are some examples of sentences that use the present perfect:

*She **has** already **finished** her homework.
I **have** never **seen** anything so beautiful!*

Have/has can be contracted as **'ve** or **'s**, as in the following examples:

*She's already **finished** her homework.
I've never **seen** anything so beautiful!*

Remind students that contractions occur with negatives, too, as in these examples:

*I **haven't finished** my homework yet.
She **hasn't** ever **seen** anything more beautiful than that.*

You might want to explain to the class that the present perfect is used because the singer is talking about an **unspecified** time in the past. It is very common to use present perfect with *ever* or *never*. Give the following examples:

*Have you **ever** tried pizza? (No exact time.)
No, I've **never** tried pizza. (No exact time.)*



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4. Vocabulary

There are some place names used in this song. Students may not be familiar with them.

- **Needles:** a city in the state of California, on the west coast of the United States
- **Las Vegas:** a city in the state of Nevada, in the southwestern United States
- **Oklahoma:** a state in the middle of the southern United States
- **Arizona:** a state in the southwestern United States



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Student Worksheet

While you listen

1. Listen to the song once. Do you like the way Elvis sings?
2. Now listen to the song again.
Write down three places that the singer has never been to.
He talks about things that he likes about those places. What does he like about them?

Places the singer has never been to	What he likes about the places
1.	
2.	
3.	

3. Write down one place that the singer has been to.

After you listen

1. **Practice the Grammar**
Find the lines in the song that use the present perfect. Discuss why the present perfect is used?
2. **Speaking and Writing**
Work in pairs. Ask your partner questions with *ever*. For example, you can ask them about places they've been to or food that they're tried. For example:

Have you ever been to London?
Have you ever eaten sushi?

Keep asking questions until you find five things that your partner has never done.

Now write about you! Write five sentences about places you've never been to and something that you like about each place. For instance, you might write a sentence like this:

I've never been to the ocean, but I like fish.