

Can you catch a Mermaid? By Jane Ray



But that day. Tom came back with nets full of fish.

And from that day on, the village fishing nets were always full, and Tom's was the fullest of all.

And that day, Eliza made new friends. Now she loves playing with the other children. They collect shells and Eliza shows them how to build mermaids out of sand.

When she puts the beautiful pink and gold shell to her ear she still hears Freya's sweet voice singing to her, and the songs she sings are of her ocean home and the silver fishes that play there.



And sometimes, in still rock pools or in the deep green ocean, when Eliza is out in Tom's boat, she thinks she sees Freya smiling up at her through the water.

Or maybe it's her own reflection.

The present perfect: how to form it, and how it is used!

The structure of the present perfect form of the verb is:

| | | | | |
|----------------|----------|-----------------------|----------|------------------------|
| subject | + | auxiliary verb | + | main verb |
| | | <i>have</i> | | <i>past participle</i> |

Here are some examples of the present perfect:

| | subject | auxiliary verb | | main verb | |
|---|----------------|-----------------------|-----|------------------|--------------|
| + | I | have | | seen | the Ice Age. |
| + | You | have | | eaten | my apple. |
| - | She | has | not | been | to France. |
| - | We | have | not | taken | your ball. |
| ? | Have | you | | finished? | |
| ? | Have | they | | done | it? |

Contractions with the present perfect

When we use the present perfect in speaking, we usually contract the subject and auxiliary verb. We also sometimes do this when we write.

| | |
|-------------|-----------|
| I have | I've |
| You have | You've |
| He has | He's |
| She has | She's |
| It has | It's |
| Alison has | Alison's |
| The dog has | The dog's |
| We have | We've |
| They have | They've |

Examples: when hot-seating Eliza, you could ask questions such as:

Have you seen Freya recently?

Have you ever been out fishing with your Dad?

Have you ever found any other interesting things on the beach?

Since you met Freya, how many other friends have you made?

Do you think Freya has gone back to her mother?

For a detailed explanation of how the present perfect is used, look at

<http://learnenglish.britishcouncil.org/en/english-grammar/verbs/present-tense/present-perfect>

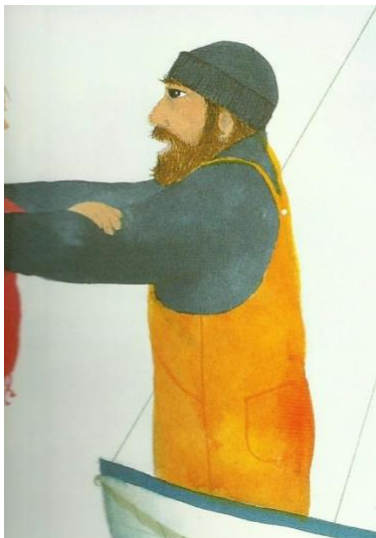
What would you ask them?

Write some questions in the speech bubbles that you would ask the characters in the story. Remember to include at least one 'Have you ever...?' question for each character!



Freya, have you ever...

Eliza, ...



Tom,