

Already, yet or still?

Hello and welcome back, in this lesson we will be exploring the use of three different words; already, yet and still. We will find out their similarities and differences.



Already

We use *already* to refer to something which has happened or may have happened before the moment of speaking.

Already can sometimes suggest surprise on the part of the speaker, that something is unexpected:



*Is it seven o'clock **already**?*



Yet

We use *yet* most commonly in questions and negatives, to talk about things which are expected but which have not happened:



*Is it seven o'clock **yet**?*



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.

Still



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.*



Table:



<i>Is your sister still at university?</i>	I know she was at university. Does that continue to be true?
<i>Is your sister at university yet?</i>	I expect that she will go to university. Is she there now?
<i>Is your sister already at university? She's only 17!</i>	I'm surprised if your sister is at university. I did not expect it to happen until later.

Negatives

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 keys.*



Watch out



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

<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.*

