

About Richard Branson (Grammar)

- Description:** A walk-around activity to practice answering questions using the past simple and the present perfect.
- Use with or after:** *English Network Connection*, Unit 3.
- Skill:** Grammar
- Focus:** Truthful answers about things that Richard Branson *did* at some particular time in the past or *has done* in his lifetime.
- Time:** 15 minutes
- Preparation:**
- Print out the second, third, fourth and fifth pages of this file, on stiff paper if possible. If you have more than sixteen students in your group, make an extra copy of one of the pages and use some of the items twice.
 - Cut along the dotted lines, but do NOT cut on the wavy lines, since these are for folding.
- Procedure:**
- As a reminder, ask the students to look briefly at the article about Richard Branson on page 19 of *English Network Connection*, and at the two photos on pages 19 and 20.
 - You might also like to remind them of the difference between the present perfect and the past simple, as presented in the *Grammar focus* at the bottom of page 20.
 - Give each student one of the sixteen question cards and ask them to fold it on the wavy line. This way there will be a question and the appropriate answer on the front of the card, and a prompt in larger type on the back.
 - If there are any vocabulary questions, clear these up in a low voice with the individual students, not with the class as a whole.
 - Students stand up, walk around and talk to one other student at a time. At each encounter they ask the question on the front of their card, and show the other person the prompt on the back. Then they check to see that the other person gives the correct answer.
 - Take a card yourself and do the exercise with them, so you can be available for questions or corrections.

By the way, the reason Richard Branson spent a night in prison was that as a young man he was caught at the Dover docks trying to smuggle phonograph records past customs. This cost him £53,000 as part of an out-of-court settlement, to avoid having a criminal record.

In the next book, *English Network Plus (New Edition)*, there is an interesting listening text on dyslexia in unit 6, page 45.



Has his mother ever worked as an air hostess?

Yes, she worked as an air hostess for several years before she got married.

[NOT has worked!]

for several years before she got married

Does he own an airline?

Yes, he has owned an airline since 1984.

since 1984

Has he ever been in prison?

Yes, he was in prison for one night in the early 1970s.

[NOT has been!]

for one night in the early 1970s

Has he ever been dyslexic?

Yes, he was dyslexic* when he was a child.

*A dyslexic is someone who has difficulties with words and numbers. This condition is often inherited.

when he was a child



<p>Does he have a vivid imagination?</p> <p>Yes, he has always had a vivid imagination.</p>	<p>always</p> <p>when he was sixteen</p>
<p>Has he ever crossed the Pacific Ocean in a hot-air balloon?</p> <p>Yes, he crossed the Pacific Ocean in a hot-air balloon in 1991.</p> <p>[NOT has-crossed!]</p>	<p>in 1991</p> <p>since 1972</p>
<p>Has he ever published a magazine?</p> <p>Yes, he published a magazine when he was sixteen.</p> <p>[NOT has-published!]</p>	<p>Has he ever published a magazine?</p> <p>Yes, he published a magazine when he was sixteen.</p> <p>[NOT has-published!]</p>
<p>Does he know Mike Oldfield?</p> <p>Yes, he has known Mike Oldfield since 1972.</p> <p>[NOT knows!]</p>	<p>Does he know Mike Oldfield?</p> <p>Yes, he has known Mike Oldfield since 1972.</p> <p>[NOT knows!]</p>

<p>Can he swim?</p> <p>Yes, he has been able to swim since he was five years old.</p> <p>[NOT can swim!]</p>	<p>since he was five years old</p>
<p>Does he have a railway company?</p> <p>Yes, he has had a railway company since 1996.</p>	<p>since 1996</p>
<p>Has he ever owned a radio station?</p> <p>Yes, he owned a radio station from 1993 to 1997.</p> <p>[NOT has owned!]</p>	<p>from 1993 to 1997</p>
<p>Does he have a bicycle company?</p> <p>Yes, he has had a bicycle company since 2001.</p>	<p>since 2001</p>

Has he ever flown
on the outside of a
helicopter?

Yes, he flew on the
outside of a helicopter
on the way to his
wedding.

[NOT ~~has flown!~~]

on the way
to his wedding

Has he ever worn a
wedding dress?

Yes, he wore a wedding
dress when he
opened the Virgin Bride
Boutique.

[NOT ~~has worn!~~]

when he
opened the
Virgin Bride
Boutique

Has he ever posed
naked for
photographers?

Yes, he posed naked
for photographers
several years ago.

[NOT ~~has posed!~~]

several years
ago

Has he ever dressed up
as a pirate?

Yes, he dressed up
as a pirate when he
started his pirate
radio station.

[NOT ~~has dressed!~~]

when he started
his pirate radio
station

