

Presenting Perfectly

I've **never** lived **abroad** or been an **immigrant**.
You could **say** my **experience** has been **limited**.
But I've been **teaching groups** from **across** the world **map**
since **long** before I **opened** my **yap** to try to **rap**.
I've **learned** it's a **snap** to **tap** imaginations
and **highlight words** in **natural** situations.
I've worked **hard** to **improve** communication
to **teach** ESL and **support** acculturation.
I'll **bet** you've never **heard** of a **hip** hop **grammarian** **before**.
I've **set** ESL to 4/4.
If your **textbooks** **bore**, when I **take** the **floor**,
you'll speak **English** **more** like you've been **hoping** for.
Come and **explore** the way that's **always** worked **best**.
Have you **ever** learned **well** when you've **felt** really **stressed**,
even when you've **gotten** **As** and done your **best**?
Relax. Once you **do** it you'll **be** a fast **learner**.
Fluid. Like a **CD** **spinning** in a **burner**,
picking up and **clinging** to the **idioms**.
One of my **students**, I've seen it **happen** to **him**.
He's **been** in the **States** only **half** a **year**.
He's been **studying** and **working** as a **volunteer**.
His **English** is **clear** because he's **let** it soak **in**.
It hasn't **mattered** that his **sentences** are **sometimes** **broken**,
or **people** might **criticize** the **way** that he's **spoken**.
He doesn't **care**, he uses **English** **everywhere**.
He's **found** the **key** to free his **fluency**.
Truancy at **school**? Nope. He's **never** been a **fool**.
He's been **going** every **day**, so his **grammar's** **okay**.
He's **watched** lots of **movies** and he's **listened** to **music**.
A **lyric**, he **hears** it, then he **knows** how to **use** it.
He **won't** ever **lose** it, and **you** too can **choose** it.
Immerse yourself for your linguistic **health**.



The present **perfect**. It's the **present tense** but connected **directly** to your **past experience**.
It **might** be **something** that's **just begun** or **something continuing** or **something done** or **something fun** or something **really bad** or the **craziest time** you've ever **had**.
Everywhere students get mad because they **get confused**.
In their **native languages** it **isn't used**.
For a **past action continuing now**, the present **simple alone** should be **enough** to tell **how**.
But in **English** we **say**, *I've **been** here since **Monday** not I am **here** since then.*
And if the **action** has **finished**, we **use** the present **perfect** if we're **not concerned** about **when**.
So *I've **been** to L.A. before not I was **there** before.*
*He's gone **home** last **night** isn't **right**.*
We say, *He **went** home* because we **know** when he **did**.
The **focus** is the **past** not **something to last** until the **present** to **help explain** who we **are**.
Like *I've **swum** in an **ocean** or I've **driven** a **car**.*
The irregular **verbs** get **really absurd**, so check **StickStuckStuck** for the **participles**.
You'll **know** them by **heart**, little by little.
With **have** and **has** we almost **always contract**, as in, *I've **done** my **homework** and He's **handed** it **back**.*
To **emphasize** that an **action** is **ongoing**, we **use** **been** and **ing** to **keep** things **flowing**.
*She's been **living** here for **several years**.*
*I've been **working** all **night** and still I'm **up** to my **ears**.*
We **tend** to use **for** and **since** to **describe** **unfinished experience**.
Ever and **never** and **also before**.
for **things** that aren't **happening** to **us** anymore, but they're **most important** in the **here** and **now**.
The present **perfect**. If you **ask** me **how** to catch **on**, I'll **say**, "**Don't** have a **cow!**"
It's an **odd** sort of **way** to **use** a **verb**, but **relax**, repeat, remember and **you'll** be **superb**.