



[Thanks to Lucas Lenzi sharing his free photo on Unsplash.](#)

2020 is almost over

2020 has been a year that everyone will remember. Each of us will have more than one personal story to share. All around the world, people have experienced a pandemic simultaneously - but each in their own way.

As we may find ourselves holding our breaths to welcome in the new year, November is definitely full of reflection. It's a time of looking back and taking stock of where we've been and what we've learned. A month also of being grateful for what we have and have accomplished.

Next week, the American holiday of Thanksgiving will be celebrated on 26 November. So [in this vein](#), I want to tell you how thankful I am to still have a connection with you, my newsletter readers, and have the opportunity to communicate with you.

But do you know what? I am longing to hear from you! Could you tell me how you're doing? How are you making the best of the current situation?

If you have a story that you would like to share with our newsletter readers, I would be so happy to help you do so. (And even if it's just to say a quick hello just to me,

that'd be great, too!)

I'd like to take the opportunity to publicly thank Sandra, Vanessa and Joe for your encouraging words you often send me upon receiving the newsletter. They are always so heartwarming!

And a shout out to my students like Nicole who I haven't seen for about a year now. Thanks for staying in touch!

And to Karma in Nepal and to my Hangout members like Kevin, Toshi, Karin and Sandra who stay in touch even when we don't have so many Hangouts any more! And for Ellen, who stays optimistic no matter what personal challenges she faces.

Whether you wish to express yourself through sharing a picture, a few words or a short story, I would love to have the opportunity to share these in our December newsletter. And don't worry about your English - I'm happy to work a little magic before publishing.

To send your contribution or a quick hello, please e-mail me at: rose@thebostonschool.com latest by 15 December!



Thanks to Hybrid@artbyhybrid for free photo shared via Unsplash.

On a lighter note

I always like to add a bit of humor to keep the mood light. Here's a listening exercise I developed for one of my classes using stand-up comedians.

This lesson was created to challenge listening skills as well as to demonstrate how the present perfect simple tense is used in every day conversations. So humor + grammar = English lesson. Can you imagine?

The lesson is based on the youtube video clip:

[TOP 10 Funniest Comedians That Made SIMON COWELL Laugh on AGT & BGT \(America's Got Talent / Britain's Got Talent\)](#)

I chose my 3 of my favorite acts:

1. A part-time primary school teacher who plays the guitar / 3:18 - 7:41 min
2. A woman who works with special needs children and does singing impressions / 11:05-14:00 min
3. An African man who now lives in Manchester, England / 33:16 – 36:49 min
Tip: Be sure to turn on the subtitle setting in English in case you are having trouble understanding their accents.

During the introductions and performances of these 3, the following statements were said or sung: all of them in the present perfect simple. Can you identify which comedy act each one is connected with: 1, 2 or 3 ?

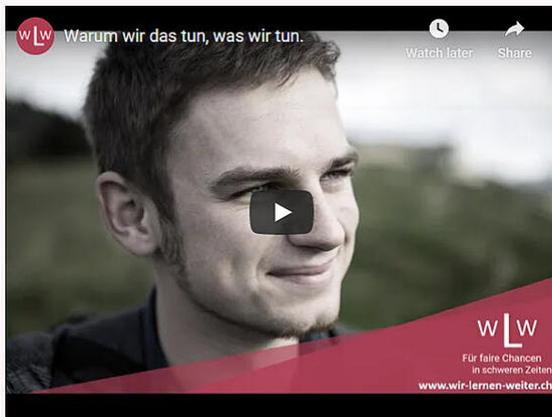
1. I've wanted to enter for a few years now but I've always [chickened out](#).
2. He hasn't been in a supermarket since 1981.
3. I've suffered from a loss recently.
4. I have come to make the people laugh.
5.with songs they have sung for a thousand years.
6. Quite a lot has changed in the last year.

These 6 are great examples of 2 main present perfect rules in action:

- 1) expressing an action or state that started in the past and lasts up until now OR
- 2) expressing an action that has happened in the recent past and has a direct connection to the present situation/feeling. **NOTE:** when it happened is not so important, therefore, is not mentioned.

Can you match the two rules to the 6 example sentences which can be heard in these 3 comedian acts?

To complete this quiz online and to receive the answers, please click [here](#).



Video zum Projekt (erstellt von „Philantro Republic,“)

Über eine gemeindeinterne Information bin ich auf das Projekt „Wir lernen weiter“ aufmerksam geworden – es konnten rasch, unkompliziert und unbürokratisch Kinder, Jugendliche und Familien von diesem Angebot Gebrauch machen, welche aus sozial erschwerten und / oder wirtschaftlich benachteiligten Verhältnissen stammen. Einige Familien fallen aus dem System – sie verdienen gerade genug, um die Familie ernähren zu können, zusätzliche Ausgaben sind hingegen nicht möglich.

Yvonne Geiger – Schule Bassersdorf

Wir lernen weiter = We keep on learning

Since the beginning of the corona crisis, 26-year-old Tobias Schär has redistributed over 300 used laptops and given them away to people in need. He explains why he does this in an interview and talks about his project "[Wir lernen weiter](#)". (in Swiss German with German subtitles.)

Vote for Tobias in the youngCARITAS Competition

As you know, I am a supporter of the [Zurich Networking Group](#) - a group of local Zurich professionals who are looking to widen their network and establish friendships and meaningful professional connections. Recently, a new member joined our group who made an instant positive impression on me: Tobias Schär.

Inspired to help those who may not have a means to study or work from home, he started a project that is worthy of our attention - donating used laptops to those in need.

Have you got an old laptop gathering dust in a closet or attic somewhere? Would you consider donating it to a family that doesn't have one? If so, I would urge you to visit Tobias' website where you can learn more about how you can contribute to his "[Lernen wir weiter](#)" project and about Tobias himself.

[He's one of 13 contenders in the 2020 youngCARITAS competition.](#)

[I've cast my vote for him. Won't you?](#)

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