

French has 5 ways to say “Have you ever...”



Important

French doesn't have one single equivalent of the English "Have you ever...?".

Instead, we use several natural constructions depending on the context and the speaker's style.



(Est-ce que) tu as déjà...?

The most common structure in spoken French

- Tu as déjà mangé des escargots ?
Have you ever eaten snails?
- Est-ce que vous avez déjà visité le Québec ?
Have you ever visited Quebec?
- Il a déjà fait du parachutisme ?
Has he ever gone skydiving?



Tu es déjà allé(e)... ?

Very common - used specifically for places

- Tu es déjà allé en Italie ?
Have you ever been to Italy?
- Vous êtes déjà allés au Canada ?
Have you ever been to Canada?
- Elle est déjà allée en Allemagne ?
Has she ever been to Germany?



Il/ça t'est déjà arrivé de...?

To talk about experiences rather than completed actions

- Ça t'est déjà arrivé de perdre ton passeport ?
Have you ever lost your passport?
- Ça vous est déjà arrivé d'oublier un anniversaire ?
Have you ever forgotten someone's birthday?
- Ça lui est déjà arrivé de rater son train ?
Has he/she ever missed a train?



Tu as déjà eu l'occasion de... ?

To talk about experiences someone may or may not have had

- Tu as déjà eu l'occasion de visiter le Japon ?
Have you ever had the opportunity to visit Japan?
- Vous avez déjà eu l'occasion de goûter du foie gras ?
Have you ever had the opportunity to try foie gras?
- Elle a déjà eu l'occasion de parler avec le directeur ?
Has she ever had the opportunity to speak with the manager?



Tu connais... ?

To ask whether someone knows something through experience

- Tu connais Lyon ?
Have you ever been to Lyon?
- Vous connaissez ce restaurant ?
Have you ever been to this restaurant?
- Ils connaissent ce jeu ?
Have they ever played this game?



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