



# 31 Round the World

## Before you start

1 Describe the photo and then answer the questions.

- 1 Would you like to go sailing?
- 2 Where would you like to sail to?
- 3 Which things do you think the yachtswoman in the photo has done?

won a race, sailed round the world, become famous, received an award, come close to death, been on her own for a long time

2 Now read the article and check your guesses.



## People Think I'm a Weirdo

Since sailing solo around the world in record time, she has become the nation's darling. Libby Brookes meets the young British yachtswoman Ellen MacArthur, 28.

Since her first solo round-the-world race in 2001, Ellen MacArthur has become famous. She only came second in that race but she sailed a great big boat round the world through force-10 storms.

For the last few weeks, MacArthur has been the centre of attention again. She has received the title of 'Dame Ellen' from the Queen and huge crowds have welcomed her back after her record-breaking solo voyage around the world. She completed the trip in 71 days, 14 hours and 18 minutes, beating Francis Joyon's record by 33 hours.

'No!' she replies. 'Of course you're pleased when you get an award but it's not just about you, it's about the team that helped me prepare for the race.'

MacArthur's first trip on the water was on her aunt's boat at the age of four. She has dreamt of the sea ever since then. 'I've always loved the sea and the sea has been a great inspiration to me.'

25 Was she scared of dying on her trip?

'You think about that later. I have come close to death but when it's happening to you, you don't think about falling off the mast. You think about holding onto it with every brain cell you've got.'

Does she feel proud because she has achieved so much?

30 'No, but I've learned a lot. I feel proud of my parents, and proud of my team. For years, a lot of people have helped me.

Has she ever felt lonely?

35 'I do like being on my own,' she says, 'but I'm not a solitary person. People think I'm a weirdo but I'm not that strange. I feel lucky. Since the age of 17, I have known exactly what I wanted to do. I've had that passion.'

3 Read the article again and answer the questions.

- 1 Why has Ellen MacArthur become famous?
- 2 Has she ever felt afraid on her sailing trips?
- 3 Who is she proud of?
- 4 Why do some people think she is strange?
- 5 Why do you think she has received so much attention from the media?
- 6 Why does she feel lucky?

## Presentation

4 Look at these examples of the Present Perfect from the article. Do the sentences talk about a) the present b) the past c) both the present and the past?

For the last few weeks, she **has been** the centre of attention again.

She **has dreamt** of the sea since then.

I've **always loved** the sea.

Look at the underlined time expressions in the sentences above and complete the rule for **for** and **since**.

We use \_\_\_\_\_ for a period of time, e.g. six weeks.

We use \_\_\_\_\_ for a point in time, e.g. 1998.

5 Look at the examples of the Present Perfect (1-3) from the article and match them with the uses of the Present Perfect (a-c).

1 *Since the age of 17, I **have known** exactly what I wanted to do.*

2 *I **have come** close to death.*

3 *Does she feel proud because she **has achieved** so much?*

a to talk about a past action without giving its definite time

b to emphasise present consequences of something that happened in the past

c to describe something that started in the past and is still going on

⇒ Grammar Summary 11, page 144

## Practice

6 Helen is on a sailing trip. She's talking to her boyfriend, Colin, on the phone. Complete the dialogue with the verbs in brackets in the Present Perfect.

Helen Hi, Colin! How are you?

Colin All right. When are you coming back? You 1 \_\_\_\_\_ (be) away for so long.

Helen Come on. I 2 \_\_\_\_\_ (only be) at sea for three weeks now. What's the news at home?

Colin Well, you know that old motorbike that Mick 3 \_\_\_\_\_ (have) for years? Well, he crashed it two days ago.

Helen I'm not surprised. I 4 \_\_\_\_\_ (always know) he's a dangerous driver. And what about Bob and Julie? 5 \_\_\_\_\_ (you see) them?

Colin They 6 \_\_\_\_\_ (go) away, too, so I'm really lonely. But what about you? How's your voyage?

Helen Absolutely brilliant! We 7 \_\_\_\_\_ (have) fantastic weather since we set out. I 8 \_\_\_\_\_ (see) dolphins and all kinds of sea creatures.

7 Match the examples of the Present Perfect in Exercise 6 with the uses (a-c) in Exercise 5.

Example 1 c (she's still away)

8 Complete the sentences with **since** or **for**.

- 1 We've been here \_\_\_\_\_ 5 July.
- 2 Mary's been on holiday \_\_\_\_\_ six weeks.
- 3 They have known each other \_\_\_\_\_ many years.
- 4 She's been a smoker \_\_\_\_\_ she left university.
- 5 I've enjoyed playing football \_\_\_\_\_ I was at school.
- 6 We've had our dog \_\_\_\_\_ the last six years.

9 Personalisation Write true sentences about your life. Use the verbs below in the Present Simple.

Example I live in Spain.

be, enjoy, hate, have, know, like, live

Now work in pairs. Take turns to read your sentences and ask and answer questions with **How long ...?** Use **since** and **for** in your answers.

Example

A I live in Spain.

B How long have you lived in Spain?

A I've lived in Spain for ten years./I've lived in Spain since 1995.

10 Look at the cues below and write down some ideas about a holiday you are on.

how long? weather be like? meet people? see anything interesting? learn anything? visit any places? eat interesting food? do/see anything interesting?

Then work in pairs and have a telephone conversation about your holiday.

Example

A How long have you been there?

B We've only been here for three days but I'm really enjoying myself.

QUOTE ... UNQUOTE

'The sea has never been friendly to man.'

Joseph Conrad, Polish Novelist (1857-1924)