

Present perfect

Use

For **past experiences**.

We don't say **when** it happened.

Examples

- I've been to Paris many times.
- Have you ever seen an elephant?
- I've never met anyone famous.
- NOT ~~I've been to Paris last year~~

Present perfect

Use

- For **unfinished actions** which started in the past and are **still true now**, especially with *be*, *have* (possession), and *know*.
- Use with **for, since** and the question **How long?**.

Examples

- We've had this car for six months.
- I've known them for several years.
- How long have you been married?
- Since 1998.

Present perfect

FOR VS. SINCE

- Use **for** + a period of time (*an hour / two days / three months / a long time / ages*)

I have known her for ten years.

- Use **since** + a point in time (*1 o'clock / Tuesday / November / 2004 / I left school.*)

I have known her since we were at school.

Present perfect

Use

- For an **action in the past which has recently finished**. (You can often see the results of the action when you speak).
- Used with **just, already, and yet**.

Examples

- They've painted the house themselves.
- Look! I've cut myself.

Present perfect

JUST / ALREADY / YET

- **JUST**: have/has + JUST+ Past Participle.
AFFIRMATIVE
- **ALREADY**: have/has +ALREADY+ Past Participle. **AFFIRMATIVE**
- **YET**: haven't / hasn't + Past Participle+ ...+ YET.

_____ YET?

NEGATIVE and **INTERROGATIVE**

Present perfect

Examples

- He's **just** arrived.
- They've **already** finished.
- She hasn't finished **yet**.
- Has she finished **yet**?

PRESENT PERFECT

S + have/has + 3rd form

When something happened is NOT important.

Connection to NOW

I have seen the Eiffel Tower.

For unfinished time periods.

Not concerned with when.

I have eaten 10 pizzas this week.

For achievements, accomplishments, & experiences.

I have written two books and run six marathons. But I have never climbed a mountain.

PAST SIMPLE

S + verb(ed)

When something happened IS important.

NO connection to now

I saw the Eiffel Tower in 2007.

For finished time periods.

Concerned with when

I ate 15 pizzas last week.

To talk about our past.

I was born in England and grew up in Germany. I played the piano for ten years, but I hated it.

PRESENT PERFECT vs. PAST SIMPLE

PRESENT PERFECT	PAST SIMPLE
EXPERIENCES ('until now')	ACTIONS AT SPECIFIC POINTS IN THE PAST ('at that moment')
<u>CLUES</u> ever never for since just already yet	<u>CLUES</u> yesterday last week on Monday in 1997 ... ago in July