



# **Present Perfect and Past Simple**

Grammar Presentation

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## Why do we use Past Simple?

We use past simple to talk about **definite past events**. There is no connection with the present. The time period is finished. We also use it to talk about past habits.

*for example...*

I **wrote** ten letters in the morning. It's afternoon and I want to take a break now. (The time period is finished. I can't write anymore letters in that time period.)

The plane **landed** two minutes ago. (The landing of the plane is completed. We know the exact time, which is "two minutes ago". This is a definite past event.)

My grandfather and father **played** chess once a month (We are talking about a past habit.)





## Why do we use Present Perfect?

We use **Present Perfect** to talk about **indefinite past events**. We do not know when they happened in the past. There is no exact time reference but there is a connection with present. We also use it to talk about the *experiences* and **visible results of the past events**.

*for example...*

- My cousin **has finished** her homework. It's on teacher's desk now. (We don't know when he finished his homework. It's an *indefinite past event*.)
- I **'ve found** my old notebook. (I looked for it in the past and I found it in the past but *there is a visible result*: It is in my hand, and also there is *no time reference*.)
- I **'ve been** to Italy once. (It is an *experience* I had in the past once. The time period isn't finished: I can still get a chance to see it another time)





## How do we form Past Simple?

We put "-ed" to the end of the verb or use an **irregular verb**.

*for example...*

I **played** football yesterday.

I **ate** spaghetti last night.





## How do we form Present Perfect?

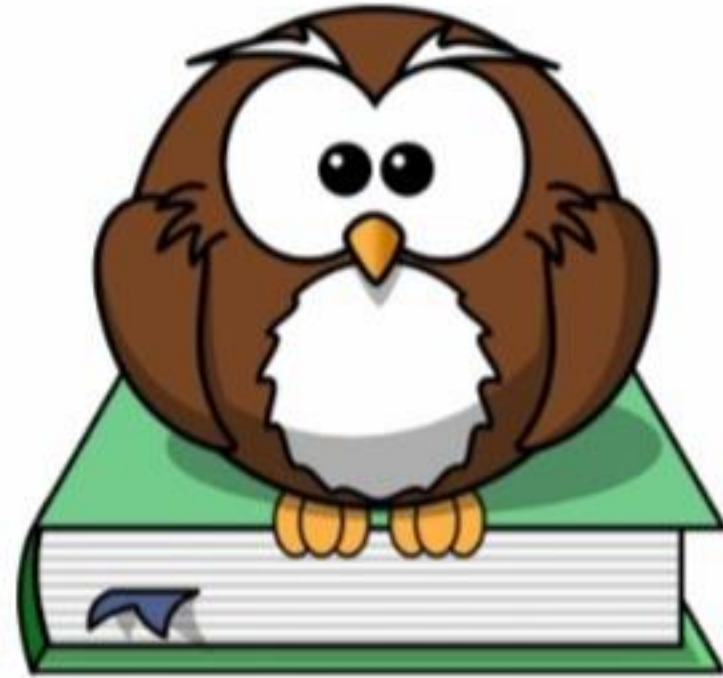
We use **have** or **has** as a helping verb and a **regular** (verbs which take -ed ending) or an **irregular verb**. The short form is '**ve** for have and '**s** for has.

*for example...*

I'**ve never played** rugby.

She'**s eaten** spaghetti.





### **How can we decide? Past simple or Present Perfect?**

The use of Present Perfect Tense is like the marriage of the past and present. When you use Present perfect Tense, you mention both present and past at the same time. Past Simple is only for talking about past. It is a completed past event. The time period is finished in past simple. However, in Present Perfect tense there is connection with the present: the action or state is finished but the time isn't finished.

#### ***for example...***

I **lived** in Rome in 2002. (The year 2002 is finished, and I'm not living in Rome.)

I **'ve lived** in Rome since I was born. (I lived in Rome in the past and I'm still living in Rome in present. The time period isn't finished.)





It's 11 o'clock and I've **drunk** six cups of tea this morning. *(It means it is still morning. Morning is not finished.)*

I **drank** six cups of tea this morning. It's eight o'clock in the evening now I don't want to drink anymore. *(Morning is finished. He can't drink tea anymore in the morning period.)*

I **have** never **listened** to Country music. *(It means my life period isn't finished I haven't listened but I can in the future.)*

He **didn't listen** to Country music when he was in the USA. *(His time in the USA finished and he can't listen to the Country music in the USA anymore.)*





Present Perfect tense talks about actions that connect past and present.

*for example...*

It **has rained**. vs. It **rained**. (In the first sentence, the effects of rain can still be seen, such as the raining has stopped but the ground is still wet. In the second sentence, there is no connection with the present.)





# Past Simple Tense Time Expressions

Past simple tense talks about definite past events. Therefore, we need to use time expressions that establish a separation between past and present.

*for example...*

- We went to Los Angeles **last summer**.
- I joined a wonderful Facebook group **in 2013**.
- Mary ate only a small sandwich **yesterday**.
- My father quit his job **on 21 October**.
- Tim started a new book **two days ago**.





We can use "when" conjunction as a past time expression to state a completed past time period. It'll function as same as a past time expression, although we combine two sentences.

*for example...*

They had great time **when we were at the amusement park.**

Maggie started her new job **when she went to the USA.**





# Present Perfect Time Expressions

Present Perfect tense talks about indefinite past events. Therefore, we need to use time expressions that establish a connection between past and present.

**for example...**

- I've watched this film **many times**.
- I've **just** finished the book.
- Tom has **already** finished his assignment.
- Have you **ever** been to China?
- I haven't completed my essay **yet**.
- My sister hasn't seen a whale **before**.





In Present Perfect tense we don't know the time when the action happened. There is not an exact time reference. On the other hand, in Past Simple we might know when or where the action happened. So we cannot ask a question with "when" in Present Perfect tense, but in Past Simple it is OK to ask with when;

***for example...***

When did you finish your homework?

When did you go to school yesterday?





## Where do we use Since or For?

We usually use "since" or "for" with Present Perfect tense. They express a situation which started in the past and continues up to present. We use since to talk about a starting point in the past and we use "for" to talk about a period.

### *for example...*

- I've been here since this morning.
- I've been here for eight hours.
- Tom's had this car since he came to London.
- Tom's had this car for ten years.





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