

# GRAMMAR

## PRESENT PERFECT VS SIMPLE PAST

# The internet

Do not confuse the present perfect with the simple past.

EXAMPLES	EXPLANATION
Compare: a. Sergey Brin <b>came</b> to the U.S. in 1979. b. Sergey Brin <b>has been</b> in the U.S. since 1979.	Sentences (a) show a single action in the past. This action does not continue.
a. Brin and Page <b>started</b> Google in 1998. b. Google <b>has been</b> popular since 1998.	Sentences (b) show the continuation of an action or state from the past to the present.
a. When <b>did</b> Brin <b>come</b> to the U.S.? b. How long <b>has</b> Brin <b>been</b> in the U.S.?	Question (a) with <i>when</i> uses the simple past tense. Question (b) with <i>how long</i> uses the present perfect tense.

Fill in the blanks with the simple past or the present perfect of the verb in parentheses ( ).

A: Do you like to surf the Internet?

B: Of course, I do. I've had (example: have) my Internet connection since 1999, and I love it. A couple of months ago, I \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) a new computer with lots of memory and speed. And last month I \_\_\_\_\_ (change) to a better service provider. Now I can surf much faster.

A: What kind of things do you search for?

B: Lots of things. I \_\_\_\_\_ (always/want) to learn about the stock market, and with the Internet, I can start to learn. Last week I \_\_\_\_\_ (make) my first investment in the stock market.

A: Do you ever buy products online?

B: Sometimes I do. Last month, I \_\_\_\_\_ (find) a great site where I can download music for 99¢. So far I \_\_\_\_\_ (download) about a hundred songs, and I \_\_\_\_\_ (make) several CDs. My old computer \_\_\_\_\_ (not/have) a CD burner, so I'm very happy with my new one.

A: \_\_\_\_\_ (you/sell) your old computer?

B: No. It was about eight years old. I just \_\_\_\_\_ (remove) the hard drive and \_\_\_\_\_ (leave) the computer on top of the garbage dumpster. When I \_\_\_\_\_ (pass) by a few hours later, it was gone. Someone \_\_\_\_\_ (take) it.

A: Was your new computer expensive?

B: Yes, but I \_\_\_\_\_ (get) a great deal online.

A: I \_\_\_\_\_ (have) my computer for three years, and it seems so old by comparison to today's computers. But it's too expensive to buy a new one every year.

B: There's a joke about computers: When is a computer old?

A: I don't know. When?

B: As soon as you get it out of the box!