

DEFINITION OF THE PRESENT PERFECT TENSE

The present perfect is used to indicate a link between the present and the past. The time of the action is **before now but not specified**, and we are often more interested in the **result** than in the action itself.

THE PRESENT PERFECT IS USED TO DESCRIBE

- An action or situation that started in the past and continues in the present. *I **have lived** in Bristol since 1984* (= and I still do.)
- An action performed during a period that has not yet finished. *She **has been** to the cinema twice this week* (= and the week isn't over yet.)
- A repeated action in an unspecified period between the past and now. *We **have visited** Portugal several times.*
- An action that was completed in the very recent past, expressed by 'just'. *I **have just finished** my work.*
- An action when the time is not important. *He **has read** 'War and Peace'.* (= the result of his reading is important)

Note: When we want to give or ask details about when, where, who, we use the simple past.

➤ ACTIONS STARTED IN THE PAST AND CONTINUING IN THE PRESENT (with SINCE and FOR)

- They ***haven't lived*** here for years.
- She ***has worked*** in the bank for five years.
- We ***have had*** the same car for ten years.
- ***Have you played*** the piano since you were a child?

➤ WHEN THE TIME PERIOD REFERRED TO HAS NOT FINISHED

- *I **have worked*** hard *this week*.
- It ***has rained*** a lot *this year*.
- We ***haven't seen*** her *today*.

➤ ACTIONS REPEATED IN AN UNSPECIFIED PERIOD BETWEEN THE PAST AND NOW.

- They ***have seen*** that film six times
- It ***has happened*** several times already.
- She ***has visited*** them frequently.
- We ***have eaten*** at that restaurant many times.

➤ ACTIONS COMPLETED IN THE VERY RECENT PAST (+JUST)

- ***Have you just finished*** work?
- I ***have just eaten***.
- We ***have just seen*** her.
- ***Has he just left***?

➤ WHEN THE PRECISE TIME OF THE ACTION IS NOT IMPORTANT OR NOT KNOWN

- Someone ***has eaten*** my soup!
- ***Have you seen*** 'THE TITANIC'?
- ***She's studied*** Japanese, Russian, and English.

TO WALK, PRESENT PERFECT

Affirmative	Negative	Interrogative
I have walked	I haven't walked	Have I walked?
You have walked	You haven't walked.	Have you walked?
He, she, it has walked	He, she, hasn't walked	Has he, she, it walked?
We have walked	We haven't walked	Have we walked?
You have walked	You haven't walked	Have you walked?
They have walked	They haven't walked	Have they walked?

Present Perfect - Mixed Exercise

Make the present perfect - positive, negative or question

- 1) (you / eat lunch yet)?
- 2) (he / read the newspaper today)?
- 3) (you / not / study French for ten years)
- 4) (they / be in London for six months)
- 5) (where / you / be)?
- 6) (we / not / go to Paris)
- 7) (she / not / see The Lord of the Rings)
- 8) (he / not / meet my mother)
- 9) (they / not / visit St. Paul's Cathedral yet)
- 10) (what / she / eat today)?