

GRAMMAR PLUS

PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE v. (versus) PAST SIMPLE
and PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

PRESENT PERFECT	VS.	PAST SIMPLE
1. The Present Perfect is used to describe past actions with present result. <i>Walter has just married Alice.</i>		The Past Simple is used to describe actions in a completed time period. <i>Walter married Alice in 1997.</i>
2. The Present Perfect often expresses an action or state that happened at an indefinite time in the past. <i>It's the best wine I've ever drunk.</i>		The Past Simple expresses a state or action that happened at a definite time in the past. <i>I drank this wine in 1999.</i>
3. The Present Perfect can express situations that are relevant to the present and continue at the present time. <i>She's been lucky all her life.</i> (She is still alive and still lucky.)		The Past Simple can only express situations that are completed. <i>She was lucky all her life.</i> (She is no longer alive.)
4. The Present Perfect is used to emphasise an unfinished time. <i>I haven't seen Keith this morning yet.</i> (It's still morning.)		The Past Simple is used to emphasise that the time is finished. <i>I didn't see Keith at all this morning.</i> (It's now afternoon/evening.)

PRESENT PERFECT VS. PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

1. The Present Perfect is used to focus on the completion of an action. <i>We've painted the whole house both inside and outside.</i>	The Present Perfect Continuous is used to focus on the fact that the action is still ongoing. <i>We've been painting the house but still have a lot to do.</i>
2. The Present Perfect is used to focus on the present result. <i>I've lived in London for five year</i>	The Present Perfect Continuous is used to focus on the duration of an action. <i>I've been living in London for</i>

<i>and now I'm moving to Paris.</i>	<i>five years now.</i>
3. The Present Perfect expresses the repeated actions with the focus on the result. <i>She has played with the symphony orchestra three times this season.</i>	The Present Perfect Continuous expresses temporary habits up to the present. <i>She has been playing with the symphony orchestra all season.</i>
4. The Present Perfect is used to express the result of a short-term action. — <i>What have you done?</i> — <i>I've cut my finger.</i>	The Present Perfect Continuous is used to express a temporary action with present result. <i>I'm rather wet. I've been washing the car.</i>

ACTIVITIES

Exercise 1. Choose the most appropriate tense underlined.

- I can't believe it, inspector. You mean that Smith stole / has stolen / has been stealing money from the till all this time!
- You three boys look very guilty! What did you do / have you done / have you been doing since I left / have left the room?
- Why on earth didn't you tell / haven't you told me about that loose floorboard? I tripped / have tripped over it just now and hurt myself.
- It's a long time since I saw / have seen / have been seeing your brother Paul. What did he do / has he done / has he been doing lately?
- I can't believe that you ate / have eaten / have been eating three pizzas already! I only brought / have only brought them in fifteen minutes ago!
- Don't forget that you didn't see / haven't seen Mrs Dawson. She has waited / has been waiting outside since 10.30.
- What did you think / have you thought of Brighton? Did you stay / Have you stayed there long?
- I feel really tired. I weeded / have weeded / have been weeding the garden for the last three hours and I didn't rest / haven't rested for a single moment.
- I'm having problems with David. He has called / has been calling me up in the middle of the night and told / telling me all his troubles.
- How long did you have / have you had / have you been having driving lessons? And did you take / have you taken / have you been taking your test yet?