D Present perfect simple

We use the present perfect simple:

- for an action that happened in the past at an indeterminable time. We do not refer to when the action happened because we do not know or it does not concern us.
  I've met Sarah. She's a nice girl.
- to describe an action that happened in the past but that influences or has a visible effect on the present.
  Dad has washed the car. It's clean.
- to refer to an action that started in the past and is continuing in the present.
  Mr Allan has been a teacher for twenty-five years.
- to refer to an action that happened during a period of time that has not ended yet.
  I've read three books this month.
- to talk about experiences that we have or have not had in our life.
  Have you ever met anyone famous?
  She's never had an accident before.
  This is the funniest story I've ever heard.
  This is the first time I've seen a lion.
- to refer to an action which has just been completed. In this case, we usually use just.
  We have just had lunch.

Time markers

Some time markers that we often use with the present perfect simple are:

- for: **We've known them for years.**
- since: **We've known them since 1992.**
- already: **It's only four o'clock, but he's already left.**
- yet: **Have you finished yet? They haven't called us yet.**
- just: **She isn't here. She has just left the building.**
- ever: **Have you ever eaten frogs' legs before?**
- never: **I have never heard that singer.**
- always: **She has always wanted to visit Spain.**
- lately/recently: **We haven't seen them lately.**
- so far: **They haven't made any mistakes so far.**
- today/this morning: **I have had two cups of coffee this morning.**
- How long...?: **How long have you been here?**

E Have gone to – have been to

We use have been to to refer to the fact that somebody went somewhere in the past but has now returned.

We use have gone to to refer to the fact that somebody has gone somewhere and is still there and has not returned.

Sarah has been to Japan. (She has returned.)
Sarah has gone to Japan. (She is still there.)

7 Form sentences using the *present perfect simple*.

Tip

Already and just go before the passive participle.
Yet goes at the end of the sentence.
For refers to the duration of an action.
Since refers to the point in time when an action started.

1 I / eat / four sandwiches (today)
I have eaten four sandwiches today.

2 Charles / be / a fan of the Rolling Stones (always)
.....

3 they / leave (already)
.....

4 you / visit / Peru? (ever)
.....

5 we / not do / the shopping (yet)
.....

6 I / finish / my homework (just)
.....

7 she / ride / a horse (never)
.....

8 you / tidy / your room? (yet)
.....

9 we / have / this car (for years)
.....

10 I / not see / Tim (since Monday)
.....

11 they / live / in this town? (how long)
.....

12 we / hear / the good news (just)
.....

LIVEWORKSHEETS

8 Rewrite the sentences using the word given.

1 I've never driven a car before. **time**
This is the ___first time I've driven___ a car.

2 This is the first time we've visited Australia. **never**
We ..... before.

3 I've never read such a good book before. **best**
This is the ..... read.

4 She is the prettiest girl I've ever seen. **never**
I ..... such a pretty girl before.

5 He has never done anything so silly before. **time**
This is the first ..... anything so silly.

6 This is the first time I've tasted Chinese food. **have**
I ..... Chinese food before.

7 This is the most beautiful country they've ever visited. **never**
They ..... such a beautiful country.

9 Complete with the correct form of *have gone* or *have been*.

1 Aurora is not here at the moment. She ___has gone___ to the bank.

2 I ..... just ..... to the shops. Would you like to see my new dress?

3 Jake ..... out. He won't be long.

4 The Smiths are on holiday. They ..... to Ireland.

5 We ..... never ..... to France.

6 She isn't at home. She ..... to the park.

7 Tim is on a business trip. He ..... to Kent.

8 I ..... to lots of countries but Greece is my favourite.

9 Myra ..... to the supermarket. She'll be back in half an hour.

10 ..... you ever ..... to Moscow?

F **Present perfect continuous**

We use the present perfect continuous:

- for an action that started in the past and is being repeated or is continuing until the present time.
  I've been learning English for six years.
- for an action that has recently been completed. There is usually some indication in the present that this action has happened.
  His clothes are dirty. He's been repairing the car.

Time markers
Some time markers that we often use with the present perfect continuous are: How long? for, since, recently, lately.

10 Read and complete. Use the *present perfect continuous*.

Mrs Elliott: Adam! You're covered in mud! What (1) ___have you been doing___ (you / do)?

Adam: I (2) ..... (play) football.

Mrs Elliott: I (3) ..... (look) everywhere for you, young man! (4) ..... (you / play) football all this time? It's eight o'clock!

Adam: Oh, no! I'm late! I'm meeting Laura at nine. We're going to a concert.

Mrs Elliott: Oh no, you aren't. You're going straight to bed. You (5) ..... (not sleep) enough.

Adam: But Mum, ...

Mrs Elliott: Don't argue with me, Adam! You (6) ..... (spend) too much time with your friends lately. And you (7) ..... (not do) very well at school.

Adam: But, Mum, I (8) ..... (wait) for this concert for weeks! Please.

Mrs Elliott: Well, all right. But you have to promise you'll work harder from now on.

Adam: I promise! Thanks, Mum!

LIVEWORKSHEETS

11 Rewrite the sentences using the word given.

1 He started working here three months ago. **has**
He has been working here for three months.

2 Kate started playing the violin when she was five. **been**
Kate ..... since she was five.

3 She began reading three hours ago. **for**
She ..... three hours.

4 Rob started learning English in 1998. **been**
Rob ..... 1998.

5 I started cleaning the garage two hours ago. **have**
I ..... for two hours.

6 Stanley started writing that article at two. **since**
Stanley has ..... two.

7 It started raining an hour ago and it's still raining. **for**
It ..... an hour.

8 Dad started watching TV at seven. **been**
Dad ..... seven.

9 He started looking for a new job five months ago. **has**
He ..... for a new job for five months.

10 The children began playing football at ten. **since**
The children ..... ten.

11 The baby fell asleep an hour ago and she hasn't woken up yet. **sleeping**
The baby ..... an hour.

12 We began digging in the garden this morning. **have**
We ..... in the garden since this morning.

13 The police began looking for the missing child a few hours ago. **been**
The police ..... for the missing child for a few hours.

14 They started eating at eight. **since**
They ..... eight.

G Present perfect simple and present perfect continuous

Present perfect simple	Present perfect continuous
▶ With the present perfect simple, we refer to an action that has been completed. What interests us most is the result of this action. **She has washed the car.** **It's clean now.**	▶ With the present perfect continuous, the action may or may not have been completed. What interests us most is the action itself, not whether it has been completed. **She has been washing the car.**
▶ With the present perfect simple, we are not interested in the duration of the action but in the fact that it has been completed. **She has typed six letters today.**	▶ With the present perfect continuous, we emphasise the duration of the action that is continuing in the present. **She has been typing letters all morning and still has a lot to do.**

The verbs work and live are used in the same way in both the present perfect simple and the present perfect continuous without making any difference to the meaning of the sentence.
We have lived / have been living here since 1998.
He has worked / has been working at the office for six years.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

12 Complete with the *present perfect simple* or *present perfect continuous*.

1 I haven't played (not play) volleyball for a long time.

2 The children are very tired. They ..... (play) volleyball.

3 She's a very famous writer. She ..... (write) eleven books so far.

4 She ..... (write) this book for a year. She hasn't finished it yet.

5 They ..... (not be) to the theatre for ages.

6 You look really tired. What ..... (you / do)?

7 I started reading this book a week ago. I ..... (read) fifty pages so far.

8 I ..... (not ride) a bike since I was nine.

9 He's got a very big stamp collection. He ..... (collect) stamps since he was six.

10 ..... (you / ever / travel) to another country?

11 Laura's in the attic. She ..... (clean) it all day.

12 Sorry I'm late. ..... (you / wait) long?

13 Sam ..... (just / call) to say he'll be home late tonight.

14 I ..... (not do) all my homework yet.

LIVEWORKSHEETS