

Past simple and present perfect

GRAMMAR RECALL

Past Simple and Present Perfect

Read the sentences on the left and match them to a usage on the right.

1. I bought their CD two days ago.
2. He's lost his mobile phone.
3. I've lived in London for three years
4. I've visited Japan many times.

- a. Use the **present perfect** to describe events that are completed up to now without stating a specific time.
- b. Use the **present perfect** to express an action which happened in the past but which has a result in the present.
- c. Use the **present perfect** to describe an action or situation that started in the past and continues into the present.
- d. Use the **past simple** to refer to a completed action that happened in the past.

'Ago' is often used with the past simple: *ten minutes ago*; *a year ago*

'For' and 'since' are often used with the present perfect: *for two years*; *since 2005*

5 Choose the correct alternative in each sentence.

1. They've lived in London **for / since** five years.
2. I **visited / have visited** the Royal Opera House two days **since / ago**.
3. I haven't downloaded any music **for / since** last week.
4. I've had my new MP3 player **for / since** two weeks.
5. I **went / have been** to a rock concert three weeks ago.
6. She's been playing the guitar **for / since** 2005.