The Present Perfect

We use this tense for unfinished and finished actions.

Unfinished Actions

1: We use this tense when we want to talk about unfinished actions or states or habits that started in the past and continue to the present. Usually we use it to say 'how long' and we need 'since' or 'for'. We often use stative verbs.

- 'Since' and 'For'

  - We use 'since' with a fixed time in the past (2004, April 23rd, last year). The fixed time can be another action, which is in the past simple (since I was at school, since I arrived).

  - We use 'for' with a period of time (2 hours, three years, six months).

Finished Actions

2: Life experience. These are actions or events that happened sometime during a person's life. We don't say when the experience happened, and the person needs to be alive now. We often use the words 'ever' and 'never' here.

3: With an unfinished time word (this month, this week, today). The period of time is still continuing.

>>> We CAN'T use the present perfect with a finished time word.

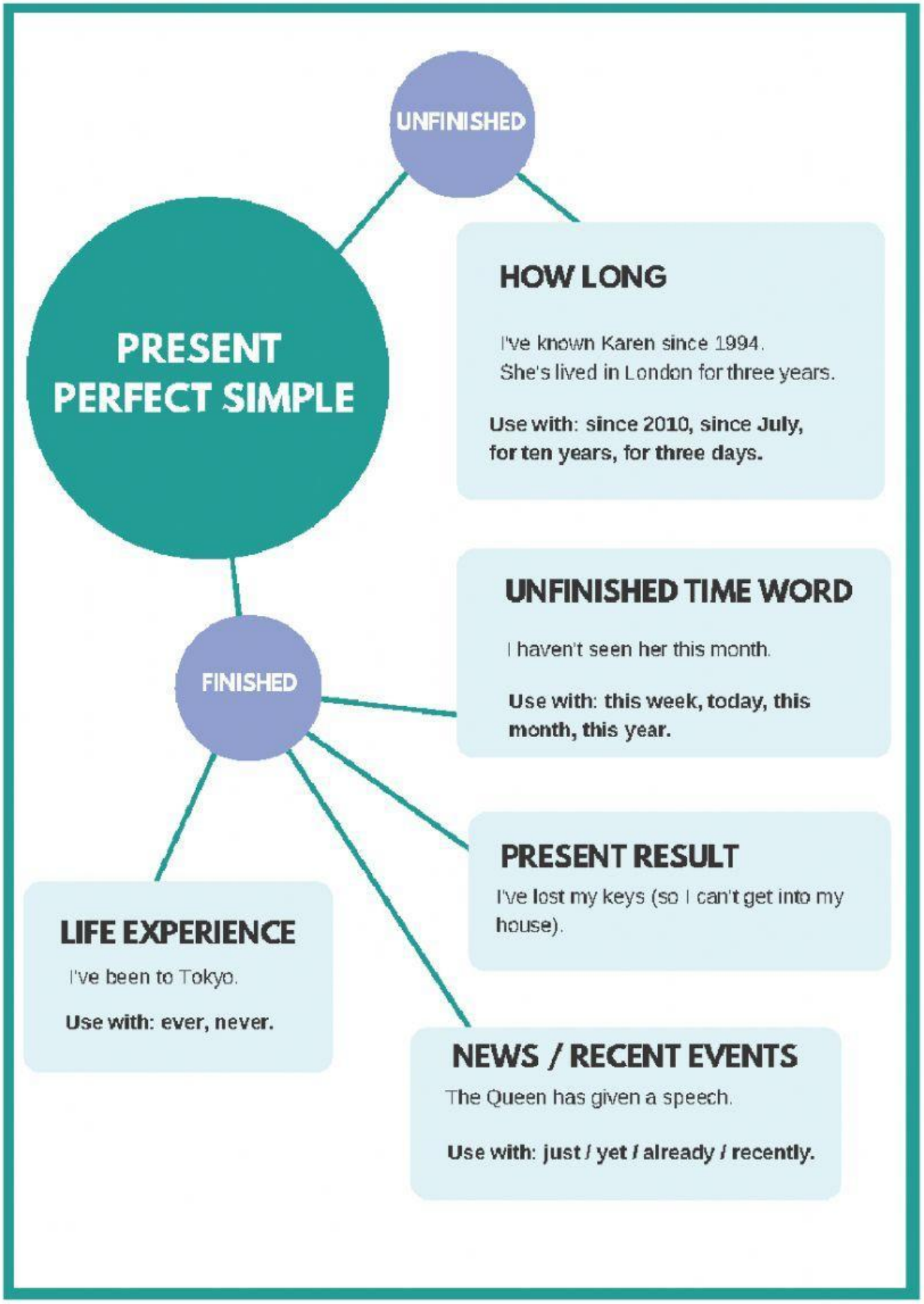
4: A finished action with a result in the present (focus on result). We often use the present perfect to talk about something that happened in the recent past, but that is still true or important now. Sometimes we can use the past simple here, especially in US English.

5: We can also use the present perfect to talk about something that happened recently, even if there isn't a clear result in the present. This is common when we want to introduce news and we often use the words 'just / yet / already / recently'. However, the past simple is also correct in these cases, especially in US English.

To make the positive present perfect tense, use:

- **'have' / 'has'** + the **past participle**
- Make the past participle by adding **'ed' to regular verbs** (for example, 'play' becomes 'played')
- There are a few verbs that change their spelling when you add 'ed' (for example, 'study' becomes 'studied')
- We also have some completely **irregular verbs**
- The negative is really simple too. Just put 'not' after 'have' or 'has'
- To make a question, put 'have' or 'has' in front of the subject
- As you can imagine, for 'wh' questions, we just put the question word before 'have' or 'has'

LIVEWORKSHEETS



LIVEWORKSHEETS

Choose the *present perfect* or *past simple*:

1. I _____ (see) three police cars this morning (it's still morning).
2. After he _____ (arrive) home, he _____ (unpack) and _____ (go) to bed early.
3. A: What's wrong?
   B: I _____ (break) a glass!
4. My grandparents only _____ (know) each other for a few months before they _____ (get) married.
5. I _____ (be) in London for three years. I love it here.
6. We _____ (see) Julie last night.
7. He _____ (be) a teacher before he _____ (become) a musician.
8. When the boss _____ (walk) into the room, we _____ (know) someone was going to get fired.
9. The children _____ (break) a window in the school last week.
10. He _____ (see) that film last year.
11. Lucy _____ (break) her leg, so she can't come skiing.
12. Julie _____ (arrive)! Come and say hello!
13. They _____ (be) cold when they _____ (arrive) home.
14. Jack _____ (break) his arm when he _____ (fall) off a horse in 2005.
15. I _____ (know) about the problem for months, but I _____ (not / find) a solution yet.
16. A: When _____ (you / arrive)?
    B: At 10pm last night.
17. She _____ (be) a teacher for ten years, and she still enjoys it.
18. How long _____ (you / know) Jill? I know you see her often.
19. I _____ (see) the sea before.
20. A: Hello
    B: Hi Mum, it's me. I just wanted to say I _____ (arrive) safely and everything is fine.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Complete the sentences with for / since / ever / never:

1. Mark and Yolanda have been married _____ 22 years.
2. They have been at the same address _____ 1992.
3. Yolanda has been a teacher _____ 1990.
4. Right now, Clark is at the school gym. He has been there _____ 9.00 this morning.
5. Clark has been at the gym _____ three hours now.
6. He has been on the school basketball team _____ a year.
7. Clark has also been the top student in his class _____ three years.
8. Nick has been Clark's best friend _____ 1996.
9. Nick and Clark have been in the same class _____ many years.
10. Nick is always with Clark. Nick has been with Clark _____ this morning.
11. This is the only time the children have _____ been to the theatre.
12. She has _____ bought a car before.
13. Have you _____ seen such a lovely picture?
14. She'd _____ spoken English before she came to London.
15. She's wanted to be a writer _____ since she was a teenager.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

The Present Perfect Continuous

Unfinished actions

1: To say how long for unfinished actions which started in the past and continue to the present. We often use this with 'for' and 'since'.

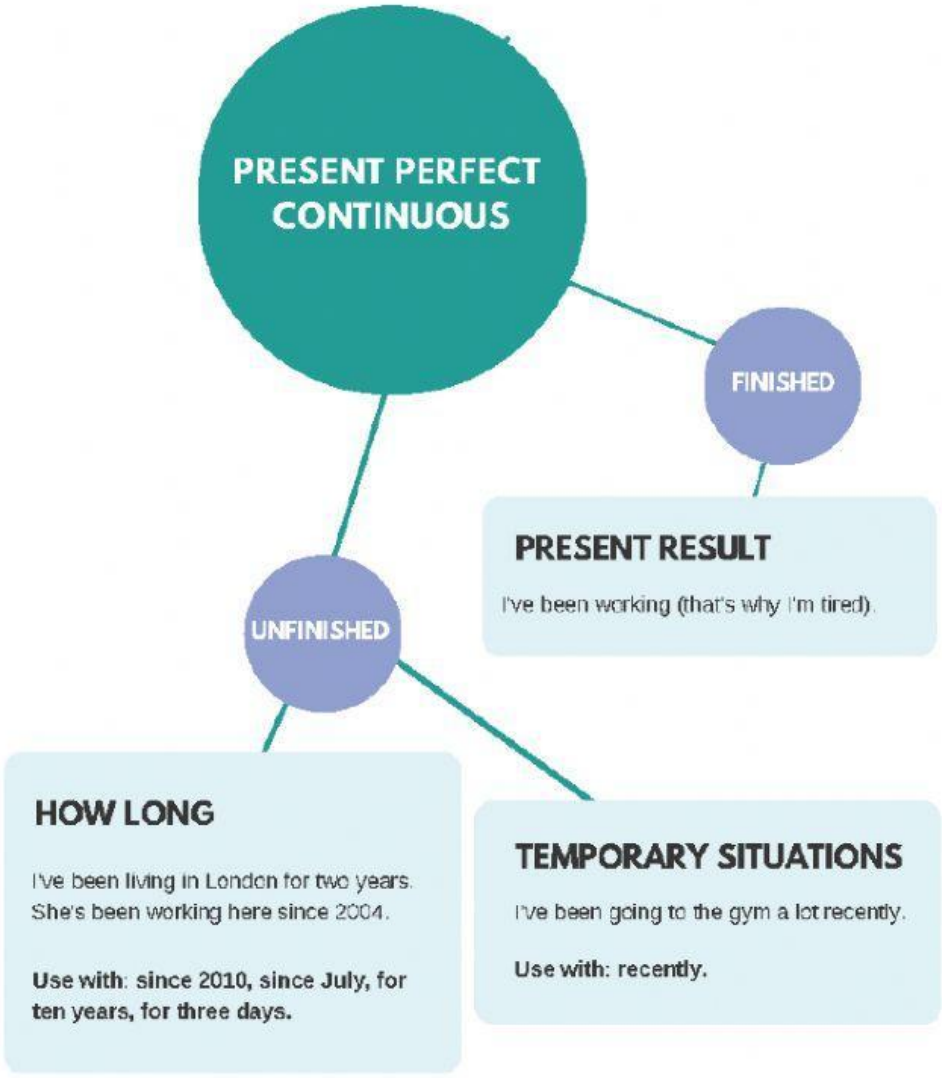
2: For temporary habits or situations. The action started in the past and continues to the present in the same way as with use number 1, but we don't answer the questions about 'how long' so clearly. Instead, we use a word like 'recently'.

This is very similar to the use of the present continuous for temporary habits and often either tense is possible.

Finished actions

3: Actions which have recently stopped (though the whole action can be unfinished) and have a result, which we can often see, hear, or feel, in the present. We don't use a time word here.

The present perfect simple has a very similar use, which focuses on the result of the action, whereas the present perfect continuous focuses on the action itself.



LIVEWORKSHEETS

Choose the *present perfect* or *present perfect continuous*:

1. I _____ (not / do) the housework yet.

2. They _____ (study) very hard recently.

3. She _____ (promise) to help many times.

4. He _____ (clean) the kitchen. Everything is sparkling clean.

5. She _____ (write) her essay and _____ (send) it to her professor.

6. He _____ (see) the film 'The King's Speech' about six times.

7. We _____ (paint) our living room. I think it looks a lot better.

8. She _____ (take) French lessons lately.

9. It _____ (not / rain) for three hours! Only about one hour.

10. Lucy _____ (already / leave).

11. How many times _____ (you / visit) Scotland?

12. I _____ (call) John for hours and hours and he hasn't answered. I'm really angry with him!

13. I _____ (be) in London for three years.

14. We _____ (know) James for ages.

15. It's really smelly in here. _____ (somebody / smoke)?

16. How much petrol _____ (she / buy)?

17. She _____ (eat) chocolate all morning, so she feels sick.

18. I _____ (paint) my house all day, but it's not finished yet.

19. Julie _____ (be) at the office since 6 am.

20. The writer _____ (deserve) this award for a long time.

LIVEWORKSHEETS