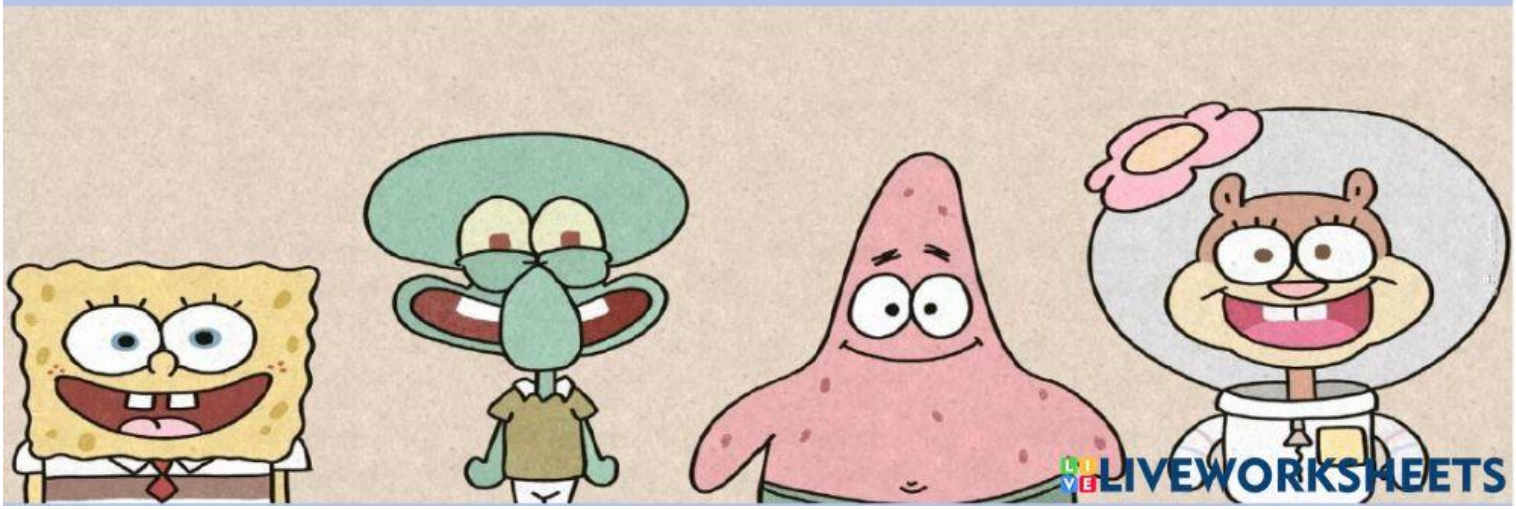
Past simple tense VS Present perfect tense



LIVEWORKSHEETS

PAST SIMPLE TENSE	PRESENT PERFECT TENSE
S + V.2 (Subject + V.2)	S + have, has + V.3

We use the past simple for:
- an action which happened at a stated time in the past.

We use the present perfect for:
- an action which happened at an unstated indefinite time in the past.

They **bought** a big house **ten years ago**.
(When? Ten years ago. The time is mentioned.)

They **have bought** a yacht.
(When? We don't know. The time is not mentioned.)

- an action which started and finished in the past.

- an action which started in the past and is still continuing into the present.

Tom Crown **was** an actor for twenty years.
(He is not an actor any more.)

Tom Crown **has been** a director for three years.
(He started working as a director three years ago and he still is.)

LIVEWORKSHEETS