

## Past simple tense VS Present perfect tense



# PAST SIMPLE TENSE

S + V.2 (Subject + V.2)



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



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

• an action which started and finished  
in the past.



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

# PRESENT PERFECT TENSE

S + have, has + V.3

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



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

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



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