

Present perfect simple / simple past

➤ In these transformations, THE SIMPLE PAST usually refers to a **point** in the past, often using the word **ago or in**:

- I came her 10 years **ago** (or **in** 2010)

➤ THE PRESENT PERFECT, on the other hand, usually refers to the **period** between this point in the past, and now. We often use **since + a point**, or **for + a period**:

- I've been here **for 10 years**.
- I've lived here **since 1983**.

➤ You will often need to change the verb; some verbs refer to the **starting** of the action (using the simple past):

I came here..... I arrived in Britain.....

I started this job..... I got my driving licence.....

while other verbs refer to the **duration** of an action (using the present perfect).

I've been here..... I've been doing this job....

I've been working..... I've been living...

I've had.... I've known.....

1. Change the sentences from the **simple past** to the **present perfect**, as in the example.

a. **I started living here five years ago.**

I've lived here for five years.

b. When did you start this job?

How long _____

c. My English studies started in 1991.

I've _____

d. When did you come to the USA?

How long _____

e. When did you buy your car?

How long _____

f. They stopped smoking last year.

They haven't _____

And these sentences from **the present perfect** to the **simple past**.

g. How long have you been a vegetarian?

When _____

h. She's been driving since she was 18.

She _____

i. How long have you been studying English?

When _____

j. I've been waiting for the bus for 55 minutes!

I _____

