

PRESENT PERFECT TENSE

THE USE OF THE PRESENT PERFECT TENSE

- ▶ It's used to talk about actions that have a present result.
- ▶ The present perfect tense is also used to talk about actions that started in the past and continue up to the present.
- ▶ We often use this tense to talk about experiences in life or to announce a recent happening.
- ▶ When we use this tense we are interested in the action itself, not in the time when it happened. We can't use past time expressions with this tense.



COMMON EXPRESSIONS WITH THE PRESENT PERFECT

- We use "**BEEN**" when we want to say somebody has gone to a place and has already returned from that place.
- We use "**GONE**" when we want to express somebody has gone somewhere and is still there.
- **ALREADY** is used in affirmative sentences before the past participle.
- **JUST** is used before the past participle to mean that something happened not a long time ago.
- **YET** is used in negative sentences with the meaning of "still". It's placed at the end of the sentence.
I haven't met Bob yet.
- In questions yet has the same meaning as already and it is placed at the end of the question.
- **NEVER** is used before the past the past participle to mean you have not experienced something in your life.
- **EVER** is used before the past participle to know if you have experienced something in your life.
- **FOR** is used to talk about the duration of an action.
I have lived here for 20 years.
- **SINCE** is used with a point in time.



1 Complete the sentences using a suitable verb from the list in the Present Perfect and the word in brackets in the right place when given.

PUT VISIT DO PLAY GO
ASK START INTERVIEW SOLVE
BE PHONE FINISH BUY NOT BE

1. Pablo López _____ a very famous pop star in the street. (just)
2. The manager _____ designing the plan for the stage yet.
3. Pablo _____ the problem on the board and now he can continue composing. (already)
4. Alan _____ out a fire before. It's his first time. (never)
5. Pablo L. And his girlfriend _____ the shopping. (already)
6. _____ Alan _____ his manager yet? – Yes, he did it ten minutes ago.
7. Pablo _____ his friend to help him with the song lyrics. (just)
8. _____ you _____ computer games? – Yes, I often do. (ever)
9. Pablo's friend _____ in bed since the beginning of this week.
10. Look! It _____ snowing. It is the first time this winter. (just)
11. Pablo and his girlfriend _____ to Venice on holiday. They are going to stay there for a couple of weeks. (JUST)

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2 Complete the sentences with "since" or "for".



- 1) Pablo's been in Madrid four weeks.
- 2) Pablo's neighbour has been ill a long time. He's been in hospital June.
- 3) His friend has lived in Barcelona 20 years.
- 4) Nobody lives in that house. It has been empty ages.
- 5) Pablo López is in London. She's been there a fortnight.
- 6) They have been friends last year.
- 7) He has lived in Mijas almost 12 years.
- 8) Pablo has worked for this music company over two years.
- 9) Pablo L. has been my friend we met at primary school.
- 10) Pablo L. has have had this car a long time.
- 11) It has not stopped raining in Mijas this morning.
- 12) He's been singing the beginning of this year.
- 13) He's been working at the music studio 9 am.
- 14) Pablo and his girlfriend have been on holiday a couple of weeks.
- 15) Pablo hasn't seen her ages!

3 Fill in the spaces below using either JUST, YET or ALREADY.

1. Clean your shoes before you come in. I have washed this floor!!!
2. Have you finished reading the book I lent you last week? Yes, I have finished it.
3. I have met Susana in the street.
4. Is Susana in? - No, sorry. She has gone out.
5. She has finished painting . It looks really nice now.
6. Pablo has come back from New York. I haven't seen him
7. Would you like a cup of coffee?. No, thanks. I have had one.
8. Pablo and his girlfriend haven't had a baby They would like to have one, at least.
9. Pablo's brother has arrived from his trip to the USA and has brought him lots of beautiful presents.
10. Have you met the king ?



4 Complete with "been" or "gone". Match with the pictures.

- 1) He's on holiday at the moment. He's _____ to Spain.
- 2) 'Where's Pablo?' 'He's not here. I think he's _____ to the bank.'
- 3) 'Hello, Sue. Where have you _____ ' 'I've _____ to the gym.'
- 4) 'Have you ever _____ to Mexico?' 'No, never.'
- 5) My parents aren't at home this evening. They've _____ to a restaurant for dinner.
- 6) There's a new theatre in town. Have you _____ to it?
- 7) Paris is a nice city. I've _____ there many times.
- 8) Martha was here earlier but I think she's _____ to the park with her dog.
- 10) Hello! I've just _____ to the shops. I've bought lots of things.

PRESENT PERFECT vs SIMPLE PAST

Perfect Present - Past Simple

(I have sung) (I sung)

When do we use them?



PRESENT PERFECT

The Present Perfect is used to link the present and the past. The Present Perfect

1. To talk about **an action which started in the past and continues today**.
For and since are used to express duration.
◇ I have lived here **for** 10 years. I have lived here **since** 1998.
(I arrived here 10 years ago and I am still here.)
2. To refer to **past events in an unfinished period of time** :
◇ I have written two letters today.
(Two letters are written but today is not finished.)
3. To talk about **recent events that have just happened or been announced** :
◇ There has been a plane crash near the coast.
(We know the event took place but we don't know **when**.)
4. To talk about a **past action with a result in the present** :
◇ I've broken my arm. I can't drive. (= because my arm is broken now)
5. To talk and ask about **experiences or accomplishments up to the time of speaking, but at no specific time**.
"I'm a writer. I've written 9 books."
"Have you **ever** written a biography?" "No never."



PAST SIMPLE

The Past Simple is used to talk about past events which happened in a **finished period of time**.

The Past Simple is used :

1. **When the period of time is finished** :
◇ I wrote two letters yesterday. (Yesterday is finished.)
2. **When the time is mentioned, either a precise time in the past, or a time expression which clearly situates the event in the past:**
◇ I lived in the country ... until the age of 6
... when I was young
... from 1985 to 1992
... before we moved to London
... a long time ago



★: As a general rule, if you can answer the question "when?", use the Past Simple

PRESENT PERFECT vs SIMPLE PAST

PRESENT PERFECT OR PAST SIMPLE?

1- Right or wrong? Correct the underlined verbs if they are incorrect.

1. Pablo arrived last week
2. Have you seen Susana last week?
3. I have finished my work
4. I have finished my work at 2 o'clock
5. When have you finished your work?
6. My niece has left school three years ago
7. "Where's my mother?" She 's gone to the cinema
8. Freddy Mercury has died in 1991
9. Have you ever been to Britain?
10. I haven't seen you at the party on Friday

2- You choose! Present perfect or past simple?

1. My friend is a writer. She (write) many books
2. We (not have) a holiday last year
3. (you see) my brother last week?
4. I (play) paddle yesterday evening
5. What time (you go) to bed last night?
6. (you ever be) to the United states?
7. My hair is clean. I (wash) it
8. I (wash) my hair before breakfast this morning
9. When I was a child, I (not like) sports
10. My mum loves travelling. She (visit) many countries
11. My friend works in a bookshop. He (work) there for three years

4- You choose! Present perfect or past simple?

1. Our visitors.....they are waiting for us in the garden.
a) have arrived b) arrived
2. My motherthe Tv, but yesterday, it broke down again,
a) repaired b) has repaired
3. Pablo L.his wallet He can't find it anywhere
a) lost b) has lost
2. The Unicaja match They are playing it now.
a) has started b) started
3. My cousin.....away from home. However, she came back two days later.
a) has run b) ran
4. Pablo L.a lot of money last week. Yet, I'm afraid he has already spent it all.
a) earned b) has earned
5. We a tree in the garden at Easter. Unfortunately, it has died
a) have planted b) planted
6. Prices.....up. Things are more expensive this week.
a) went b) have gone
7. Someonethe CD. I can hear it.
a) has turned on b) turned on
8. Ithe office at eleven. My manager isn't there today, they said.
a) have phoned b) phoned
9. Ia cake! Would you like a piece?
a) made b) have made
10. Pablo Lópeza new car.
a) have bought b) bought.

