

Present Perfect

Past Simple

It's called the Present Perfect for a reason!

Present means that the time period is still 'present' - it is **not finished**.

Perfect means that the action/event is 'perfected' - it is **completed**.

Unfinished periods		Finished periods	
Have you seen her today ?	today	yesterday	Did you see her yesterday ?
I haven't slept enough this week .	this	last	I didn't sleep enough last week .
I've seen him twice since New Year .	since	before	I didn't drink wine before New Year .
I haven't eaten anything for 6 hours .	for (up to now)	for (finished now)	I lived in my old house for 5 years.
Have you ever eaten sushi?	a living person's life (ever/never)	a dead person's life (ever/never)	Did Henry VIII ever eat sushi?
I have never ridden an elephant.			Henry VIII never rode an elephant.
I have been to Paris three times.			Henry VIII went to Paris three times.
I've seen them twice in the last year	in the last	when	I saw them when I was in Paris .
They have just left.	just*	when...?	When did they leave?
Have you found it yet ?	yet	ago	We found it 10 minutes ago .
They still haven't arrived.	still	in	They arrived in September.
We have already finished.	already*	at	We finished at 16:30.
I haven't driven much lately .	lately	on	I didn't sleep enough on Friday.
I haven't had much work recently .	recently**	recently**	I got a promotion at work recently .
What have you done so far ?	so far		

* In American English the **past simple** is often used with **just** and **already**.

** **Recently** sometimes means 'in the last few days/weeks', but it can also mean 'a short time ago'.

In the first case, we use **present perfect** - I haven't seen him **recently**.

In the second case, we use **past simple** - I read something about it **recently**.

You probably have different words for these cases in your first language.

have gone or have been

The verb **to go** has two forms in the present perfect.

He **has gone** to London means he has left but he **hasn't come back yet**.

He **has been** to London means he went to London and came back.

So - we use has gone for **uncompleted trips** and has been for **completed trips**.

Present Perfect

Past Simple

It's called the Present Perfect for a reason!

Present means that the time period is still 'present' - it is **not finished**.

Perfect means that the action/event is 'perfected' - it is **completed**.

Unfinished periods		Finished periods	
Have you seen her today ?	today	yesterday	Did you see her yesterday ?
I haven't slept enough this week .	this	last	I didn't sleep enough last week .
I've seen him twice since New Year .	since	before	I didn't drink wine before New Year .
I haven't eaten anything for 6 hours .	for (up to now)	for (finished now)	I lived in my old house for 5 years.
Have you ever eaten sushi?	a living person's life (ever/never)	a dead person's life (ever/never)	Did Henry VIII ever eat sushi?
I have never ridden an elephant.			Henry VIII never rode an elephant.
I have been to Paris three times.			Henry VIII went to Paris three times.
I've seen them twice in the last year	in the last	when	I saw them when I was in Paris .
They have just left.	just*	when...?	When did they leave?
Have you found it yet ?	yet	ago	We found it 10 minutes ago .
They still haven't arrived.	still	in	They arrived in September.
We have already finished.	already*	at	We finished at 16:30.
I haven't driven much lately .	lately	on	I didn't sleep enough on Friday.
I haven't had much work recently .	recently**	recently**	I got a promotion at work recently .
What have you done so far ?	so far		

* In American English the **past simple** is often used with **just** and **already**.

** **Recently** sometimes means 'in the last few days/weeks', but it can also mean 'a short time ago'.

In the first case, we use **present perfect** - I haven't seen him **recently**.

In the second case, we use **past simple** - I read something about it **recently**.

You probably have different words for these cases in your first language.

have gone or have been

The verb **to go** has two forms in the present perfect.

He **has gone** to London means he has left but he **hasn't come back yet**.

He **has been** to London means he went to London and came back.

So - we use has gone for **uncompleted trips** and has been for **completed trips**.