

# 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

Have you seen her <b>today</b> ?	<b>today</b>
I haven't slept enough <b>this week</b> .	<b>this</b>
I've seen him twice <b>since New Year</b> .	<b>since</b>
I haven't eaten anything <b>for 6 hours</b> .	<b>for (up to now)</b>
Have you <b>ever</b> eaten sushi?	<b>a living person's life (ever/never)</b>
I have <b>never</b> ridden an elephant.	
I have been to Paris three times.	
I've seen them twice <b>in the last year</b>	<b>in the last</b>
They have <b>just</b> left.	<b>just*</b>
Have you found it <b>yet</b> ?	<b>yet</b>
They <b>still</b> haven't arrived.	<b>still</b>
We have <b>already</b> finished.	<b>already*</b>
I haven't driven much <b>lately</b> .	<b>lately</b>
I haven't had much work <b>recently</b> .	<b>recently**</b>
What have you done <b>so far</b> ?	<b>so far</b>

## Finished periods

<b>yesterday</b>	Did you see her <b>yesterday</b> ?
<b>last</b>	I didn't sleep enough <b>last week</b> .
<b>before</b>	I didn't drink wine <b>before New Year</b> .
<b>for (finished now)</b>	I <b>lived</b> in my old house for 5 years.
<b>a dead person's life (ever/never)</b>	Did Henry VIII <b>ever</b> eat sushi?
	Henry VIII <b>never</b> rode an elephant.
	Henry VIII went to Paris three times.
<b>when</b>	I saw them <b>when I was in Paris</b> .
<b>when...?</b>	<b>When</b> did they leave?
<b>ago</b>	We found it <b>10 minutes ago</b> .
<b>in</b>	They arrived <b>in</b> September.
<b>at</b>	We finished <b>at</b> 16:30.
<b>on</b>	I didn't sleep enough <b>on</b> Friday.
<b>recently**</b>	I got a promotion at work <b>recently</b> .

\* 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**.