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.

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

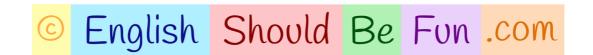
have gone or have been

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.



^{*} 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.