

Present Perfect

Present Results

We use **present perfect** or **present perfect continuous** to talk about things that happened (or didn't happen) in the *past* which have a result in the *present*.

Result in the present

event in the past

My account is empty because I have spent all my money.
We can relax now because all the guests have left.
I am going to celebrate because I have passed all my exams.
It looks like something terrible has happened here.
I have to call the police because someone has stolen my wallet.
Be quiet! The film has started.
I hope you are hungry because I have made a lot of food.
We need to buy lots of drinks because I have invited a lot of people.
I can't drive the car because I have drunk a glass of wine.

Result in the present

no event in the past

I can't drive because I haven't passed my test.
I am still working because I haven't finished my essay.
There's no food in the fridge because I haven't been to the shop.
I don't know what she wants because she hasn't told me.

Result in the present

process in the past*

He can't walk in a straight line because he's been drinking.
She is really sweaty because she's been running.
The kids are dirty because they've been playing in the garden.
I'm wearing my glasses because I've been driving.
The dog is wet because it's been swimming in the river.
The baby is calm because she's been sleeping.

* Many European languages have an imperfect aspect. In this case, you should probably use present perfect continuous when you would use an imperfect in your language.

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