

Present Perfect -Form

We form the Present Perfect with **have** and the **past participle**
(regular verbs: infinitive + -ed; irregular verbs: 3rd column of the table of the irregular verbs)

have/has + **past participle**

has: 3rd person singular (he, she, it)

have: all other forms

past participle:

- regular verbs: **infinitive** + **-ed**

- irregular verbs: **3rd column** of the table of the irregular verbs

Affirmative sentences

regular verbs

I/we/you/they **have played**
football.

He/she/it **has played** football.

irregular verbs

I/we/you/they **have gone** to the supermarket.

He/she/it **has gone** to the supermarket.

NOTE: We use **has** in the 3rd person singular (he, she, it).

Negative sentences

regular verbs

I/we/you/they **have not played**
football.

He/she/it **has not played** football.

irregular verbs

I/we/you/they **have not gone** to the
supermarket.

He/she/it **has not gone** to the supermarket.

NOTE: We use **has** in the 3rd person singular (he, she, it).

Questions

regular verbs

Have I/we/you/they
played football?

Has he/she/it **played** football?

irregular verbs

Have I/we/you/they **gone** to the supermarket?

Has he/she/it **gone** to the supermarket?

NOTE: We use **has** in the 3rd person singular (he, she, it).

Present Perfect - Use

The Present Perfect is not easy to understand for ESL learners. It is a combination of past and present. An action in the past has something to do with the present.

1) Result of an action in the past is important in the present (It is not important when this action happened. When we use a specific time in the past - e.g. yesterday - then we use the Simple Past.)

I **have cleaned** my room. (*It is clean now.*)

Has Peggy ever **been** to Tokyo? (*Has Peggy been there or not?*)

2) Recently completed actions

He **has** just **played** handball. (*It is over now.*)

3) Actions beginning in the past and still continuing - mostly with **since** (point of time) or **for** (period of time)

We have lived in Canada **since** 1996. (*We still live there.*)

We have lived in Canada **for** ten years (*We still live there.*)

4) together with lately, recently, yet

I **have been** to London recently. (*no specific point of time*)

He **has not written** the e-mail yet. (*He has not done it.*)

Present Perfect - Diagram

We use the Present Perfect for actions in the past which have a connection to the present. The time when these actions happened is not important.

Present Perfect



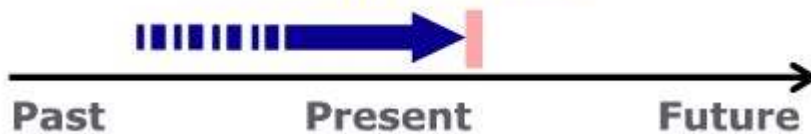
We use the Present Perfect for recently completed actions.

Present Perfect



We use the Present Perfect for actions beginning in the past and still continuing.

Present Perfect



Present Perfect -Indefinite time expressions

These words tell you what tense you have to use. For the Present Perfect the following words are used frequently:

just
yet
never
already
ever
so far
up to now
recently
since
for

Often when we look back on the recent past we use the words 'just' 'already' or the word 'yet' (in negatives and questions only).

- I've just finished.
- She's just arrived.
- We've already spoken about that.
- They've already met.
- I haven't finished yet.
- They don't know yet.
- Have you spoken to him yet?
- Has he got back to you yet?

"HAVE BEEN" or "HAVE GONE"?

Have been is used to talk about completed visits.

Have gone implies that the person has not yet returned.

- **have been**

Have you ever been to Europe?

I've been to Europe twice.

He has never been to Japan.

- **have gone**

Where is Tom?

He has gone to Europe.

Past simple

Observe the difference between the present perfect and the simple past

We use the past simple to talk about actions and states which we see as completed in the past.

We can use it to talk about a specific point in time.

- She came back last Friday.
- I saw her in the street.
- They didn't agree to the deal.

It can also be used to talk about a period of time.

- She lived in Tokyo for seven years.
- They were in London from Monday to Thursday of last week.

- When I was living in New York, I went to all the art exhibitions I could.

You will often find the past simple used with **definite time expressions** such as these:

- Yesterday
- three weeks ago
- last year
- in 2002
- from March to June
- in the 1980s
- in the last century
- in the past

We use the Simple Past when we talk about something which started and finished in the past.



We use the Simple Past to describe a series of actions in the past.



We use the Simple Past (red) together with the Past Progressive (grey). The action in the Simple Past interrupted the action in the Past Progressive (the one which was in progress).

