Present Perfect (see also *Inside Grammar* from page 115 to page 128)

**FORM:** subject+ has/have + past participle  (verb + ed for regular verbs
3rd column for irregular verbs)

*Examples:* I have never been to the U.S.A.
He has already talked to the teacher.

*Negative:* We haven’t done our homework.
He hasn’t talked to the teacher.

*Question:* Have you done your homework yet?
Has he talked to the teacher?

REMEMBER THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN *have been* (= andato e tornato) AND
*have gone* (= solo andato).
Ex: Where’s John? He’s gone to the supermarket.
    Susan has been in London twice
Usage

• We use the present perfect to talk about **experiences** in general, or things that happened in an **unspecified past** or about actions that still have a relation with the present.

• We use it with **FOR and SINCE**:
  I haven’t studied for three months
  I haven’t studied since June

FOR indicates the duration of the action(for ten minutes, a couple of days, ten years, a while, a long time, ages...)
SINCE indicates the moment when the action started (since two o’clock, May, 1984, last Saturday...)

We use it with the **following adverbs**:

• **Recently, lately.**
  *McEwan has recently written a new novel (or He has written a new novel recently).*

• **Ever, never:** to talk about experiences in an unspecified time during our lives.
  *Have you ever read any novel by McEwan?*
  *He has never tried fish and chips.*
• **Just and already** in positive sentences (between *have* and *past participle*):
  
  Example: *I’ve just written an email.* (=appena)
  *He has already seen a doctor* (=già)

• **Still** in negative sentences to say that something hasn’t changed.
  
  POSITION: soon after the subject
  
  Example: *I still haven’t found what I’m looking for.* (= non ancora)

• **Not….yet**: in negative sentences to say that something hasn’t happened but we think it will happen.
  
  POSITION: at the end of the sentence.
  
  Ex: *We haven’t invited Susan yet* (= non ancora)

• **Yet ?** In questions to ask if something has already happened.
  
  Ex: *Have you closed the door yet?* (=già)

SEE ALSO **INSIDE GRAMMAR** FROM PAGE 115 TO PAGE 130.
PRESENT PERFECT
We use it to talk about experiences happened in an unspecified past or with unfinished actions.

We use it with the following time expressions:
Ever, never, recently, lately,
Today, this week, this month,
Just, already, still, yet

In questions with how long...?

PAST SIMPLE
We use it to talk about events that happened in a specific time in the past and for actions that are finished.

We use it with the following time expressions:
Yesterday, a week ago, last year, in 1984.

In questions with when?
Present perfect simple vs present perfect continuous
(see also Inside Grammar pages 139-142)

Present perfect simple

• It tells us about the result of an action. It’s also used when we talk about quantities.

Ex: I started reading at 3 o’clock. I have read 20 pages so far.
Yesterday I started painting my house. I’ve painted 3 rooms so far.

Present perfect continuous

• It tells us about the duration of the action.

Ex: I started reading at 3 o’clock. I’ve been reading for two hours!
Yesterday I started painting my house. I’ve been painting for a day!

Remember: we don’t use the continuous form with state verbs! (be, have, belong, need, want; believe, know, think, understand, imagine, remember, like, love, prefer; hear, taste, sound)