

Present Perfect (see also *Open Space* from page 258 to page 265)

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.

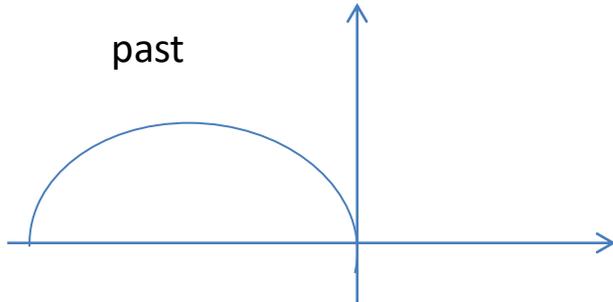
- **Just and already** in positive sentences (between *have* and *past participle*):
Example: I've just written an email. (=appena)
He has already seen a doctor (=già)
- **Still** in negative sentences to say that something hasn't changed.
 POSITION: soon after the subject
Example: I still haven't found 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 OPEN SPACE UNIT 15.

Present Perfect vs Simple Past (see also *Open Space* unit 15)

PRESENT PERFECT

We use it to talk about experiences happened in an unspecified past or with unfinished actions.



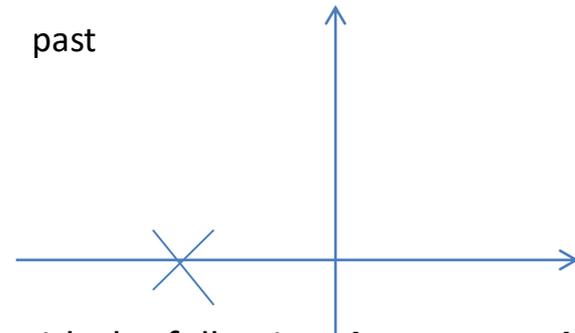
We use it with the following **time expressions**:

*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 *Open Space* page 278)

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)