



SIMPLE PAST V PRESENT PERFECT

The **present perfect** is used when the **time period has NOT finished**.

- I **have seen** two horror movies **this week**.
- I **have been** to London twice **this year**.
(This week/year has not finished yet)

The **simple past** is used when the **time period HAS finished**.

- I **saw** three movies **last week**.
- I **went** to London **last year**.
(Last week/year has finished)

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The **present perfect** is used when the **time is not specific**.

- I **have seen** that movie **already**.
- I've **met** Frank at the supermarket.
(We don't know when)

The **simple past** is used when the **time is clear**, the action happened at a certain time in the past (even if it was just a few seconds ago).

- I **saw** that movie **on Saturday night**.
- I **met** John five minutes **ago**.
(We know exactly when)

3

The **present perfect** is used with **for** and **since** when the **actions have not finished** yet (unfinished actions that started in the past and continue to the present)

- I **have lived** in London **for five years**.
(I still live in London)
- I **have worked** in this bank **for ten years**.
(I still work there)

The **simple past** is used with **for** when the **actions have already finished**.

- I **lived** in London **for five years**.
(I don't live in London now)

4

The **present perfect** is often used when giving **recent news**.

- Mary **has crashed** her car again.
- My brother **has broken** his glasses.
(This is new information, event occurred in recent past)

The **simple past** is used when giving **older information**.

- Mary **crashed** her car last year.
- My brother **broke** his glasses.
(This is old information, event occurred in the past)

5

The **present perfect** is used for a **finished action with a result in the present**.

- I've **lost** my keys!
(The result is that I can't get into my house/car now).

The **simple past** is used with a **finished action with no result in the present**.

- I **lost** my keys yesterday. It was terrible!
(Now there is no result. I got new keys yesterday)

6

The **present perfect** is used to talk about **experiences**:

- a) **ever**
Have you ever been to the USA?
- b) **never**
I've never eaten snails.
- c) **always**
I've always wanted to go to London.
- d) **once/twice/three times**
I've seen this film three times.
- e) **so far**
I've read 10 books so far.
- f) **It's the first/second/third time...**
It's the first time I've eaten this food.

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PRESENT PERFECT + for, since = Duration

Using the present perfect, we can define a period of time before now by considering its **duration**, with **for + a period of time**, or by considering its **starting point**, with **since + a point in time**.

For + a period of time
for three years, **for** a week, **for** a month, **for** hours, **for** five hours.
I have worked in London **for** five years.

Since + a point in time
since this morning, **since** last week, **since** yesterday, **since** I was a child, **since** Friday, **since** 3 o'clock.
I have worked in London **since** 1990.

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SIGNAL WORDS

Simple past

- yesterday
- a minute ago
- last night
- in 1998
- the other day
- last Monday/week
- last month/year
- from ... to ...
- When?

Present perfect

- just
- already
- up to now
- until now / till now
- ever /never
- (not) yet /yet?
- for/since
- so far
- lately / recently
- once/twice/ three times
- How long...?

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1. When _____ the company?

- a) have you joined
- b) did you joined
- c) did you join
- d) have you ever joined

2. _____ in Saudi Arabia?

- a) Did you ever worked
- b) Have you ever worked
- c) Worked you
- d) Didn't you have worked

3. That's the best presentation _____.

- a) I never heard
- b) I didn't hear
- c) I used to hear
- d) I've ever heard

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4. He's the most difficult customer _____.

- a) I never dealt with.
- b) I never had to deal with.
- c) I've ever had to deal with.
- d) I've never had to deal with.

5. _____ to her last week.

- a) I spoke
- b) I've already spoken
- c) I didn't spoke
- d) I speaked

6. _____ a binding contract last year and it is still valid.

- a) We have signed
- b) We signed
- c) We haven't signed
- d) We have sign

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7. The reason I look so brown is that _____ from a business trip to Sardinia.

- a) I come back
- b) I came back
- c) I never came back
- d) I've just come back

8. Sales _____ in 1991 but then _____ in 1995.

- a) risen falled
- b) rose fell
- c) have risen have fallen
- d) rose have fallen

9. You _____ to a word _____.

- a) listened I haven't said
- b) didn't listen I say
- c) listened saying
- d) haven't listened I've said

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10. It's obvious that _____ this report.

- a) you haven't read
- b) you didn't read
- c) you don't read
- d) you read not

11. He _____ there when he was a child.

- a) has lived
- b) lived

12. I _____ her since last year.

- a) haven't seen
- b) didn't see

13. They _____ a few minutes ago.

- a) left
- b) have left

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14. She _____ unemployed since she left school.

- a) has not been
- b) was not

15. They _____ the contract last week.

- a) finalised
- b) have finalised

16. The film _____ yet.

- a) hasn't started
- b) didn't start

17. She _____ ill since Thursday.

- a) was
- b) has been

18. I _____ the project last night.

- a) have finished
- b) finished

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1.A: Did you like the movie "Notting Hill?"

B: I don't know. I _____ (see, never) that movie.

2. John _____ (arrive) in Las Vegas a week ago.

3. My best friend and I _____ (know) each other for over ten years. We still get together once a month, for a pizza.

4. Pilcher is a fantastic writer. She _____ (write) many very creative short stories in the last year.

5. I _____ (have, not) this much fun since I _____ (be) a kid.

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1) A few days ago I _____ a very interesting programme on television about polar bears. (to watch)

2) I went to the circus when I _____ Paris. (to visit)

3) I already _____ too much. I should stop now because I have to drive home. (to drink)

4) Oh! I _____ my watch. Have you seen it? (to lose)

5) Last Saturday I _____ a lot at my friends' wedding. I couldn't drive back home. (to drink)

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Sources

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