



UNIT 1

PAST SIMPLE VS PRESENT PERFECT PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE VS CONTINUOUS

FACOLTÀ DI SCIENZE ECONOMICHE, GIURIDICHE E POLITICHE
UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI CAGLIARI

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USE OF PAST SIMPLE VS. PRESENT PERFECT

have/has + past participle

PAST SIMPLE

- WHEN THE TIME PERIOD HAS FINISHED

I SAW 3 MOVIES LAST WEEK (LAST WEEK IS FINISHED).

- WHEN GIVING OLDER INFORMATION

MARTIN CRASHED HIS CAR LAST YEAR.

- WHEN THE TIME IS CLEAR

I SAW THAT MOVIE ON THURSDAY (WE KNOW EXACTLY WHEN).

PRESENT PERFECT

- WHEN THE TIME PERIOD HAS NOT FINISHED

I HAVE SEEN 3 MOVIES THIS WEEK (THIS WEEK HAS NOT FINISHED YET).

- WHEN GIVING RECENT NEWS

MARTIN HAS CRASHED HIS CAR AGAIN.

- WHEN THE TIME IS NOT SPECIFIC

I HAVE SEEN THAT MOVIE ALREADY (WE DON'T KNOW WHEN).

USE OF

PAST SIMPLE VS. PRESENT PERFECT

have/has + past participle

PAST SIMPLE

-WITH 'FOR' WHEN THE ACTIONS HAVE ALREADY FINISHED

I LIVED IN LONDON FOR 5 YEARS (I DON'T LIVE THERE NOW).

-USED WITH TIME WORDS: E.G. YESTERDAY, LAST SATURDAY, LAST WEEK, THREE MONTHS AGO, WITH SPECIFIC DATES (IN 1990).

I LIVED HERE FOR 3 YEARS (I DON'T LIVE HERE ANY MORE)

PRESENT PERFECT

-WITH 'FOR' AND 'SINCE', WHEN THE ACTIONS HAVE NOT FINISHED YET

I HAVE LIVED IN LONDON FOR 5 YEARS (I STILL LIVE THERE).

-IT CONNECTS THE PAST AND THE PRESENT,

-WHEN WE USE SINCE/FOR, SO FAR, JUST, ALREADY, YET, NEVER/EVER, ETC.

I HAVE LIVED HERE FOR 3 YEARS. (I STILL LIVE HERE)

USE OF

PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE VS. PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

have/has + past participle

PRESENT PERFECT

- HE HAS TAUGHT ENGLISH IN FIVE DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.
- HAVE YOU BEEN ROUND THE NATIONAL GALLERY?
- I'VE BEEN TO SPAIN BUT I HAVEN'T BEEN TO ITALY.
- OH YOU'VE HAD A HAIRCUT!
- TEN PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KILLED IN THE MOTORWAY LAST MONTH.
- I'VE NEVER SEEN A MORE BEAUTIFUL GIRL!
- WE'VE ALWAYS GONE TO THE SEASIDE IN THE SUMMER.
- HOW LONG HAVE YOU HAD THIS PROBLEM?

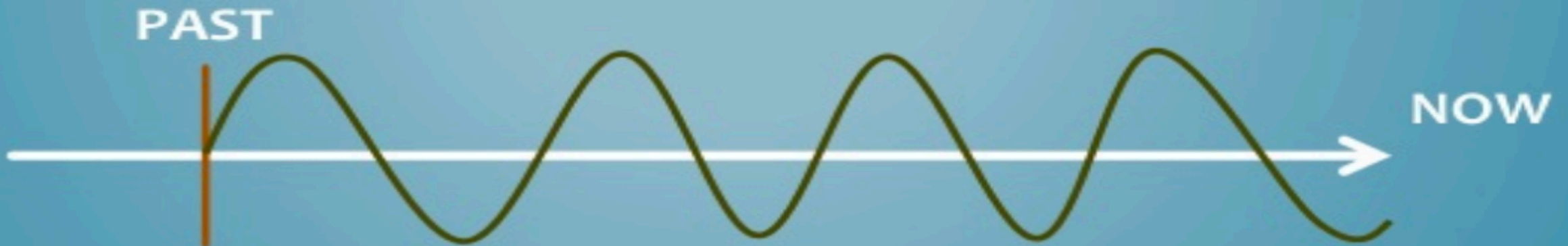
have/has + been + V-ing

PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

- WHEN SOMETHING HAS BEEN TAKING PLACE UP TO PRESENT
- WHERE HAVE YOU BEEN?
- I'VE BEEN PLAYING FOOTBALL.
- MY COMPANY HAS BEEN MONITORING MY INTERNET USAGE.

PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

We use the **present perfect continuous** when the focus is on an activity that is unfinished.



PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

*I'VE READ THAT BOOK
YOU LENT ME.*

*I'VE BEEN READING
THAT BOOK YOU LENT
ME.*

I FINISHED IT YESTERDAY.

**I'VE GOT ANOTHER 50 PAGES
TO READ.**

The present perfect
simple (*I've read*)
gives **the idea of
completion.**

The present perfect
continuous (*I've been
reading*) suggests
that **something is
unfinished.**

PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE VS. PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

SOMETIMES THERE'S REALLY **NO DIFFERENCE** IN MEANING BETWEEN THE TWO TENSES. THIS IS ESPECIALLY THE CASE WITH VERBS SUCH AS **'LIVE', 'WORK' AND 'STUDY'**.

- They've lived in London **since** 2004.
- They've been living in London **since** 2004.
- I've studied French **for** ten years.
- I've been studying French **for** ten years.
- He's worked at the company **since** 2009.
- He's been working at our company **since** 2009.

PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE VS. PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

THE PRESENT PERFECT IS USED WITH THE FOLLOWING TIME EXPRESSIONS:

- *For*
- *Since*
- *Already*
- *Yet*
- *Always*
- *Just*
- *Ever*
- *Never*
- *So far*
- *Today*
- *This week/month*
- *How long*
- *Lately*
- *Recently*
- *Still (in negations)*

THE PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS IS USED WITH THE FOLLOWING TIME EXPRESSION:

- *For*
- *Since*
- *How long*
- *Lately*
- *Recently*

USE OF

PRESENT PERFECT VS. PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

have/has + past participle

PRESENT PERFECT

- WITH VERBS OF MENTAL PROCESS: *KNOW, LIKE, UNDERSTAND, BELIEVE, ETC.*
 - *THEY HAVEN'T KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR VERY LONG.*
- WITH VERBS OF THE SENSES: *HEAR, SMELL, TASTE:*
 - *HAVE YOU HEARD THE NEWS?*

PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

- DON'T USE WITH VERBS OF MENTAL PROCESS: *KNOW, LIKE, UNDERSTAND, BELIEVE.*
 - ~~*THEY HAVEN'T BEEN KNOWING EACH OTHER FOR VERY LONG.*~~
- USE IT WITH: *THINK*
 - *I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT YOU !*
- DON'T USE WITH VERBS OF THE SENSES: *HEAR, SMELL, TASTE:*
 - ~~*HAVE YOU BEEN HEARING THE NEWS?*~~