

Present Perfect Simple

1. The present perfect simple

Have / Has + Past Participle

The present perfect simple is used to say that an action happened at an unspecified time before now. The exact time is not important that is why you cannot use it with specific time expressions such as: yesterday, last week, one day, etc, but with unspecific time expressions such as: ever, never, once, already, yet, etc.

We also use the present perfect simple to say that an action has just happened. We add 'just' between the auxiliary and the participle.

	An action that began in the past and continues until the present.
	An action that has just happened.
	An action that took place at an undetermined time in the past.

Some examples will help to make this clearer:

Type of action	Examples	Explanations
Past action connected to the present	I have studied English for three years.	I began studying three years ago and I am still studying.
Recent action	The match has just started.	The match started about 5/10 minutes ago.
An action at an unspecific time	I have been to France.	I have had the experience of being in France.

If we compare the present perfect simple and the past simple, the past simple indicates what happened at a specific time in the past while the present perfect simple locates the action at an unspecific time. For example: I paid for the tickets, but I haven't collected them yet.

Time expressions:

The most common time expressions that are used with the Present Perfect Simple are:

Since	'desde'	'I have lived here since 2004'.
For	'durante'	'I have lived here for two years'.
Yet (- / ?)*	'todavía, aún, ya'	'Have you finished your homework yet?'
Recently	'recientemente'	'He has visited Susan recently'.
Lately	'últimamente'	'Have you seen Peter lately?'
<p>These ones are used at the end of the sentence. Although 'since' and 'for' are always followed by an expression. For example, <i>since 2004</i> or <i>for two years</i>.</p> <p>*We use 'yet' in negative and interrogative sentences.</p>		
Already (+)*	'ya'	'I have already watched that film'.
Just	'acabar de'	'I've just seen my sister'.
Ever	'alguna vez'	'Have you ever eaten Chinese food?'
Never	'nunca'	'They've never visited London'.
<p>These ones are used between the auxiliary 'have' and the past participle of the main verb.</p> <p>*We use 'already' mainly in affirmative sentences.</p>		