1. **Present Perfect Simple or Continuous?**

**Differences in use**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE | PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS |
| An action that is completed:  ***I’ve used*** *an electronic microscope before.* | An activity that is still continuing or has just ended:  ***I’ve been using*** *an electronic microscope since I started my work on the project.* |
| The result of the action is important:  *He* ***has repaired*** *the microscope.*  (It’s ready for use.) | The cause of the of the result is important:  *Why is Karl tired?*  ***He’s been repairing*** *the microscope.* |
| *To answer the question ‘how much?’ or ‘how many?’*  ***We’ve analyzed*** *three hundred samples,* | To answer the question ‘how long?’  ***We’ve been analyzing*** *the samples for two weeks.* |
| Time expressions: *always, recently, before, ever, already, just, still, yet, for and since*  *She’s* ***always*** *worked in this lab.*  *She has worked there* ***since*** *she graduated*. | Time expressions: *for, since* (NOT *always, yet*)  *She has been working in this lab* ***for*** *years.*  *~~(She’s always been working in this lab.)~~* |

1. **State verbs and the continuous form**

With **state verbs** we use the **present perfect simple**, not the present perfect continuous.

examples:

***I’ve known*** *Ben since I was six. ~~(I’ve been knowing Ben since I was six.)~~*

***Have you ever owned*** *a car?*

***I‘ve never had*** *a computer of my own.*

\*Some state verbs (e.g. live, work, teach, study) describe action which continues over a period of time, not a single event. We can use these verbs with for and since in the present perfect simple and continuous. There is little difference in meaning.

examples:

*How long* ***have you lived / have you been living*** *here?*

***We’ve lived / have been living*** *here for two years.*

*Alice* ***has studied / has been studying*** *math for nine years.*