**Present Perfect or Past Simple?**

**Differences in use**

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| PRESENT PERFECT | PAST SIMPLE |
| Single or repeated actions in the past, when we don’t know the date of the action or it isn’t important:  *He* ***has*** *just* ***passed*** *this test****.***  *I’****ve*** *already* ***taken*** *this course****.***  Time expressions: before, ever, already, just and yet | Single or repeated actions that happened at a definite time in the past.  *He* ***passed*** *the test in May.*  *I* ***took*** *this course last year.*  Time expressions: yesterday, last month, in 2016, etc*.* |
| Situations that started in the past and are still continuing:  *Tom* ***has lived*** *in this room for two years.*  (He’s living there now.)  Time expressions: *for* + period of time, or *since* + date | Situations that started and finished in the past.  *Tom* ***lived*** *in this room for two years.*  (He isn’t living there now.)  Time expressions: *for* to say how long the situation lasted |
| One or more completed actions in a time period that is still continuing:  *We* ***have written*** *two tests this week.*  Time expressions: this morning / evening, today, so far, etc. | Completed actions in a time period that is finished.  *We* ***wrote*** *two tests a week ago.*  Time expressions: *ago* (a period before now) |