

Past Simple

We use the past simple for

- ❖ **A short completed action**

He opened the car door.

- ❖ **A sequence of actions**

He opened the door, got out and walked towards the animal.

- ❖ **Stories and description of past events**

One day the Princess decided that she didn't like staying at home.

- ❖ The simple past is often used with words referring to finished times (e.g., yesterday morning, last month etc.).

Present Perfect Simple

Have/has + past participle

- ❖ I haven't bought any CDs recently
- ❖ I've read that book.

We use the present perfect simple:

When we don't know exactly when an activity or a situation started

- ❖ They've released a new album (they produced it in the past, but it's new and available now).

Present Perfect Simple (2)

We use the present perfect simple:

To talk about activities and situations that started in the past and continue in the present.

We usually use FOR to talk about a period of time and SINCE to talk about a point in time.

Compare:

- ❖ I've lived in London for 3 years.
- ❖ They've lived there since 1994.

Present Perfect Simple (3)

We use the present perfect simple:

To talk announce news of recent events

- ❖ Andy has won a big prize.

To say that something happened several times up to the present

- ❖ I've written six letters since lunchtime.

To talk about actions and situations that have continued up to the present

- ❖ I've known her for years.

Present Perfect Simple (4)

N.B.

The past participle of go is *gone* (= go and stay away) but we also use *been* (= go and come back)

Compare:

1. He's gone to his brother's house. (He's still there)
2. I've been to the shops (I went there and now I'm home again).

for: a couple of days, a few months, a while,
ages, centuries, some time, years

since: 1986, I was a child, July, last Monday,
lunchtime, my last holiday, the day before
yesterday

Already

We often use the present perfect to talk about recent past with *already*, *just*, *yet*.

We use *already* in affirmative sentences and questions to say that something has happened earlier than expected.

- ❖ -You must go to Scotland. - I've already been
- ❖ Have you already finished? That was quick!
- ❖ She's already here.

Yet

In questions, we use *yet* to ask whether something expected has happened.

- ❖ Is supper ready yet?
- ❖ Has the postman come yet?

Not yet is used to say that something which is expected has not happened (but we think that it will)

- ❖ -Is sally here? -Not yet.
- ❖ The postman hasn't come yet.

Just

Just has several meanings:

Time

We use just in affirmative sentences to say that something happened very recently.

- ❖ He's just come back from work.
- ❖ We just caught the train.

'Only'

- ❖ I just want somebody to love me.
- ❖ Etc.