

What's the difference?

Present Perfect and Past Simple

Present Perfect Simple	Past Simple
<p>Unfinished actions that started in the past and continue to the present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I've known Julie for ten years (and I still know her). 	<p>Finished actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I knew Julie for ten years (but then she moved away and we lost touch).
<p>A finished action in someone's life (when the person is still alive: life experience):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> My brother has been to Mexico three times. 	<p>A finished action in someone's life (when the person is dead):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> My great-grandmother went to Mexico three times.
<p>A finished action with a result in the present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I've lost my keys! (The result is that I can't get into my house now). 	<p>A finished action with no result in the present:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I lost my keys yesterday. It was terrible! (Now there is no result. I got new keys yesterday).
<p>With an unfinished time word (this week, this month, today):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I've seen John this week. 	<p>With a finished time word (last week, last month, yesterday):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> I saw John last week.

[Click here for more information about the present perfect tense](#)

[Click here for more information about the past simple tense](#)

Remember:

- We use the past simple for past events or actions which have no connection to the present.
 - We use the present perfect for actions which started in the past and are still happening now
OR for finished actions which have a connection to the present.
 - We CAN'T use the present perfect with a finished time word:
 - NOT: I've been to the museum yesterday.
- [Present perfect or past simple exercise 1](#)