

Theory - Lesson #01

Present Perfect Simple:

- **Situations and states that started in the past and are still true:**
I've **been** a member of *NASA* for over five years.
- **A series of actions continuing up to now:**
She's **done** a BA, an MA and a PhD so far.
- **Completed actions at a time in the past which is not important or relevant:**
Have you ever **read** any books by *Edward De Bono*?
- **Completed actions where the important thing is the present result:**
She's **been awarded** a scholarship to study at Harvard.

Words and phrases often used with the present perfect simple:

Since/ For/ It's the first/second/etc time/ Before/ Already/ Yet/ Ever/ Just/ Still/ Recently/ Up to now/ (Up) until now/ So far

Present Perfect Continuous:

- **Actions and situations continuing up to the present (or just before the present):**
We've all **been wondering** what to get Tony for his birthday and we just can't decide.
- **The future (in time clauses):**
I won't take my driving test until I've **been having** lessons for at least two months.

Watch Out!:

- We usually use the present perfect simple to specify a particular number of times/things:

I've **written** two essays this week.

- We usually use the present perfect continuous to emphasize the duration of an action/situation:

(X) I've **worked** here for five years. (no emphasis)

(✓) I've **been working** here for five years. (emphasizes the duration)

Words and phrases often used with the present perfect continuous:

Since/ For/ Just/ All day/week/etc

Past Simple:

- **Single completed actions:**
*Sony and Philips **invented** the Cd in the early 1980s.*
- **Repeated or habitual actions in the past:**
We **moved** house a lot when I was a kid.
- **General truths about the past:**
Early clocks **were** usually very unreliable.

Past Continuous:

- **Actions in progress around a particular moment in the past:**
At the turn of the twentieth century, many discoveries **were being made** in physics and other sciences.

- **Actions in progress at a particular moment in the past:**
We **moved** house a lot when I was a kid.
- **Temporary situations and series of actions in the past:**
At the time, I **was working** for a large software company in California.

Phrasal Verbs:

Phrasal Verbs	
brush up(on)	practise and improve your skills or knowledge of something
come up with	think of something such as an idea or a plan
face up to	accept something and try to deal with it
figure out	be able to understand something or solve a problem; understand what someone is like and why they behave in the way they do
hit upon	suddenly have an idea; discover something by chance

Phrases and Collocations:

Phrases and Collocations	
basis	basis for, on a daily/temporary/etc basis, on the basis of/that
associate	associate with
consideration	take into consideration, give consideration to
focus	focus on, the focus of/for, in focus, out of focus
impression	have/give the (false) impression that, do an impression (of)

Idioms:

Idioms	
go to your head	if success goes to your head, it makes you think that you are better or more important than you really are
have your wits about you	be able to think quickly and make sensible decisions
in the dark (about)	not knowing very much about something, because other people are keeping it secret from you
know what's what	know the important facts about a situation
ring a bell	something that rings a bell sounds familiar to you, although you cannot remember the exact details