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.

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| **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.

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| **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/situatiion:**  (**X**) I**'ve worked** here for five years. (no empahsis) (**✓**) I**'ve been working** here for five years. (emphasizes the duration) |

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| **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:**

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| **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; understandwhat 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:**

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| **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:**

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| **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 |