

- 4 to show the present result of something that happened in the unspecified past.
I can't go out with you because I _____ (lose) my wallet. (I still don't have my wallet now.)

Oh dear! What's happened to your leg? – I _____ (break) it. (My leg is broken now.)

- 5 with unfinished time periods.

Note that with finished time periods we use past tenses, even if a finished time period is implied but not stated, for example if we are talking about somebody no longer alive.

[The time is 10.30 am] Poor me. I _____ (not have) a break this morning.

[The time is 6.00 pm] Poor me. I _____ (not have) a break this morning.

I _____ (be) married twice.

Marilyn Monroe _____ (be) married three times.



Answer the questions you hear so that they are true for you. Use the present perfect simple, changing tenses if appropriate.

Exam tip: Be careful if your language has a tense that is constructed similarly to the present perfect tenses in English, e.g. in Latin languages. There are almost certainly some differences in the way the tenses are used. Make sure you know what the differences are.

- 9 Do you know when to use the present perfect simple and when to use the present perfect continuous?

present perfect simple	have/has + past participle e.g. has done
present perfect continuous	have/has + been + -ing e.g. has been doing

- 1 You can use either tense to talk about how long an activity has been going on.

*I've **done** yoga for six years.*

*I've **been doing** yoga for six years.*

The present perfect simple may be preferable if the situation is permanent or of long duration.

*I've **lived** in Reading for twenty years.*

*I've **been living** with my mum for the past two weeks because my flat is being refurbished.*

- 2 In other instances, only one tense is appropriate:

*I've **watched** the film you recommended. I loved it.*

The focus here is that the person has finished watching the film.

*What have you been doing? – I've **been watching** the film you recommended.*

The focus here is on the action of watching the film. We do not know if they have finished watching the film or not.