

Present Perfect for Past to Present States and Actions



Structure and Usage.

Use the present perfect to express a state or repeated action that began in the past and continues into the present.

This tense is often used with the following time expressions:

... for + amount of time

... since + specific point in time

Basic Construction

Positive

Subject + have / has + past participle + object(s) + time Expression

I have lived in Portland for four years.

Negative

Subject + have / has not (haven't, hasn't) + past participle + object(s) + time Expression

Max hasn't played tennis since 1999.

Question

(Question Word) + have / has + subject + past participle + object(s) + time Expression

Where have you worked since 2002?

12

of 19

Present Perfect to Express Recent Events



Structure and Usage.

The present perfect is often used to express recent events that affect the present moment. These sentences often use the time expressions 'just', 'yet', 'already', or 'recently.' If you give a specific time in the past, the past simple is required.

This tense is often used with the following time expressions:

just

yet

already

recently

Basic Construction

Positive

Subject + have / has + just / recently + past participle + object(s)

Henry has just gone to the bank.

Negative

Subject + have / has not (haven't, hasn't) + past participle + object(s) + time Expression

Peter hasn't finished his homework yet.

Question

(Question Word) + have / has + subject + past participle + object(s) + time Expression

Have you spoken to Andy yet?

Present Perfect for Unspecified Past Events

The diagram shows a timeline with three boxes labeled 'Past', 'Present', and 'Future'. Below the 'Past' box, there are three upward-pointing arrows and the text 'Unspecified past'. Above the arrows is the text '???'.

Pete has been to New York three times.

Structure and Usage.

The present perfect is often used to express events that occurred in the past at an unspecified moment or cumulative life experiences up to the present. Remember that if you use a specific past time expression, choose the past simple.

This tense is often used with the following time expressions:

twice, three times, four times, etc.

ever

never

Basic Construction

Positive

Subject + have / has + past participle + object(s)

Peter has visited Europe three times in his life.

Negative

Subject + have / has not (haven't, hasn't) + past participle + object(s) + time Expression

I haven't played golf many times.

Question

(Question Word) + have / has + subject + (ever) + past participle + object(s)

Have you ever been to France?

If you are a teacher, see this guide on how to teach the present perfect tense.