

Past Simple vs. Present Perfect

Past Simple

Form

S + regular verb-ed or
irregular verb (V2 form,
Past Simple)

Use

Finished time

We *lived* in Japan *from*
1995-1998.
(a time period that started
and ended in the past)



Definite time

I *saw* the Eiffel Tower *in 2007*.



Series of finished actions

Firstly, he *read* the book and
then he *watched* the movie.



Repeated actions

He *went* to the cinema *every*
weekend last year.

Time Phrases

yesterday
ago
last
in 1994, etc.
in the 20th century, etc.
in July, etc.
on Monday, etc.

Present Perfect

S + regular verb-ed or
irregular verb (V3 form,
Past Participle)

Unfinished time

I've *worked* as a teacher
since 2011.
(a time period that started in the
past, and continues until now)



Indefinite time

I *have seen* the Eiffel Tower.

Experience

Have you *ever seen* this movie?

Result

She *has already* watched this
movie *3 times*.

already
just
yet
ever
never
for
since...