

PRESENT PERFECT TENSE

IT IS USED TO TALK ABOUT

UNFINISHED ACTIONS

- We use this tense when we want to talk about unfinished actions or states or habits that started in the past and continue to the present. (I have known Karen since 1994. She has lived in London for three years.)

IT IS USED TO TALK ABOUT

FINISHED ACTIONS

- Life experience → These are actions or events that happened sometime during a person's life. We don't say when the experience happened, and the person needs to be alive now. (I have been in Italy. They have visited Paris three times.)
- With an unfinished time word (this month, this week, today). The action is finished BUT the period of time is still continuing. (I haven't seen her this month. I have visited my grandma three times this week.)
- A finished action with a result in the present (focus on result). We often use the present perfect to talk about something that happened in the recent past, but that is still true or important now. (I have lost my keys. She has hurt her leg. They have missed the bus.)

AFFIRMATIVE (+)

S + HAVE/HAS + V₃

Example:

I have seen that man before.

She has eaten all the chocolates.

NEGATIVE (-)

S + HAVE/HAS NOT (haven't/hasn't) + V₃

Example:

I haven't seen that man before.

She hasn't eaten all the chocolates.

INTERROGATIVE (?)

HAVE/HAS + S + V₃...?

Example:

Have you seen that man before?

Has she eaten all the chocolates?

ADVERBS OF TIME

Today, this
week, just,
already, yet,
FOR 4 years,
SINCE 2004,
until now, so far,
recently, before,
ever, never

TODAY/THIS WEEK/THIS MONTH/THIS YEAR

Used to identify completed actions which happened near the present time and the time period has not finished yet.

Example:

I have visited my grandma three times this week. (The week hasn't finished yet.)

I have met John only two times this year. (The year hasn't finished yet.)

I have eaten three times today. (Today hasn't finished yet.)

JUST/ALREADY/YET

- We use JUST to identify: an action or experience that happened only a few minutes ago.

Example: I have just met him in a shop.

- We use ALREADY to identify: an action or experience that happened already up to present time. We use already only in affirmative sentences.

Example: Would you like to see the new Blade Runner movie? I have already seen it.

- We use YET to identify: an action or experience that has NOT happened or been done up to present time, but expected to happen. We use yet in negative and interrogative sentences.

Example: Have you watched the new Blade Runner movie yet? No, I haven't watched it yet.

FOR/SINCE

We use both to talk about something that started in the past and continues in present.

FOR is used when we focus on the AMOUNT OF TIME (how long) something lasts → FOR + PERIOD OF TIME

Example: I've had this car FOR more than six years. She's lived here FOR six months.

SINCE is used when we focus on the starting point of the action which started in the past and still continues. → SINCE + A POINT IN TIME

Example: I've had this car SINCE 2011. She's lived here SINCE April.