

Present Perfect Simple

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Introduction

The present perfect simple expresses an action that is still going on or that stopped recently, but has an influence on the present. It puts emphasis on the result.

Present Perfect means 'before now'. The Present Perfect does not express when an action happened. If we say the exact time, we have to use the Past Simple.

The present perfect tense is also sometimes called the present perfect simple tense. The auxiliary verb "have" is always used with the present perfect tense.

The present perfect continuous tense refers to an action that started in the past, but has continued to the present or has just finished. Although, generally the Present Perfect Continuous is preferred for incomplete actions, activities and processes, occasionally you may want to emphasize the permanence of the action, activity or process. In these cases we use Present Perfect Simple.

2. Form of Present Perfect Simple

We form the Present Perfect Simple with have and the past participle

(regular verbs: infinitive + -ed; irregular verbs: 3rd column of the table of the irregular verbs).

have/has + -ed (past participle)

has: 3rd person singular (he, she, it)

have: all other forms

Positive and negative:

I

We

You

They

've (have)

haven't lived in Rome. He

She 's (has)

hasn't

Question:

How long have I

we

you

known Peter? How long has he

she

Short answer:

Have you been to Egypt? Yes, I have. / No, I haven't. Has she ever written poetry? Yes, she has. / No, she hasn't.

3. The Basics of Present Perfect Simple

The most important thing to remember about the present perfect is that it can never be used with adverbs which describe finished time periods, such as yesterday, five minutes ago and at three o'clock. If a time adverb is used with the present perfect, it should describe a time period which is unfinished. Example include today and this week. So we say:

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