



Present perfect

Vs.

Simple past





The **present perfect** is used when the **time period has NOT finished:**

Example:

❖ **I have seen three movies this week.**
(This week has not finished yet.)

The **simple past** is used when the **time period HAS finished:**

Example:

❖ **I saw three movies last week.**
(Last week has finished.)





The **present perfect** is often used when giving **recent news**:

❖ **Martin has crashed his car again.**
(This is new information.)

The **simple past** is used when giving **older information**:

Martin crashed his car last year.
(This is old information.)





The present perfect is used when the time is not specific:

❖ I have seen that movie already.
(We don't know when.)

The simple past is used when the time is clear:

❖ I saw that movie on Thursday.
(We know exactly when.)





The present perfect is used with **for** and **since**,
when the **actions have not finished yet**:

❖ I **have lived** in **Victoria** **for five years**.
(I still live in Victoria.)

The simple past is used with **for** and **since**, when
the **actions have already finished**:

❖ I **lived** in **Victoria** **for five years**.
(I don't live in Victoria now.)





We also use the **Present Perfect** to talk about an **imprecise time in the past** but as soon as we become **precise** we switch to the **Past Simple**.

Example:

I've never been to Australia. Have you ever been there?

Yes I have. I went in 1992.





EXERCISES

<http://www.englishpage.com/verbpage/verbs5.htm>

<http://web2.uvcs.uvic.ca/elc/studyzone/330/grammar/upperf2.htm>

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