

present perfect and past simple

present perfect simple: *have / has + past participle (worked, seen, etc.)*

1 past experiences

2.9

I've **inherited** some money but I **haven't spent** it.
Sally **has** never **met** Bill's ex-wife.
Have you ever **lost** your credit card?

2 recent past actions

I've **cut** my finger!
Too late! Our train **has** just **left**!

3 with yet and already (for emphasis)

I've already **seen** this film twice. Can't we watch another one?
My brother **hasn't found** a new job yet. He's still looking.
'**Have** you **finished** your homework yet?' 'No, not yet.'

1 We use the present perfect for past experiences when we don't say exactly when they happened.

• We often use *ever* and *never* when we talk or ask about past experiences. They go before the main verb.

2 We use the present perfect for recent past actions when we focus on the present result.

• In this context we often use *just* before the main verb.

3 We also use the present perfect with *yet* and *already*.

• We use *already* in [4] sentences. It goes before the main verb.

• We use *yet* with [5] sentences and [7]. It goes at the end of the phrase.

• For irregular past participles, see **Irregular verbs** p.165.

a Complete the conversations with the present perfect form of the verb in brackets and an adverb from the list. You can use the adverbs more than once.

already ever just never yet

- A Why are you smiling? B I've **just found** a €50 note! (find)
- 1 A _____ you _____ a flight online? (book)
B Yes, of course. I've done it loads of times.
- 2 A When are you going to buy a motorbike?
B Soon. I _____ nearly €1,000. (save)
- 3 A _____ you _____ the phone bill _____? (pay)
B No, sorry. I forgot.
- 4 A _____ your parents _____ you money? (lend)
B Yes, but I paid it back as soon as I could.
- 5 A How does eBay work?
B I don't know. I _____ it. (use)
- 6 A What are you celebrating?
B We _____ the lottery! (win)
- 7 A Why haven't you got any money?
B I _____ my salary. I bought a new phone last week. (spend)
- 8 A Would you like a coffee?
B No, thanks. I _____ one. (have)

past simple (*worked, stopped, went, had, etc.*)

They **got** married last year.

2.10

I **didn't have** time to do my homework.
What time **did** you **wake up** this morning?

• We use the past simple for finished past actions (when we say, ask, or know when they happened).

present perfect or past simple?

I've **been** to Madrid twice.

2.11

(= in my life up to now)

I **went** there in 1998 and 2002. (= on two specific occasions)

I've **bought** a new computer. (= I don't say exactly when, where, etc.)

I **bought** it last Saturday. (= I say when)

• We use the present perfect (**NOT** the past simple) to talk about past experiences and recent past actions **when we don't specify a time**.

• We use the past simple (**NOT** the present perfect) to ask or talk about finished actions in the past, **when the time is mentioned or understood**. We often use a past time expression, e.g. *yesterday, last week, etc.*

b Are the **bold** phrases right or wrong? Tick (✓) or cross (X) them. Correct the wrong phrases.

I've **never been** in debt. (✓)

How much **has your new camera cost?** (X)

How much did your new camera cost?

- 1 Dean **has just inherited** €5,000 from a relative.
- 2 **Did your sister pay** you back yet?
- 3 **We booked our holiday** online a month ago.
- 4 **When have you bought** that leather jacket?
- 5 **They've finished paying back** the loan last month.
- 6 **We haven't paid** the gas bill yet.
- 7 **Have you ever wasted** a lot of money on something?
- 8 I'm sure I **haven't borrowed** any money from you last week.
- 9 I **spent my salary** really quickly last month.
- 10 **Have you seen** the Batman film on TV yesterday?