

# Present Perfect Simple

## 1. Formation

We form the present perfect with **have/has** + the *past participle*.

*I have lost my keys.*  
*She has not lost her keys.*  
*Have you lost your keys?*  
*Have I not lost my keys?*

## 2. Use

The present perfect simple tense is related to a present situation; **it describes something which has already happened and which is still important now**. With the present perfect tense **the precise moment when something happened is of no importance**; what is important is that **the action has already taken place** and that **the result of this action can be felt now**.

This tense is used in four different situations:

### 2.1 The indefinite past

The indefinite past describes a situation where **a definite time is not given, known, presumed known or implied**. Notice the influence of the action on the present.

*He has gone to the cinema. (and that is where he is now.)*

In the indefinite past, the present perfect simple is often accompanied by one of the following adverbs or adverbial expressions: **already, always, before, ever, lately, never, not yet, now, often, rarely, recently, seldom, so far, still not, up to now, yet?**

*So far we've had no problems at all.*

### 2.2 The immediate past

The immediate past describes something that has taken place **a few hours or minutes before**, and is often (but not always) found with the adverb **just**.

*He has just returned from England.*

### 2.3 Finished action in an unfinished period

A finished action in an unfinished period of time is an **action that has ended even though the period of time mentioned has not ended**:

*I have seen him this morning.*  
(*I have seen him* = finished; *this morning* = unfinished)

### 2.4 With **for** and **since** if the action is unfinished

The present perfect is also used with **for** and **since** if the action is unfinished. **For** indicates a certain length of time and that the action in question has continued up to now. **Since** indicates the point of time when an action started and that this action has continued from then up to now.

*I have known him for twenty years. I have known him since 1994.*

### 2.5 Difference of use of the present perfect simple with **gone** and **been**.

Notice the difference between these two constructions:

*Ann has **gone** to Wales. (Ann is in Wales now.)*  
*Ann has **been** to Wales. (Ann has been to Wales and come back.)*