

Present Perfect

prof. dr. Nicoleta-Mariana Iftimie

Present perfect simple Affirmative

S+ have +V (3rdform)
has

I We You They	have	asked spoken
He/she /it	has	

Present perfect simple interrogative

Have
Has } +S+V(3rdform)

Have	I we you they	asked spoken
Has	He/s he/it	

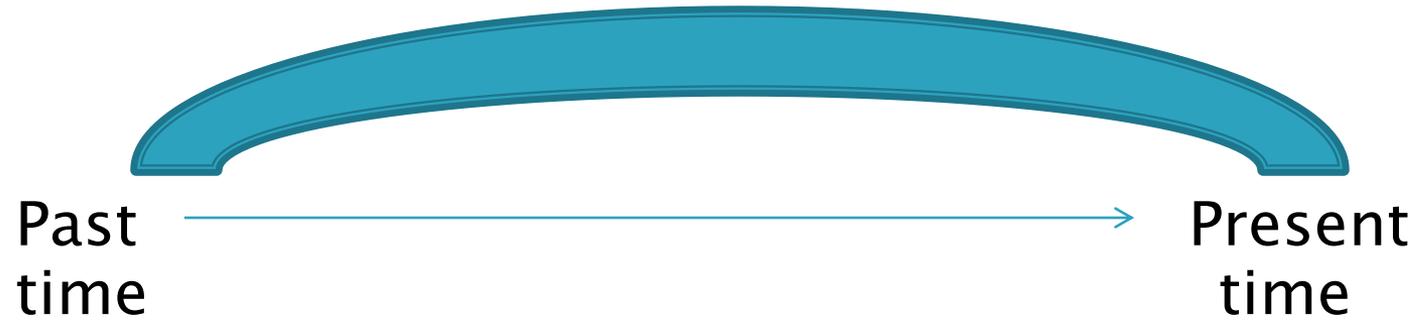
Present perfect simple negative

S+ { have +not+V (3rd form)
has }

I We You They	have not (haven't)	
He/she/it	has not (hasn't)	asked spoken

Present Perfect

Present Perfect



Present Perfect and Past Tense

Present Perfect Simple

1. unfinished past

an action that started in the past and continues to the present (and possibly in the future)

He **has lived** (locuiește) in Iași for four years. (he's still living in Iasi)

He **has lived** in Iași since last year/since 2015.

He **has lived** in Iași since he became a student. **NB! In the clause introduced by *since*, use Past Tense (see example above)**

Main clause+Present Perfect
Clause introduced by *since*+Past Tense

Past Tense Simple

1. finished past

an action that started and was finished in the past

He **lived** (a locuit) in Iași for four years. (he doesn't live in Iasi any more)

He **lived** in Iasi five years ago/ in 2011.

Present Perfect and Past Tense

Present Perfect

Indicators:

- a) for = duration, unfinished period of time
 - ▶ for 5 minutes/ hours/ days/ months/ years
 - ▶ for a long time
 - ▶ for ages

- b) since = starting point of an action
 - ▶ since 8 am
 - ▶ since last week/month/year
 - ▶ since yesterday

NB! In the clause introduced by *since*, use Past Tense

Past Tense

Indicators:

- a) for = a finished period of time
- b) yesterday(morning/ afternoon/ evening/ night)
- c) last (evening/ night/ week/ month/ year)
- d) ...ago (5 minutes/ hours/ days/ weeks/ years ago)
- e) in + past
 - ▶ month (e.g. in July)
 - ▶ season (e.g. in summer)
 - ▶ year (e.g. in 2010)

Present Perfect and Past Tense

Present Perfect

2. unfinished period of time

an action that took place in a period of time that is not finished

He **has eaten** toast and butter for breakfast this morning. (now it's 10 a.m., i.e., it's still morning)

Indicators:

- a) this morning/afternoon/evening/week/month/year
- b) today

Past Tense

2. finished period of time

an action that took place in a period of time that is finished

He **ate** bread and butter for breakfast this morning. (now it's 2 p.m., so it's no longer morning)

Indicators:

this morning/afternoon

Present Perfect and Past Tense

Present Perfect

3. present result

an action that happened in the past (usually the recent past) whose results are seen at present

Tom **has broken** his leg.
(Tom's leg is in plaster now)

Indicators (if any):

- a) already
- b) just
- c) recently, lately
- c) still
- d) yet

Past Tense

3. no present result

an action that happened in the past and has no present results

Tom **broke** his leg. (it's a thing of the past; Tom's leg is OK now)

Indicators (if any):

similar to 1st use

Present Perfect and Past Tense

Present Perfect

4. indefinite past

a) an action that happened at an unspecified time in the past (? when); the time is not specified; what is important is the experience

A: **Have** you ever **visited** The British Museum?

B: Yes, I **have**. I **have visited** The British Museum many times.

b) a finished action in someone's life (when the person is still alive: life experience):

My brother **has been** to Mexico three times.

Past Tense

4. definite past

a) an action that happened in the past, usually at a definite moment

When **did** you last **visit** The British Museum?

b) a finished action in someone's life (when the person is dead):

My great-grandmother **went** to Mexico three times.

Present Perfect and Past Tense

Present Perfect Indicators:

1. adverbs of frequency

always
usually
often
frequently
sometimes
occasionally

seldom
rarely
hardly ever
never

2. once
twice
three, four, ...n times
(how) many times

Past Tense Indicators:

once
twice
three, four, ...n times

Exercise

*Work in pairs. Compare the use of these verbs.
Which tense is used and why?*

- ▶ 1. a. Have you ever tried Japanese food?
- ▶ 1. b. Did you try sashimi when you were in Japan?

- ▶ 2. a. How many times has Laura visited London?
- ▶ 2. b. How many times did Paul visit London?

- ▶ 3. a. She's been to London.
- ▶ 3. b. She's gone to London.

Exercise

- ▶ 4. a. Oscar Wilde wrote The Picture of Dorian Gray.
 - ▶ 4. b. My father has written three best sellers.
 - ▶ 4. c. My father has been writing a thriller for the past 3 months.

 - ▶ 5. a. My father has been writing all morning.
 - ▶ 5. b. My father has written five pages.
- 

Present Perfect Continuous Affirmative

S + have + been + V-ing

{
has
}

I We You They	have	been	asking
He/she /it	has		

Present Perfect Continuous Interrogative

Have
Has } +S+been + V-ing

Have	I we you they	been	asking speaking
Has	He/she /it		

Present Perfect Continuous Negative

S + {have
has} + not + been + V-ing

I We You They	have not (haven't)		
He/she /it	has not (hasn't)	been	asking speaking

Present Perfect Simple and Continuous

Present Perfect Simple

1. unfinished past

a) an action that started in the past and continues to the present

He **has lived** (locuiește) in Iași for four years.

With verbs such as *live, stay, study, work* you can use either the simple or the continuous form of Present Perfect with the same meaning

Present Perfect Continuous

1. unfinished past

a) an action that started in the past and continues to the present and possibly in the future

He **has been living** (locuiește) in Iași for four years.

Present Perfect Simple and Continuous

Present Perfect Simple

b) a permanent state/action

The castle in Sighișoara **has stood** there for hundreds of years.

c) with expressions of quantity

Paul **has read** 150 pages.

Present Perfect Continuous

b) a temporary action

Tom **has been living** with a host family for 3 months.

c) with expressions of time

Paul **has been reading** for 3 hours/since 6 am.

Present Perfect Simple and Continuous

Indicators

for = period of time

for 5 minutes / hours / days / months / years

for a long time

for ages

since = moment when the action started



Present Perfect Simple and Continuous

Present Perfect Simple

2. unfinished period of time

a complete action

He **has written** a research report this week. (he has finished it)

Indicators:

- a) this morning/afternoon/week/month/year
- b) today

Present Perfect Continuous

2. unfinished period of time

an incomplete action

He **has been writing** a research report this week. (he hasn't finished it)

Indicators:

- a) this morning/afternoon/week/month/year
- b) today

Present Perfect Simple and Continuous

Present Perfect Simple

3. present result

- a) an action that happened in the past (usually the recent past) whose results are seen at present

Focus on result

A: You've changed. What have you done to yourself?

B: I've **lost** some weight.

- b) with verbs that suggest a short action, such as *break, cut, knock, lose, start, stop* the Present Perfect Simple refers to an activity that took place once

Focus on result

He **has cut** his finger. (his finger is hurt)

Present Perfect Continuous

3. present result

- a) an action that happened in the past (usually the recent past) whose results are seen at present

Focus on action

A: You've changed. What have you done to yourself?

B: I've **been doing** some exercise.

- b) with verbs that suggest a short action, such as *break, cut, knock, lose, start, stop* the Present Perfect Continuous refers to a repeated activity

Focus on action

He **has been cutting** the grass

Present Perfect Simple and Continuous

Present Perfect Simple

c) a complete action in the past whose result is seen at present

Someone **has eaten** my chocolates. (there are none left)

Present Perfect Continuous

c) an incomplete action in the past whose result is seen at present

Someone **has been eating** my chocolates. (there are some left)

d) the cause that led to a present result

A: Why are you wet?

B: I've **been swimming**.

Present perfect simple and continuous

Present Perfect Simple

Indicators (if any):

- a) already
 - b) just
 - c) recently, lately
 - d) still
 - e) yet
- 

Present Perfect Simple and Continuous

Present Perfect Simple

4. indefinite past

an action that happened at an unspecified time in the past (? when); the time is not specified; what is important is the experience

Robert **has** never **been** abroad.

Present Perfect Continuous

4. indefinite past

an action that happened at an unspecified time in the past (? when); the time is not specified; what is important is the experience

Have you **been flying** in a plane when it has hit an air pocket?

Present perfect simple and continuous

Present Perfect Simple

Indicators:

a) adverbs of frequency



always
usually
often
frequently
sometimes
occasionally

seldom
rarely
hardly ever
never

b) once

twice

three, four, ...n times

(how) many times

Present Perfect Simple and Continuous

Present Perfect Continuous

5. a repeated action that irritates the speaker or expresses his amazement and reproach

She **has** always **been using** my telephone this year.

Indicators:

- ▶ always (mereu), continually, all the time, forever