

PRESENT PERFECT (Grammar)

PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE: USES

We use the present perfect simple to refer to events in the past but which connect to the present.

Experiences

We use the present perfect simple to talk about our experiences up to now. The time of the experiences is not important:

[talking about musical theatre productions]

- *And I've seen 'Buddy' and I've seen 'Starlight Express' in London. And I want to see 'Phantom of the Opera' next.*
- *We're going to Wagamama's for dinner tonight. I've been there a couple of times before.*

Although we do not give a specific time, we often use general time expressions like **ever, never, before, in my life, so far, up until now** with this use of the present perfect simple:

- *We haven't met before, have we?*
- *They've sold 110 so far. (so far = from a point in the past up until now)*

We often use **ever, not ... ever** and **never** when we talk about experiences:

- *It was the worst performance we have ever seen.*
- *Have you ever tried to write your name and address with your left hand?*
- *She's never said sorry for what she did.*

We often use the present perfect simple for a unique experience when we are using a superlative:

- *I felt the happiest I have ever felt. My first Olympic final; the bronze medal; European record of 9.97 seconds.*
- *The dome of the Blue Mosque at Isfahan is the most beautiful building I have ever seen.*
- *It was the best decision I have ever made in my life.*

- *It's **the worst sports programme I have ever seen** and the first I have ever **turned off**.*

We usually use the present perfect simple with *the first time* when we're talking about an immediate, continuing or recent event:

- *That's **the first time I've seen** you get angry.*

Recent completed events

We use the present perfect simple to talk about a finished event or state in the very recent past. We do not give a specific time. We often use words like *just* or *recently* for events taking place a very short time before now:

- *What's this? What's **just happened**?*
- *The company employs around 400 staff and has **recently opened** an office in the UK.*
- *Niki and John have **just come back** from a week in Spain.*

Past events, present results

We use the present perfect simple when a single past action has a connection with the present:

- *She's **broken her arm in two places**. (Her arm is still broken now.)*
- *Why **haven't you dressed in something warmer**? (You got dressed in the past but the clothes are not warm enough for now.)*
- *A fire **has broken out at a disused hotel on the seafront**. (The fire is burning now; it's a recent event too.)*
- *Your flowers **haven't arrived**. (Your flowers are not here; they were supposed to arrive in the past.)*

PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE: FORM

We use *have/has* + the *-ed* form of the verb.

AFFIRMATIVE	<i>I, you, we, they</i>	(full form) have	worked.
	<i>she, he, it</i>	has	

<i>I, you, we, they</i> <i>she, he, it</i>	(short form) 've 's			
NEGATIVE	<i>I, you, we, they</i> <i>she, he, it</i>	(full form) have not has not	worked.	
<i>I, you, we, they</i> <i>she, he, it</i>	(short form) haven't hasn't			
QUESTION + AFFIRMATIVE	Have Has	<i>I, you, we, they</i> <i>she, he, it</i>	worked?	
QUESTION + NEGATIVE	(full form) Have Has	<i>I, you, we, they</i> <i>she, he, it</i>	not	worked?
(short form) Haven't Hasn't	<i>I, you, we, they</i> <i>she, he, it</i>			