

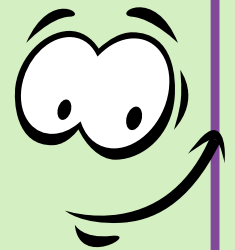
Present perfect or Past simple

Explanation and Exercises PDF



Present perfect or past simple?

1 Use the present perfect to talk about recent events or a past event which the speaker feels is connected with the present. Certain time expressions are common with this use of the present perfect. These include **already, yet, just, ever, never, before**. I haven't eaten yet. (= I'm hungry now.) Has he left? (= He isn't here now.)



2 Use the past simple to talk about a finished action. Certain time expressions may be used with the past simple. These include **yesterday, last week, ago, then, when, in + year**. In the 1980s, computers were large machines. When did Jaap Haartsen invent Bluetooth?



3 Use the present perfect to talk about an event or situation which began in the past and continues now. We often use time expressions with **since** and **for** with this use of the present perfect, e.g. **for a week, since yesterday, for a long time, since 2004**, and ask questions with **How long?**



How long have you worked at the British museum? I've worked there **for ten years**.



4 The choice of the past simple or present perfect can sometimes depend on the point of view of the speaker, or on the context.

I **didn't see** Emily **this morning**. (The speaker is talking at the end of the day and this morning is finished.)

I **haven't seen** Emily **this morning**. (The speaker is talking in the morning – this morning is still going on.)

