

Patterns on the Use of Present Perfect Tense

Present Perfect I (Resultative Type)

completed action → result

1. Jane **has got** a promotion. She is quite happy. (result). She wants to celebrate it.

result ← completed action

2. Sorry Ann isn't here at the moment. (result). She **has gone** to the shop to get some milk.

Completed action. Result-implied

3. We are going boating. Would you like to join us? – Sorry, I **haven't finished** my work yet. (as a result, I can't join you)

Most common tenses used as contexts for Present Perfect

1. Shall I phone to reserve a table? No I've done it. (Future Simple)
2. I can't find my diary. What have you done with it? (Present Simple)
3. Tom has quit his job. He is looking for something more challenging. (Present Continuous)
4. Peter has completed the project. He made a presentation yesterday. Everybody likes it. (further details concerning the completed action are presented in the past)

Adverbials of time most commonly used with Present Perfect

1. Adverbials of indefinite time

- **just** Alice has **just** phoned. She is coming.
- **already** + I've **already** checked the composition. (*earlier than expected*)
already ? You look happy. Have you passed the exam **already**? (*supposition*)
- **yet** ? Look here Nancy! Have you passed your exam **yet**? (*open question an answer is expected*)
yet – No, I haven't passed it **yet**. I'm taking it on Friday.

- **so far** + She has written only half of the report **so far**.
- so far** – They haven't achieved agreement on this point **so far**.
- **ever, never** Have you **ever** been to Paris? –No, I have **never** been there.

2. Adverbials of present time

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| <u>today</u> | We have received a letter from Carl today . |
| <u>this week</u> | Have you been to the movies this week ? |
| <u>this year</u> | My sister has been promoted twice this year . |

Questions

| | | | |
|--------------------------|------|-----------------|--------------------------------------|
| <u>What (who)</u> | both | Present Perfect | can be used depending on the context |
| <u>Why</u> | | and | |
| <u>What for</u> | | Past Simple | |

| | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| <u>When</u> | only Past Simple |
| <u>Where</u> | |
| <u>How</u> | |

Present Perfect II

+ Verbs of state only!

1. We **have been** friends **for** more than 15 years.
2. I've **wanted** to talk to you about it **since** Sunday.
3. The house **has belonged** to us **for** many years.
4. They **have been married since** 2001.
5. Jane **has been ill since** she returned from her expedition (after since Past Simple is used)
6. Mr. Clark **has lived** here **for** 10 years.
7. Miss Jones **has worked** in our office **since** 2004.

the verbs: *to live, to work, to stay, to study* can be used in *Present Perfect* or *Present Perfect Continuous*

– Verbs of state, verbs of action (no restriction in the character of a verb)

1. I **haven't read** a newspaper **for** two weeks.
2. We **haven't received** any letters from Jim **since** last year.
3. Sam **hasn't seen** his brother **since** he started working for that company.
4. They **haven't been to** London **since** last year.

Questions: | **How long** have you known Mr. Smith?
| **Since when** haven't you heard from him?

Adverbials most commonly used with Present Perfect II

since last year (last week)

(ever) since (then)

since

She left the city in 1998.

I haven't seen her ever since.

Nobody has heard of her since then.

for the last few days (years)

in the last few days (weeks)

for the past few days (months)

in the past few days

You've been quite nasty for the past few days. What's wrong?