

1. The Present Perfect Tense Explained, I

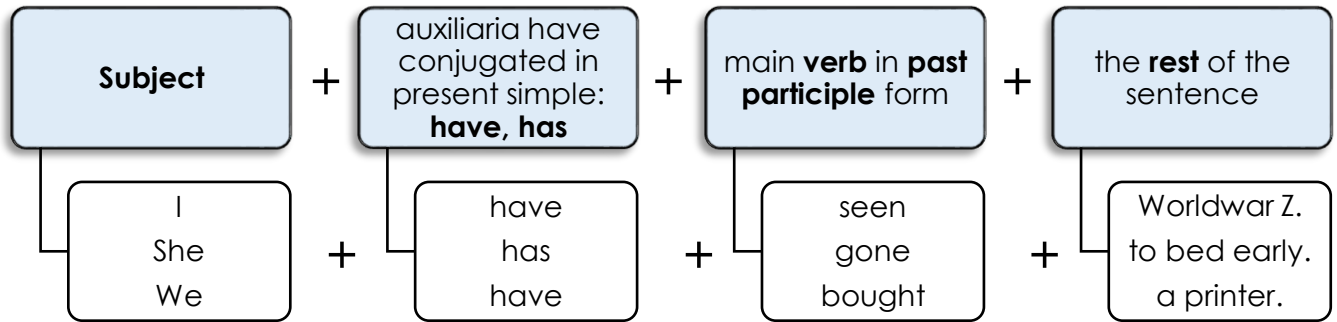
The Present Perfect Tense

How does the Present Perfect Tense look like?

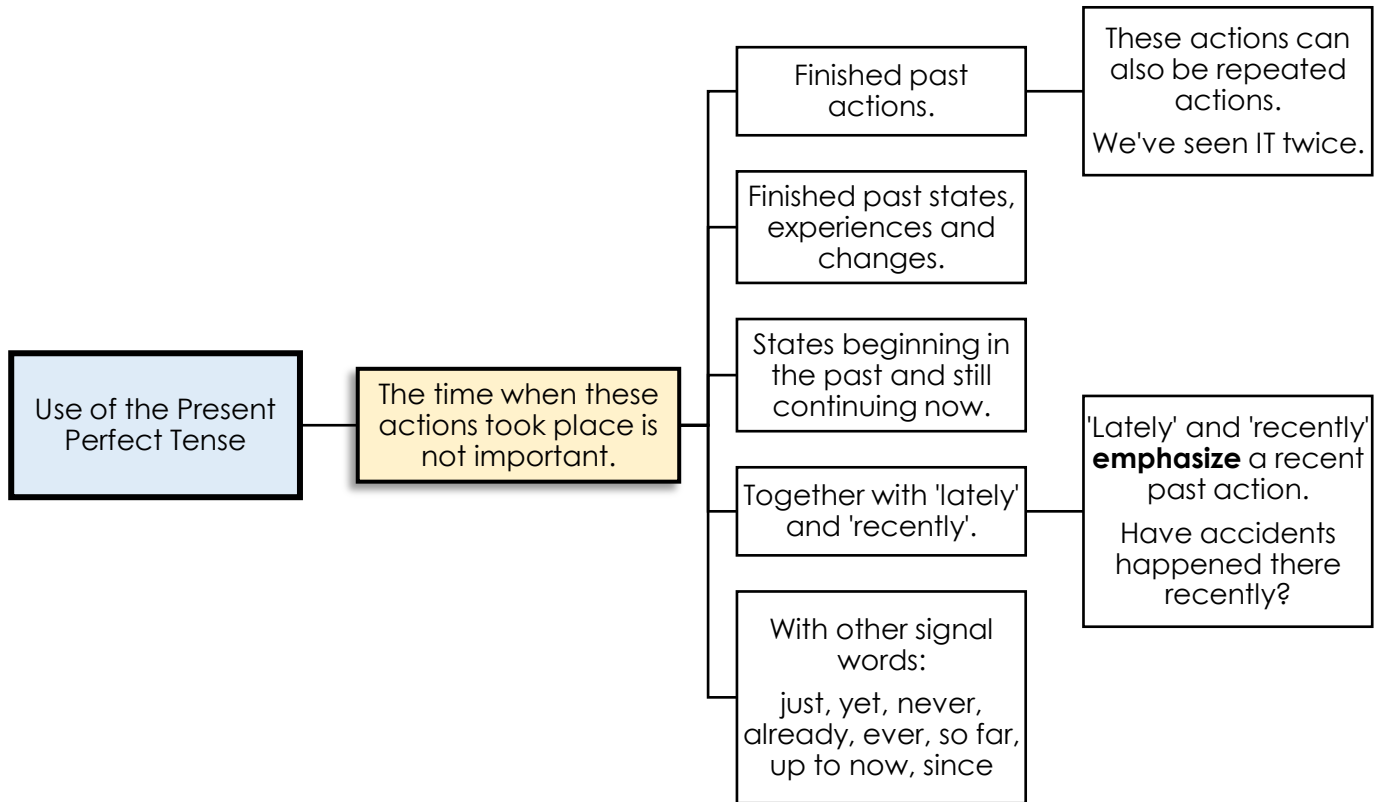
I **have seen** Dances with Wolves.

She **has never gone** to bed early.

We've **bought** a printer.



When do we use the Present Perfect Tense?



Don't forget that:

1. The auxiliary verb 'has' can **only be conjugated in the present simple form**: have or has + past participle.
2. The main verb is in the **past participle** form and cannot be changed (invariable): past tense + ed or irregular form.
3. To make negative sentences we insert '**not**' **between the auxiliary and the main verb**.
4. For questions, we **exchange the subject and the auxiliary verb**.

Examples:

	Subject	Auxiliary have/has	Past part.	
Positive 1	I	have	seen	the eclipse.
Positive 2	She	has	written	a poem.
Negative 1	We	have not	been	to Scotland.
Negative 2	It	has not	eaten	the fish.
Question 1	Have you		sent	the message?
Question 2	Have they		returned	home?

A more in-depth explanation of the use of the Present Perfect Tense

We use the present perfect tense when we speak or write about **a state, an action or the result of an action in the past**. The action can also be an **experience from the past**.

We speak or write about the action **right now**. It can be a statement of facts such as: I have done my homework. Attention:

When (the point of time) I did the action **is not important** in this form.

We can also say: I have **just** done my homework. The added word '**just**' means: I did the action **recently**.

Conclusion: the event was in the past; I'm thinking about it now and I'm talking about it now.

The present perfect can also be used when we talk about **a change** that happened or when we have **new information** about something.

There may also be an ongoing **situation**. The **situation** then started in the past, continued up to now and will probably continue into the future. '**For**' and '**since**' can be used with this structure.

He has been ill **for** 2 days.

I have worked there **since** March 2012.

Signal Words

Signal words tell us what tense we have to use.

When we use the present perfect, we use next words often:

just
yet
never
already
ever
so far
up to now
recently
since
for



Also called
'time markers'

'For' and 'Since'

'**For**' and '**since**' tell us about the **duration** of an action or state.

Ten minutes, 3 years, 2 months

They have taught English **for** 28 years.

Since shows **when an action started**.

We have lived on the countryside **since** I was twelve years old.

Sentence position of 'since'

Before the relevant time.

I have worked there **since** 2014.

'Already'

By adding **'already'** you emphasize the action that took place in the past.

I have **already** washed the dishes!

The action has happened sooner than expected.

I've just drunk 2 glasses of water, but I'm **already** thirsty.

Sentence positions of 'already'

In present simple tenses, between the subject and the verb.

In present and present perfect questions, immediately after the subject.

'Recently' and 'Lately'

'Recently' and **'lately'** also have the emphasizing function.

Have you contacted them **lately**? They have repaired it **recently**.

Sentence positions of 'recently' and 'lately':

Various positions; see examples:

I haven't worked hard **recently**.

I have worked hard **recently**.

I haven't **recently** worked hard.

I have **recently** worked hard.

I haven't **lately** worked hard.

I have **lately** worked hard.

I have worked hard **lately**.

I haven't worked hard **lately**.

'Still'

1. Situations that continue to the present time.

It is **still** raining.

I **still** live in Birmingham.

2. An action that is not expected because of something else.

He was drunk, but he **still** drove his car.

I slept 10 hours, but I was **still** tired.

Sentence position 'still'

Before the verb or adjective.

'Yet'

1. To ask if something expected has happened.

Have you eaten lunch **yet**?

Sentence position 'yet'.

Usually at the end of the sentence.

'Ever' and 'Never'

We use '**ever**' and '**never**' to **emphasize that an action could have happened at any time in the past.**

Have you **ever** been to the Niagara Falls?

She hasn't **ever** been to Norway.

Sentence position of 'ever' and 'never'.

Immediately before the main verb.

Examples of many different forms of the present perfect tense with pronouns on the next pages.

1. Affirmative forms in the present perfect tense, regular verbs

I	have	closed	the curtain.		I've		
You	have	closed	the curtain.		You've		
He	has	closed	the curtain.		He's		
She	has	closed	the curtain.		She's		
We	have	closed	the curtain.		We've		
They	have	closed	the curtain.		They've		

2. Affirmative forms in the present perfect tense, irregular verbs.

I	have	lost	my phone.		I've		
You	have	lost	your phone.		You've		
He	has	lost	his phone.		He's		
She	has	lost	her phone.		She's		
We	have	lost	our phone(s).		We've		
They	have	lost	their phone(s).		They've		

3. Negative forms.

I	have	not	washed	the windows.		I've not	I haven't
You	have	not	washed	the windows.		You've not	You haven't
He	has	not	washed	the windows.		He's not	He hasn't
She	has	not	washed	the windows.		She's not	She hasn't
We	have	not	washed	the windows.		We've not	We haven't
They	have	not	washed	the windows.		They've not	They haven't

5. Questions without question words followed by answers.

Have	I	done	the painting job?		Yes, you have.	No, you have not	No, you haven't.
Have	you	done	the painting job?		Yes, I have.	No, I have not.	No, I haven't.
Has	he	done	the painting job?		Yes, he has.	No, he has not.	No, he hasn't.
Has	she	done	the painting job?		Yes, she has.	No, she has not.	No, she hasn't.
Have	we	done	the painting job?		Yes, we have.	No, we have not.	No, we haven't.
Have	they	done	the painting job?		Yes, they have.	No, they have not.	No, they haven't.