







PAST TENSE VERSUS PRESENT PERFECT

PAST TENSE (GIVE TIME)	PRESENT PERFECT (HAVE + PAST PARTICIPLE)	
1 I was sick for 3 days last week.	1  sick I have been sick for 3 days ^{Past} → (now) since Sunday. The action <u>began</u> in the <u>past</u> and continues up to and including <u>now</u> .	<p>* Present Perfect # 1 - is a past to now</p> <p>* Present Perfect Progressive can be used in this case if it is a <u>progressive verb</u></p> <p># 2,3,4,5 – all have past meaning</p>
2 I had 2 cups of coffee at breakfast.	2  coffee I have had 2 cups of coffee today . The action is finished, but the <u>time period is not finished</u> .	
3 I was in Florida in 1999.	3  Florida I have been in/to Florida. The action is finished, but <u>no time is given</u> .	
4 I closed the door a few minutes ago.	4  door I have just closed the door. The <u>action</u> happened in the <u>immediate or close past</u> .	
5 I saw that movie 3 times last year.	5  movie I have seen that movie 3 times . <u>Repeated action</u> in the past but <u>no time is given</u> .	

PRESENT PERFECT AND PRESENT PERFECT PROGRESSIVE (The use of adverbs and expressions)

ACTION BEGAN IN THE PAST AND CONTINUES UP TO AND INCLUDING "NOW" Past → (now) - - 

⚡ **For** (period of time)
 I have been feeling sick **for** { 3 days.
 or I have felt sick { 3 days now.
 or I have been sick { the last 3 days.
 { the past 3 days. } meaning is the same

I have known him **for** { a long time.
 { years.
 { ages. } the same meaning
 I haven't seen any movies **for** a while (short time)

⚡ **Since** (a beginning time or a beginning time until now)
 → He has been studying English **since** { 1990.
 or He has studied English { he was a child.
 (sometimes – ever since – for emphasis) { he came to Canada.

or { the move to Canada. (noun)
 { he has lived here. The time that the person studies
 { he has been living here. and lives here are - some duration

⚡ **Lately** (close past up to and including now) → I have been feeling under the weather **lately**.
 (change of habit) I haven't heard from him **lately**. (but you did a short time ago)

⚡ **Recently** (same as **lately**) → The weather has been cold **recently**.

⚡ **Yet** (only for negative statement – something not done up to now but you believe that it will or might be done in the future).
 → He hasn't done the work **yet**.

ACTION BEGAN IN THE PAST AND CONTINUES UP TO AND INCLUDING "NOW"Past _____ (~~now~~) - -

sick



⚡ **Still** (only for negative statement with the present perfect- shows impatience, something continues not to be done).

→ I **still** haven't found what I'm looking for.

→ He **still** hasn't done the work.

⚡ **Always** (for something that continues to now) → I have **always** wanted to travel to China.
She has **always** believed his story.

⚡ **So far** (continues up to now, usually the time period is mentioned)

→ The weather has been beautiful (**so far**) this week.

We haven't had any rain (**so far**) this month

We have been studying for two hours (**so far**) (today).

* if you use the present perfect continuous for progressive with (**so far**) you must put the period of time

THE ACTION IS FINISHED BUT THE NUMBER OF THINGS IS NOT

coffee



⚡ **So far** (up to now – you need the number of things that are finished and usually the time period is mentioned).

→ I have had 2 cups of coffee (**so far**) this morning.

We have driven 100 km (**so far**) today / this trip.

There have been 20 murders in Montreal (**so far**) this year.

⚡ **Already** → I have **already** had two cups of coffee this morning.
(Some time before)

SOMETHING DONE IN THE PAST BUT NO TIME IS GIVEN

Florida



⚡ **Already** → I have **already** eaten breakfast.

⚡ **Never** (stronger than I haven't) → I have never eaten insects. (in my life)

IMMEDIATE OR CLOSE PAST

door



⚡ **Just** I have **just** closed the door.

Her hair is wet. She has **just** been swimming. (an action that continued up to a close past time – not now)

⚡ **Recently** (close past action) (you can't use lately) → He has **recently** bought a car

REPEATED ACTION IN THE PAST BUT NO TIME IS GIVEN

movie



I have seen that movie **three times**.

I have **often** gone to the art gallery.

He has lost his glasses **many times**.

QUESTIONS WITH THE PRESENT PERFECT

EVER is used in present perfect questions when you are asking about something unusual or less common

Have you ever eaten insects?

* ever means – “in your life”

Negative answers

No, I haven't.

No, I haven't eaten them. (or insects)

No, never. (when you use never it is strong)

No, I have never eaten them.

No, I never have.

No, not yet. (means you might try in the future)

No, I haven't ever eaten them.

Positive answers

Yes, I have.

Yes, I have eaten them.

Yes, I have eaten insects. (you could say; a few times, many times etc.)

Note

You cannot say: ~~Yes, ever.~~

ALWAYS when you use “always” it could mean always or for a long time.

Have you always lived in Montreal? (All your life)

Have you always been a teacher? (Or did you work in another job before)

YET (present perfect only – not present perfect progressive)

Have you finished your homework yet?

*use yet when you don't know the answer

Negative answers

No, I haven't.

No, I haven't finished it.

No, I haven't finished my homework yet.

No, not yet.

No, I still haven't finished it. (*Still shows you are impatient because it is taking a long time*)

Positive answers

Yes, I have.

Yes, I have finished it.

Yes, I have already finished it.

Yes, I have finished it already.

Negative Questions → Haven't you finished your homework yet?

* Use negative question with yet when you believe the answer is **NO** and you are annoyed or impatient.

* The question is said with an impatient tone in your voice

* The usual answer is negative – the answers are the same as the above

* It is possible the person asking the question is wrong, and the answer could be positive as above.

ALREADY (present perfect only – not present perfect progressive) ****Affirmative question only**

Use **already** when you believe the answer is **yes** or you are surprised because you see evidence or proof that makes you think that something has happened before.

→ Have you **already** done your homework?
Have you done your homework **already**?

* If you put **already** at the end
it shows more surprise.

Expected **Positive** answer

Yes, I have.

Yes, I have finished it.

Yes, I have already finished it.

Yes, I have finished it already.

In the answer the position of already doesn't change the meaning.

IF **Negative** answer (see “yet”)

Negative answers is also possible because the person asking the question could have been wrong in believing that something was finished.

QUESTIONS USING QUESTION WORDS**HOW MANY** or **HOW MUCH** / **HOW OFTEN**

*Use only present perfect (not present perfect progressive) because you are asking about something finished in the past (no time given).

How many cups of coffee have you had so far today?
How much time have you spent on that exercise?
How often have you seen the movie?

HOW LONG

*Use present perfect or present perfect progressive (if it is a progressive verb) to ask about something that began in the past and continues until and including now.

How long have you been living here?
How long have you lived here?

Answers with **for** or **since**

I have lived here for 3 years or since 19...

Note You never say ~~how long time~~...

Often present perfect or present perfect progressive can be used with verbs that express duration of usual or habitual activities (e.g. live, work, teach, smoke, wear, play, go to school, etc).