

Verb Tense Review: Present Perfect

You have probably learned PRESENT PERFECT before. Here is a quick review of the FORM and USE of this verb tense.

FORM: have/has + past participle

USE: When an event took place in the past and has importance in the present.

EXAMPLE: *You have seen that movie before.*

FORM: have/has + never + past participle

USE: When something has not happened at any time in the past.

EXAMPLE: *They have never eaten Indian food.*

FORM: have/has + past participle + for + length of time

have/has + past participle + since + starting point

USE: To talk about duration of an event that started in the past and continues into the future.

EXAMPLE: *She has lived here for two years. She has lived here since 2003.*

FORM: have/has + just + past participle

USE: To talk about an event that ended in the very recent past.

EXAMPLE: *He has just finished cooking dinner.*

FORM: have/has + not + past participle + yet

USE: To talk about something that has not happened in the past, but that the speaker expects to happen soon.

EXAMPLE: *I have not been to Europe yet.*

Complete the sentences with the PRESENT PERFECT and add FOR or SINCE to each sentence.

1. Ella _____ (be) in Greece _____ two months.
2. My father _____ (work) at the same company _____ 1975.
3. I _____ (have) a headache _____ last night.
4. My father _____ (wear) glasses _____ years.
5. There _____ (be) several big snow storms _____ January.
6. She _____ (not play) tennis _____ she was in university.

Intermediate 2 – Exercise 2 – Verb Tense Review: Present Perfect

Complete the sentences with either the SIMPLE PAST or PRESENT PERFECT.

Paula _____ (live) in Paris when she _____ (be) a student. She _____ (study) French there. After she _____ (graduate) from university, Paula _____ (get) a job in Montreal. She _____ (live) there since 2002. When she _____ (move) to Montreal she _____ (be) a little lonely, but she _____ (meet) many friends and is very happy now. Paula _____ (not visit) Paris since she graduated, but she _____ (save) some money and wants to visit next summer.

Write sentences about yourself using the following words or phrases. Decide whether to use the SIMPLE PAST or PRESENT PERFECT. Check your answers with a partner.

1. since...
2. on December 31, 2004...
3. never...
4. yesterday...
5. yet...
6. just...

Choose either the PRESENT PERFECT or SIMPLE PRESENT for each sentence.

1. My daughter _____ (take) piano lessons.
2. They _____ (watch) television every night.
3. I think we _____ (watch) that movie before.
4. Her parents _____ (live) in a beautiful house by the lake.
5. I _____ (live) in many different cities.
6. _____ (pay – you) your rent yet?
7. I _____ (go) to the grocery store on Saturdays.
8. Tammy _____ (know) her best friend for ten years.

Answer the following questions. Discuss with a partner.

1. In which sentence is Philip dead now?
 - a) Philip has lived in Boston all his life.
 - b) Philip lived in Boston all his life.

2. In which sentence are the police asking about last Saturday night?
 - a) Have you seen this man?
 - b) Did you see this man?

3. Which sentence is important NOW?
 - a) He has recovered from surgery.
 - b) He recovered from surgery.

4. In which sentence is the sun shining NOW?
 - a) It rained for weeks.
 - b) It has rained for weeks.

5. Which sentence is better gossip?
 - a) Billy has asked Frieda to marry him.
 - b) Billy asked Frieda to marry him.

6. In which sentence is she hungry NOW?
 - a) I haven't eaten anything.
 - b) I didn't eat anything.

7. In which sentence is he still waiting for her call?
 - a) Jessica didn't call.
 - b) Jessica hasn't called.