

Present Perfect Simple and Continuous

Present Perfect Simple

Form have + past participle (verb+ED, III form or irregular verbs)

I/you/We/They have seen this film before.

She/He has never studied physics before.

It has been a year since I last saw her.

Present Perfect Continuous

Form: have/has+been – present participles

I have been writing emails all morning.

Have you been running, you look exhausted?

Have you been eating my sandwich?

USE

- Interference from the mother tongue
- Seen as an alternative to the past

I've had lunch. / I had lunch. (Not interchangeable!)

- Confused with the present tense.

I've been here since February. I am here since February. (wrong)

- A bridge between the present and past!

I've had lunch. (implies recently, the stress is on the activity)

I had lunch. (the fact, when? We know exactly)

I've been here since February. (shows the connection between the present and past)

I am here. (relates only to present and cannot be followed by since)

PPS

1. Actions began in the past and continue up to the present and possibly into the future.
2. Actions occurring/not occurring at an unspecified time in the past

Examples:

I've read ten pages **this morning**. (so far, when did he start? Is he still reading? Complete/incomplete?)

I read ten pages **this morning**. (has he finished?, what part of the day is it?)

This is the greatest film I have **ever** seen. (up until now)

Since/for

I've lived here **for + how many/since when?**

The use of FOR

For can be used with other tenses too:

I've lived here for five years. (PPS)

I lived here for five years. (PS)

I am here for five days. (that's how long I'm staying)

Actions occurring/happening at unspecified times in the past:

Have you passed your driving test? (at any point/the one you've just taken)

If the answer is yes...we ask When? (did you pass it – for getting a precise answer)

J.W. has been arrested. (implies today, recently, at last...)

JUST/RECENTLY/ALREADY/YET/STILL

PPS for recent actions with: JUST/RECENTLY/ALREADY/
YET/STILL

I've just tidied up the kitchen, why do you have to get in now?

We've recently heard that they are moving to a new country.

I have already told you...(when?)

Has the letter arrived yet?

I still haven't passed my driving test.

But

Are you still studying?

Repeated/ habitual action:

I've seen the film/read the book several times.

We have met a few times.

So what's the difference?

PPS v PPC

- Both PPS and PPC are used to talk about the events where there is a connection between the present and the past.

Example1:

- a) I've been decorating the house this month.
- b) I've decorated the house.
- a) Focuses on the action (which is btw unfinished)
- b) Focuses on the result (finished)

Example 2:

I've read the book you lent me. (finished)

I've been reading the book you lent me. (unfinished)

How long v how much

I've been phoning you for hours, what's the matter with you! (how long)

I've phoned you three times, where were you? (how many times)

Example 3:

I've worked here for 30 years (something we see as permanent)

I've been working in Birmingham for the last three years.
(temporary)

In the context with past tenses

John has been writing novels since 1957. In over 50 years he's written 30 best sellers.

Who's eaten my chocolate? (any left?)

Who's been eating my chocolate? (any left?)

PPS/PPC/Past Simple/ Past Continuous

I moves to the States in 1985. That's when I met Anna. So I've known her for 30 years and we've been married for 20.

When I woke up the sun was shining, but it's been raining steadily since 11 o'clock and now it's half past three.