



USE THE PAST SIMPLE  
AND PRESENT  
PERFECT



# Past Simple v Present Perfect

# Past Simple v Present Perfect

The past simple is used to talk about **a specific event in the past that has finished** whilst the present perfect tense is used to talk about **unfinished events or past events with no time.**

# Past Simple v Present Perfect

The past simple tense can be represented like this on a timeline.



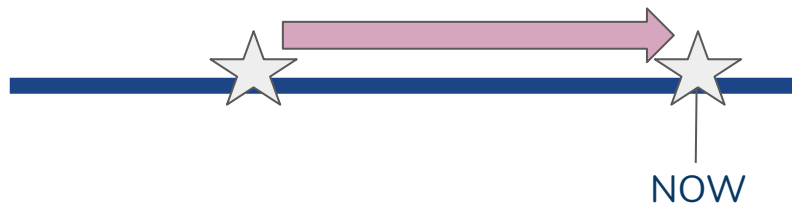
# Past Simple v Present Perfect

The past simple tense has six main uses.

Past Simple Use	Example Sentences
One single past event	<i>I went to Germany in summer</i>
A past duration	<i>I lived in Barcelona for 3 years</i>
A repeated past event	<i>I drove to work every day</i>
A changed state	<i>She was short as a child but now she's tall</i>
A series of past events	<i>I woke up, got dressed, had breakfast then went to school</i>
Stative verbs	<i>I wanted some chocolate yesterday</i>

# Past Simple v Present Perfect

The present perfect tense can be represented like this on a timeline.



# Past Simple v Present Perfect

The present perfect tense has six uses.

Present Simple Use	Example Sentences
Life experience (no time)	<i>I have visited France before</i>
Recent past events	<i>We've just arrived home</i>
Change in state	<i>I have improved my English</i>
Past events impact present	<i>I've lost my wallet and I need it now</i>
Unfinished duration of time	<i>I haven't been to the cinema this year</i>
Stative verbs	<i>I have known her for a long time</i>

# Past Simple v Present Perfect

Consider these two examples, what is the difference in meaning?

Past Simple	Present Perfect
I knew her for 5 years	I have known her for 5 years



# Past Simple v Present Perfect

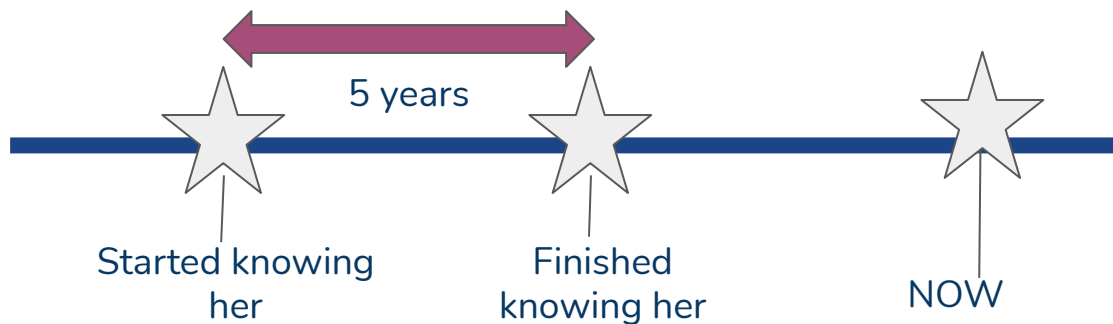
## Past Simple

I knew her for 5 years

## Present Perfect

I have known her for 5 years

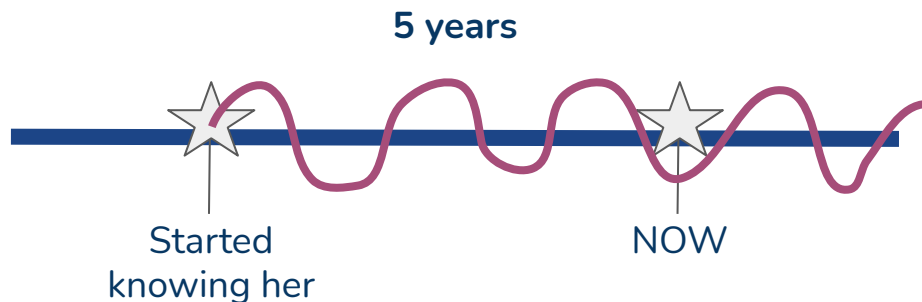
The past simple shows this event started and finished in the past, now you don't know her.



# Past Simple v Present Perfect

Past Simple	Present Perfect
I knew her for 5 years	I have known her for 5 years

The present perfect shows this event started 5 years ago and you still know her now. This will continue in the future.



# Past Simple v Present Perfect

Here is an alternative example with the same difference.

Past Simple	Present Perfect
<p>I studied at school for 3 years</p> <p>A horizontal blue line represents a timeline. Three white stars are placed on the line. The first star is labeled 'Started studying' below it. The second star is labeled 'Finished studying' below it. The third star is labeled 'NOW' below it. A double-headed pink arrow is positioned above the line between the first and second stars, with the text '3 years' written in blue above the arrow.</p>	<p>I have studied at school for 3 years</p> <p>A horizontal blue line represents a timeline. Two white stars are placed on the line. The first star is labeled 'Started studying' below it. The second star is labeled 'NOW' below it. A wavy pink line is drawn above the blue line, starting from the first star and ending at the second star. The text '3 years' is written in blue above the wavy line.</p>

# Past Simple v Present Perfect

Consider these two examples, what is the difference in meaning?

Past Simple	Present Perfect
She lived there for many years	She has lived there for many years

# Past Simple v Present Perfect

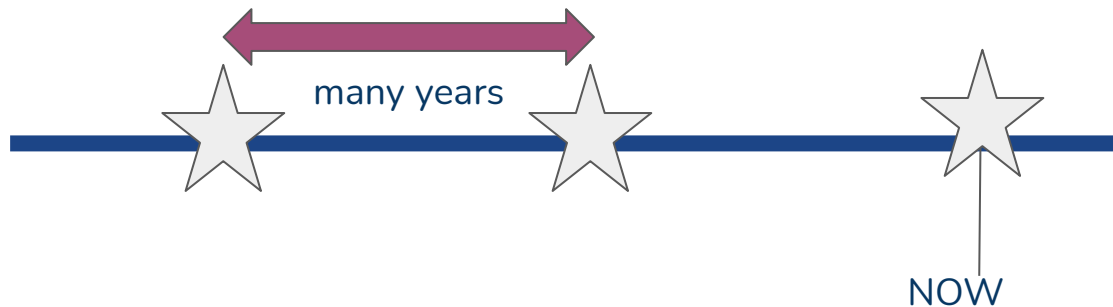
## Past Simple

She lived there for many years

## Present Perfect

She has lived there for many years

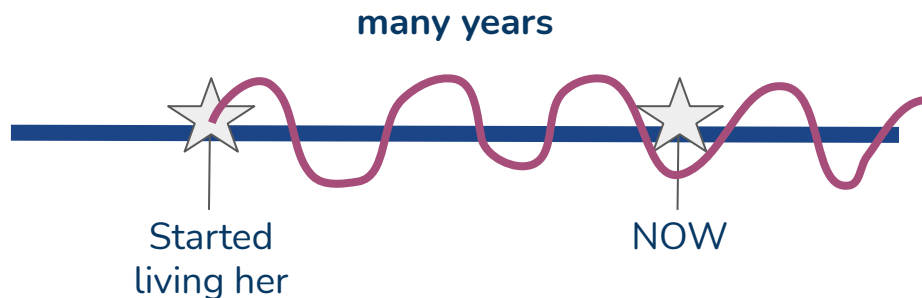
We must remember to use the past simple when somebody has died.



# Past Simple v Present Perfect

Past Simple	Present Perfect
She lived there for many years	She has lived there for many years

The present perfect expresses this event is continuing to the present (the person is still alive).



# Past Simple v Present Perfect

Consider these two examples, what is the difference in meaning?

Past Simple	Present Perfect
I lost my wallet!	I've lost my wallet and I need it now

# Past Simple v Present Perfect

Past Simple	Present Perfect
I lost my wallet!	I've lost my wallet and I need it now

The past simple is used to talk about a simple finished event in the past that has no impact on the present time.





# Past Simple v Present Perfect

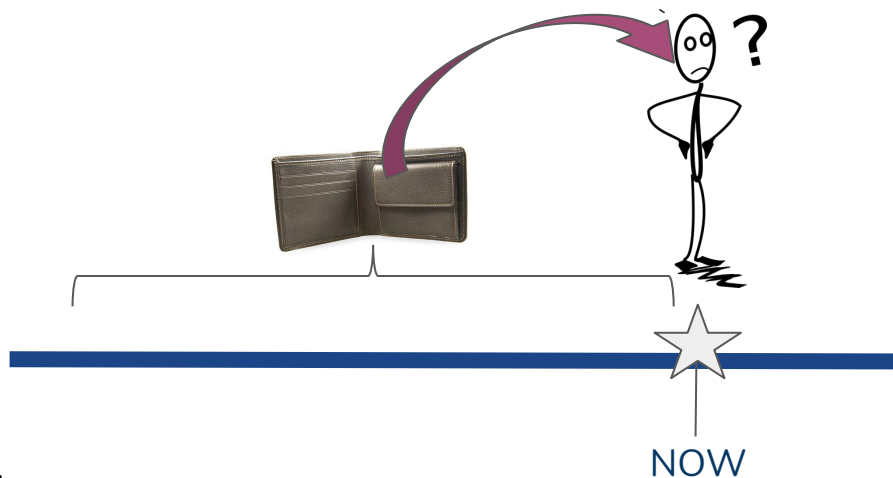
## Past Simple

I lost my wallet!

## Present Perfect


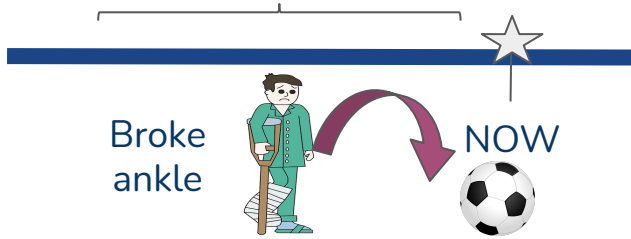
I've lost my wallet and I need it now

When a past event impacts the present time, we use the present perfect tense.



# Past Simple v Present Perfect

Here is an alternative example with the same difference.

Past Simple	Present Perfect
<p>I broke my ankle</p> 	<p>I have broken my ankle so I can't play football</p> 

# Past Simple v Present Perfect

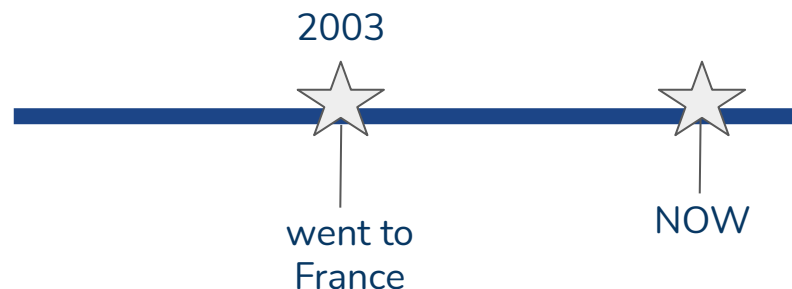
Consider these two examples, what is the difference in meaning?

Past Simple	Present Perfect
I went to France in 2003	I've been to France before

# Past Simple v Present Perfect

Past Simple	Present Perfect
I went to France in 2003	I've been to France before

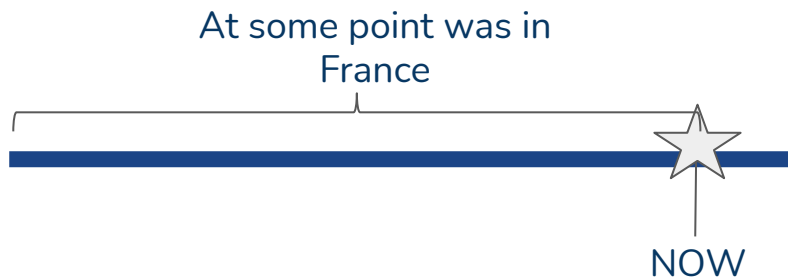
The past simple is used to talk about a simple finished event in the past, with a finished time phrase (in 2003)



# Past Simple v Present Perfect

Past Simple	Present Perfect
I went to France in 2003	I've been to France before

The present perfect is used to talk about life experience (with no time phrase) or an unfinished time (such as before - possibility of changing in the future).



# Past Simple v Present Perfect

Here is an alternative example with the same difference.

Past Simple	Present Perfect
<p>I lived in Barcelona last year</p> <p>A horizontal timeline with a blue bar. Two stars are placed on the bar. The first star is labeled 'last year' above and 'lived in Barcelona' below. The second star is labeled 'this year' above and 'NOW' below.</p>	<p>I have lived in Barcelona before</p> <p>A horizontal timeline with a blue bar. A single star is placed on the bar, labeled 'NOW' below. Above the bar, the text 'At some unknown point, lived in Barcelona' is written.</p>

# Past Simple v Present Perfect

## AFFIRMATIVE

Past Simple	Present Perfect
I walked You walked He walked She walked It walked We walked They walked	I have walked You have walked He has walked She has walked It has walked We have walked They have walked

# Past Simple v Present Perfect

## NEGATIVE

Past Simple	Present Perfect
I didn't walk You didn't walk He didn't walk She didn't walk It didn't walk We didn't walk They didn't walk	I haven't walked You haven't walked He hasn't walked She hasn't walked It hasn't walked We haven't walked They haven't walked



# Past Simple v Present Perfect

## QUESTIONS

Past Simple	Present Perfect
Did I cook? Did you cook? Did he cook? Did she cook? Did it cook? Did we cook? Did they cook?	Have I cooked? Have you cooked? Has he cooked? Has she cooked? Has it cooked? Have we cooked? Have they cooked?

# Past Simple v Present Perfect

## SHORT RESPONSES

Past Simple		Present Perfect	
Yes, I did Yes, you did Yes, he did Yes, she did Yes, it did Yes, we did Yes, they did	No, I didn't No, you didn't No, he didn't No, she didn't No, it didn't No, we didn't No, they didn't	Yes, I have Yes, you have Yes, he has Yes, she has Yes, it has Yes, we have Yes, they have	No, haven't No, you haven't No, he hasn't No, she hasn't No, it hasn't No, we haven't No, they haven't

# Past Simple v Present Perfect

## Past Simple

Ago  
Yesterday  
In + time  
Once  
Then  
This  
Last

## Present Perfect

Just  
Already  
Never  
Ever  
Recently  
Yet  
Before  
So far  
Up to now  
Lately  
In the last few  
Since  
For

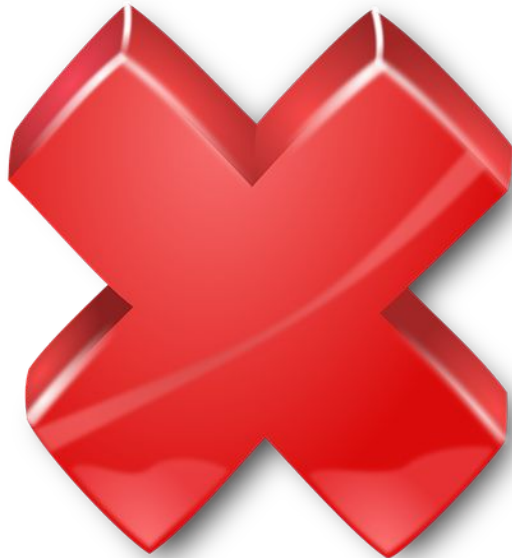
# Past Simple v Present Perfect

Look at these typical mistakes and correct them!

# Past Simple v Present Perfect



I have received the letter on  
Monday



# Past Simple v Present Perfect



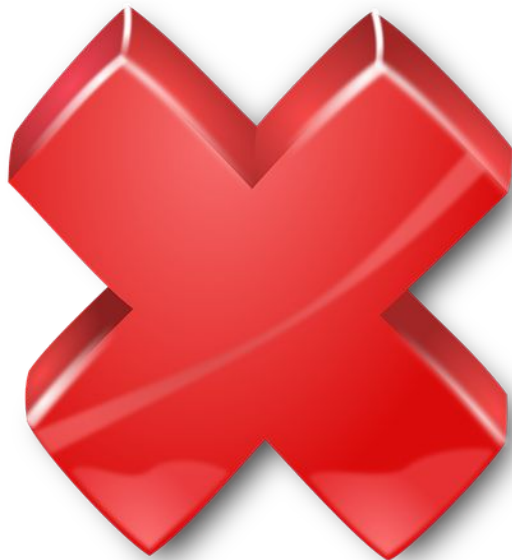
I received the letter on  
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# Past Simple v Present Perfect



When have you read that book?



# Past Simple v Present Perfect

Specific time - past simple



When did you read that book?



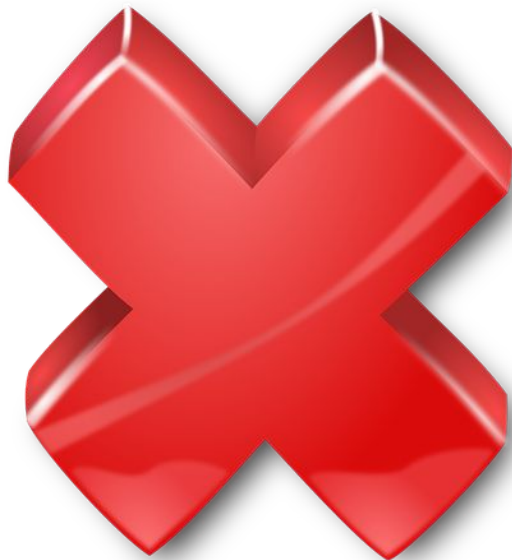
When have you ever gone to France?



# Past Simple v Present Perfect



I worked here since 2001



# Past Simple v Present Perfect



I have worked here since  
2001



# Practice 1



# Past Simple v Present Perfect

Choose the correct answer

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# Past Simple v Present Perfect

1. I'm really hungry. I (haven't eaten / didn't eat) yet.
2. They (arrived / have arrived) a week ago.
3. We (have worked / worked) here for three years.
4. They (didn't recognise / haven't recognised) me at yesterday's meeting.
5. Our neighbour (was / has been) in hospital since Friday.
6. (Have you travelled / Did you travel) abroad many times?

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# Past Simple v Present Perfect

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3. The teacher ..... (not return) the tests yet.
4. How long ..... she ..... (know) about this problem?
5. .... you ever ..... (hear) such an unbelievable story?
6. When I was a child, I ..... (live) in England for two years.
7. He ..... (buy) me a beautiful gift for my birthday.
8. I am so excited to have a dog. I ..... (always / want) one.

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# Past Simple v Present Perfect

Correct the errors.

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# Past Simple v Present Perfect

1. Have you ever eat Chinese food?
2. She has moved to another city last year.
3. They have sent out the invitations yet.
4. Jack hasn't seen Jill since she has graduated.
5. Mr Brown already left the office.
6. We haven't been abroad since a year.
7. The lesson has started ten minutes ago.
8. Did she just leave?

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# Past Simple v Present Perfect

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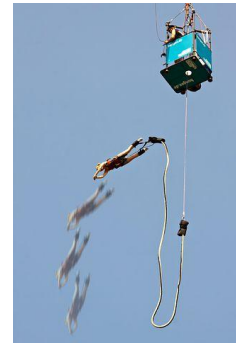
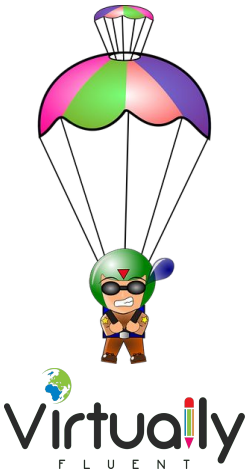
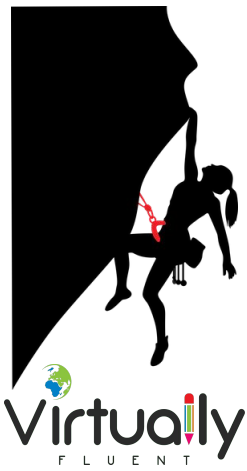
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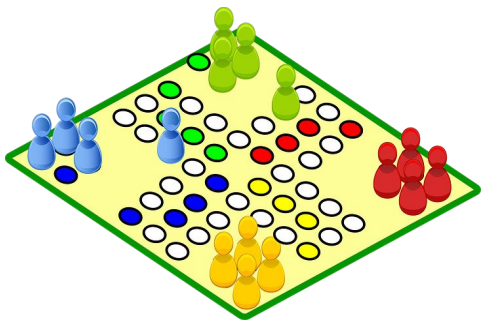
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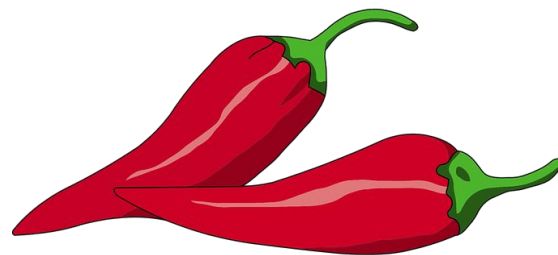
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USE THE PAST SIMPLE  
AND PRESENT  
PERFECT



# REVIEW

Past Simple

*She has gone to the shops*



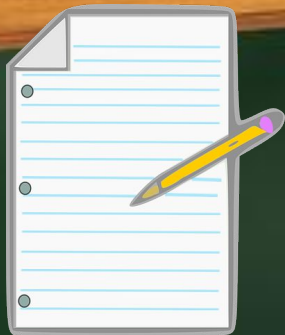
**V/S**



*She went to the shops*

Present Perfect

## Past Simple v Present Perfect Course

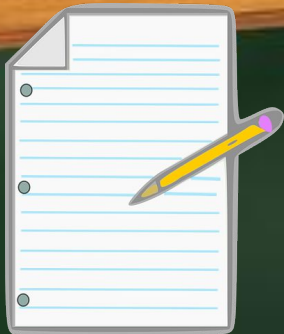


# HOMEWORK 1

## COMPLETE THE QUIZ

Link:

<https://virtually-fluent.com/quizzes/past-simple-v-present-perfect-quiz/>



# HOMEWORK 2

## WRITING ASSIGNMENT

Link:

<https://virtually-fluent.com/topic/past-simple-present-perfect-my-funny-story/>