

Past Simple vs. Present Perfect

Past Simple

Form

S + regular verb-ed or
irregular verb (V2 form,
Past Simple)

Use

Finished time

We *lived* in Japan *from*
1995-1998.
(a time period that started
and ended in the past)



Definite time

I *saw* the Eiffel Tower *in 2007*.



Series of finished actions

Firstly, he *read* the book and
then he *watched* the movie.



Repeated actions

He *went* to the cinema *every*
weekend last year.

Time Phrases

yesterday
ago
last
in 1994, etc.
in the 20th century, etc.
in July, etc.
on Monday, etc.

Present Perfect

S + regular verb-ed or
irregular verb (V3 form,
Past Participle)

Unfinished time

I've *worked* as a teacher
since 2011.
(a time period that started in the
past, and continues until now)



Indefinite time

I *have seen* the Eiffel Tower.

Experience

Have you ever seen this movie?

Result

She *has already* watched this
movie *3 times*.

already
just
yet
ever
never
for
since...

PRESENT PERFECT X PAST SIMPLE

FORM

+
 Subject + have / has + past participle
 -
 subject + have / has + not + past participle
 subject + have / has + never + past participle
 ?
 Have / Has + subject + past participle
 WH... + have / has + subject + past participle



+
 Subject + past form
 -
 Subject + didn't + infinitive (without to)
 Subject + wasn't / weren't
 ?
 Did + subject + infinitive (without to)
 WH ... + did + subject + infinitive (without to)
 (WH...) + was / were + subject

USAGE

Not finished

I have played tennis for 10 years.
 I still play tennis.



2003 - now

Finished

I played tennis for 3 years.
 I do not play any more.



2003 - 2006

Experience in general

Imagine that your memory is a big bag into which you put everything that happens to you. This tense is used to say that something is or is not in your bag.

I have been to Paris.



One specific event

You give details about a specific event in your life

Have you ever been to Paris?
Yes, I have. I bought this bag there. It was really cheap.



Explanation why something is now

"BUCK, I'VE EATEN
 A BAD FLY!"



By present perfect you explain what happened before now.

"Why is she crying?" "She has been robbed."

Peter is happy. He has passed his driving test.

Time is given

When you say when something happened, you have to use past simple.

I was at school yesterday.
She came at six o'clock.
When did he arrive?

FACTS

Frequency:

80% 20%

Past simple present perfect

If not sure, use the past simple tense.
 There is bigger chance that you will be right.

NEVER is not always used with present perfect tense. It is **more often** used with past simple tense!!!

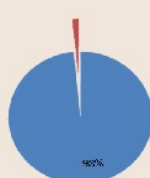


... was never ...

... have never been ...

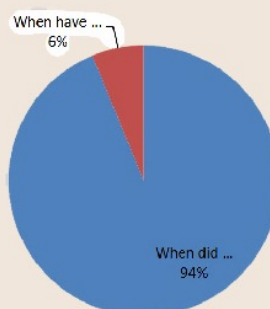
Have / Has ... ever ...?

Was / Were ... ever ...?



Question with the word EVER

Always use present perfect tense.



Question with the word WHEN

Always use past simple tense.