

Grammar Notes

A. Introduction

The present perfect tense is very common in English. It is unlike other verb tenses because it has two separate uses. One use is a finished past action and the other is a continuing action. Time markers (words that show a verb's tense) show if the verb has a finished or continuing meaning.

Let's look at the finished action use (Use 1) of the present perfect first and compare it with the simple past. Then we'll look at the continuing action use (Use 2).

B. Use 1

FINISHED ACTIONS

	Present Perfect	Simple Past
Pattern	have / has + p.p. (past participle)	verb + <i>-ed</i> (or irregular forms)
Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> shows a finished past action does not show when it occurred 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> shows a finished past action shows when it occurred
Diagram		
Time Markers	No time marker is needed, but for emphasis it is possible to use: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> already yet still ever never recently lately 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> yesterday the day before yesterday last ago when (for joining two past sentences)
Examples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I have seen <i>Iron Man</i>. She has never tried frog legs. They've bought a new car. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> I saw <i>Iron Man</i> last night. She tried frog legs last month. They bought a new car two weeks ago.



Grammar Notes cont.

B. Use 1 cont.

Time Markers for Emphasis

Already

Already emphasizes an action that has occurred in the past.

have + already + p.p.

- I have **already** read that book.

Recently & Lately

Recently and *lately* emphasize a recent past action.

have + p.p. + O + recently / lately

- Scientists have discovered a new species **recently**.
- Have you spoken to her **lately**?

Yet & Still

Yet and *still* emphasize the intention to do something.

have + not + p.p. + O + yet

- I haven't read that book **yet**.

still + have + not + p.p.

- I **still** haven't read that book.

Ever & Never

Ever and *never* emphasize an action that could have occurred at *any* time in the past.

have + (not) ever / never + p.p.

- Have you **ever** been to Europe?
- I haven't **ever** been to Europe.
- I have **never** been to Europe.

Repeated Actions



Use the present perfect even if a finished action happened more than once in the past. Do not mention **when** it occurred.

- I **have performed** onstage many times.
- We **have been** to Mexico twice.
- She **has given** a presentation five times in her life.