

PERFECT TENSES

PRESENT PERFECT

- A. An action which began in the past and still continues.**
*We've **lived** in the same house for two years.*
- B. An experience that happened at some time in one's life.**
*Have you **ever had** an operation?*
- C. A past action with a present result.**
*Peter **has just bought** a new car.*

TIME EXPRESSIONS:

- A. FOR** with a period of time
SINCE with a point in time.

For two years, for a month, for a few minutes, for half an hour, for ages...

Since 1987, since the end of the lesson, since August, since 8.00, since Christmas...

B. EVER, NEVER, BEFORE

*Have you **ever** been to Australia?*

*This is the best present I have **ever** received.*

*I've **never** been to Italy.*

*I haven't eaten such a delicious meal **before**.*

C. YET, ALREADY, JUST, STILL

*I haven't done my homework **yet**.*

*I've **already** done my homework.*

*My father has **just** bought a new computer.*

*They **still** haven't found what they are looking for.*

OTHER EXPRESSIONS:

Recently, lately, so far, up to now, always, often, in recent years, twice, three times, in the last two months, How long...?

PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

- 1. For unfinished actions which started in the past and are still true now.**

Ex. He **has been waiting** for you all day. (= and he's still waiting now.)
*I've **been working** on this report since eight o'clock this morning.*

Remember that some verbs rarely take the continuous form.
*I've always **loved** poetry.*

- 2. For a continuous action in the past which has recently finished. (You can often see the results of the action when you speak)**

She **has been cooking** since last night (= and the food on the table looks delicious)

PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE OR CONTINUOUS?

1. We use the **present perfect continuous** form to say **how long** something has been happening:

Ann has been writing letters all day.
Jim has been playing tennis since 2 o'clock.

2. We use the **present perfect simple** form to say **how much** we have done, how many things we have done...

Ann has written ten letters today.
Jim has played tennis three times this week.