

Present Perfect vs Simple Past

Present Perfect	Simple Past
Unfinished actions that started in the past and continue to the present <i>I've lived in Rio de Janeiro for ten years (I still live there)</i>	Finished actions <i>I lived in Rio de Janeiro for ten years (but then I moved away and now I live somewhere else)</i>
A finished action in someone's life (when the person is still alive: life experience) <i>My brother has been to Mexico three times</i>	A finished action in someone's life (when the person is dead) <i>My great-grandmother went to Mexico three times</i>
A finished action with a result in the present <i>I've lost my keys! (The result is that I can't get into my house now)</i>	A finished action with no result in the present <i>I lost my keys yesterday. It was terrible! (Now there is no result. I got new keys yesterday)</i>
With an unfinished time word (this week, this month, today) <i>I've seen John this week</i>	With a finished time word (last week, last month, yesterday) <i>I saw John last week</i>

Present Perfect vs Simple Past

Time expressions

Present Perfect	Simple Past
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ ever○ never○ since (with a point of time)○ so far○ until now○ for (+ a period of time)*○ already*○ yet*○ just*	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ yesterday○ last week/month/year...○ two hours/one week/six months... ago○ in 1983○ at three o'clock○ on Sunday○ in March○ when I was born○ for (+ a period of time)*○ already* (only in American English)○ yet* (only in American English)○ just*

Been and Gone

In present perfect we use both “been” and “gone” as the past participle of the verb “go” but in different circumstances:

Been

We use 'been' (often when we talk about 'life experience') to mean that the person being talked about has visited the place, and come back. Notice the preposition 'to':

- I've been to Paris (in my life, but now I'm in London, where I live).
- She has been to school today (but now she's back at home).
- They have never been to California.

Gone

We use 'gone' (often when we are talking about an action with a result in the present) to mean that the person is at the place now:

- 'Where's John?' 'He's gone to the shops' (he's at the shops now).
- Julie has gone to Mexico (now she's in Mexico).
- They've gone to Japan for three weeks (now they're in Japan).