

PRESENT PERFECT (SIMPLE AND CONTINUOUS)

Prepared By: Mohammad Hassan

Miss Liu came here about six months ago. She has been here for about six months. She has already taken Professor Allen's course in remedial English for foreign students, but she hasn't mastered all the patterns yet. She still makes a lot of mistakes. She has been living in a furnished room since she arrived, but she has just decided to move into a dormitory next semester. She will have more opportunity to speak English in the dorm.

Professor Allen has been teaching English to foreign students for quite a long time. He has been working in this field for about six years, as a matter of fact. He has tried several different methods of teaching the verb tenses, but he has never found a way that is completely satisfactory. He has spoken to many of his students and they have assured him that his explanations are easy to understand, but he is still trying to make them better.

FORMATION

Simple present perfect tense is a verb phrase made from a present form of auxiliary *have/has* and a *past participle*.

TIME EXPRESSIONS

- Time expressions are not essential.
- Those used with simple present perfect indicate duration or unspecified past time.
- Specific past times are never stated with simple present perfect tense.

Sentence patterns

SUBJECT	VERB			COMPLEMENT		
	AUX	MOD	PP	Object	Place	Time
Professor Allen	has		tried	different methods		
Miss Liu	has	already	taken	Professor's Allen's course		
She	hasn't		mastered	the patterns		yet
She	has		lived		here	for six months.
She	has		lived		here	Since September

Uses

Simple present perfect in the main clause of a sentence signals one of the following meanings:

- An action or state which was repeated in the past and which may be repeated in the future, for example, *THEY HAVE TRIED DIFFERENT METHODS OF TEACHING*
- An action or state completed at some unspecified past time. Sentences of this type may include words like *just, already, recently*. Negative statements of this type often include the word *yet*, for example, *SHE HAS ALREADY TAKEN AN ENGLISH COURSE / SHE HASN'T ARRIVED YET*
- An action or state which began some time in the past and has continued to the moment of speaking. This kind of sentence usually includes a time expression introduced by *for* or *since*, for example, *HE HAS BEEN ILL FOR TWO DAYS*

FOR AND SINCE

- For introduces phrases of duration. The actual length of time is stated: *for six months*.
- Since phrases name the beginning of the time duration. The end is the moment of speaking. *Since September means from September until now*.
- Since clauses name an action which occurred at the beginning of the time duration: *since she arrived*. The end of the duration is the moment of speaking or writing.

For a period (from start to end)	since a point (up to now)
for 20 minutes for three days for 6 months for 4 years for 2 centuries for a long time for ever	since 9am since Monday since January since 1997 since 1800 since I left school since the beginning of time

JUST, RECENTLY, ALREADY, and YET

- They often occur in the position of the frequency adverbs (IV, 2), **between the auxiliary and the main verb.**
- This is the only position for **just**; the others may occur at the end.
- **Yet**, which is used only in questions and negative statements, usually comes at the end.

WHAT DO THEY MEAN?

- **Just** means immediately before speaking.
- **Recently** is within a short time past.
- **Already** emphasizes the completion of an action at a time sooner than expected by the hearer.
- **Yet**, with a negative, suggests a time later than expected.

PRESENT PERFECT VS SIMPLE PAST

PRESENT PERFECT	SIMPLE PAST
<p>She has already taken Professor Allen's course.</p> <p>(Implication: Her present performance in English should reflect that recent past event.)</p>	<p>She took Professor Allen's course last semester.</p> <p>(Simple statement of fact. No implication for the present.)</p>
<p>Professor Allen has tried several different methods of teaching verb tenses.</p> <p>(Implication: He will continue to try new methods.)</p>	<p>Professor Allen tried several different methods of teaching verb tenses.</p> <p>(Implication: He is not going to try any more methods.)</p>

PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

FORMATION

Continuous present perfect is a verb phrase which has three parts: a present form of auxiliary have (**have/has**) plus (**been**) plus (**ing-form**).

TIME EXPRESSIONS

- Time expressions are essential with this tense as with the continuous past .
- They are phrases or clauses of duration introduced by **for** or **since** or **less specific expressions of recent time** such as *this week, today, recently*.

Sentence patterns

SUBJECT	VERB			COMPLEMET		
	AUX	been	Ing-form	Object	Place	Time
Professor Allen	has	been	living		in London	Since he was born
Miss Liu	has	been	working			For thee hours
They	have	been	helping	her	with her lessons	recently

SIMPLE PRESENT PERFECT VS CONTINUOUS PERFECT TENSE

SIMPLE PRESENT PERFECT	CONTINUOUS PRESENT PERFECT
<p>Professor Allen has taught in many foreign countries. (repeated, completed activity) Implication: (repeated, completed activity)</p>	<p>Professor Allen has been teaching foreign students for about six years. (uninterrupted activity)</p>
<p>It has rained every day this week. (repeated, completed occurrence)</p>	<p>It has been raining all morning. (Implication: continuous occurrence)</p>

KEEP IN MIND:

- There is really not a great deal of difference in meaning between these two tenses.
- The continuous emphasizes duration, whereas the simple perfect focuses on repetition and/ or completion.
- Many of the statements in this lesson could be expressed in either tense without anyone's noticing the difference.

THE END

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