

# The Present Perfect Tense زمن المضارع التام

## 1. What is the Present Perfect?

Think of the Present Perfect as a **bridge** between the past and the present.

- It does NOT talk about old, finished history (that is the **Past Simple**).
- It talks about things that **connect to NOW**.

**The Golden Rule:** If the time is finished (yesterday, last week), do NOT use Present Perfect. If the time is not finished (today, this week) or you don't mention the time, use Present Perfect!

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## 2. The Form (How to build it)

It is very easy to build. You only need **two parts**:

**Subject + have/has + Past Participle (V3)**

- **Have** = used with: *I, You, We, They*
- **Has** = used with: *He, She, It*

**What is the Past Participle (V3)?**

- **Regular verbs:** Add **-ed** (walk → walked, play → played).
- **Irregular verbs:** You must memorize them (go → **gone**, eat → **eaten**, see → **seen**, write → **written**).

| Subject                    | Affirmative              | Negative                    | Question                  |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
| <b>I / You / We / They</b> | I <b>have</b> finished.  | I <b>haven't</b> finished.  | <b>Have</b> you finished? |
| <b>He / She / It</b>       | She <b>has</b> finished. | She <b>hasn't</b> finished. | <b>Has</b> she finished?  |

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## 3. The 3 Main Uses (When to use it)

You only need to memorize these **three situations**:

**Use 1: Life Experiences (No specific time)**

We use it to talk about things we did or didn't do in our life. **We do NOT say when.**

- *Example:* "I **have visited** London." (You don't know when. Maybe 5 years ago, maybe yesterday. The time is not important).

- *Example:* "She **has never tried** spicy food."
- *Question:* "**Have** you **ever** seen a lion?"

## Use 2: Actions that started in the past and are STILL happening now

We use it with "**for**" (duration) and "**since**" (starting point). The action is not finished.

- *Example:* "I **have studied** English **for** 3 years." (I started 3 years ago, and I am still studying now).
- *Example:* "He **has lived** in Baghdad **since** 2020." (He started in 2020, and he still lives there now).

## Use 3: Past actions with a result in the present

We use it when something happened in the past, but the **result** is important right now.

- *Example:* "I **have lost** my phone." (Result: I cannot call anyone **right now**).
- *Example:* "She **has eaten** all the food." (Result: There is nothing left for us **now**).

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## 4. The Magic Signal Words (Your Best Friends)

These words are like "traffic lights." When you see them, you **MUST** use the Present Perfect:

| Word           | Meaning                                       | Example                                                                |
|----------------|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Ever</b>    | In your whole life (used in questions).       | "Have you <b>ever</b> been to Egypt?"                                  |
| <b>Never</b>   | Not in your whole life.                       | "I have <b>never</b> ridden a horse."                                  |
| <b>Just</b>    | A few moments ago.                            | "They have <b>just</b> arrived."                                       |
| <b>Already</b> | Earlier than expected (in positives).         | "I have <b>already</b> done my homework."                              |
| <b>Yet</b>     | Until now (in negatives and questions).       | "I haven't finished <b>yet</b> ." / "Have you called him <b>yet</b> ?" |
| <b>Since</b>   | From a specific point in time (2020, Monday). | "I have worked here <b>since</b> 2020."                                |

| Word       | Meaning                                 | Example                                  |
|------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>For</b> | For a period of time (5 days, 2 hours). | "I have worked here <b>for</b> 2 years." |

## 5. The BIG Mistake: Present Perfect vs. Past Simple

This is the most important rule for you. **Look at the time!**

| Situation                                                                 | Tense to Use           | Example                                  | Why?                                             |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Specific finished time</b> (yesterday, last year, in 2010, 2 days ago) | <b>Past Simple</b>     | I <b>bought</b> a car <b>yesterday</b> . | Yesterday is FINISHED.                           |
| <b>No time mentioned OR Unfinished time</b> (today, this week, ever)      | <b>Present Perfect</b> | I <b>have bought</b> a car.              | We don't know when. The car is new NOW!          |
| <b>Specific finished time</b>                                             | <b>Past Simple</b>     | She <b>died</b> in 2005.                 | She is dead. Finished.                           |
| <b>News / No time</b>                                                     | <b>Present Perfect</b> | She <b>has died</b> . (News)             | It happened recently. The news is important NOW. |

**Quick Test for yourself:** If you say a specific time (yesterday, last month, in 1999), you **CANNOT** use Present Perfect. It is a strict rule!

## 6. Very Important Note: "Been to" vs. "Gone to"

This confuses many students. Read this carefully:

- **Have/Has BEEN to** = You went there **AND came back**.
  - *Example:* "Ali **has been to** Turkey." (Ali is back in Iraq now).
- **Have/Has GONE to** = You went there **AND you are still there** (or on your way).
  - *Example:* "Ali **has gone to** Turkey." (Ali is in Turkey right now).

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## 7. Quick Summary Cheat Sheet (Copy this!)

| Use                          | Structure                 | Example                                  |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| <b>Experience</b>            | Have/Has + V3             | I have <b>seen</b> that movie.           |
| <b>From past to now</b>      | Have/Has + V3 + since/for | She has <b>lived</b> here since 2018.    |
| <b>Result now</b>            | Have/Has + V3             | He has <b>broken</b> his leg. (He cant w |
| <b>Question (Experience)</b> | Have/Has + subject + V3?  | Have you <b>met</b> my brother?          |
| <b>Negative</b>              | Have/Has + not + V3       | We havent <b>finished</b> yet.           |

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## 8. Practice Exercises (Try these!)

Fill in the blanks with the **Present Perfect** (have/has + V3) or **Past Simple** (V2 or -ed):

1. I \_\_\_\_\_ (never / eat) pizza in my life. (Experience)
2. She \_\_\_\_\_ (buy) a new phone yesterday. (Finished time!)
3. They \_\_\_\_\_ (live) in this city since 2015. (Still living now).
4. \_\_\_\_\_ you \_\_\_\_\_ (see) Ahmed today? (Today is not finished).
5. He \_\_\_\_\_ (break) his glasses. He cant read now. (Result now).

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### Answers:

1. have never eaten
2. bought (*yesterday = finished time, so Past Simple!*)
3. have lived
4. Have...seen
5. has broken