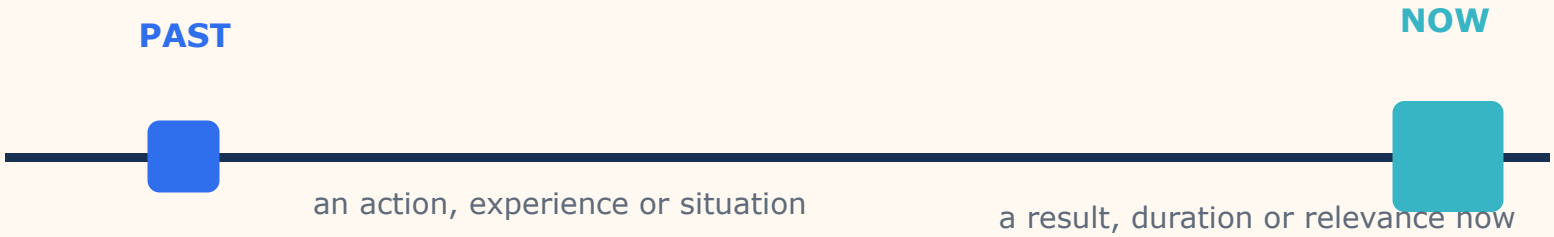
THE BIG IDEA

# One connection: past → now




**Both tenses link the past to the present.**

HAVE/HAS + PAST PARTICIPLE

# Present perfect: form

## Positive

I / you / we / they have finished.
He / she / it has finished.

## Negative

I haven’t finished.
She hasn’t finished.

## Question

Have you finished?
Has she finished?

## Short answers

Yes, I have. / No, I haven’t.
Yes, she has. / No, she hasn’t.

**Remember irregular participles: go → gone • see → seen • write → written**

MEANING

# Present perfect: three common uses

## 1 Experience

Life experience before now.

I’ve visited Slovenia.
Have you ever tried surfing?

Time is not specified.

## 2 Present result

A completed action matters now.

I’ve lost my keys.
She has broken her glasses.

Focus: the result.

## 3 Unfinished time

Something happened in a period that is still open.

I’ve had two coffees today.
We’ve studied a lot this week.

# For and since

## FOR: a length of time

for ten minutes
for three years
for a long time

I’ve lived here for three years.

## SINCE: the starting point

since Monday
since 2022
since I was a child

I’ve lived here since 2023.

**Both expressions answer: How long?**

**Your turn: How long have you studied English?**
**What have you been doing since you woke up?**

TIME EXPRESSIONS

# Ever, never, already, just and yet

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **EVER** | at any time in your life | **Have you ever travelled alone?** |
| **NEVER** | at no time before now | **I’ve never eaten octopus.** |
| **ALREADY** | sooner than expected | **She has already finished.** |
| **JUST** | a very short time ago | **They’ve just arrived.** |
| **YET** | until now; mainly in questions and negatives | **Have you called yet?** |

**Ask your partner: Have you ever done something frightening? What have you just finished?**

# Recently, lately, so far and unfinished periods

## RECENTLY / LATELY

During the recent past. Lately often suggests a repeated or continuing situation.

I’ve been sleeping badly lately.

## SO FAR

From the beginning until now.

I’ve answered six emails so far.

## TODAY / THIS WEEK

Use present perfect while the time period continues.

I’ve had two meetings today.

**Your turn**

**What have you been doing lately?**
**What have you achieved so far this week?**
**What have you done today?**

# Present perfect continuous: form

## Positive

I have been working.
She has been working.

## Negative

I haven’t been working.
She hasn’t been working.

## Question

Have you been working?
Has she been working?

## Short answers

Yes, I have. / No, I haven’t.
Yes, she has. / No, she hasn’t.

MEANING

# Present perfect continuous: two uses

## 1 Activity continuing until now

The action started in the past and is still happening.

I’ve been learning English for six months.

Focus: duration and continuity.

## 2 Recent activity with evidence

The action may have just stopped, but we see its effect.

Your hands are dirty. Have you been painting?

Focus: the activity.

**Common clues: for • since • all day • lately • recently • how long**

# Result or activity?

## Present perfect

I’ve painted the bedroom.

What matters?
The completed result.

Possible meaning: the room is finished.

## Present perfect continuous

I’ve been painting the bedroom.

What matters?
The activity or time spent.

Possible meaning: it may be unfinished.

**Ask yourself: Do I care about the result, or the process?**

A PRACTICAL SHORTCUT

# Quantity or duration?

**HOW MANY / HOW MUCH?**

**I’ve written three emails.**

completed amount
→ present perfect

**HOW LONG?**

**I’ve been writing emails for an hour.**

time spent on an activity
→ present perfect continuous

# Some verbs resist the continuous

Use the present perfect simple with states such as:

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| know | believe | own | need | want |
| understand | like | love | hate | belong |

## Compare

✓ I’ve known Marta for years. ✗ I’ve been knowing Marta for years.
✓ We’ve owned this car since 2024.

GUIDED PRACTICE

# Simple, continuous—or both?

1. I _____ (read) 80 pages today.

2. I _____ (read) all afternoon.

3. She _____ (know) him since school.

4. Your eyes are red. _____ you _____ (cry)?

5. We _____ (wait) for 40 minutes.

6. He _____ (make) four calls so far.

**Explain the meaning behind every choice.**