

SIMPLE PAST

V E R S U S

PRESENT PERFECT

Simple past is used with finished actions that started and ended in the past.

Present perfect is used with unfinished actions that started in the past and continue to the present.

Simple past is used with a finished action with no result in the present.

Present Perfect is used with a finished action with a result in the present.

Simple past describes older information.

Present Perfect describes more recent news .

Simple past indicates a specific time.

Present Perfect does not indicate a specific time.

Simple past simply indicates an action in the past.

Present Perfect emphasizes the result of a past action.

PRESENT PERFECT

S + have/has + 3rd form

When something happened is **NOT** important.

Connection to *NOW*

I have seen the Eiffel Tower.

For **unfinished time periods**.

Not concerned with when.

I have eaten 10 pizzas this week.

For **achievements, accomplishments, & experiences**.

I have written two books and run six marathons. But I have never climbed a mountain.

PAST SIMPLE

S + verb(ed)

When something happened **IS** important.

NO connection to now

I saw the Eiffel Tower in 2007.

For **finished time periods**.

Concerned with when

I ate 15 pizzas last week.

To talk about our **past**.

I was born in England and grew up in Germany. I played the piano for ten years, but I hated it.

Simple Past vs. Present Perfect

"I saw the movie yesterday."



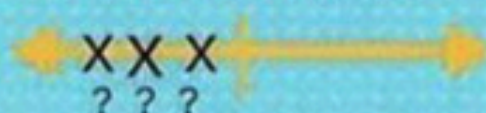
now

Specific time

One-time event in the past



"I have seen the movie three times."



? ? ?

now

Unspecified time

Repeated action in the past



Time Expressions

Past Simple

- ▶ Yesterday
- ▶ Last night, week, month, year, Monday
- ▶ In 1998, 2013
- ▶ Two days/weeks/months ago
- ▶ Then, when,

Present Perfect

- ▶ Affirmative:
 - For, since, already, just, always, recently
- ▶ Negative:
 - For, since, yet, lately, never
- ▶ Questions:
 - Ever, how long, yet, lately