

## PRESENT PERFECT

### Recent events:

The present perfect is used to describe **recent events** without a definite time.

The idea of time or place in the speaker's mind makes the event recent. A time expression may emphasize recentness.

There is always a **connection with NOW**.

*I've left my shopping bag behind.* (I still haven't got it.)

*I've just broken my watch.* (It is still broken.)

We can also describe events that have not happened.

*I haven't found her phone number yet.*

The event may be connected with the present, because **the result** of the event is present. No definite time is given for the event.

*I've broken my arm, as you can see.*

We often use the present perfect to give new information or to announce a recent happening.

*Oh, I've cut my finger.*

*The road is closed. There's been an accident.*

With verbs that describe states, the present perfect describes a **state which lasts up to the present**.

*I've lived in this house for five years.*

*I've been living in this house for five years*

**KEY WORDS:** JUST, ALREADY and YET  
RECENTLY, IN THE LAST FEW DAYS, SO FAR, SINCE,  
FOR

*Everything is going well. We haven't had any problems so far.*

### Present perfect simple:

*The ceiling was white. Now it is blue. Ann has painted the ceiling.*

*'Has painted'* is a **completed action**. We are interested in the **result** of the activity (the painted ceiling) not the activity itself.

+ **How much, how many, how many times** (completed actions)

*Mary **has written** five letters today.*

**Present perfect continuous:**

*Ann's clothes are covered in paint. She **has been painting** the ceiling.*

We are interested in the **activity**. It does not matter whether something has been finished.

+ **How long** (for an activity that is still happening)

*Mary is still writing letters. She **has been writing** letters all day.*