

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.*