

Perfect tenses

1- Present Perfect Simple

Tom is looking for his keys. He can't find them.

→ He **has lost** his keys. (*he lost them recently, and he still doesn't have them*)

Form: has/have+ past participle e.g. *I have cooked* *He has written*

Use: the present perfect combines the past and the present

- The present perfect is used for actions/events that started in the past and still continue in the present.

- We **have lived** here since 2001. (we still live here)
- We **have always worked** in New York. (we still work there)
- It **has been** quite cold lately. (it is still cold now)
- I **have known** Sam for two years. (I met him 2 years ago and he is still my friend)

→ We use the present perfect with time expressions like: **for- since- all week- all the time- always- recently- so far- already- yet- before- several times-...**

→ We can use it without any time expression when it is not important to say when it happened exactly. e.g. **I have written** a long letter to my teacher.

They **have travelled** to many places around the world.

BUT if you use a specific time expression (yesterday- ago- last week- when I was a child- at that moment- that day-...), you have to use the past simple.

→ **Never** and **ever** are used to say if something happened or not.

e.g. – **Have you ever been** to Spain?

- I **have never driven** a truck.

- The present perfect is used to describe an **experience** that happened in our lives in the past up to now, but the effects are important now. We can use it with time expressions like: **always- often- once- twice – before- ...** to express the **frequency of this experience**.

- She **has had** a lot of different jobs.
- She **has been** to London twice. (so she knows London)
- I **have met** him once before.

- For **recent past activities** that have a **result now. (just- already- yet)**

- The bus **has not** arrived. (It didn't arrive and we are still waiting now)
- I **have bought** a new house (I did it last month, and it means now I have a new address)
- You **haven't finished** your homework yet. (so you can go out)
- We **have just heard** about the news. (very recently. so now we know about it)

PRESENT PERFECT

- Do not specify when the action happened. (just show it is important now)
- I **have read** your letter (I know about it)

Vs.

PAST SIMPLE

- Use time expressions to show that the action is over.
- I **read** your letter last night.

➤ **Not finished actions:**

- I've **lived** in London since 2002.
- I have seen Beth this morning. (**it is still morning**)

→ **Finished actions:**

- I moved to London in 2002.
- I saw Beth this morning. (**we are in the afternoon or evening**)

PRESENT PERFECT

VS.

PRESENT SIMPLE

➤ Actions began in the past and continue at present. (**shows how long the action has been**)

- She **has worked** here for a long time.

Actions repeated at present (**how often the action happens**)

- She works here every day.

Let's Practice: Circle the correct answer

1. They **wrote/ have written** some great songs together. They **recorded/ have recorded** some of them in their CD last year.
2. Your **hair have grown/ grew** a lot!
3. She **didn't always live/ hasn't always lived** here. She **moved/ has moved** here in 2001.
4. I **met/ have met** a lot of Sarah's family and I know them quite well. Her brother **was/ has been** in the same class as my sister.
5. I **went/ have been** to China.
6. I **went /have been** to China last summer.
7. I **was /have been** very busy since January.
8. We **met /have** met him in June.
9. (8 p.m.) What **did you do/have you done** this afternoon?
10. (10 a.m.) I **wrote/ have written** two letters this morning.

Let's practice: Put "for" or "since"

1. It has been raining lunchtime.
2. Kevin has lived in Paris 1995.
3. I am tired of waiting. We have been setting here an hour.
4. He has not seen his parents last week.
5. Jane has been away a few weeks.
6. They have been married ten years.
7. The boy has slept six o'clock.

2- Present perfect continuous

- Is it raining?
- No, but the ground is wet.
- It **has been raining**.

Form: Have/ has + been + (V + ing)

e.g. *I have been studying* *They have been playing*

Use:

- For actions/ events that have **recently/just stopped**
 - Paul is very tired. He **has been working** very hard.
 - We **have been waiting** for you since 5 o'clock. (we are no more waiting as you came now)
- For events that began in the past, are continuing now and will probably continue in the future.
 - He **has been watching** T.V all day.
 - It **has been raining** for two hours. (it started raining 2 hours ago and will perhaps continue)
 - I **have been playing** tennis since I was 6 years old .(repetition over a period of time)
 - I **have been going** there for years. (still now)

COMPARE:

- Don't disturb me now. I **am working** (present continuous)
- I **have been working** hard. Now, I am going to have a break. (present perfect continuous)

Let's practice: Put the verbs in the present c. or the present perfect c.

1. Hello Tom.(I/ look) for you. Where have you been?
2. Why(you/ look) at me that that? Stop it!
3. Linda is a teacher. (she / teach) for ten years.
4. (I/ think) about what you said and I have decided to take your advice.
5. Sara is very tired.(she/ work) very hard recently.

Present perfect continuous

Vs.

Present perfect simple

-My hands are very dirty. I **have been repairing** my bike.
(not necessarily finished)

-My bike is Ok now. I **have repaired** it.
(finished)

-I **have been visiting** New York for a couple of years.
(it continues: not interrupted)

-I **have visited** New York three times.
(a number of completed individual actions)

-I **have been living** here this summer, but I am leaving
next week. (temporary situation)

- I **have lived** here all my life.
(permanent situation)

REMARK: some verbs cannot express this difference because they are not normally used in the continuous form (feel, hear, like, love, wish, know, remember, mean, belong, own, ...)

Let's practice: Use the present perfect simple or the present perfect continuous of the verbs in brackets.

1. I three really long essays this term. (write)
2. He here since 2000. (work)
3. Be careful! I some water by the door. (spill)
4. He Spanish for six months now.(learn)

3- Past perfect

Form: Had + Past participle

Use: Sarah went to a party last week. Paul went to the party too, but they didn't see each other. Paul left the party at 10.30 and Sarah arrived at 11 o'clock. So: When Sarah arrived at the party, Paul wasn't there. He **had gone** home.

→ **When Sarah arrived at the party, Paul had already gone home.**

- We use the past perfect to make it clear that an action was completed before another action in the past. (the action which had already happened is in the past perfect; the other action into the past simple).
- For an activity that was completed before a point of time in the past.
 - In 2005, I **had lived** in the same place for ten years. (*The action completed before 2005.*)
 - The man sitting next to me on the plane was very nervous. He **had not/had never flown before**.
 - **Had** you ever **travelled** by plane before your holiday in Spain?
- **We can use the past perfect and the simple past in one sentence with expressions such as:**
 - **By the time** we **got** to the airport, our flight **had left**.
 - **After I'd done** the washing-up, we **went** for a walk.
 - **As soon as he had left**, I **phoned** Anna.
 - She **had finished** her project **before** she **went out**.
- **We can often use either the past perfect or the simple past with the expressions cited above.**
 - **As soon as he left**, I **phoned** Anna.

COMPARE > - When I **arrived**, Tim **had left**. (= Tim left. Then I arrived.)
- When I **arrived**, Tim **left**. (= I arrived. Then Tim left.)

BUT we cannot use the past perfect for both actions in a sentence if one happened after the other.
FOR EXAMPLE, we **cannot** say: As soon as he **had left**, I **had phoned** Anna. → *incorrect*

	PAST PERFECT	Vs.	PRESENT PERFECT
-	When I met Annie, I had been in Paris for a week (I came to Paris a week before I met Annie and I am not there anymore)		- I have been in Paris for a week. (I am still there)
	→ Events that began before a point of time or another action in the past.		→ Events that started in the past and still continue.

REMARKS:

- Both tenses can be use with the same time expressions: always- **before- since- for- all week-** ...; however, the meaning is different .
- If we use the past perfect it does not always mean that an activity continued up to a point of time in the past. The event can end a long time before the point we refer to.

	PAST PERFECT	Vs.	PAST SIMPLE
-	Kate had just gone home when I <u>phoned</u> . She had been at her mother's house.		- Kate was not at home when I phoned. She was at her mother's house.
→	Actions happened before a point of time in the past.		→ Actions happened some time ago.

Let's practice: Put the verbs in the correct form, past perfect or past simple.

1. "Was Paul at the party when you arrived?" "No, he (go) home."
2. I felt very tired when I got home, so I (go) straight to bed.
3. The house was very quite when I got home. Everybody (go) to bed.
4. We were driving along the road when we (see) a car which(break) down, so we (stop) to help.

4- Past perfect continuous

Form: Had + been + present participle (V+ ing)

I had been watching

Use:

Yesterday morning I got up and looked out of the window.

The sun was shining, but the ground was wet. It **had been raining**.

It was not raining when I looked out of the window; the sun was shining. But it **had been raining** before.

- The past perfect continuous is used for activities that began before a point of time in the past and were still continuing at that point of time.
 - Last summer, Josh **had been renovating** his house for two years. (*He started before last summer; he was still renovating.*)
- To show how long something had been happening before something else happened.
 - We **had been playing** tennis for about half an hour *when it started to rain heavily*.

REMARK: Some verbs (know, like, ...) are not normally used in the continuous:

We were good friends. We **had known** each other for years. (**NOT** *had been knowing*)

PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS

Vs.

PAST PERFECT

➤ To talk about the **continuity** or **duration** of a situation/activity.

I **had been working** hard, so I felt that I deserved a holiday.

I **had been travelling** for about 36 hours.

→ To talk about the **completion** of a situation or its **effects**.

I **had worked** hard, and the report was now finished.

PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

Vs.

PAST PERFECT CONTINUOUS

➤ We refer to the present.

I **have been practicing** since this morning.

(*I am still practicing*)

→ We refer to the point of time in the past.

At 11 o'clock I **had been practicing** for two

hours. (*I began at 9 and at 11 I was still practicing. but not now*)

Let's Practice 1: Put the verb into the past continuous, the past perfect or the past perfect continuous.

1. It was very noisy next door. Our neighbours a party. (have)
2. Sue was sitting on the ground. She was out of breath. She (run)
3. When I arrived, Kate (wait) for me. She was annoyed because I was late and she (wait) for a long time.
4. I was sad when I sold my car. I (have) it for a very long time.
5. We were extremely tired at the end of the journey. We (travel) for more than 24 hours.

Let's practice 2: Use the present perfect continuous or the past perfect continuous

1. For more than two years I (try)..... to get permission to extend my house.
2. How long (they live) next door to you?
3. For several years now, Glasgow (organize) festivals to celebrate the cultures of other countries. This year the focus is on Sweden.
4. When I got home, water (leak) through the roof.

5- Future perfect

Form: will + have + past participle
am/is/are going to + have + past participle

I will have worked
I am going to have worked

Use:

- We use the future perfect to talk about an action /situation that will be finished before a particular time in the future.

I can meet you at six tomorrow. My football match **will have finished** by then.

→ It is often used with a time expression beginning with by: **by then, till, by that time, by midnight, by the end of the year.** The time can also be given by other time expressions (on Sunday, before 31 June) or other activities expressed in different future tenses.

- **I will have sent** the project *by Friday.*
- *On 11 August*, this year we **will have been married** for five years.
- *By the time I get back*, he **will have left.**
- We are late. The film **will already have started** *by the time we get to the cinema.*

Let's practice: Use the present simple or the future perfect

1. We (not, make) by the time they (arrive)
2. Don't call late tonight. I (go) to bed by ten.
3. He (not, leave) by eight. He gets up at seven thirty.
4. By the time he (finish) working today, he (work)..... 10 hours.

COMPARE: We **will leave** at six o'clock. (= six o'clock is the time we will leave).

We **will have left** by six o'clock. (= We will leave before six o'clock)

6-Future perfect continuous

Form: Will + have + been + present participle (v+ ing)

I will have been working

Use:

- For activities that will continue until a point of time in the future and will not be completed. The emphasis is on the **length** of time of an action.
 - Next year I **will have been working** in the company for 30 years.
 - On Saturday, we **will have been living** in this house for a year.
- Something will already have happened before a certain time in the future.
 - When you arrive, we **will have been sitting** in the classroom all day. (*the class finishes at 5 and you will arrive at 6*)

FUTURE PERFECT SIMPLE

Vs. FUTURE PERFECT CONTINUOUS

➤ To refer to a number of individual actions that were repeated.
When I am sixty, I **will have built** more than fifty houses.
(**fifty individual actions**)

→ For incomplete, uninterrupted activities.
When I am sixty, I **will have been building** houses for thirty years. (**one incomplete activity**)

Let's practice: Use the future perfect or the future perfect continuous. (English Grammar in Use, page 31)

1. Simon started to learn Spanish when he was 25. When He's 40, he (learn) Spanish for 15 years.
2. I started writing this book 3 years ago next month. By next month I (write)200 pages.
3. I'm going to paint the front door today. I'll finish it before you get back. When you get back, I (decorate) the house.