

# The Present Perfect Simple tense

Example: I have (haven't) lived	Have I lived?
You have (haven't) lived	Have you lived?
He/she/it <i>has</i> lived	<i>Has</i> he/she/it lived?
We have lived	Have we lived?
You have lived	Have you lived?
They have lived	Have they lived?

- The Present Perfect Simple tense is a **present** tense. We use it to describe situations that have **a connection with the present**, even if they are not actually happening now or if they started in the past.
- To make the PPS tense, we use **have/has + the past participle**: for example “have lived”, “have been”, “have worked”, “have drunk”. Be careful because there are lots of irregular past participles (drunk, seen, eaten, etc).
- Typical signal words that we use with the PPS tense are: “**ever**”, “**since**”, “**just**”, “**already**”, “**not yet**”, “**so far**”, “**until now**”. These are called “**adverbs of unfinished time**”.
- You **cannot** use the PPS tense with “adverbs of **finished** time”, for example “10 years ago”, “last week”, “yesterday” because these are past (and finished) but the present perfect tense is a present tense (and unfinished). In other words, you cannot say: “I have lived in Sweden 10 years ago”.
- There are many applications of the PPS tense, but these are the three most important ones.

1. When we are describing situations that have continued **from some time in the past until now**.....(unfinished situations) = **How long have you...?**

e.g. Mike **has lived** in Japan for 3 years.

She's **been** in love with Bill since 1984.

Where's your homework? Sorry, Eddie, I **haven't finished** it yet

2. When we talk about life experiences, **things that have happened at some time in our lives** (but we don't say **when** they happened) = **Have you ever...?**

e.g. **We've been** to London before.

**Have you** ever **been** to London?

I've never **studied** the present perfect simple. It's difficult.

3. When we can see **a present result of a past action** or event, or when we are **reporting recent events**. (very common in newspapers and business reports)

= **What has just happened?**

e.g. Your hair looks different. **Have you had** a haircut?

Look, there's **been** an accident. The police are talking to the driver.

Oh dear, I've **just missed** the bus.