

PRESENT PERFECT :SIMPLE or CONTINUOUS?

A: REMEMBER

PRESENT PERFECT SIMPLE

It is HAVE or HAS + PAST PARTICIPLE.

Ex: Mike **has lost** his mobile, he can't find it 😞

B: USE AND MEANING

When we use the present perfect we don't specify when the action happened.

There is always a connection with NOW. What interests us most is THE RESULT of that past action NOW

"Where's your mobile?" "I don't know, I've lost it so I haven't got it **now**

"Is John here?" "No, he's gone out". (He is out now)

I can't find my wallet. Have you seen it? (Do you know where it is now?)

C: UNSPECIFIC TIME EXPRESSIONS

We can use the present perfect with different time expressions such as

JUST ALREADY YET ONCE NEVER MANY TIMES BEFORE
SO FAR...

JUST = a short time ago

'Would you need some help?' "No, thanks I've just finished".

You've missed her, she **has just left**

ALREADY to say that something happened sooner than expected

"Don't forget to send the boss the e-mail, will you?" "I've already sent it

"What time is the plane taking off.?" "It **has already taken** off

YET ='until now' it means that the speaker is expecting something to happen

We use YET only in questions and negative sentences.

Have you finished writing your essay **yet**?

My parents **haven't booked** for our next holidays **yet**

EVER always in questions

Have you ever tried bungee jumping?

D: FOR and SINCE REMEMBER

I have lived in this town **since 2001**

I have lived in this town **for 12 years**

E: PRESENT PERFECT CONTINUOUS

With the present perfect continuous we are interested in the activity. It does not matter whether something has been finished or not.

Ex: There are pieces of pumpkins everywhere. They **have been carving** the pumpkins for Halloween

HAVE BEEN CARVING is the present perfect continuous



I **have carved** the pumpkins, you can put them on the windowsill now to decorate

HAVE CARVED is the present perfect simple, here the important thing is that something has been finished. **HAVE CARVED** is a completed action, we are interested in the **RESULT** of the activity (the carved pumpkins) not in the activity itself.

Other example, note the difference between

I have been cutting vegetables for the stew. **I have cut** the vegetables, they are ready to be cooked.

I have cut my finger. I'm bleeding



You wouldn't say: I HAVE BEEN CUTTING my finger Strange activity, isn't it ???

F: OTHER EXAMPLES:

- My hands are very dirty.
We have been cleaning the garden.
- He's been smoking too much recently. He should smoke less.
- Where have you been? Have you been raking the fallen leaves ?

- The garden is nice now. We have cleaned it.
- Somebody has smoked all the cigarettes.
 - Have you ever raked leaves?

G: DON 'T FORGET we can use the continuous form to ask or say HOW LONG (for an activity that is still happening).

How long **have you been** watching TV? **I have been watching** TV for two hours

We **have been living** in this town since 2010

We **have been working** on this project for a long time now.