

1. The present perfect tense expresses the idea that something happened before now at an unspecified time in the past. If there is a specific mention of time the simple past is used. In some cases the past and the present perfect can both be used and have the same meaning. If we add the word "yet" we need to use the present perfect.

Look at these examples.

I have climbed this mountain before. I climbed this mountain earlier this year.
She has written a book. She wrote a book last year.

I have already seen that movie. I saw that movie yesterday.
I haven't met his parents yet. I never met his parents.

She has just given her speech. She just gave her speech.

They have never been to a zoo. They never went to a zoo.

2. The present perfect also expresses the repetition of an activity before now. The exact time of the repetition is not mentioned.

Look at these examples.

We have had four tests this semester. We had four tests yesterday.
We have flown in an airplane many times. We flew in an airplane twice.
She has seen her fiance only once. She saw her fiance only once before the wedding.

3. When used with since or for, the present perfect expresses a situation which began in the past and continues to the present.

I have been here since noon. I was here at noon.
They have liked cowboy movies since childhood. They liked cowboy movies as children.

Choose the correct tense in the sentences below.

1. I (attend, not) _____ any parties since I came here.
2. Alvin (go) _____ to a party at Sally's apartment last night.
3. Ben (arrive) _____ here three days ago.
4. Les (be) _____ here since the first of April.
5. Try not to be absent from class again. You (miss, already) _____ too many classes.
6. You (miss) _____ two classes just last week.
7. You (miss) _____ at least one class every week.
8. So far this week, I (have) _____ two tests and a quiz.
9. Alex is an artist. He (draw) _____ many beautiful pictures in his lifetime.
10. Last week he (draw) _____ a beautiful mountain landscape scene.
11. Jan (wear) _____ her expensive new dress only once since she bought it.
12. She (wear) _____ it to her brother's wedding last month.
13. The night has ended, and it's daylight now. The sun (rise) _____.
14. The sun (rise) _____ at 6:09 AM.
15. Is Kareem here? Yes, he (arrive, just) _____.