

Read the paragraph and answer the questions.

Mike moved into a new house last weekend. He and his wife wanted an unfurnished apartment, but they saw a classified ad for a house for rent at a low price. They called the number in the ad and went to look at the house. They liked the house. It had two bedrooms and a small yard. They paid the first and last month's rent and signed the rental agreement. Then they packed for a week. Mike's brother helped them move. They're happy to be in a new home.

- 1.What did Mike do last weekend?
- 2.What did he and his wife want?
- 3.Why did they rent a house?
- 4.Describe the house.
- 5.What did they pay?
- 6.How long did they pack?
- 7.Who helped them move?
- 8.Are they happy?

We can use the present simple in phrases such as “it says here, I hear, I gather, I see, I understand, They say, Someone tells me, Someone says”. You can use the present tense with the past tense of present continuous. Read these examples.

- 1.I gather you are worrying about the security of these apartments. (In this sentence, “I gather” means I conclude.)
- 2.It says here this unit sold last week.
- 3.I see you bought a new car.
- 4.Sophie tells me you went to Alaska last year.
- 5.I understand you fell off the ladder.
- 6.I hear you are selling your house.
- 7.My mother says your dad is having a party.
- 8.My dad tells me your mother died last year.
- 9.I understand you are living at home now.

In sentences with usually or always, you can use present or present continuous. Read these examples.

Should I phone you around six? No, we are usually eating at that time. No, we usually eat at that time. I had a hard day at the office. You are always complaining about work. You always complain about work.

Review of present perfect tense: Use present perfect tense to say that an action happened at an unspecified time in the past. Use have or has + past participle of the verb. EX: I have read this book before. We have seen this movie.

Do **not** use present perfect if it happened at a specific time.

NOT: We have seen this movie last month. I have read this book yesterday.

For practice, fill in the blanks of these sentences with a present perfect verb.

1. There _____ a house on this lot for over one hundred years.
2. The children _____ since I was last here.
3. The government _____ more involved in children's education.
4. My English _____ since I arrived in the U.S.
5. We _____ to several specialists about her condition.
6. We _____ to Mexico three times.
7. We _____ here for over an hour.

8. Ben _____ at the bank for several years.

Time expressions that refer to the present, such as this morning, this month and today can be used with either past or present perfect tense. If we think of “this morning” as a past, completed time period, then we use the past. If we think of “this morning” as a time period which includes the present moment, then we use the present perfect. EX: I didn’t shave this morning. I haven’t shaved this morning. I didn’t eat breakfast this morning. I haven’t eaten breakfast this morning.

Choose past or present perfect for these situations.

1. Jim came by my office at noon and asked me to eat lunch with him. I told him I was really hungry because I (eat) _____ breakfast this morning.
2. Roger and I discussed flying to Mexico next week. Roger said that he (buy) _____ his ticket yet.
3. Jill asked me to go to the movies, but I (see) _____ that movie last week.
4. Did you ask Helen to feed the dogs while we’re away? Yes, I _____ her last night.
5. Please mail those letters I put on the kitchen counter. I (mail) _____ them this morning.
6. I offered to buy Jan’s ticket, but she said she _____ her ticket earlier today.

In a sentence which includes a time clause with “since”, we generally prefer a past tense verb in the time clause and a present perfect verb in the main clause. The time clause refers to a particular point in the past. EX: Since Mr. X became president, unemployment has increased. She hasn’t been able to play tennis since she broke her arm.

Fill in the correct verb tense.

1. (arrive/ meet) Since Sara _____ in Austin, she _____ many new friends.
2. (be/start) He _____ a manager since we _____ to work here.
3. (write/ become) He _____ his mother since he _____ ill.
4. (rode/offer) Since you _____ to work on the bus, Jan _____ to drive you home.

Talk with a partner or your group.

1. Are older buildings more desirable than new ones?
2. Tell about a famous building in your country.
3. Describe your dream house.
4. Would you prefer to live in a mountain resort town or a seaside village?
5. Do you prefer single story apartments and houses?
6. What room in your home do you use the least?
7. Is it important that a house be energy efficient?
8. Do you keep plants inside your house?
9. How many American homes have you visited? What surprised you about them?
10. When should children move out of their parent’s home?
11. What is the number one rule in your house?
12. What is the longest time you have stayed in a hotel?