

Present perfect and present perfect continuous

*The present perfect is formed from the present tense of the verb have and the past participle of a verb

*The present perfect continuous is formed with have/has been and the -ing form of the verb:

Use

***We use the present perfect tense:**

*for something that started in the past and continues in the present:

They've been married for nearly fifty years.

She has lived in Liverpool all her life.

***Note:** We normally use the present perfect continuous for this:

She has been living in Liverpool all her life. for something we have done several times in the past and continue to do:

I've played the guitar ever since I was a teenager.

He has written three books and he is working on another one.

I've been watching that programme every week.

*We often use a clause with since to show when something started in the past:

They've been staying with us since last week.

I have worked here since I left school.

I've been watching that programme every week since it started.

*when we are talking about our experience up to the present:

Note: We often use the adverb ever to talk about experience up to the present:

My last birthday was the worst day I have ever had.

Note: and we use never for the negative form:

Have you ever met George?

Yes, but I've never met his wife.

*for something that happened in the past but is important at the time of speaking:

I can't get in the house. I've lost my keys.

Teresa isn't at home. I think she has gone shopping.

*We use the present perfect of be when someone has gone to a place and returned:

A: Where have you been?

B: I've just been out to the supermarket.

A: Have you ever been to San Francisco?

B: No, but I've been to Los Angeles.

*But when someone has not returned we use have/has gone:

A: Where is Maria? I haven't seen her for weeks.

B: She's gone to Paris for a week. She'll be back tomorrow.

*We often use the present perfect with time adverbials which refer to the recent past:

just; only just; recently;

Scientists have recently discovered a new breed of monkey.

We have just got back from our holidays.

*or adverbials which include the present:

*ever (in questions); so far; until now; up to now; yet (in questions and negatives)

Have you ever seen a ghost?

Where have you been up to now?

Have you finished your homework yet?

No, so far I've only done my history.